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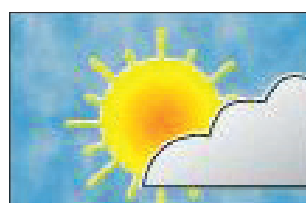
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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**

**JANUARY 24, 2010**



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 41

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**Katie Averette, left, and Wanda Grobel spread cheese on a pizza they are making at Papa Georgio's Pizza Saturday morning. The girls and other members of Brownie Troop 473 were at the business to learn how to cook one of their favorite foods.**

## Dorms to get 'facelift'

### Construction, renovations continue at HC

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

As if the current amount of construction on campus wasn't enough for Howard College officials, they are expected to give the green light to even more in the near future.

College trustees are expected to approve architectural plans for the remodeling of the men's and women's dormitories when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Tumbleweed Room.

This newest round of renovations will be financed by \$3.5 million in revenue bonds issued by the college late last year, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

Architect Phil Furqueredon will go over plans for the remodeled dorms with trustees during Monday's meeting.

"We're looking at plans for renovating the dormitories during the summer months," Sparks said. "Bids are expected to go out next week for the project ... which should last from mid-May until August."

The renovations are necessary to bring the dorms more up to date with student needs, she said.

"When the dorms were constructed in the 1950s, student (electricity) needs were much less than they are today," Sparks said. "So we need to upgrade the electrical system in the dorms, along with other infrastructure systems as well."

Renovation of the dormitories is scheduled for the summer in order to

See **DORMS**, Page 3A

## Windy agenda for county

*Tax abatement for Ocotillo Wind Power, joint election among items*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are to handle a number of routine items when they meet Monday morning, including completion of a property tax abatement for a local wind power company.

Monday's agenda calls for the court to discuss and complete a property tax abatement agreement for Ocotillo Wind Power, one of many wind power companies that have flocked to the West Texas and Howard County area in the past

several years.

Also, the court will hear from County Auditor Jackie Olson, who will present invoices and purchase requests, as well as County Treasurer Teresa Thomas, who will present personnel considerations.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson will discuss pending pipeline crossings and report on county road maintenance, while County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom will request approval of a joint election.

County officials have also maintained an agenda item to discuss any matters surrounding the county jail facility.

The meeting gets under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact the county judge's office at 264-2202.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

### GILBERT FOR AG COMMISSIONER

## 'Parasites' must go, candidate contends

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

If anyone is expecting Democratic candidate for Agriculture Commissioner Hank Gilbert to pull his punches going into the March primaries, they are sorely mistaken, as the lifelong Texas rancher stopped in Big Spring Friday to discuss his platform.

And while Gilbert must get past fellow Dem Richard "Kinky" Friedman before facing the Republican candidate in the November contest, there's little doubt the Whitehouse, Texas, man has already set his sights on incumbent Agriculture Commis-

sioner Todd Staples and other "parasitical" politicians in Austin.

"It's not going to change as long as we keep putting aspiring politicians in this office," said Gilbert. "Rick Perry started out in this office, spent eight years there and made all of the political connections he needed to make and moved up the ladder. Along comes Susan Combs, and she does the same. And here comes Todd Staples, and he had a heck of a race against me, a political nobody. If I had 10 or 20 percent of the money he spent in the campaign I would

See **GILBERT**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Ag Commissioner candidate Hank Gilbert made a stop Friday in Big Spring to discuss his thoughts about the office.**

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# Leija's late 3 lifts CHS to Grape Creek sweep

By JOE ZIGTEMA  
Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Martin Leija didn't have the best of nights shooting the ball Friday against Grape Creek, but he came through when he needed to.

Down one point with 14 seconds to play, Leija drilled a 3-pointer from the right corner to give Coahoma the 62-60 advantage.

Grape Creek missed

their first shot on the ensuing possession, and a putback attempt was blocked by Hunter Williams as time expired to preserve Coahoma's first district win.

"I was just hoping it was going in," Leija said of the shot. "I had missed a lot, but my teammates had confidence in me to shoot it. When it left my fingers, I thought it had a pretty good chance."

Nichols breathed a sigh of relief as the Bulldogs

finally came away with a close win in what has thus far been a season with several close losses.

"We were looking for Martin, but all three guards had the OK to shoot the ball if they got a good look at it," Nichols said. "We knew we weren't going to wait. We didn't want to let the clock run down. We got a good look, and Martin's not a bad one to take it."

The Bulldogs were taken out of rhythm

offensively thanks to Grape Creek's zone defense, forcing Coahoma to change gears from a run-and-gun style to a grinding half-court offense.

"We played two teams that were hard man-to-man pressure, and they're standing in a zone," Nichols said. "It slowed us down. We couldn't get any fluid motion or couldn't get to running."

Leija and Josh

Paniagua each finished with 15 points to lead Coahoma. Grape Creek's Jake Younts shouldered the offensive load, scoring 23 points. Donovan Broadway was also in double figures with 12.

Nichols pointed to Alex Crabtree's performance off the bench in the second quarter, who scored eight points and secured several rebounds to give the Bulldogs a lift.

Coahoma was frustrated by the slow place of

the game early, falling behind 9-2. However, the Bulldogs responded with a 9-2 run of its own to close the first quarter, leaving the score tied at 15. Coahoma took a 33-28 lead into the locker room on the strength of eight Paniagua points in the period.

Grape Creek erased the five-point deficit three minutes into the third quarter and took

See COAHOMA, 3B

# Jets, Ryan embrace brash banter

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Jets have taken a page right out of Joe Namath's Super Bowl playbook.

Coach Rex Ryan has already scheduled the Jets' Super Bowl parade, the team's pro shop is already selling AFC champions gear and players are convinced Sunday's conference title game is a chance at their own redemption — proving last month's victory over the then-unbeaten Colts was neither fluke nor gift.

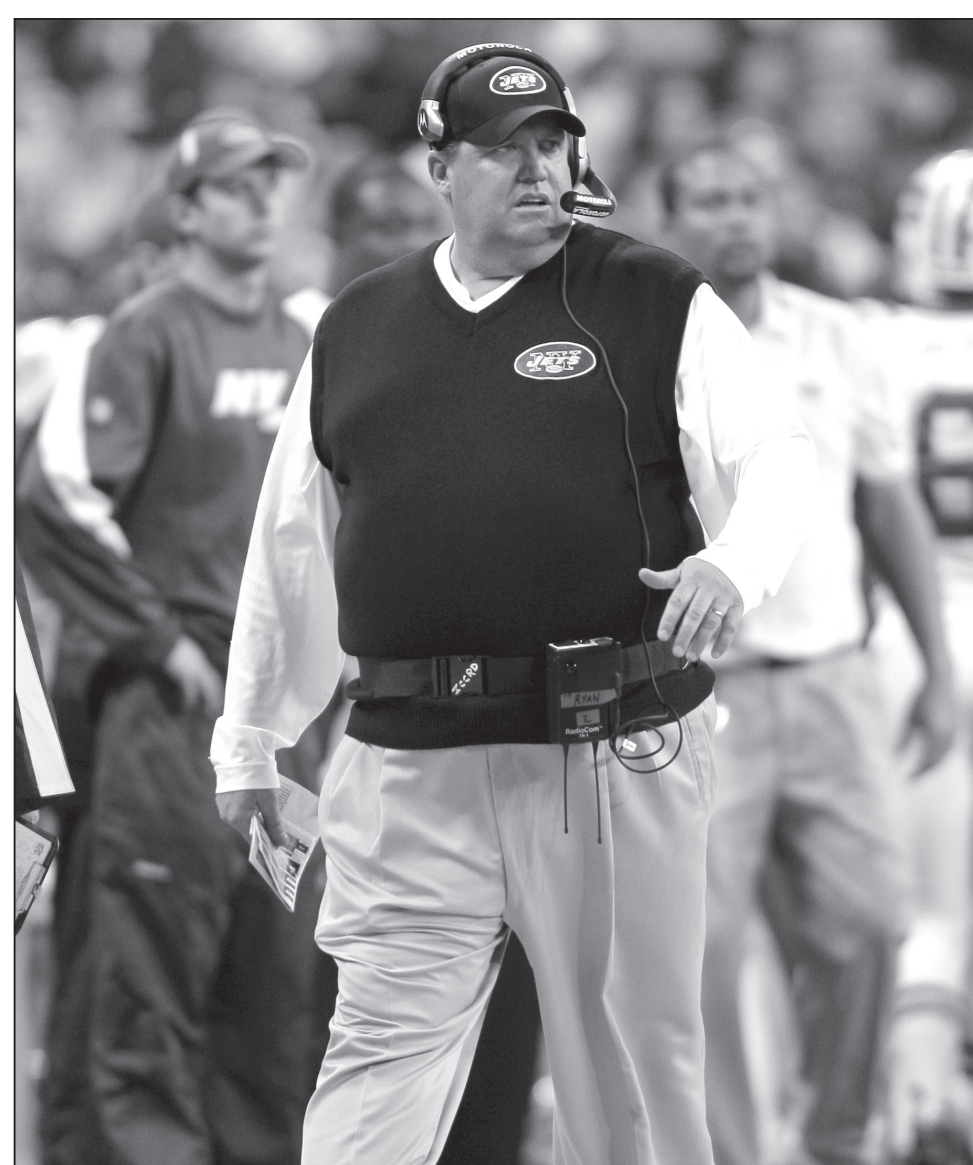
All that's missing is the famous guarantee.

Suddenly, brash is back in fashion in New York.

"Some people look at it like it is arrogance, but that is the goal you want to focus on," Pro Bowl cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "I don't think an organization or a team comes into training camp thinking they are not going to the Super Bowl. That is the goal we play this game for, to try to be world champions."

Indianapolis (15-2) won't quibble with the sentiment — especially heading into Sunday's AFC title game with the Jets.

After all, it was Colts Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne who came to training camp in a yellow dump truck



AP PHOTO/Darron Cummings

Rex Ryan and the New York Jets have already planned their Super Bowl parade. The Jets are echoing the confidence Joe Namath showed before his Jets beat the Colts in 1969. They meet the Peyton Manning and the Colts in Indianapolis at 2 p.m. Sunday.

with a custom-made hard hat bearing the words "Super Bowl under construction." And it was team president Bill Polian and coach Jim Caldwell who repeatedly acknowledged in December that the Colts' ultimate goal was winning the Super

Bowl, not going 16-0.

But Indy has never been a team that enjoyed trash-talking, and it isn't about to start now — one win from a second Super Bowl appearance in four years.

Instead, the Colts are bringing back their

favorite New York phrase: Forget about it.

"We pay attention to it," Indy linebacker Clint Session said. "Everybody on this team is paying attention to it. We're not let-

See AFC, Page 3B

# Player unions join to send Haiti relief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Player unions for the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have started a campaign to support the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund's relief efforts in the earthquake-stricken country.

The "One Team 4 Haiti" project will urge supporters to text, donating \$10 for U.S. fans and \$5 for Canadian ones. All the text funds will go to relief efforts, the campaign said on Friday.

"Since the earthquake hit their country, the Haitian people, including friends and family of mine, have been through so much devastation," said Georges Laraque, an NHLPA member who recently played for the Montreal Canadiens. "NHLPA members, together with the members of the NFLPA, MLBPA and the NBPA, hope that we can make a meaningful contribution and encourage sports fans across North America to join us in helping Haiti."

Philadelphia 76ers center Sam Dalembert is planning another visit to Haiti to aid the relief effort. Dalembert, the NBA's only Haitian-born player, was there on a two-day, goodwill mission this week and

wept as he spoke of homeless children and people in dire need of basic necessities.

Dalembert hoped to return to Haiti over the NBA All-Star break from Feb. 12-14.

"By that time, we should have all the villages we have been able to come out there and help out and bring supplies and food and clothing," he said.

Dalembert said he was proud so many people have come together to raise money for the cause as part of an international, multi-network telethon on Friday.

"Everybody's scratching their head, trying to find a way to help out," he said. "It's great. It was wonderful. When they told me that, I was pretty excited to see people are really responding and doing things."

MLB player Magglio Ordonez donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross on Friday and his Detroit Tigers teammate, Miguel Cabrera, ponied up \$90,000 to Project Medishare for Haiti. The Tigers added \$10,000 to Cabrera's donation.

The San Diego Padres and their foundation gave \$25,000 to UNICEF.

See HAITI, Page 3B

# Area roundup: Stanton takes two from Iraan, GC girls roll on

Herald Staff Report

GAIL — Borden County's Brendan Tarleton scored 26 points and Colin Lamming scored 17 as the Coyotes down Sands 67-41 at home Friday night.

Bert Ybarra had 11 and Johnny Rogers dropped 10, including a half-court shot at the buzzer in the second

quarter, for Sands (7-13, 1-3).

Sands coach Billy Grumbles said despite the loss, he liked the way his team competed.

"I was proud of the way we played," he said. We played hard for the whole game and about as well as we could play. If we play the way we did (Friday night), I think we have

a chance to do much better in the second round of district."

Sands will host Grady on Tuesday in Ackerly. **STANTON 57, Iraan 50**

STANTON — The Stanton Buffaloes held off a late charge from Iraan to hold on for a 57-50 victory Friday night.

Iraan scored 27 fourth-quarter points in a comeback bid against

the Buffs that ultimately fell short. Tyler Fulton scored 29 points to lead Stanton (18-5, 2-0). Grayson Gray scored 14.

Iraan was led by Dakota Green's 27 points as the Braves fell to 1-1 in district. Bradley Ledford scored 11 for Iraan.

Stanton plays at Forsan on Tuesday. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

**Grady 37, Loop 22**

LOOP — Grady used a 13-2 second quarter to power by Loop Friday 37-22.

The No. 15 Wildcats took a 4-2 lead into the second stanza and held Loop under 10 points in each quarter of the game.

Johan Wiebe scored seven to lead the



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema  
Kesley Jones shoots in Stanton on Friday.

See ROUNDUP, 3B

# Sports in brief

**Friday's area hoops matchups**  
See 3B for box scores

Coahoma girls 47 Grape Creek 34  
Coahoma boys 62, Grape Creek 60  
Loop 56, Grady girls 41  
Grady boys 37, Loop 22  
Borden County girls 51, Sands 45  
Borden County boys 67, Sands 41  
Stanton girls 56, Iraan 25  
Stanton boys 57, Iraan 50

**Big Spring softball tournament needs community support**

Lady Steer softball parents and the City of Big Spring Parks and Recreation Department are hosting a 22-team high school softball tournament this spring.

The tournament needs community support to be a success. Banners will be displayed at the tournament for business owners who wish to support the tournament.

Call John Sparks for information at 270-2711.

**BSSH 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.



The Big Easy Jambalaya

## A CELEBRATION OF NEW ORLEANS FLAVORS

FAMILY FEATURES

While most people associate Mardi Gras with New Orleans, you can throw your own Fat Tuesday fest wherever you live. Let the good times roll with authentic New Orleans-style food to make your party as genuine as the Big Easy celebration. Mardi Gras is actually part of a larger celebration, Carnival, that begins 12 days after Christmas (January 6) and ends Fat Tuesday, 46 days before Easter, so the celebration can extend beyond just one day.

"While the French Quarter gets most of the attention for Mardi Gras merriment, many New Orleans families gather in their homes to celebrate with a big meal," said John Besh, Louisiana native and nationally acclaimed chef. "For us, Mardi Gras is about three things: food, fun and family. If you have these key ingredients, any Mardi Gras celebration will be a success."

This Mardi Gras, celebrate New Orleans-style by jazzing up your menu with popular and traditional dishes that will feed a crowd. Of course, don't forget to wrap up the party with a King Cake — whoever finds the toy baked inside is king or queen of next year's celebration! No matter where you live, celebrate Mardi Gras with authentic New Orleans-style flavor and your guests will come dancing in.

For more New Orleans-style recipes, visit [www.zatarains.com](http://www.zatarains.com).

### King Cake — Did Ya Know?

- A King Cake is a traditional dessert decorated with sugar sprinkles in the customary Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold, which represent justice (purple), faith (green) and power (gold).
- The cake is baked with a tiny trinket, usually a plastic baby, inside. The person who finds the baby in their piece is considered the king or queen of the party and hosts next year's Mardi Gras festivities.



### Andouille Dirty Rice

Courtesy of Executive Chef John Besh, Restaurant Proprietor, New Orleans

Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 40 minutes  
Makes 6 servings

- 1 1/2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1/2 cup finely minced onion
- 1 cup andouille sausage, removed from casing and chopped in food processor
- 1 stalk celery, finely minced
- 1/4 cup finely minced bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 1/4 cups chicken broth
- 1 8-ounce box Zatarain's Dirty Rice Mix
- 1/2 pound chicken livers or duck livers, finely minced (optional)

1. Make dark roux by combining cooking oil and flour in heavy bottomed 6 to 8-quart saucepot, over low flame. Stir constantly using wooden spoon.
2. When roux is finished, stir in onion and allow to brown, leaving flame on low. Next, add andouille, celery, bell peppers and garlic. Add dirty rice mix and stir for five minutes to toast rice.
3. Stir in broth, allow mixture to come to a boil, cover with lid and simmer over low heat for 25 minutes.
4. Before serving, season with minced green onion and parsley.

**Note:** If including chicken/duck livers, add livers and stir for an additional 4 minutes before adding broth.

### The Big Easy Jambalaya

Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Cook Time: 35 minutes  
Makes 8 (1-cup) servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 bell peppers (preferably one yellow and one green), diced
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) fire roasted diced tomatoes, undrained
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 package (8 ounces) Zatarain's Reduced Sodium Jambalaya Mix
- 1 package (12 ounces) fully cooked smoked andouille sausage, sliced
- 1 pound peeled and deveined uncooked large shrimp, thawed if frozen
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley (optional)

1. Heat oil in large deep skillet or 5-quart Dutch oven on medium heat. Add onion and bell peppers; cook and stir 7 minutes or until vegetables begin to soften.
2. Stir in tomatoes, water and Jambalaya Mix. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer 15 minutes.
3. Stir in shrimp and sausage. Cover and cook 10 minutes longer or just until shrimp turn pink and rice and vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley, if desired.

### Shrimp Boil

In New Orleans, crawfish is the boil of choice, but shrimp is another great choice available outside the Gulf Coast. Some of the fun of seafood boils is personalizing your meal by adding your favorite accompaniments such as artichokes, mushrooms, sausage, or even broccoli.

Prep Time: 30 minutes  
Cook Time: 15 minutes  
Makes 6 to 8 servings

- 5 pounds shrimp
- 4 cups of water
- 1 package Zatarain's Pro-Boil
- 1 package Zatarain's Liquid Crab Boil
- 8 ounces pearl onions, peeled
- 1/2 bunch celery, chopped
- Additional meats/vegetables of choice
- 1 lemon, sliced

1. Mix 4 cups water and 7 ounces Pro-Boil in an 8-quart pot. Bring to boil on high heat. Stir in 1 ounce of Crab Boil, shrimp, celery and onions.
2. Cook shrimp for approximately 4 minutes or until a liquid forms between the shell and meat, and they are easy to peel. Remove pot from heat, adding in ice and 2 ounces more of Pro-Boil.
3. Soak for 10 to 20 minutes, more or less depending on desired heat level.
4. Drain contents and toss with lemon slices before serving.



Andouille Dirty Rice



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## Obituaries

## Michael Lawrence Bell

Michael Lawrence Bell died Jan. 18, 2010, at his home in Gilbert, Ariz., following a courageous battle with colon cancer.

Mike was born Sept. 10, 1959, in Phoenix, Ariz., to Alan and Imogene Bell. He served in the United States Army from 1976 to 1979 and was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. He received a master of health service administration from Arizona State University in 1989. Mike was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for more than 20 years in various health care administration roles.

Mike married the love of his life, the former Jennifer Walker of Big Spring on Feb. 29 2008. In June 2008 he became a father when he adopted Jennifer's sons. Mike loved being a father and was very active in his children's lives throughout his lengthy illness. He would often receive chemotherapy and attend his children's many extracurricular activities the same day.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

Mike is survived by his wife Jennifer Bell and sons Patrick Bell, Timothy Bell and stepdaughter Addison Elliott, all of Gilbert, Ariz.; sisters Alana Bell-Dittrich of Gilbert, Ariz., Laela Quinn of Carrollton and Jean Agan of Cave Creek, Ariz.; father-in-law Wayne Walker of Big Spring; mother-in-law Sharon Wadley of Childress; and loving extended family and friends.

Interment will be Friday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. at the VA National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice of the Valley or the American Cancer Society.

*Paid obituary*

## Shirlie Johnson

Funeral services for Shirlie Johnson, 59, of Lake Brownwood will be held 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, at Heartland Funeral Home with Shannon Bond officiating. Interment will follow at the Bangs Cemetery. The family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. She passed away Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, in Hendricks Medical Center in Abilene.

Shirlie Darlene Johnson was born April 27, 1950, in Coleman to Earl Field and Billie Louise Day Baldock. On July 18, 1978, she married Carl David Johnson in Big Spring. He preceded her in death April 23, 1995. Mrs. Johnson was a Baptist, homemaker, certified nurse's aid and had lived in Brownwood since 1991 moving from Big Spring.

Survivors include Lisa Cobb and husband Kenny of Lake Brownwood, Tammy Newton and husband Brent of Big Spring and Danielle Johnson of Lake Brownwood; two grandchildren; a brother, Louis Baldock and wife Cindy of East Texas; and sisters Diane Turner and husband Ernie of Coleman, Kathy Johnson and John Steaples of Abilene and Michelle Kemp and husband Sam of Lake Brownwood.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents, E.F. and Billie Baldock; two brothers, Ronnie and Larry Baldock; and one sister, Betty Atkinson.

Friends are invited to sign the guestbook at [www.heartlandfuneralhome.net](http://www.heartlandfuneralhome.net).

Heartland Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Herminia 'Minnie' Hernandez

Herminia "Minnie" Hernandez, 72, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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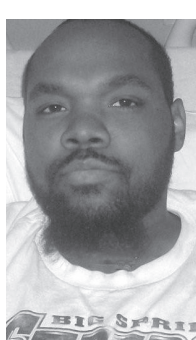
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## Jerod Boyd



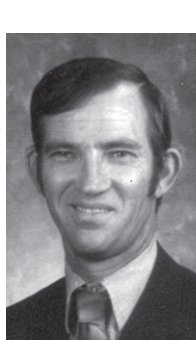
Jerod Boyd, 25, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at College Baptist Church with the Rev. Ken McMeans and Clayburn Jackson officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Sept. 28, 1984, in Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 2003, having participated in football and track. He was called "The Black Blur." He played football at Sul Ross University. He had been employed at Fiber Glass Systems and later at the Big Spring State Hospital until his illness. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of College Baptist Church.

He is survived by his mother, Linda Williams of Big Spring; father, J.T. Waddill and his wife Robin of Big Spring; one brother, Jeremy Williams of Big Spring; one sister, Koeisha Loudermill and her husband Jerald of Big Spring; two nieces; maternal grandfather, Lem Williams of Big Spring; and maternal grandmother, Mary Lee Williams of Port Arthur; and several aunts.

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

## Leon Stockton



Leon Stockton, 66, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Joey Bacon, associate pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Leon was born April 26, 1943, in Big Spring and was a lifetime resident.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Tandi Stockton of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Ted Tarbet of Big Spring; one brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Jane Stockton of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Lonnie Stockton.

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

## Maria G. Munoz

Maria G. Munoz, 76, of Bastrop, formerly of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, in Bastrop. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Take Note

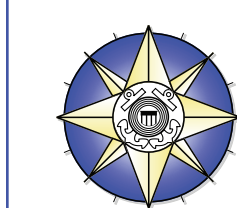
- A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock. He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys. The medical bills and family travel expenses are adding up. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

- Attention military personnel and dependents: The Salvation Army currently has funding for Texas military personnel now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members or dependents may apply at the Salvation Army Office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., or call (432) 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

- 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) 263-3035.

- T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.



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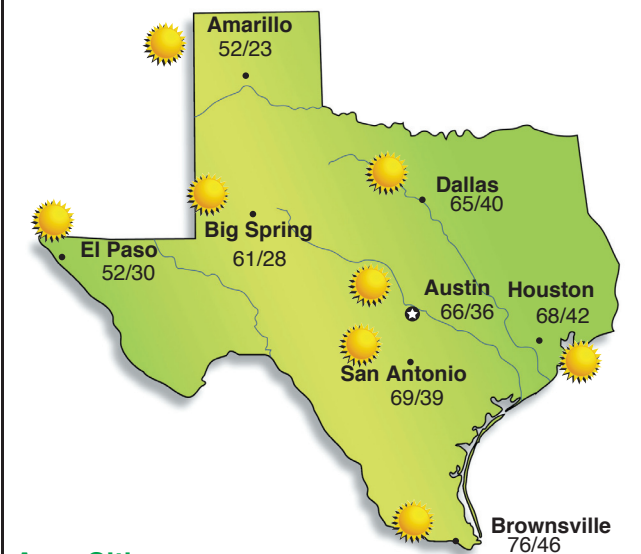
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## Today's Weather

## Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 1/24	Mon 1/25	Tue 1/26
 <b>61/28</b> Mainly sunny. High 61F. Winds WNW at 15 to 25 mph.	 <b>59/31</b> Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 <b>62/40</b> Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 6:12 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 6:13 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 6:14 PM

## Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	34	sunny	Kingsville	74	43	sunny
Amarillo	52	23	sunny	Livingston	67	38	sunny
Austin	66	36	sunny	Longview	64	40	sunny
Beaumont	69	43	sunny	Lubbock	58	25	sunny
Brownsville	76	46	sunny	Lufkin	67	39	sunny
Brownwood	65	36	sunny	Midland	61	32	sunny
Corpus Christi	71	44	sunny	Raymondville	75	43	sunny
Corsicana	63	39	sunny	Rosenberg	68	42	sunny
Dallas	65	40	sunny	San Antonio	69	39	sunny
Del Rio	66	38	windy	San Marcos	67	37	sunny
El Paso	52	30	sunny	Sulphur Springs	62	39	sunny
Fort Stockton	59	34	windy	Sweetwater	61	32	sunny
Gainesville	61	35	sunny	Tyler	62	38	sunny
Greenville	61	36	sunny	Weatherford	62	35	sunny
Houston	68	42	sunny	Wichita Falls	59	31	sunny

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	60	44	t-storm	Minneapolis	34	23	flurries
Boston	42	37	cloudy	New York	48	45	rain
Chicago	41	30	mixed	Phoenix	57	37	sunny
Dallas	65	40	sunny	San Francisco	52	46	rain
Denver	38	23	windy	Seattle	50	44	rain
Houston	68	42	sunny	St. Louis	45	31	rain
Los Angeles	63	46	mst sunny	Washington, DC	56	49	rain
Miami	78	70	cloudy				

## Correction

An article on Spring Creek Fellowship in Friday's Church News indicated Cody Carnes would be leading a youth fellowship and worship at SCF at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. That service was actually to be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23. Spring Creek Fellowship is located in the College Park Shopping Center.

## Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- JOSE NIETO, 29, 104.5 W. 13<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/family violence.
- CARL EDWARD DUHAMEL, 32, 1425 E. Sixth No. 114, was arrested on a charge of hindering apprehension or detention.
- JASMIN SHAWNTA WARD, 22, Odessa, was arrested on an Andrews County warrant charging aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway.

## Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the Mega Millions game were: 08-13-27-28-52, Mega Ball: 9

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 4-6-8-36-37.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-9-4-4. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-9-2. Sum It Up: 12.

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# Vikings, Saints may light up Superdome for NFC title

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Vikings score a lot. The Saints score even more.

Should be a fun NFC championship game in the Superdome on Sunday night for offense-minded players and fans. Not so much for defenders trying to catch Adrian Peterson, Sidney Rice, Reggie Bush and Marques Colston.

New Orleans (14-3) went for 510 points this season, 40 more than runner-up Minnesota (13-4) in the scoring derby. The Saints got 45 in routing Arizona last week, and the Vikings scored 34 in romping past Dallas.

Taking your eyes off the field might be a huge mistake.

“Obviously they are going to do some things and they are going to do it well,” Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway said of the Saints. “They are not the highest scoring offense for no reason. They are going to come out and put some points up. They are going to move the ball and we just have to bend, but not break.”

“That’s what we did against Dallas. We gave them some things early on and we were just able to get off the field at the right time. If we can do that we will give ourselves a chance. It is

easier said than done.”

Not that either side is planning for a track meet, although both teams have game-breaking potential on every play.

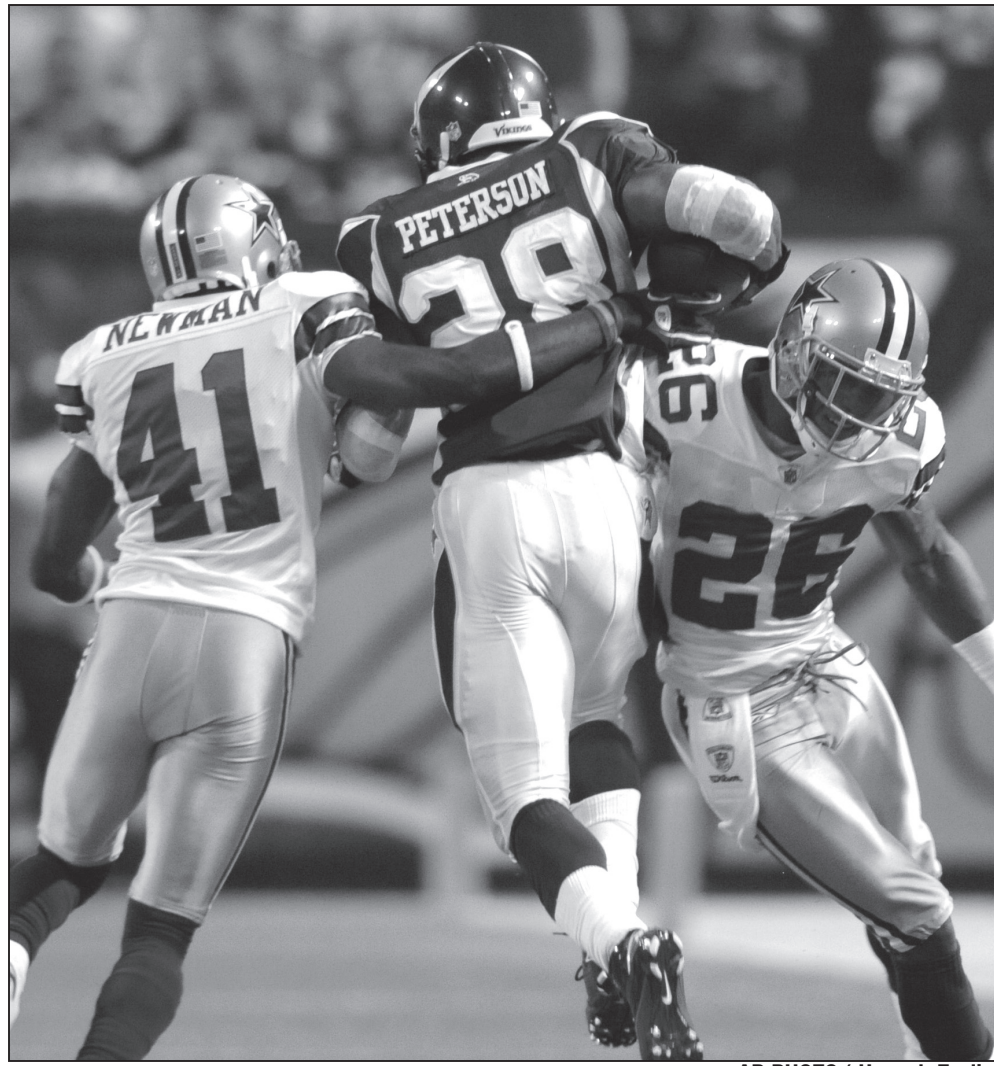
“I saw some statistics and our game last week would be an example,” Vikings coach Brad Childress said. “A couple of statistics that always end up lying if you go back through this thing are penalties and time of possession. They just don’t tell the whole story.”

“So, to hang on to those two, would you like to be able to possess the ball? You would, and score at the end. Do you want to get in a shootout. That’s never your intention, no?”

But it’s hardly a bad alternative when you have Brett Favre and Drew Brees chucking the ball. Or Peterson and Bush toting it. Or Rice, Offensive Rookie of the Year Percy Harvin — depending on his recovery from migraines — Colston, Devery Henderson and Robert Meachem catching it.

In the divisional round, the Vikings and Saints combined for seven touchdown passes, 481 yards through the air, 280 yards rushing, an 83-yard punt return (by Bush) and two lopsided victories.

To think the NFC



AP PHOTO/ Hannah Foslien

**Adrian Peterson and the Vikings bring a potent offense to New Orleans to take on the Saints in the NFC Championship game. But they meet a New Orleans offense that is equally up to the task, especially with the emergence of Reggie Bush. The two meet at 5:40 p.m. Sunday.**

title matchup will be a defensive stalemate is heresy.

“We definitely want to start fast and we want to put points up on the board,” Saints All-Pro guard Jahri Evans said, “but you definitely don’t want to be in a shootout. You want to be successful

and get the job done early and just sustain it throughout the game. We have weapons and we know they have weapons, too.”

Such as the 40-year-old Favre playing like he’s in his prime. And Rice, who caught three touchdown passes against the Cowboys.

And Harvin, a threat on kick returns as well as from scrimmage. And Peterson ...

“He’s the top guy, if you ask me,” said Saints safety Darren Sharper of Peterson. Both were All-Pros this season, one year after Sharper was Peterson’s teammate in Minnesota.

“The best running back in the league because of all the things he can do. Whatever you want a running back to be — you want a running back to have size, you want him to have speed, elusiveness, toughness — he has all those attributes.”

Guess what. The Saints have someone similar in Bush now that he’s fully recovered from knee surgery that slowed him during portions of the regular season. Bush was a Cardinals-killer last week. He could be a Vikings conqueror on Sunday.

“He’s a matchup problem, obviously,” Greenway said. “He’s a guy that can run good routes, but yet you can put him in a situation out of the backfield and he can run the ball, too. He runs draws well, screens well. He’ll be a challenge, no doubt about it. ...

“We saw Reggie last year in the same scenario. He’s tough ... he’s rolling now; they want to give him the ball and get him going.”

Both sides want to get going quickly or risk falling too far behind. True, both offenses are skilled enough to rally from significant deficits. But a team can’t come back when the other side doesn’t stop reaching the end zone.

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# Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Hijinio Moreno Jr.

## Flores and Moreno Jr.

Tina Flores and Hijinio Moreno Jr. were united in marriage Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Big Spring with Monsignor Bernard Gully of Holy Trinity Parish officiating.

Tina is the daughter of Emilia Hernandez and the late Refugio Hernandez of Alvarado.

Junior is the son of Isabel and Hijinio Moreno Sr. of Big Spring.

Tina was given in marriage by her mother, Emilia, and her son, Jason Flores.

Serving as maid of honor was Anna Flores, daughter of the bride. Andrea Moreno, daughter of the groom, served as bridesmaid. Flower girls were Giselle Hernandez, groom's niece, and Olivia Hernandez, bride's niece. Cushion bearers were Kennedy Carroll and Catalina Egula, groom's nieces.

Gabriel Moreno served his father as best man. Jason Flores served as groomsman. Serving as ring bearer was Seguin Hernandez, nephew of the bride. R.J. Price Jr. and Sophia Hernandez were bubble bearers.

Manuel and Norma Hilario were official church witnesses. Ricardo and Gloria Hernandez served as Bible and rosary padrinos. Manuel and Alma Lopez were padrinos de lazo. Robert and Tina Hernandez were padrinos de arras.

Cindy Rosa sang several inspirational songs before and during the wedding ceremony. Jesus and Clemente Gutierrez, bride's nephews from McAllen, played "Canon in D" during the wedding entrance procession. Eva Garcia, organist, played the traditional wedding march for the bride's entrance.

Jessica Hoch and Rory Niehues of Garden City sang "From This Moment On" at the end of the ceremony as the newly wed couple turned and faced the packed church of guests and family as Mr. and Mrs. Moreno.

A dinner reception and dance immediately followed at the Howard County Fair Barn building. The dinner was catered by Papa Chon's Restaurant. Music for the dance was provided by Revancha Nortena from Portales, N.M., and Xtremo from Big Spring.

Tina is employed by the Glasscock County Tax Office. Junior is employed by Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin Inc. — Project Head Start in Odessa. Following a brief honeymoon, the couple will make their home in Garden City.

# Engagements



Jacob James Ramirez and Megan Lorene Salazar

## Salazar and Ramirez

Megan Lorene Salazar and Jacob James Ramirez are planning a February wedding.

Megan is the daughter of Rocky and Jimmie Salazar and granddaughter of the late A.R. and Dolores Salazar, Dale Kelly of Fort Worth, and the late Lorene Kelly.

Jacob is the son of Pete Romero of Midland and Rosemary Romero of Big Spring. He is the grandson of Renaldo and Anita Bennett of Big Spring.

Both the prospective bride and groom-to-be are correctional officers for Cornell Companies.

The wedding will be held at 5 p.m. Feb. 20, 2010, at Cornerstone Covenant Church.

Contact the Herald at  
[newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

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# State Briefs

## Court reverses ruling in Plainview police shooting

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An appeals court has reversed a lower court decision that dismissed the case against a Plainview police officer who was sued after fatally shooting a man who held a knife.

In a 14-page opinion, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday overturned the Texas state district court ruling that granted summary judgment to officer William Bridgwater, who was sued along with his supervisor, Jose Porras, and Police Chief William Mull by representatives of Jose Ceballos' estate.

Ceballos, 34, was shot to death by Bridgwater during a disturbance call at a Plainview apartment in 2006.

The New Orleans appeals court upheld the part of the lower court's decision that dismissed the cases against Mull and Porras but determined that dismissing the case against Bridgwater was improper.

"The cases on deadly force are clear: an officer cannot use deadly force without an immediate threat to himself or others. Here the facts are unclear; was there such an immediate threat? Bridgwater's version of the facts would say 'yes,' while the other witnesses' versions would say 'no,'" the opinion states.

The evidence showed that, before he was shot once in the chest by Bridgwater, Ceballos was holding a kitchen knife. But testimony conflicted regarding whether he acted aggressively toward officers.

## Perry: Texas gun rights approach makes state safer

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry said Friday that Texans should not be subject to more government intervention and security measures after a gunman opened fire at an entry to the Texas Capitol and that the state's "enlightened" approach to gun rights helps to keep citizens safe.

"In Texas, criminals have to think twice before they draw a gun because there's a good chance they're going to be outnumbered," Perry said, as he accepted the campaign endorsement of the Texas State Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association. "The fact of the matter is, that keeps us all safer."

The endorsement for Perry's re-election campaign came a day after a man who fired several shots outside the Texas Capitol was tackled by police while trying to reload his handgun, according

to court records. Fausto Cardenas, who Perry said does not hold a concealed handgun license, remained in Travis County jail Friday on a felony charge of deadly conduct. Bond is set at \$250,000.

Perry was not in his Capitol office at the time of the shooting. Perry suggested he would not support placing metal detectors at Capitol entry points.

"I'm always up for looking at new ways to protect our citizens, but the last thing I want is the Texas Capitol to turn into DFW airport," he said when asked about metal detectors.

## FLDS member pleads no contest to sexual assault

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A West Texas polygamist sect member was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading no contest to sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl Friday.

Michael Emack, 59, of Eldorado, entered the plea in district court to sexual assault of a child, said court administrator Irene Devore. Under Texas law, someone younger than 17 cannot generally consent to sex with an adult.

Emack had been set to go to trial Monday. His attorney did not immediately return a Friday call from The Associated Press.

Emack's plea marked the third sexual assault of a child conviction for a resident of the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Eldorado, said Jerry Strickland, a spokesman for the Texas attorney general's office. Nine other suspects, including sect leader Warren Jeffs, are awaiting trial on charges including sexual assault of a child and bigamy, Strickland said.

The ranch is run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The FLDS believes polygamy brings glory in heaven and is a breakaway sect of the mainstream Mormon church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which officially renounced polygamy more than a century ago.

Following an April 2008 raid at the ranch, Texas authorities removed more than 400 children and placed them in foster care, alleging they were being abused because of underage marriages. Two months later, state courts found the removals unjustified in all but a handful of cases and the children were returned to their parents.

A prosecutor read a statement in court Friday that in August 2004, Emack "spiritually" married a 16-year-old girl, who then got pregnant with his child that October when she still was 16. Prosecutors said Emack already was legally married.

## GILBERT

Continued from Page 1A

have beat him and his political career would have been over. He got by, however, and he's spent three years trying to make those connections.

"He hasn't done anything in that three years to enhance agriculture, to enhance the marketing of agriculture or do anything to increase alternative energy, until now, when it's an election year... That pattern has to stop. We have to stop allowing the cycle of parasites, because that's what these people are. They are parasites. They are playing on feelings and emotions to get money from special interest groups to propel their political career. And we can all see from the situation in Washington, D.C., that career politicians have no idea what the people of this nation want."

According to Gilbert, alternative energy and fuels could play a hefty role in revitalizing the agricultural industries in the state of Texas if political futures give way to common sense.

"The agriculture industry is struggling. We're losing family farms every day, and we don't have the people in place — including the leadership — to figure out how to help these people hold on to their farms and enhance the industry," Gilbert said gravely. "There are a number of ways you handle this problem. There's a great misconception, not only in this state among the leaders, but among the leaders of this country that agriculture is a certain way and a certain format. However, if you don't change with the times and keep up with technology, you're never going to enhance the

industry.

"One of the big pushes in this country and state right now are alternative energy and biotechnology or biofuels. As far as an agency is concerned, we have made no moves in that direction... We are now the largest producer of wind energy in the country, yet we utilize only a fraction of it because we don't have the infrastructure in place to get it from where it's being produced to where it needs to go. Just like Gov. (Rick) Perry and his Trans-Texas Corridor concept, they want to approach this the same way. They want to just take people's land and not give them a choice whether or not they will go from Point A to Point B through their property, and that's the wrong approach to take."

Gilbert said the current state administration has simply disguised a floundering agricultural economy, a false face that could become all too apparent during the next legislative session.

"They've done an excellent job of disguising the fact they have been running the wagon into the ditch, and it's going to become abundantly evident when they go back in session in January 2011 and they are facing a \$15 billion to \$20 billion shortfall," said Gilbert. "A lot of people have raised a lot of concern over the fact the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker recently sent out a memorandum to state agencies to cut back 5 percent, when, in actuality, the governor has done that every two years that he has been in office prior to the session. He asks the agencies to make cuts so they will end up with budget surpluses, and, at least on paper it would look like they were really

being conservative and good stewards of our tax dollars.

"Unfortunately, what has happened by doing that is we've let a lot of good people go from these agencies who were doing the work out in the field, and those jobs were the first ones cut. So we ended up with incidents like what we had in Plainview a year-and-a-half ago when tainted peanut butter killed nine people across the United States. We have gas pumps and other regulatory devices that are supposed to be monitored in a timely fashion and that's not being done."

The use of eminent domain — especially in the pursuit of the Trans-Texas Corridor — is something Gilbert said he's strongly opposed to, opting for a more user-friendly approach that could benefit both the state and Texas farmers and producers.

"I've been fighting the Trans-Texas Corridor for six years now," he said, "and if the governor had been just a little bit smarter he could have gotten his corridor built, even against the wishes of people like me, if he had appealed to the land owners on the route of that highway to pay them fair market value for their property and give them royalties as well. A perpetual income — and it doesn't

have to be a lot of money — because they sacrificed their property so it could be built here.

"The same thing could be done with our wind energy, even with our oil and gas lines. Any oil or gas company can go to the Texas Railroad Commission and get a permit for \$100, and it gives them eminent domain authority. That's wrong. Any way you slice it, that's wrong. If we would work with the land owners, I believe the agency could be the go-between with the investors and landowners. I don't have a problem with power lines running across my property. I can farm under them, I can ranch under them. Sure, they are an eyesore, but they aren't causing me any problems. They certainly wouldn't both me if I were receiving a check at the end of the year. And it doesn't have to be a lot. We have farmers right here in Howard County and West Texas who are struggling to keep their farm. They are looking for any and every resource they can to keep their farms."

Gilbert said he's proud of his Democratic background, but urged Texas voters to look at the issues, not just partisan politics, when they go to the polls.

"Most people who were born in this state prior to the mid-60s were

raised as fiscal conservative Democrats," said Gilbert. "Ronald Reagan did a lot to change that perspective, which is where the term 'Reagan Democrats' came from. My family never changed. We kept our fiscal conservative principles, but never left the Democratic party.

"I can guarantee you, when it comes to fiscal conservatism, I'm far more conservative than a lot of people we have elected in Austin and Washington, D.C., which is one of the reasons I'm running (for ag commissioner). I don't believe you should spend money you don't have and I believe we should be better stewards with people's tax dollars. Unfortunately, under the leadership of this current administration we have in Texas, we've done a terrible job at that."

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

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Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) Sun: 1:50 4:50 7:20	The Book Of Eli (R) Sun: 1:30 4:20 7:00
NO PASSES-NO CLASSIC SUPERSAVERS	

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**Sherwood Community Center**  
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## DORMS

Continued from Page 1A

minimize inconvenience to students, Sparks said.

"We do have some students who will be living on campus during the summer," she said. "We'll have to find some other accommodations for them ... it's just a situation where there's never a perfect time to do this."

In other business, trustees will consider:

- An extension of Sparks' contract.
- Naming of buildings at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.
- A contract with the Howard County Election Administrator's office to conduct the upcoming trustee election.
- An interlocal agreement to secure grant writer services.

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

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

Jerod Boyd, 25, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 a.m. Monday at College Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

James W. Mathews, 78, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maria G. Munoz, 76, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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ROUNDUP

Continued from 1B

Wildcats as they improved to 19-3 and 4-1 in district play. Loop fell to 2-3 in district.

Grady will play at Sands on Tuesday.

Water Valley 53  
Garden City 43

WATER VALLEY — An 18-7 first quarter and a late falter doomed the Garden City Bearkats on Friday as they fell 53-43 at Water Valley.

Garden City fought back within one going into the final period but was outscored 21-12 in the last eight minutes of the game. The Bearkats shot 9-23 from the free throw line.

Aaron Long and Hayden Halfmann scored 13 apiece for Garden City (7-4, 3-1).

GIRLS  
Borden County 51  
Sands 45

GAIL — The Sands girls fell just short at Borden County on Friday, dropping a 51-45 decision.

A 22-8 third quarter helped Borden County come from behind to beat Sands, which drops to 3-2 in district at the end of the first half of district play.

"I'm happy because at least we control our own destiny in the second half," Sands coach Ben Connell said.

Taylor Richey scored 20 points for Borden County and Olivia Key scored 16. Ashley Stockton led Sands with 26 points. The Lady Mustangs will host Grady on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Stanton 56, Iraan 25

STANTON — The

Stanton Lady Buffs had no trouble dispatching Iraan 56-25 Friday night at home.

The Lady Buffaloes remain unbeaten in district 7-A and improved to 21-4 on the season. Rachel Fleckenstein scored 15 points for Stanton and Kesley Jones scored 14.

Garden City 59  
Water Valley 18

WATER VALLEY — The No. 3 Garden City Lady Bearkats won their ninth straight game Friday as they took care of Water Valley 59-18.

Garden City (22-1, 5-0) allowed seven points going into the fourth quarter, including a 13-0 first period.

Morgan Schwartz scored 19 and Amber Halfmann added 11 for the Lady Bearkats.

Garden City will play at Robert Lee on Tuesday

at 6:30 p.m.

Loop 56, Grady 41

LOOP — The Grady girls fell to 1-4 in district Friday night as they were outmatched 56-41 by No. 17 Loop.

Loop's Kelli Young scored 20 points to lead all scorers. Kelly Cook scored 17 for Grady.

A slow start doomed the Lady Wildcats as they fell behind 18-8 in the first quarter. They will try to get back on track Tuesday at Sands. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Box Scores

BOYS

Borden County 67, Sands 41  
SHS 7 13 11 9 -- 41  
BC 18 17 19 13 -- 67  
Sands (7-13, 1-4)- Ybarra-11, Jo. Rogers 10, Guillen 9, Armendariz 5, Ju. Rogers 4, A. Hernandez 2  
BC- Tartelton 26, Lamming 17, Telchik 9, Rt. Shafer 8, Cooley 4, Q. Shafer 2, Tyler 1  
FT- SHS 9-10, BC 15-20; 3-point- SHS 4 (Jo. Rogers, Ybarra 3), BC 2 (Lamming, Techik); Total fouls BC 11, 19

Stanton 57, Iraan 50

IHS 11 10 2 27 -- 50  
SHS 21 11 6 19 -- 57  
IHS (1-1 district)- Green 27, Ledford 11, Galindo 9, Chavez 1, Fellowes 2  
Stanton (18-5, 2-0)- Fulton 28, Sidle 3, Reyna 2, Koonce 4, Ramos 3, Evans 2, Gray 14  
FT- IHS 5-12, SHS 10-22; 3-point- IHS 6 (Green 4, Galindo, Ledford), SHS 1 (Sidle); Total Fouls- IHS 19, SHS 11; Fouled out- Ledford

Grady 37, Loop 22

GHS 4 13 7 13 -- 37  
LHS 2 2 9 9 -- 22  
Grady (19-3, 4-1)- Teague 2, Cox 6, Matthews 4, Wiebe 7, Pinkerton 5, Rodriguez 6, Perez 6  
Loop (2-3 district)- Armendariz 5, Bell 4, Sellers 7, Bogan 6  
FT- GHS 5-13, LHS 2-3; 3-point- Grady 1 (Pinkerton), Loop 2 (Armendariz, Sellers); Fouls- GHS 11, LHS 13

WV 53, GC 43

GC 7 12 12 12 -- 43  
WV 18 6 6 21 -- 53  
GC (7-4, 3-1)- Long 13, H. Halfmann 13, Chudej 7, Hirt 6, R. Halfmann 2, Dalton 2  
WV (2-2 district)- Doss 31, Hahn 5, Williams 4, Armand 4, Franke 4, Gray 3, Glass 2  
FT- GC 9-23, WV 17-29; 3-point- WV 2 (Doss); Fouls- GC 27, WV 19; Fouled out- Hirt, H. Halfmann, Chudej, Glass; Technical foul- Chudej

GIRLS

Borden County 51, Sands 45

SHS 11 19 8 7 -- 45  
BC 10 9 22 10 -- 51  
SHS (14-10, 2-2)- Stockton 26, Mo. Yarbrough 7, Robles 7, Me. Yarbrough 5  
BC- Richey 20, Key 16, Johnson 5, Anderson 5, Cooley 3, Boss 2  
FT- SHS 10-24, BC 13-22; 3-point SHS 1 (Stockton), BC 4 (Johnson, Key, Cooley, Richey); Fouls SHS 19, BC 18

Stanton 56, Iraan 25

IHS 7 1 5 12 -- 25  
SHS 17 13 19 7 -- 56  
IHS (4-17, 0-2)- Rodriguez 2, Rasco 4, Berrera 5, Ledford 3, Kinsey 2, Mason 3, Galindo 6  
SHS (21-4, 2-0)- Snellgrove 2, Jones 14, Saucedo 3, Ramsey 1, Patterson 5, Fleckenstein 15, Sanchez 2, Beasley 4, Bryan 4, Hale 4, Mulkey 2  
FT- IHS 5-13, SHS 13-19; 3-point- IHS 2 (Rasco, Mason), SHS 3 (Fleckenstein 2, Saucedo); Fouls- IHS 16, SHS 12

GC 59, WV 18

GC 13 16 11 19 -- 59  
WV 0 3 4 11 -- 18  
GC (22-1, 5-0)- M. Schwartz 19, A. Halfmann 11, K. Halfmann 9, Niehues 8, L. Schwartz 6, Hirt 4, Ramirez 2  
WV (3-2 district)- Brown 6, Glass 5, Hutchins 5, Randolph 2  
FT- GC 5-9, WV 6-16; 3-point- GC 6 (A. Halfmann 3, L. Schwartz 2, M. Schwartz); Fouls- GC 17, WV 13

COAHOMA

Continued from 1B

a three-point lead on a 13-2 run midway through the period. Coahoma tied the score going into the final stanza at 47 with a Tanner Ruiz 3-pointer.

The final quarter was neck-and-neck going down to the final minute until Leija broke the stalemate. Coahoma improved to 14-9 and 1-3 in district with the win.

The Bulldogs get Jim

Ned at home Tuesday. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

Bulldogettes ride defense to win

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogettes needed a win Friday just as bad as their male counterparts.

They got it on the strength of a defense that did not allow a single point over the last four and a half minutes as they outlasted Grape Creek 46-34 at Coahoma Elementary Gym.

Kylie Gee scored 16 points to lead Coahoma and Jordan Martin

scored eight, including a three-pointer with 1:42 left that put the game out of reach.

"She's been playing really well for us," Faught said of Martin. "She rebounds hard and has been playing good defense, and she's been making some key buckets for us lately."

Faught said his effective offense down the stretch helped the Bulldogettes set up their press defense.

"Once we started executing and got open looks on offense, we

were able to press them a little bit and get a couple turnovers, and those were key for us," Faught said.

The Bulldogettes jumped out to an early seven-point lead and were up six headed into the locker room. Grape Creek erased that deficit just over one minute into the third quarter with a 6-0 run to tie the ballgame, but Coahoma battled back with four straight points from Gee to make it a three-point game going into the final quarter.

Coahoma finished the game on a 12-0 run to take the win, its 14th of the season, and improve to 2-3 in district play.

Wrapping up the first go-round of a tough district, Faught and the Bulldogettes hope to compete for a playoff spot with three of their next four district opponents at home.

They will be in action Tuesday against Jim Ned.

Coahoma 62, Grape Creek 60

GC 15 13 19 13 -- 60  
CHS 15 18 17 15 -- 62

GC- Younts 23, Broadway 12, Salcedo 6, Dodson 5, Thomas 6, Stevens 4, Lovette 2, Fontenot 2

CHS (14-9, 1-3)- Paniagua 15, Leija 15, Garcia 9, Crabtree 8, Ruiz 5, Hahn 4, Douglass 2  
FT- GC 6-9, CHS 7-13; 3-point- GC 4 (Younts 4), CHS 7 (Leija 3, Paniagua 2, Ruiz, Garcia); Fouls- GC 14, CHS 11; Fouled out- Thomas

Bulldogettes 46, Grape Creek 34

GC 9 10 9 6 -- 34  
CHS 16 9 6 15 -- 46

GC- Walter 11, Burner 6, Doss 5, Rodriguez 4, Gardner 6, Lykins 2

CHS- Gee 16, Martin 8, Stone 8, Fowler 7, Neff 4, Gonzales 3  
FT- GC 6-10, CHS 16-25; 3-point- GC 4 (J. Burner), CHS 6 (Gonzales, Gee, Martin, Fowler, Stone 2); Fouls- GC 22, CHS 10; Fouled out- Burner

AFC

Continued from 1B

ting it distract us at all, but you've got to pay attention to it."

The difference in attitude is a reflection of the team's coaches.

Ryan, like his father, Buddy, is refreshingly flamboyant. He says what he means, exudes confidence and leaves no doubt about his lofty expectations for the Jets (11-7). That's why Ryan wasted no time declaring New York the Super Bowl favorite when the playoffs began three weeks ago.

"I was shocked, I really was shocked, when they (the oddsmakers) came out and said that we were the longest long shot out there at 50-to-1 or something," Ryan told Indy reporters this week. "I was like, 'That's amazing,' because most Super Bowls are won with defense and the ability to run the football. ... I'm sorry and I don't care who it offends, but our defense is the best defense in the NFL, and we can run the ball better than anybody in the NFL."

Ryan has the numbers to back up his claims. The Jets had the

league's No. 1-ranked overall defense, the No. 1 pass defense, the No. 1 scoring defense and the No. 1 rushing offense. Conventional wisdom suggests that is a winning Super Bowl formula, even if New York does have a fun-loving quarterback back on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

And having Ryan speak his mind, has certainly kept the Jets at ease.

"You get that extra oomph when you have enthusiasm and passion and you're enjoying yourself," said linebacker Bart Scott, who followed Ryan from

Baltimore to New York. "When you worry about it and you're tight, you're out there and you're robotic. You're not out there playing. There's going to come a point in the game when you have to be a football player and it's outside of X's and O's."

Caldwell, meanwhile, takes the traditional approach.

The man who served as Tony Dungy's understudy since 2001, who worked with Bill McCartney and Joe Paterno and Howard Schnellenberger as a college assistant and who became the first rookie coach in

league history to win 14 straight games, is thoughtful and deliberative.

Publicly, Caldwell chooses his words carefully and doesn't get involved in controversy. Behind the scenes, words are at a premium though he continually gets the attention of his players.

"We listened to him (in the team meeting) and he was fired up," Session said of Caldwell. "He definitely wants to win this game."

But with four-time MVP Peyton Manning leading the way, Colts players refuse to take the Jets' bait. They were

quite and loose this week, with no sense of distractions.

"They're saying it, that's how they feel," Pro Bowl defensive end Robert Mathis said. "It won't affect us, not at all."

Even if the Jets keep talking like Namath did before beating the heavily favored Colts in the third Super Bowl.

"People say we don't deserve to be here and things like that," Revis said. "We hear what is going on, but we aren't focused on that. Our focus was getting into the playoffs and now that we are here, trying to make noise."

HAITI

Continued from 1B

Other sports got into the act on Friday, too. Boxing promoter Top Rank said it will donate one dollar from every ticket it sells through the end of the year to Haitian earthquake relief.

The company will begin with Saturday's featherweight double-header at Madison Square Garden, where about 5,000 fans are expected to see Juan Manuel Lopez challenge Steven Luevano for the WBO title. Yuriorkis Gamboa defends his WBA title against Rogers Mtagwa in the co-main event.

"Starting with this fight and every fight through the rest of the year," Top Rank chief Bob Arum said. "For a fight like this, it might be a few thousand, but for March 13 it could be 40 or 50 thousand."

Manny Pacquiao makes his return to the ring on March 13 against Joshua Clottey at the new Cowboys Stadium in Dallas. The facility is being configured for 40,000 fans, but it could conceivably fit upward of 70,000 depending on demand.

Arum said he wasn't sure how many tickets will be sold for the rest of the year because there was no accurate way to predict how many shows will be put together, who will headline the shows and where they will take place.

"Hopefully other promoters will join us," Arum said.

Boxing has been affected by the magnitude-7.0 quake. Haiti's government estimates the Jan. 12 disaster killed 200,000 people, with another 250,000 injured and 2 million homeless in a nation of 8 million.

Among them were relatives of welterweight titleholder Andre Berto, who pulled out of a lucrative fight against Shane Mosley next week because of the strain caused by the earthquake.

Berto was born in Miami but represented Haiti in the 2004 Olympics, after narrowly missing the U.S. team. He has many relatives on the island and said this week he lost several family members. Berto has been involved in charity and relief efforts in his parents' homeland for several years.

"I have seen the pain in my parents' eyes as they attempt to understand

what has happened to our homeland and recognize a place they once called home," he said.

In Europe, skiers on the World Cup circuit said they'd set up an online auction of their starting bibs.

Defending overall World Cup champion Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway said all racers will sign their bibs after the men's downhill on Saturday, after which they will be auctioned off on the Internet.

Svindal says the bibs can be found on eBay under "Downhillers for Haiti." Svindal ends Jan. 31.

American Julia Mancuso led a similar effort at a women's super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, where all the top athletes signed their bibs after Friday's race.

United States footballer Jonathan Bornstein donated the shoes he wore in a World Cup qualifier against Costa Rica when he scored the goal that put Honduras in the tournament.

Bornstein's goal made him a minor hero in the Central American nation. His shoes will be sold on eBay and all the money received will go to the American Red Cross, the U.S. Soccer Federation said.

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## Menus

### Big Spring Senior Center

Monday — Chicken strips, oven baked potatoes, Brussel sprouts, biscuit with honey packet, pear halves, milk.

Tuesday — Port tenderloin, broccoli and rice casserole, tossed salad, rolls, banana pudding, milk.

Wednesday — Beef tips with onions and peppers, noodles, seasoned beats, rolls, mixed fruit, milk.

Thursday — Barbecue on toast, potato salad, relish plate, blackberry cobbler, milk.

Friday — Fried catfish, pinto beans, french fries, creamy coleslaw, cornbread, jello, milk.

### Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, fruit, milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Turkey sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickle, tater tots, baby carrots, sliced peaches, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Taco salad, pinto beans, orange smiles, brownie, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, juice, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe, Funyuns, corn on the cob, pickle spears,

sparkly apple, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: Cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, frozen strawberry cup, milk.

### Big Spring ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Cereal, sausage patty, juice, milk; Lunch: Nacho grande, ranch beans, lettuce, tomato salad, sliced apples, salsa, milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Biscuits, chicken nuggets, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken enchiladas, refried beans, fruit cocktail, garden salad, oatmeal cookies, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Cheese sticks, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Barbecue chicken, baked potato, green beans, peaches, rolls, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Pancake sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Char meatballs, mashed potatoes, pears, green peas, rolls, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: UBR cookie, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken patty, baby carrots, lemon pudding, fresh fruit, milk.

### Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Pop Tarts, sausage, applesauce, milk; Lunch: Chicken fajitas with peppers, onions, cheese, salad, refried beans, milk, corn dogs.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Pancake

sausage on a stick, juice, syrup, milk; Lunch: Tostada, pinto beans, salad, chocolate cake.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Oatmeal, ham, juice, milk; Lunch: Lasagna, corn, bread, mixed fruit, milk, burritos.

Thursday — Breakfast: Pancake sausage on a stick, syrup, juice, milk; Lunch: Homemade burritos, potato salad, apples, milk, Hot Pockets.

Friday — Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, sausage, syrup, juice, milk; Lunch: Pizza, corn, fruit, milk.

### Stanton ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Pancakes; Lunch: Hamburger or cheeseburger, tater tots, hamburger salad, peaches, milk.

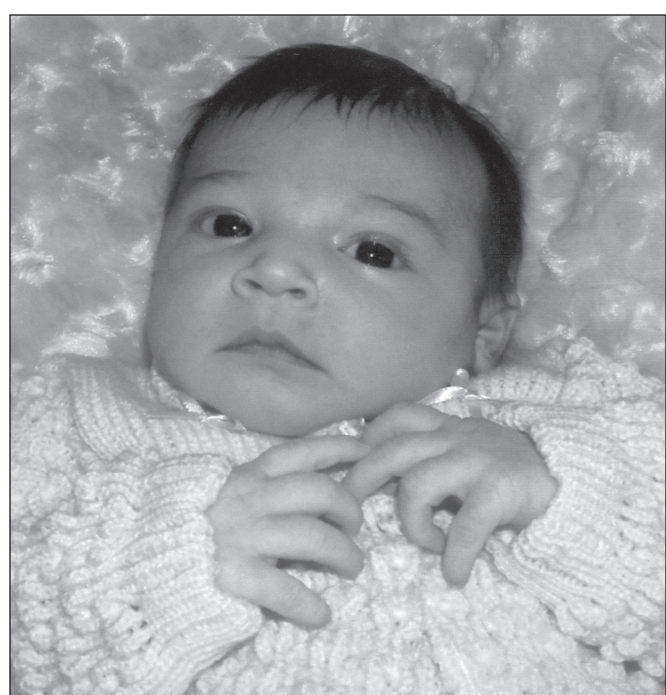
Tuesday — Breakfast: Oatmeal; Lunch: Corndog or baked fish, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, apple, roll, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Biscuit, sausage and gravy; Lunch: Beef goulash or chicken nuggets, carrots and celery, pears, bread sticks, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Coffee cake; Lunch: Beef taco, flour tortilla or corn tortilla, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, pineapple, cornbread, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito; Lunch: Choice of sandwich, vegetarian beans, sandwich salad, fruit cocktail, milk, baked chips.

## Births



Aziah Nykole Shifflett

Aziah Nykole Shifflett, a girl, was born at 11:31 p.m. Jan. 6, 2010, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Veronica Cortez and Darrick Shifflett of Big Spring.

Maternal grandparents are Alfonso III and Margrete Cortez of Big Spring. Paternal grandparents are Pamela Hadorn of Big Spring and Michael Hadorn of Odessa.

Great-grandparents include Alfonso Jr. and Delina Cortez of Coahoma, Mary Rodriguez of Midland, the late Herman Shifflett and Pearl Shifflett of Big Spring and the late Dale Underwood and Judy Underwood of Odessa.

Contact the Herald  
at 263-7331

## Club News

### Big Spring Art Association

The Big Spring Art Association met Tuesday

night, the 19th of January, at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. A

brief business meeting was held, and then votes were cast for the "Tip-ping of the Brush."

Members will bring art work to meetings, they will be voted on, and put on display at different businesses in Big Spring for the next month.

Kay Smith and Sue Bagwell have some of their artwork on display at the Moss Creek Ranch. The artwork is also up for purchase. Lane Bond has a display at the Howard College Hall Center for the Arts. Adam Hernandez is painting a mural for the Heritage Museum for an upcoming event/display this summer.

Bruce Schooler presented the program on the importance of photographic lighting and demonstrated different lighting using member Cindi Hoard as a model.

He discussed lighting for different types of photos: outdoors, indoors, objects and people. He also used a slideshow of different photos to use as examples of his discussion.

The BSAA will meet again Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library basement. We invite all artists, those interested in art to come and visit with us.



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Art Association member Bruce Schooler was guest speaker at the group's meeting this month. The BSAA will meet again at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in the basement of the county library.

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Easier Said Than Done

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

<p><b>NORTH</b>                  ♠ 7 6 5 4 3                  ♥ 5 4 3                  ♦ 9 6 5                  ♣ 7 6</p>				<p><b>EAST</b>                  ♠ 10 9 8                  ♥ Q J 9 7                  ♦ Q 10 8 4                  ♣ A K</p>				<p><b>West</b>                  ♠ J                  ♥ J 10 9 8</p>				<p><b>East</b>                  ♠ Q J 9                  ♥ Q J 10</p>			
<p><b>WEST</b>                  ♠ J 2                  ♥ —                  ♦ J 3 2                  ♣ Q J 10 9 8 5 3 2</p>				<p><b>EAST</b>                  ♠ A K Q                  ♥ A K 10 8 6 2                  ♦ A K 7                  ♣ 4</p>				<p><b>West</b>                  ♠ J                  ♥ J 10 9 8</p>				<p><b>East</b>                  ♠ Q J 9                  ♥ Q J 10</p>			
<p><b>SOUTH</b>                  ♠ A K Q                  ♥ A K 10 8 6 2                  ♦ A K 7                  ♣ 4</p>				<p><b>West</b>                  ♠ J                  ♥ J 10 9 8</p>				<p><b>East</b>                  ♠ Q J 9                  ♥ Q J 10</p>							

The bidding:  
West 3♣ Pass North 4♣ East 4♥ South 4♥  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

This deal appeared in a par contest staged in Italy many years ago. Declarer was presumed to have reached four hearts as shown and, having done so, had to try to score 10 tricks. This is much easier said than done, and in case you don't believe it, try making four hearts. If you do, you're entitled to go to the head of the class.

East wins the opening club lead and continues with a club, ruffed by South with the six. That's his first key play. If he ruffs with the deuce, he sooner or later goes down. Declarer next plays the ace of hearts, on which West shows out. South then

cashes the A-K of diamonds and A-K-Q of spades to produce this position:

<p><b>North</b>                  ♠ 7 6                  ♥ 5 4                  ♦ 9</p>				<p><b>South</b>                  ♠ K 10 8 2                  ♥ 7</p>			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

South next leads the diamond seven. If West wins the trick with the jack, he must return a club, which dummy trumps. If East discards the queen of diamonds on this trick, declarer undertrumps with the deuce, leads a trump and allows East to win with the jack. South's K-10 then take the last two tricks.

Now let's say East overtakes his partner's jack of diamonds and returns the queen. If he then returns the heart queen, South trumps with the deuce, overtrumps with dummy's four and again loses only one trump trick.

There are other variations in the play, but they all yield the same result. Declarer cannot be prevented from making the contract as long as he recognizes the critical value of the deuce of trumps at the very outset.

## Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

### "WILD ABOUT BIG SPRING AND HOWARD COUNTY!!!"

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Live Auction!!

Announcement of Man and Woman of the Year

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Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Deadline to purchase tickets is February 5, 2010 ~ For more information call (432) 263-7641

# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Time's wasting, be sure you've been registered

Time's running out. That's right, there's only a couple of weeks left for registering to vote for the March 2 primaries. The last day to register is Monday, Feb. 1, so it's definitely time to register if you haven't already done so.

The right to vote gives us the opportunity to choose who we want to serve as our voice in the local, state and federal levels of government.

The March primaries are the first step in what will be an important November election. In addition to the local races that will determine two county commissioners, a district judge and a justice of the peace, among others, voters will be choosing their particular party's candidates for congressman and state representative.

Obviously, those choices will have an impact on all our lives for some time to come, and that's why it's important that we as citizens take part.

Voter registration is simple and free. It takes only a couple of minutes.

To be eligible to vote, residents must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. You do not need to have been a resident in Howard County for any specific length of time before registering here.

Anyone who has moved since they last obtained a voter registration card should also register.

Please, take the time to register to vote. Today, you might have no interest in the election; you may have no desire to vote. But something may happen that causes you to decide to exercise your right. If you haven't registered, it will be too late. You can even register through the mail. For more information, call Sandra Bloom, Howard County election administrator, at 264-2273.

We've said it before and we'll keep saying it; from our point of view, voting is an important process in which all U.S. citizens should participate. It's their voice.

The Herald encourages you to register if you haven't, study the candidates and their platforms and vote.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take Your advice, Lord, for a better life.  
Amen

# Looking at race and the Rapture

There are three subjects in our political universe that we aren't allowed to discuss rationally: Israel, Cuba and race.

For example, try making the case that Palestinians are, no less than Jews, history's victims. And that they just may have rights, and that Israel's settlement policy isn't merely self-defeating but unjust.

This seems to me a reasonable argument. Express it publicly, however, and you'll be set upon people who fashion themselves as "pro-Israel," some of them Jews, some evangelical Christians.

(Many conservative evangelicals entertain the bizarre notion that there will come a moment — called "The Rapture" — when the Lord calls all true Christians to His home, leaving the rest of us behind to writhe in misery. This will happen only after all Jews go to Israel, clearing the way for the Second Coming, Armageddon and the election of Sarah Palin. These cuckoos think Israel's settlement policy is great.)

Anyway, people who disagree with you on Israel are apt to call you an anti-Semite. You spend the rest of the argument trying to prove that you're not. The whole exercise is hardly worth the time.

Then there's Cuba. Suggest that after 50 years it's time perhaps to bring Cuba out of the

cold and re-establish normal relations, and you will be pilloried (largely by the right-wing and hard-line Cuban Americans) as a communist dupe.

Argue that we've pursued a policy of isolation against the island for half a century, and all we've accomplished is to make an already poor people poorer, and that maybe it's time we tried another policy. They call you a communist.

So you find yourself calling the other fellow a fascist. Then you yell at each other for a while and the issue of Cuba doesn't get moved very far down the field.

And finally, there's race, a subject about which nothing honest or candid can be spoken (particularly by a white person) without risking being branded a racist.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, back in 2008, happened to blurt out the truth about Barack Obama's chances of winning the presidency. He's now paying the price. (The public will forgive a politician anything except the truth.)

A new book has just revealed that Reid suggested that Obama had a shot at becoming our first African-American president because he was "light-skinned" and because he didn't speak with a "Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one." Which is more or less self-evident.

The Republican right immediately exploded in criticism (surprise, surprise) at the racially charged comments. Some even calling for Reid's resignation. The senator responded by apologizing for the remark and Obama granted him absolution.

That wasn't enough for the Wretched Right.

"There's a big double standard," said Michael Steele, the Republican national chairman.

Republicans compared the incident that led to then-Majority Leader Trent Lott — a Republican — being forced from his leadership position. He said, at a dinner honoring the ancient Strom Thurmond, that we would have been better off if the South Carolina senator had won the presidency in 1948 when he was the "Dixiecrat" Party candidate.

Let me say this about that: It's utter (insert vulgar barnyard epithet here).

Reid is a long-time supporter of civil rights, both in his state and the nation. He's not a racist and has proved it many times over. Moreover, what he said was true.

Lott, on the other hand, not only opposed making Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday, he worked against the passage of the Voting Rights Act, one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation of our time.

In addition, what he said was wrong — we wouldn't be better off as a nation if we had elected in 1948 a man who not only was a segregationist, but somewhat dim besides.

Do you think the Rapture will take the Republican Party "upstairs," lock, stock and filibuster?

That would make being left behind a lot more attractive.

*Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.*

WE ONLY GET BACK 78¢ ON EVERY DOLLAR WE SEND TO WASHINGTON.



ALASKA GETS \$1.30!



WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!



IF EVERYONE GOT ALL THEIR MONEY BACK, WHY SEND IT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?



MOVE TO STRIKE THAT LAST REMARK.



## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I find the events in Haiti a terrible thing to happen to the people of that country and I know it will take a long time to get things back to normal.

Even though the events in Haiti have flooded the news outlets with the disaster, it's ironic to me to see all these countries including the U.S. donate these large amounts of money and equipment. I know its the right thing to do, but if it takes a crisis for a government to get these large amounts of money with basically no questions asked and little or no accountability of such funds.

Why doesn't the U.S. take care of it crisis here at home?

Since getting money is no problem in such crisis, we could use that crisis money for our homeless, our hungry and those lacking medical attention. I could go on and on, but you're getting the picture.

I know Haiti had an earthquake and they have homeless, hungry and are lacking medical attention, but so do we.

Just because you don't see the fallen building the bodies on the side of the road the earthquake caused in Haiti, I can assure you that crisis has and always been here.

We have homeless, hungry pe-

ole lacking medical attention, and, yes, we even have the dead bodies in some cases. Who helps them? Where is the donation money the government so easily gives to other countries?

That little American boy or girl who is going to bed hungry tonight or that homeless family that doesn't have a place to sleep wish they had donation money.

We are a free country and one for the people by the people. And as a taxpayer, I would not mind it if my government gave our own a donation and equipment to help in our own crisis without all the circus between the two parties.

God Bless America!

SANTIAGO FLORES  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

A few weeks ago, an interesting thing happened to me. I made the mistake of sending a \$100 overpayment to a store in Texas, and the owner, seeing that I had mailed him \$118 instead of the \$19 I owed as payment for services rendered, e-mailed me in Taiwan and told me: "You sent me \$99 over the amount due."

The 60-something man, J. Gale Kilgore, runs a small recording studio in Big Spring and he recorded a song for me, under a

contract asking for \$19 per song.

I made the mistake, perhaps from old age, perhaps from poor eyesight, perhaps from overwork, of sending Mr. Kilgore what I thought was one \$10 bill, one \$5 bill and four \$1 bills. But in fact, I put a \$100 bill in the letter, along with three \$1 bills, plus the \$10 and \$5 bills. I had no idea I had done so until the Honest Abe of Big Spring notified me by e-mail of my whopping mistake.

As I see it, J. Gale Kilgore is America writ large. Some people have reacted to this story by calling Kilgore a true American hero and Honest Abe in a new skin. I appreciate the man's honesty and his down-home, true-blue American kindness.

DAN BLOOM  
CHIAYI CITY, TAIWAN

TO THE EDITOR:

Since the early 1950s I have driven a GM vehicle, but now that the General Motor Corporation has become the Government Motor Corporation, that is the Obama Motor Company, and since the Ford Motor Company as yet has not accepted any of our tax money, I just may have to start driving a Ford.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

# Are you ready for a **NEW!** Challenge?

## 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

### “The Best Loser” Spring Title and A Grand Prize Worth \$500 - \$1,000\*!

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

**WEIGH-IN DATES** (Serenity Spa)  
**FEB. 1ST TO FEB 5TH**  
(Preferably Feb. 1st)  
**PHOTOS:**  
**FEB. 8TH TO FEB. 12TH**  
(BIG SPRING HERALD)

- 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.



## DEADLINE JANUARY 31, 2010

**(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)**

Mail form or drop off along with \$50 team fee to:  
**The Best Loser**  
C/O Big Spring Herald  
P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721



**Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!**

**Team Name (Be Creative)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Captain 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Member 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ **phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Grand Prize Predicated on number of teams

# Stuck gasoline pedal causes second major Toyota recall

NEW YORK (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. built its reputation in the U.S. as a maker of safe and dependable vehicles, but the quality of the Japanese automaker's fleet continues to be tarnished by serious safety recalls.

Toyota said this week it is recalling 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix accelerator pedals with mechanical problems that could cause them to become stuck. The announcement comes just months after it recalled 4.2 million vehicles due to gas pedals that could become trapped under floor mats, causing sudden acceleration. That problem was the cause of several crashes, including some fatalities.

Toyota said the latest recall is due to potential problems with the gas pedal mechanism that can cause the accelerator to become stuck — regardless of whether the vehicle contains a floor mat. Toyota said in certain rare cases, the gas pedal mechanism wears down, causing the accelerator to become harder to press, slower to return or, in some cases, stuck.

In a letter to federal safety officials dated Thursday, Toyota said the problem appeared to be related to the potential build-up



AP/Toyota photo  
**Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 2.3 million vehicles to repair accelerator pedals with mechanical problems.**

of condensation on sliding surfaces in the accelerator system that helps drivers push down or release the gas pedal.

Toyota spokesman John Hanson said the automaker does not yet have a solution to the latest problem but is working to devel-

op one. Toyota will soon be contacting owners directly about the recall, he said.

The recall affects the 2009-2010 RAV4, the 2009-2010 Corolla, the 2009-2010 Matrix, the 2005-2010 Avalon, the 2007-2010 Camry, the 2010 Highlander, the 2007-2010 Tundra and the 2008-2010 Sequoia. Of these, the Avalon, Camry and Tundra models — encompassing about 1.7 million vehicles — also were included in the previous gas pedal recall. Their accelerator pedals could be at risk both of becoming trapped under floor mats and becoming stuck due to mechanical problems.

Hanson said the company is unaware of any accidents or injuries due to the gas pedal problems associated with Thursday's recall, but could not rule it out for sure. He said the recall "came together very quickly."

He added that all of the vehicles involved in the latest recall contain a gas pedal system that comes from a single supplier. He declined, however, to identify the supplier or say whether Toyota would continue doing business with the supplier.

"Responsibility for this in the end is ours," he said.

# Energy Watch



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

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



There is a situation in the stock market today that has most folks confused and for good reasons. In life, usually bad is bad, good is good, and the appropriate results usually follow. This is sometimes not the case in the stock market, and it's a personality trait of a bull market that should be respected.

For most of the bull market since March 2009, bad news has pretty much been ignored, and good news has controlled investor's emotions. This is a strong positive, and we experienced more examples the past week. It was widely anticipated that the jobs data last Friday, Jan. 8, would show an increase in non-farm jobs created. Instead, 85,000 jobs were lost as our nation continued to shed more jobs than it created. Yes, disappointing news, but the stock market lifted anyway. Bad was not taken as bad. Instead, investors looked at the possible bright side.

In this bullish mood, investors decided that, perhaps, it was the very cold weather in December that hurt employment, and that's not unreasonable if you want to think positively. Some stated that the continued soft labor market would keep the Federal Reserve on the sidelines longer than otherwise. Also a reasonable conclusion. However, neither conclusion would have evolved if investors were not in a "half full" rather than "half empty" mood. The potentially tragic bomb attempt on Christmas was indeed very frightening but did not shake up investors either. A positive light has actually been cast on the horrible attempt as folks are pleased the President Obama finally acknowledged that the United States is at war with terrorists and appeared to have become more hawkish. At this time, most Americans were comforted by this, in other words, bad was good.

This "bad isn't bad" environment shows that investors are looking beyond the valley of problems to positive peaks ahead, that's called a bull market. But, there is always something to worry about and to give the financial media something to talk about. Today, there is a great deal of speculation about whether the first half or second half of the year will be a bummer for the stock market. Of course, no one knows for sure.

Our opinion, based on current stock market action, is that the market will experience normal time outs in both halves, not a killer first or second half, and that stocks will be higher by year end. We have previously stated that we believe the labor market will start to show improvement by the spring. If so, both the media and the nervous public will begin to realize that the recession ended last year in the third quarter.

Right now, bad being good is a strong bullish personality of the stock market. Bull markets often end when good is bad and bad is bad as it means all the good is already discounted. We see no signs of that condition at this time and remain positive on 2010.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Jan. 12 by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. Additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.*

## AN AP NEWS ANALYSIS

# Will corporate ads buy 2010 voters?

SHARON THEIMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has opened the door to a new era of big and possibly shadowy election spending, rolled back anti-corruption laws and emboldened critics of fundraising limits to press on. In the middle of it all will be voters, trying to figure out who's telling the truth.

The court's ruling Thursday lets corporate America start advertising candidates much as they market products and tell viewers to vote for or against them. While it almost certainly will lead to a barrage of hard-hitting TV ads in the 2010 elections, implications reach beyond that.

The ruling was a victory for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, the National Rifle Association and other interest groups most likely to run ads with money from their treasuries. It's unlikely major corporations would want their name on an ad, but they can avoid that by giving money to interest groups, who would then run ads and disclose the spending under the groups' names. It also presents a new option to wealthy individuals who were allowed to spend millions on their own to run election-time candidate ads before, but now can join forces to do so and get more bang for their bucks.

The court's 5-4 opinion represents the latest development in the cycle of scandal-law-loop-hole that has typified the United States' approach to campaign finance regulation.

From the corporate titans of the early 20th century bribing candidates, to Watergate in the 1970s, Democratic fundraising scandals during the Clinton years in the 1990s and most recently, the Jack Abramoff influence-peddling case, Congress has periodically tried to rein in political spending only to have loopholes emerge or political players mount successful constitutional challenges to the rules.

The court seemed to sweep those concerns aside, saying that it doubted election-time ads could lead to the corruption of lawmakers and that in any case, proponents of the ban hadn't provided any proof of corruption.

Campaign finance watchdogs predict members of Congress now will cast their votes on controversial legislation with an eye to whether their position on it risks inviting a barrage of special-interest ads against them before the election, or on the flip side, could draw outside spending favorable to them.

"I just think the court got it dead wrong if it thinks that a \$10 million expenditure in a campaign can't buy influence of a corrupting nature the same way that a

## CEOs to Hill: Quit calling us for campaign cash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dozens of current and former corporate executives are sending Congress a strongly worded message: Quit hitting us up for campaign cash.

Roughly 40 executives from companies including Playboy Enterprises, ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's, the Seagram's liquor company, toymaker Hasbro, Delta Airlines and Men's Wearhouse sent a letter to congressional leaders Friday urging them to approve taxpayer financing for campaigns. They say they are tired of getting fundraising calls from lawmakers — and fear it will only get worse after Thursday's Supreme Court ruling.

The court ruled that corporations and unions can spend unlimited money on ads urging people to vote for or against candidates. The decision was sought by interest groups including one that represents American businesses, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

\$10 million contribution can,"

See **VOTES**, Page 5C

# Texas unemployment rate 8.3 percent in December

AUSTIN — The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 8.3 percent in December, up from 8.0 percent a month ago, but continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December of 10.0 percent. Total nonagricultural employment in Texas decreased by 23,900 jobs in December. Texas has gained nearly 50,000 jobs in the last three months.

"Texas continues to feel the effects of this serious national recession with unemployment in our state now at 8.3 percent," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "Nonetheless, unemployment in Texas remains well below the national level of 10.0 percent."

Education and Health Services employment increased by 4,800 positions in Decem-

ber, representing the addition of 60,400 jobs in the past 12 months. Mining and Logging employment posted a modest gain of 300 jobs in December.

"December job losses offset some of the gains from the last couple of months," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "TWC and the 28 workforce boards are committed to assisting Texas job seekers and connecting them with

available jobs."

Trade, Transportation and Utilities represented the bulk of December's job losses at 7,400 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality employment was down 6,500 jobs in December, and Professional and Business Services recorded a loss of 5,300 jobs.

"Education and Health Services continued to add jobs while other industries experienced a tough month

in December," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "Job seekers are encouraged to register on WorkInTexas.com, TWC's online job matching Web site."

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate at 5.3 percent (not adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA and the Midland MSA, both with 5.4.

**PARENT'S CORNER**

**Congratulations, mom**

A few days ago I was chatting with our bookkeeper about the importance of the duties of a mom. Some moms prefer to stay at home during the child-raising years and others feel the need to assist with providing the income for the family. Either way, moms feel their importance to their kids and families.

I'd like to take the time to give our moms some special recognition and dedicate this column to all of them with a good story that I read recently about a lady who had gone to the county clerk's office to renew her driver's license. The clerk asked her to state her occupation.

Now, she was a "stay-at-home mom" and proud of it but she felt that she had to come up with a more impressive title so she stated outright that she was a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.

She said the clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in mid air and looked up as though she had not heard right.

So she repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. As the clerk wrote those words down on the questionnaire she said she was fascinated at the clerk's reply.

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?"

She said she looked the clerk straight in the face and said, "I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally thought of as indoors and out). I'm working for my

Masters and already have four credits (all daughters).

"Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (no mother would disagree) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction than just money.

"There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by three of my lab assistants, ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs, I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6-month-old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. "I felt I had scored a hit on bureaucracy! And more than that, I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than 'just another Mom.'"

Motherhood! What a glorious career, especially when there's a title on the door.

Somehow it seems that this should make grandmothers Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations and make great-grandmothers Executive Senior Research Associates. Well, I guess it would also make aunts Associate Research Assistants.

Now, aren't we being creative? Congratulations, moms for the jobs you fulfill. You are important, needed and appreciated.

— Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs at Big Spring Independent School District.



**DARRELL RYAN**



Republican Party of Texas photo

Spencer Wolfe, left, is pictured with Gov. Rick Perry.

**Wolfe receives VOY award for Senate District 31, GOP**

The Republican Party of Texas (RPT) named Spencer Wolfe of Big Spring as the winner of the Volunteer of the Year (VOY) Award for Senate District 31 at the awards ceremony held recently at the InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin. The RPT honors one volunteer from each senatorial district and auxiliary organization at the biennial event. Award recipients are individuals who have helped accomplish Republican victories over the last two years.

During the ceremony, Gov. Rick Perry, dinner host, gave the keynote address. Sponsors Attorney General Greg Abbott, former Secretary of State Roger Williams and

Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson participated in the program. Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs, Railroad Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones, Harris County School Trustee Mike Wolfe and Lone Star College Trustee Chris Daniel also helped sponsor the event.

Entertainment was provided by the Texas A&M University Singing Cadets under the direction of David Kipp and accompanied by Condy Carter.

RPT Chairman Cathie Adams conducted the awards presentation and Vice Chairman Robin Armstrong served as master of ceremonies.

**ADDRESSES**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**• BARACK OBAMA**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
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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**  
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 Coege): 264-5000.

**MANUEL RAMIREZ JR.**  
— Home: 268-9692; Work  
(VAMC): 263-7361.

**STEPHANIE HORTON** —  
Home: 264-0306; Work  
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Home: 263-4980.  
**GLORIA McDONALD** —  
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263-7615.

**TROY TOMPKINS** —  
Home: 267-8769. Work:  
263-0180.

**HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE** — Home and Office: (432) 517-0707.

**EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.

**JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

**JIMMIE LONG** — Home: 466-0793.

**GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0260.

**LETTERS**

Continued from Page 4A

If it were humanly possible, I would give everyone in Massachusetts who voted for Scott Brown a great big West Texas hug for sending him to D.C. With this election there may be a glimmer of hope that the head-long dive into socialism that this administration is taking our nation might be stopped.

LLOYD CLAXTON  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:  
Tuesday, San Angelo had unleaded gas for \$2.46 per gallon all over town. We, of course, filled up our vehicle prior to our return home to Big Spring and happily saved a minimum of 17 cents per gallon over the prices here.

PAULA HENRY  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:  
As a parent who has children playing sports, I, like most of us,

try to instill in children that winning is not everything, that it's about doing your best and having fun. However, how is that possible when you're up against referees instead of the opposing team before the first dribble is bounced on the court? When the "officials" refereeing a game were not only from the same town as the opposing team, but were also related? Now tell me, is this fair?

These referees were witnessed giving the opposing team members hugs, high-fives and giving pointers during the game and at halftime. Is this showing professionalism and good sportsmanship on the refs' part?

No, it was showing unfairness, a lack of professionalism and partiality. Is this what our money is paying for and showing players this is how it's handled?

Our team kept on playing its best, no matter how many fouls, double-dribbles and walking calls against them.

Players were also being pushed and shoved by the other team. Who do you think got failed by the refs? We did.

We as parents saw how this

was affecting our boys, but tried to keep their morale up by saying, "It's OK, boys, you can still do it," and "It's not too late, keep up the good work." Does that sound so wrong?

I guess it was, because two referees charged the stands, gave dirty looks and told parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and anybody sitting in the stands that if we did not keep our mouths shut, we would be forced to clear the stands.

Again, is this what we pay these qualified, professional referees to do?

Nobody can keep the morale of our boys up and support them with cheering if in all actuality they aren't playing other boys their age, but grown adults and referees.

I apologize for any negativity to parents and children of any behavior that was witnessed in the stands from people who did get asked to leave the game, when all they were trying to do was support those boys until the referees dribbled their ball in our court.


MELISSA DARDEN  
BIG SPRING

**UPTOWN SALON & DAY SPA**  
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Specializing on Hair Cutting  
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You are invited for a  
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chat with  
**C. E. (Mike) Thomas**  
Republican Candidate  
for 118th District Judge  
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# Public Records

**Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:**  
 Gregory Aguilar Jr., 1508 Sunset Ave., Big Spring  
 Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene  
 Will Allen, 1105 Ritchie Rd., Big Spring  
 Bryan Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger  
 Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso  
 Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa  
 Anthony G. Anderson, 3401 Camellia Dr., Temple  
 Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa  
 Erlinda Armendariz, 507 N.E. Eighth St., Big Spring  
 Fernando Kyong Arriaga Jr., 606 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring  
 Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 1, Big Spring  
 Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa  
 Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring  
 Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock  
 Christopher Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring  
 Christopher Martin Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring  
 Daniel B. Barron, 507 N. Ave. F, Lamesa  
 Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring  
 Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring  
 Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford  
 Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa  
 Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada  
 Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa  
 Shannon Boudreaux, 406 State, Big Spring  
 Edward Bourland, 229 Edgewood Dr., San Angelo  
 Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo  
 Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock  
 Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring  
 Johnny William Brown, 507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring  
 Sheli Lynn Buck, 1101 E. 15th St., Big Spring  
 Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington  
 Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo  
 Michelle Ann Bustamante, 1744 Purdue, Big Spring  
 Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock  
 Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka  
 Wendell Campbell, 600 N.W. Eight St., Big Spring  
 Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaiston Lane, Fort Worth  
 Donna J. Abbott Cantwell, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 101, Big Spring  
 Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos  
 Scott S. Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring  
 Amy Castillo, 1806 Morrison, Big Spring  
 Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City  
 Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford  
 Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring  
 Weldon Montague Cheatham, 4502 Denison, Snyder  
 Jared Kendero Coby, 901 S. High Street # 802, Longview  
 Vanessa Conatser, 3218 Fordham, Big Spring  
 Christoval Moren Corralez, 1105 N. Nolan, Big Spring  
 Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring  
 Sylvia Mendez Cravens, PO Box 18, Coahoma  
 Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City  
 Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring  
 Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring  
 Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa Dr., Big Spring  
 Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio  
 Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock  
 Clarissa Renteria Dean, 2711 Rebecca, Big Spring  
 Johnnie Lou Dry, RR 11 Box 156 FM 2011, Longview  
 Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring  
 Constance A. Elledge, 1709 Scotland Ave., Azle  
 Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring  
 Sophia Garcia Ferrel, 1204 Lamar, Big Spring  
 Alfredo Flores Jr., PO Box 272, Laredo  
 Irene Paredez Flores, 1000 E. 20th St., Big Spring  
 Sylvia Quintana McCormick Flores, 2911 Hali Rd., Big Spring  
 Alejandro Franco Jr., 1900 Martin Luthe

King Blvd. Apt. 215, Big Spring  
 Kenneth L. Freeman, 1401 San Andres, Odessa  
 Danny Frias, 207 W. 17th St., Georgetown  
 Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa  
 Ruby Gaitan, P.O. Box 783, Lamesa  
 Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa  
 Carlos Garcia, 1211 S. Third St., Brownfield  
 James Randal Gardner, P.O. Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.  
 Christina Garza, 1202 E. 15th, Big Spring  
 Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo  
 Joseph Garza Jr., 418 Ryon St., Big Spring  
 Esperanza Garza, 601 N.W. Fifth St., Big Spring  
 Misty Goldston, 2429 20th St., Lubbock  
 Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt, Fort Worth  
 Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring  
 James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater  
 Melissa Gonzalez, 2317 CR 220, Garden City  
 Jeffrey Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown  
 Gabriel Guerrero, 411 NE 10th Street, Big Spring  
 Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa  
 Steven Joe Guzman, 4172 Lake County Rd. 254, Colorado City  
 Edna J. Hale, 510 Milton Ave., Brownwood  
 Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring  
 Jade Austin Harris, PO Box 47, Gail  
 Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel, Big Spring  
 Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington  
 Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock  
 Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder  
 Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. Noble, Falfurrias  
 Veronica Cervantes Hernandez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa  
 Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Comberland, Odessa  
 Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston  
 Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring  
 Herman Hokes, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring  
 Emily Howard, P.O. box 224, Big Spring  
 Juan Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene, Midland  
 Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange  
 Shauna Danielle Jenkins, 3301 40th Place, Snyder  
 Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio  
 Byron Johnson, 801 Ohio, Big Spring  
 Sarah A. Barrow Johnson, 3402 D. State St., Big Spring  
 Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland  
 Steven Daniel Johnson, 1509 142nd St., Lubbock  
 Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring  
 Luz Martinez Juarez, 602 N.W. Seventh St., Big Spring  
 Katie Lynn Junkin, 1410 Lancaster, Big Spring  
 Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City  
 Jason Earnest Key, 602 George St., Big Spring  
 Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring  
 Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan  
 Kenney Jana Krueger, 1207 Johnson, Big Spring  
 Lynda Kynman, 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring  
 Amanda Lasater, PO Box 30475, Midland  
 Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th, Big Spring  
 Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring  
 Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock  
 Richard Leos, 509 W. Eighth St., Big Spring  
 Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa  
 Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 1512 Sycamore Apt. A, Big Spring  
 Joshua David Mackenstien, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland  
 Terry Marquez, 1518 El Camino, Big Spring  
 Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder  
 Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo  
 Lorene Martinez, 702 N. Iowa, Lamesa

Roberto P. Martinez, 3301 Auburn Ave., Big Spring  
 Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eubanks, Big Spring  
 Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa  
 Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah  
 Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder  
 Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon  
 Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston  
 Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin  
 Joe Luis Miramontes, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring  
 Brandy A. Molina, 1906 S. Alabama, Big Spring  
 Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring  
 Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas  
 Robert Wayne Moseley, PO Box 39, Hondo  
 Jose Munoz III, 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 7, Big Spring  
 Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland  
 Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring  
 William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring  
 Nancy Ortega, 601 Abrams, Big Spring  
 Liza L. Ovalle, 3304 W. Highway 80 Apt. 44, Big Spring  
 Alesha Pace, 700 N. Dixie, Odessa  
 Christopher Eric Painter, 1503 S. Johnson, Big Spring  
 Pernel Earl Parker, 400 N.E. 12th St., Big Spring  
 Benson Nelson Payne, 1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo  
 Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring  
 Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring  
 David Lee Powell Jr., 2511 Broadway, Big Spring  
 Ruth Heinen Privett, 5822 Oak, Big Spring  
 Rickie Dan Pruiett, 979 FM 977, Lamesa  
 Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring  
 Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring  
 Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Orange Street, Bacliff  
 Dana Denise Reid, PO Box 384, Coahoma  
 Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City  
 Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie  
 Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock  
 Jennifer Roberts, 2500 Cheyenne, Big Spring  
 Mandi E. Cevalos Rodriguez, 406 North Scurry, Big Spring  
 Magaly Romero, 1900 MLK Blvd. Apt. 603, Big Spring  
 Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring  
 Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring  
 Kenneth Wayne Ross, 12101 Dessau Rd., Big Spring  
 Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper  
 Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland  
 Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa  
 Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton  
 Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring  
 Emily Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder  
 Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa  
 Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lancaster, Big Spring  
 Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring  
 Stephanie Serrato, 1306 Wright, Big Spring  
 Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring  
 Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring  
 Amy Leigh Corley Shifflett, 209 N. Main, Coahoma  
 Korina Sirmon, 608 W. 15th St., Big Spring  
 Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa  
 Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City  
 Anthony Solis, 1303 Elm St., Big Spring  
 Rosa Soto, 407 E. Vealmoor, Coahoma  
 Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland  
 Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City  
 Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler  
 Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX  
 James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene  
 Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson Dr. #5,

Big Spring  
 Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.  
 Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring  
 Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa  
 Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland  
 Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring  
 Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder  
 Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio  
 Rene O. Villa, 106 Circle Dr., Big Spring  
 Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard  
 Amy Wagner, PO Box 784, Blanco  
 Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City  
 Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa  
 James M. Ward, PO Box 279, Colorado City  
 Jasmin Shawnta Ward, 222 N. Dixie Blvd. Apt. E6, Odessa  
 Jlm Bob White, 412 Davis Rd., Big Spring  
 Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Runnels, Big Spring  
 Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring  
 Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene  
 Chad Matthew Wright, 211 E. Robinson, Big Spring  
 Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth  
 Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring  
 Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

**County Court Decisions:**  
 Probated Judgment: Marissa Loya, theft of property - more than \$500 less than \$1,500, \$1,000 fine, \$326 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Alice Gonzales, criminal mischief, \$750 fine, \$324 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).  
 Judgment and Sentence: Latoya Jeanette Maxwell, driving while intoxicated - open container, \$500 fine, \$493 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Latoya Jeanette Maxwell, terroristic threat against a public servant, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Cynthia Ann Morelino, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
 Probated Judgment: Jonathan Michaels Shorten, driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 fine, \$443 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Ernesto Olivas Jr., cruelty to non-livestock animals - failure to provide, \$3,000 fine, \$328 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).  
 Judgment and Sentence: Jeffrey Ray Pierson, purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 120 days in jail.  
 Probated Judgment: Roshanda Evette Bethany, theft of property - more than \$500 less than \$1,500, \$1,000 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Judgment and Sentence: Jeffrey Ray Pierson, driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 fine, \$443 court costs, 120 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Winnie Denise Knox, theft of property - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$750 fine, \$278 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Winnie Denise Knox, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$750 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Jomar Demond Adams, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$324 court costs, 20 days in jail.  
 Probated Judgment: Anestacia Rios Key, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$1,500 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Johnny Lee Johnson, violation of a protective order, \$1,500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Jarrel Lamonte Williams, prohibited weapons switchblade/knuckles, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Richard Ruiz Bautista, failure to identify - giving false information, \$1,500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Probated Judgment: Sabrina Valencia Madrid, theft of property - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$1,500 fine, \$282 court

costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
 Judgment and Sentence: Brett Kelly Palmer, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension without financial responsibility, \$166 fine, \$232 court costs.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Marcus Lane Hattenbach, criminal trespass, \$750 fine, \$278 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Marcus Lane Hattenbach, evading arrest or detention, \$750 fine, \$278 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Marcus Lane Hattenbach, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$750 fine, \$278 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Ernest William Clark, criminal trespass, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Ernest William Clark, criminal trespass, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Ernest William Clark, criminal trespass, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
 Judgment and Sentence: Ryan Anthony Anguiano, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, five days in jail.

**District Court Filings:**  
 Melissa Marie Fonda vs. Larry Hobbs, protective order.  
 American Express Centurion Bank vs. Charles Campanella, accounts, notes and contracts.  
 Jennifer Dubose vs. Benny Norman Cluck, divorce.  
 State Farm Mutual Insurance Co. vs. Alonzo Velasco and Donna Ruiz, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.  
 Cindy Bagwell Hughes vs. James Alton Hughes, divorce.  
 Joel Derek Rojo vs. Moica Ann Rojo, divorce.  
 Saul Alejandro Balcazar vs. Angela Nicole Pace, divorce.  
 Dennis Wayne Noggler vs. Ashlen Nicole Gibson, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.

**Marriage Licenses:**  
 Todd Eugene Wombwell, 47, of Big Spring, and Suzy S. Slattery, 50, of California.  
 Henry V. Backes III, 45, and Vanessa L. Cates, 39, both of Big Spring.

**Warranty Deeds:**  
 Grantor: Beacon Manufactured Housing  
 Grantee: Buddy Cochran  
 Property: A 2.5-acre tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
 Date: Jan. 4, 2010

Grantor: Swartz & Brough Inc.  
 Grantee: Buddy Cochran LLC  
 Property: Lot 7, Block 34, College Heights  
 Date: Jan. 4, 2010

Grantor: Elvira Franco  
 Grantee: Salvador Sarmiento  
 Property: Lot 7, Block 45 and Lot 9, Block 45, Bauer  
 Date: Jan. 11, 2010

Grantor: Elvira Franco  
 Grantee: Salvador Sarmiento  
 Property: Lot 8, Block 45, Bauer  
 Date: Jan. 11, 2010

Grantor: Ronnie Powers  
 Grantee: Alvin C. Mize and Billie Mize  
 Property: Part of Lot 1, Block 2, Wrights Second Addition  
 Date: Jan. 11, 2010

Grantor: Andres Perches and Gloria Perches  
 Grantee: Ricardo Saenz and Maria Saenz  
 Property: The S/50 feet of Lot 1, Block 93, city of Big Spring  
 Date: Jan. 12, 2010

**Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:**  
 Grantor: Mariano Granados and Odilia Granados  
 Grantee: Juan Antonio Valadez and Amber Valadez  
 Property: Lot 21, Block 4, Douglas Addition  
 Date: Jan. 4, 2010

Grantor: Kevin L. Ritz and Juanita Ritz  
 Grantee: Gerald E. Powell  
 Property: A 1-acre tract out of Section 48, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
 Date: Jan. 12, 2010

# VOTES

Continued from Page 4C

said Fred Wertheimer, president of Democracy 21, who pressed for the ban on election-season corporate- and union-financed ads that the court swept away.  
 For those like Wertheimer who believe the threat of corruption justifies restrictions on campaign money, it could get even worse.  
 Heartened by the court's view that corporations have the same free-speech rights as citizens, opponents of campaign finance restrictions think the time is ripe to press the justices to go still further and do something not allowed since the robber-baron bribery scandals of a century ago: let corporations and unions give money directly to candidates.  
 "If all speakers are going to be treated the

same, why wouldn't a corporation be able to make a contribution to a candidate?" just as individuals and political action committees can? asked Jim Bopp, a conservative lawyer involved in several lawsuits that have scaled back campaign finance rules over the past few years, including the one decided Thursday.  
 Bopp thinks the conservative-leaning court might even go for a case arguing that donors should be able to give as much money as they want to a candidate: "You certainly have some justices who say that the contribution limits cannot be imposed at all."  
 The ruling could bring more than office politics to the workplace. Bopp reads it to permit corporations and unions to speak freely about elections to employees and authorize partisan politicking on their

property, rather than stop at simply encouraging workers to vote, as they've had to do until now.  
 Just as opponents of campaign finance regulation are considering further challenges, campaign finance watchdogs and their allies in Congress plan to pursue legislation to try to deal with Wednesday's ruling. What they could do to restrict corporate and union campaign ads after the nation's highest court called a ban unconstitutional is unclear.  
 And in the middle of it all are voters, the people whose opinions the new spending will seek to influence.  
 The court seemed to agree with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's contention that voters want more election ads and that they are craving the viewpoints and information that will be presented in them.

But if the country's experience in the years before the McCain-Feingold law, when corporations and unions poured millions of dollars into election-time ads that targeted candidates but stopped short of calling for their election or defeat, is any indication, much of the new ad spending will likely be aimed at turning voters against a particular candidate, rather than

urging them to vote for one.  
 That may please voters who do not like the candidate anyway, but it could turn off some voters so much they tune out. Getting key voting blocs to stay home on Election Day can be as important as getting voters to turn out.  
 The ruling leaves intact major parts of a hard-won 2002 campaign finance law, but

it is unclear what will happen with those in coming months. That is the McCain-Feingold law, named after its sponsors, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russ Feingold, D-Wis.  
 The Republican National Committee is challenging one of the law's pillars, a ban on corporate and union donations to political parties.

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## News in brief

### U.N.: Haiti government calls off search and rescue phase

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's government has declared the search and rescue phase for survivors of the country's devastating earthquake over, the United Nations said Saturday.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that 132 people were pulled from the rubble alive by international search and rescue teams.

Spokeswoman Elizebeth Byrs told The Associated Press that rescue teams still searching through the rubble would not be prevented from carrying out whatever work they felt necessary. "It doesn't mean the government will order them to stop. In case there is the slightest sign of life, they will act."

But she added: "Except for miracles, hope is unfortunately fading."

Humanitarian relief efforts are still being scaled up in the capital Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Leogane and other areas affected by the quake, Byrs said.

The decision comes the day after two people emerged from beneath the rubble of the stricken Haiti capital a stunning 10 days after the quake, temporarily reviving fading belief that others may have survived.

### U.S. Marines end role in Iraq; Biden holds talks on 'blacklist'

RAMADI, Iraq (AP) — The U.S. Marine Corps wrapped nearly seven years in Iraq on Saturday, handing over duties to the Army and signaling the beginning of an accelerated withdrawal of American troops as the U.S. turns its focus away from the waning Iraqi war to a growing one in Afghanistan.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, Vice President Joe Biden held talks with Iraqi leaders amid growing tensions over plans to ban election candidates because of suspected links to Saddam Hussein's regime.

The White House worries the bans

could raise questions over the fairness of the March 7 parliamentary elections, which are seen as an important step in the American pullout timetable.

The Marines formally handed over control of Sunni-dominated Anbar, Iraq's largest province, to the Army during a ceremony at a base in Ramadi — where some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place.

If all goes as planned, the last remaining Marines will be followed out by tens of thousands of soldiers in the coming months. President Barack Obama has ordered all but 50,000 troops out of the country by Aug. 31, 2010, with most to depart after the March 7 parliamentary election.

### Obama, top Democrats pledge to push ahead on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and top congressional Democrats insist they will push ahead with efforts to overhaul health care, though they aren't explaining how they will proceed in that uphill fight.

The president acknowledged Friday that the effort ran into a "bit of a buzz saw" of opposition. And a leading member of his party suggested Congress slow it down on health care, a sign of eroding political will in the wake of Tuesday's Republican election upset in Massachusetts.

Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who ushered the overhaul legislation through the Senate's health committee last year after the death of his friend, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, said Obama and lawmakers could "maybe take a breather for a month, six weeks."

Just a week ago, the health legislation had appeared on the cusp of passage after Obama threw himself into marathon negotiations with congressional leaders to work out differences between the House and Senate bills.

"There are things that have to get done. This is our best chance to do it. We can't keep on putting this off," Obama said Friday at a town hall

meeting in Elyria, Ohio, warning listeners that spiraling medical costs threaten to bankrupt them and the country unless Congress acts.

### At Supreme Court, big issues pit liberals vs. conservatives

WASHINGTON (AP) — It comes down to this at the Supreme Court: If you've got Justice Anthony Kennedy on your side, you can pretty much do what you want. Without him, you're the author of an angry dissent.

Thursday's decision to strike down restrictions on corporate campaign spending more than 60 years old was the third time in nine days that the court divided 5-4, with liberals on one side and conservatives on the other. The other cases involved an appeal from a death row inmate in Georgia and the prospect of broadcasting a gay marriage trial in California.

As in dozens of earlier cases, Kennedy was in the majority each time. He was the author of the campaign finance decision.

The rulings demonstrate the extent to which ideology — not fidelity to precedent or a particular interpretation of the Constitution — is the driving force on the court.

The addition of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, replacing Justice David Souter, seems to have changed nothing in this regard. Indeed, it would have been shocking if President Barack Obama's first high court nominee immediately began to line up with the court's conservatives.

### Californians returning home after stampede of storms

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP) — As hundreds of Californians prepare to return to evacuated homes, Arizona residents are digging or drying out from the stampede of southwestern storms that flooded desert areas and buried mountain towns under feet of snow.

The biggest weather system to hit Arizona in nearly two decades flooded small towns, caused a train derailment and closed major interstates. Snow collapsed roofs in the northern part of the state. Meanwhile, searchers looked for a 6-year-old boy swept away late Thursday in a flood.

Three others died in vehicle accidents this week — two on Interstate 40 east of Flagstaff and one in Phoenix — as a series of storms moved through the state. At least two people were killed by trees toppled by high winds in California in recent days.

Hundreds of California evacuees, meanwhile, were allowed to return home Friday as a week of lightning, vicious downpours and tornadoes dissipated into occasional thunderstorms. Still, tens of thousands of people remained without power throughout the state.

Flood control channels remained swollen and swift despite the drop in rainfall.

### Balloon boy mom's interviews contradict husband's claim

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — A newly released video shows the mother of the 6-year-old boy purported to be in a runaway balloon finally acknowledging to authorities it was all a hoax — contrary to her husband's repeated public denials just before reporting to jail.

The video interviews obtained by

the Fort Collins Coloradoan Friday show Mayumi Heene telling sheriff's officials that the Oct. 15 event was a hoax that she and her husband orchestrated to gain notoriety and land a reality TV show.

"We tried working so hard to make money to survive. It's a shame to come up with this idea," Mayumi Heene told a Larimer County Sheriff's investigator during an interview days after the flight televised worldwide. "This was something that could take me, take us to the point we wanted to be at."

The boy, Falcon, was hiding at home during the balloon's five-hour ride.

Mayumi Heene pleaded guilty to filing a false report and her husband, Richard Heene, pleaded guilty to attempting to influence a public servant. He began serving a 30-day jail sentence Jan. 11. His wife will serve a 20-day sentence after him.

### Conan O'Brien ends stint on 'Tonight' show with wide smile

NEW YORK (AP) — Conan O'Brien ended his brief tenure on the "Tonight" show with a wide smile and a guitar in his arms.

The red-haired comic joined a band led by blond-wigged comic Will Ferrell with Beck and ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons for a raucous rendition of "Free Bird." O'Brien is free to move on now himself, after accepting a \$45 million buyout from NBC to leave the show he long dreamed of hosting after only seven months.

Despite the rancor that marked his final two weeks, O'Brien emotionally urged his fans not to be cynical and said their support made a sad situation "joyous and inspirational." He even thanked NBC for more than 20 years of employment but mixed in a few final jabs during the show.

Walking away instead of accepting a demotion is the hardest thing he's ever had to do, O'Brien said.

"This is the best job in the world," he said.

O'Brien will be replaced March 1 by the man he took over for seven months ago — Jay Leno. In the interim, reruns will fill the slot, followed by Winter Olympics programming next month.

### Actress Simmons dies at 80

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jean Simmons, whose ethereal screen presence and starring roles with Hollywood's top actors made her a mid-century film icon, has died at age 80.

The actress, who sang with Marlon Brando in "Guys and Dolls," costarred with Gregory Peck and played Ophelia to Laurence Olivier's Hamlet, died Friday at her home in Santa Monica, her agent Judy Page told the Los Angeles Times. She had lung cancer.

Already a stunning beauty at 14, Simmons made her movie debut in the 1944 British production "Give Us the Moon."

Several minor films followed before British director David Lean gave the London-born actress her breakthrough role of Estella, companion to the reclusive Miss Havisham in 1946's "Great Expectations." That was followed by the exotic "Black Narcissus," and then Olivier's Oscar-winning "Hamlet" in 1948, for which Simmons was nominated as best supporting actress.



#### BIG SPRING AND THE UNITED WAY

Every year, City of Big Spring employees sign up to make monthly contributions to the United Way. By agreeing to donate, employees receive a FREE day off voucher and their name is entered into a drawing for a FREE one night stay and dinner for two at the Moss Creek Ranch. In 2010, City of Big Spring employees will donate over \$11,000 to the United Way. Congratulations to accountant Connie Wood, the winner of the Moss Creek Ranch prize package!

Thank you to all our City of Big Spring employees who made contributions to United Way this year. The work of the United Way is only possible with the donations from members of the community it serves. A big thanks to Moss Creek Ranch for their generous donation.

#### BY THE CODE

The City of Big Spring defines a "Junked Vehicle" as a vehicle that is self-propelled, inoperable and:

- (1) does not have lawfully attached to it:
- (a) an unexpired license plate; or
- (b) a valid motor vehicle inspection certificate;
- (2) is wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled, or discarded; or
- (3) has remained inoperable for more than:
  - (a) 30 consecutive days on private property or
  - (b) 72 hours on public property.

Junked vehicles which are located anywhere they are visible from a public place or public right-of-way are detrimental to the safety and welfare of the general public. They tend to reduce the value of private property, invite vandalism, create fire hazards and create a hazard to the health and safety of minors. They are detrimental to the economic welfare of the City by producing urban blight which is adverse to the maintenance and continuing development of the City, and such vehicles are therefore declared to be a public nuisance.

This may not apply to a vehicle or vehicle part: that is completely enclosed within a building in a lawful manner and is not visible from the street or other public or private property; or, that is stored or parked in a lawful manner on private property in connection with the business of a licensed vehicle dealer or junkyard, or that is an antique or special

interest vehicle stored by a motor vehicle collector on the collector's property, if the vehicle or part and the outdoor storage area, if any, are:

- (a) maintained in an orderly manner;
- (b) not a health hazard; and
- (c) screened from ordinary public view by appropriate means, including a fence, rapidly growing trees, or shrubbery.

After any such junked motor vehicle has been removed by the City, it shall not be reconstructed or made operable. Removed vehicles shall be demolished and disposed of as scrap or salvage.

One of our ordinances that is often misinterpreted is our Junk Vehicle Ordinance. As stated above, the definition a junk vehicle is more than some old car that someone has stored on a property. A Junk Vehicle can be any vehicle regardless of age that is not operational, registered or partially dismantled. If a vehicle has been in the same location for more than 30 days it could possibly be considered a Junk Vehicle. Where some of the confusion often arises is with collector cars or as our ordinance defines them "an antique or special interest" vehicle. Antique or special interest vehicles do not have to be registered but they must be removed from public view. This ordinance allows for the City of Big Spring to remove a junk vehicle if no action is taken by the property owner after notification. When the appropriate steps are taken by our office and these vehicles are removed by the City, that vehicle can no longer be titled in Texas and thus it becomes a salvage vehicle. This ordinance can be further reviewed on our web site [HYPERLINK "http://www.mybigspring.com"](http://www.mybigspring.com) [www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com). Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Chad Averette  
Code Enforcement Supervisor  
432-264-2505

Current Activities: Big Spring Gala	<b>American Heart Association</b> <i>Learn and Live</i>
When: February 20, 2010 Times: TBD	
Where: Big Spring Country Club 2401 Driver Road Big Spring, TX 79721	
For more information contact: Krista Markham, 806-457-0090 <a href="mailto:krista.markham@heart.org">krista.markham@heart.org</a>	

<b>CRIME STOPPERS</b>	Crime stoppers anonymous (no caller ID) Tip line 263-8477
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**AMERIMEX RIG Movers, LTD.** is hiring for CDL Drivers with wench truck experience. Must have a clean Class A CDL. Call (432)264-1579 ask for Danny.

**BLUE BELL Creameries** is seeking a responsible, dependable Full Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves physically working with ice cream products in a cold environment. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and great benefits. Apply in person at: 401 East Interstate 20, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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Please apply in Person @ 2004 1st Ave. Bldg #48, Big Spring, Texas 432-263-2366 for location & directions only EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

**MAINTENANCE WORKER** needed for local Apartment Complex. Must know all phases of construction---- Electric, plumbing, AC and etc. Call Mike (714)267-0040.

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

Help Wanted

**NOW ACCEPTING** applications for mental health aide at Wood Care Center Assisted Living. Night shifts. Various Hours. Apply in person at 2607 Chanute.

**NURSERY WORKER** Needed at East Fourth Street Baptist Church. For more information please call (432)267-2291 or 517-4664.

**PARKPLACE RETIREMENT** Living is taking applications for a cook. Experience a plus. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

**PART-TIME CAREGIVER** needed in private, Christian preschool. Must have a high school diploma. Previous childcare experience preferred. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Road.



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**PORTER HENDERSON** Implement Company is seeking motivated, hard working tractor technicians. Must have your own tools and a clean driving record. Contact Dwight at (432)263-8344.

**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 **Stylist**. Benefits include 401k, 529 college fund, incentive program, on going education. Medical, Dental and Eye Insurance. All supplies furnished except shears. Call Jack Borrego (432)263-1111 or 1-888-888-7778 ext. 41147.

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# How (and why) to avoid wearing dentures

Who wants to wear dentures? The answer is almost anyone without their own teeth or whose teeth are so loose or painful that they cannot eat.

What's good about dentures? A quality denture can restore a very natural and cosmetic smile and improve function compared to missing or painful teeth.

What's bad about dentures? The list is long, but I'll touch on several items.

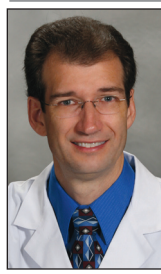
**Poor Stability** — Chewing with dentures is absolutely nothing like chewing with real teeth. Upper dentures generally are more stable than lower dentures, but there is no denture that the patient can forget they are wearing. Lower dentures are prone to coming loose due to the anatomy of the lower jaw. Denture adhesives may help a little, but dental implants

are the only real solution.

**Poor Chewing Ability** — It is literally impossible to bite anywhere near as hard with dentures because they are sitting on the soft, sensitive gum tissue. When biting hard, the gum compresses between the hard denture and the hard jawbone, the gums say "ouch."

**Poor Nutrition** — Compared to people with natural teeth, most people who wear dentures transition to a softer, more fattening, easier to chew, less healthy diet. The reasons are those just mentioned ... poor stability and poor chewing ability.

**Poor Jaw Bone Maintenance** — You've heard the phrase "use it or lose it." This can apply to your muscle, your brain and your bones. Weight bearing exercise is critical to maintaining bone, that's why it is recommended to help prevent or manage osteoporosis. In all people, chewing on natural teeth (or implants) is the weight bearing exercise that the jaw bones need. When teeth are lost the bone around where the tooth was shrinks rapidly at first



DR. DAVID WARD



Dr. David Ward visits with women registering for a recent Healthy Woman program in Big Spring. The local dentist writes a regular column for the Big Spring Herald.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

and then more slowly. Denture wear actually even speeds up the shrinkage process, which makes stability and chewing ability even worse over time.

Around 50 percent of people 65 or older in the United States wear dentures. Fortunately, this number continues to slowly drop due to improving dental care both professionally and at home.

Incidentally, most people don't lose all their teeth from cavities. More people end up in dentures due to periodontitis (also known as periodontal disease, gum disease, or pyorrhea).

So here's how to not become one of the 50 percent.

Look in the mirror. If you see dark spots, loose teeth or red and bleeding gums, you've got obvious problems that need professional care immediately.

Ask someone close if you have chronic bad breath. Many times bad breath is a symptom of gum dis-

ease. If your spouse won't kiss you anymore, your dentist can probably improve your love life!

Eat a healthy diet, don't smoke, and limit how often sweet or acidic things are in your mouth.

Brush and floss thoroughly! Good hygiene covers a multitude of diet sins.

See your dentist at least once a year!

Dental problems usually go unnoticed by the person for years. Both cavities and gum disease usually produce no pain until they are severe. The best and least expensive ways to treat dental disease, both cavities and gum problems, are when the problems are small. Don't wait until it hurts or you may be becoming a denture statistic!

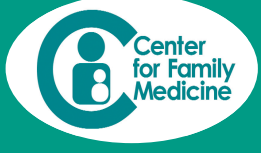
*Dr. David Ward practices family, laser, implant and sedation dentistry in Big Spring. All of his newspaper articles on dental health can be found at [www.DavidWardDDS.com](http://www.DavidWardDDS.com)*



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# Democrats recovering from really bad week

**CHARLES BABINGTON**

Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON — A one-two punch of bad news suddenly has Democrats facing an election year with campaign finance rules that favor Republicans and a Senate that can block Democratic initiatives.

Democrats already were bracing for House and Senate losses in November, which typically happens to a president's party after his first two years in office. But a stunning GOP Senate victory in Massachusetts, and a dramatic Supreme Court ruling on political advertising, have made the horizon look even darker for the party that scored big wins in 2006 and 2008.

The week that marked President Barack

Obama's first year in office turned out to be one of the worst in recent Democratic memory. Now party insiders are trying to figure out why public sentiment turned against them so quickly.

Republican strategist John Feehery says the trend began some time ago with the summer-time attacks on Obama's health care plan and continued with the GOP's November takeover of the governorships of New Jersey and Virginia.

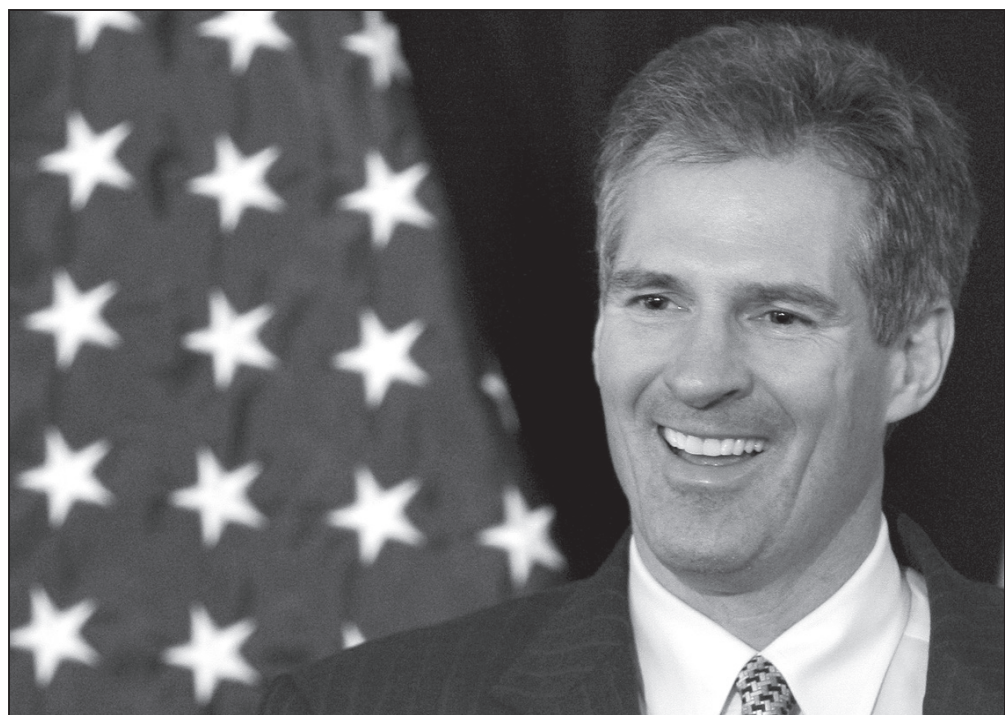
"It's been bad for the Democrats for a while," Feehery said. "They just haven't realized it. This is the club over their head that wakes them up."

The week's first Democratic setback can be blamed square-

ly on the party's poor performance coupled with a stellar campaign by a little-known GOP state senator in Massachusetts. Scott Brown tapped voter anger over high unemployment and unsavory dealmaking in Congress to win the seat long held by liberal leader Edward Kennedy.

Brown's election will restore the GOP's ability to use filibusters to block Democratic initiatives in the Senate, where Republicans will hold 41 of the 100 seats. It brought an abrupt halt to Obama's signature issue, overhauling health care, which now hangs in limbo.

The second blow, which landed Thursday, was beyond the president's control. The Supreme Court reversed



Sen-elect Scott Brown, R-Mass., smiles as he addresses reporters during a news conference at the Park Plaza hotel in Boston.

AP file photo

a centurylong trend of limiting the political influence of corpora-

tions, which is likely to prompt a flood of campaign money going mostly to Republicans. The 5-4 ruling will let companies use their general treasuries, and not just employees' limited donations, to produce and air ads for or against federal candidates.

It also applies to labor unions, which typically back Democrats. But union membership and clout have been declining for decades.

Republicans, traditionally friendly with corporate America, hailed the court decision while Democrats attacked it. Obama called it "a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans."

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio called it "a big win for the First Amendment and a step in the right direction."

As if the White House needed more bad news, late in the week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke faced mounting Senate opposition for a second term despite Obama's support.

So far, there's no sign of all-out Democratic panic. Party insiders anticipate about two dozen or so net losses in the House this fall. It might be worse, but few think they could lose the 40 seats that would give Republicans the majority. A GOP takeover of the Senate is even less likely.

And Republicans have their own problems, starting with less campaign money than Democrats have. Opinion polls suggest Americans have more faith in Democrats to make good decisions, and Obama's personal popularity remains fairly high.

Also, it's not clear that Republicans can tame and harness the volatile "tea bagger" activists. The fiercely independent conservatives helped Brown win in Massachusetts, but they triggered a damaging right-wing split in a special House race in New York last year.

Still, Brown's victory Tuesday clearly rattled Democrats.

Their most immediate problem is the stalled health care overhaul. Options include using all their remaining political muscle to pass

a Senate measure under rules that bar filibusters, which could require only modest trims to the party's original proposals. Another option would significantly dilute the initial efforts in hopes of attracting some Republican votes.

The White House and congressional leaders had hoped to settle on a strategy by this week-end. But an accord was thwarted by disagreements among House Democrats.

"We need to take some time to look at what's happening here," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn. Taking no action at all, she said, "is not the right thing."

In the longer run, Democrats' chief dilemma may be deciding how to campaign this fall, given that Obama in 2008 advocated every key feature in the health care legislation that now seems unpopular with many Americans. Some party activists say they must do a better job of explaining how the bills would help middle-class people who already have insurance. Others say they paid a high price for a widely criticized benefit for Nebraska, which many people saw as a payoff to secure the vote of Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.

Many Democratic lawmakers want to resolve the health debate quickly and turn their focus to jobs.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., who chairs his party's House campaign team, did not mention health care in his statement following Brown's win in Massachusetts. He focused on a favorite target that some colleagues fear is losing its potency: George W. Bush.

In the midterm elections, Van Hollen said, Democrats will resist "the same failed Bush-Cheney policies that brought our economy to the brink of collapse."

On Thursday, he called the Supreme Court ruling on campaign funds "scandalous."

Feehery, the GOP consultant, said Democrats don't seem to understand the public's frustration. Obama vowed to end the old politics of backroom dealmaking and favors to special interests, Feehery said, but voters see huge bailouts for banks and automakers, plus the "Cornhusker kickback" to Nelson.

"Obama promised to change things," Feehery said, "and it's the same-old, same-old."



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Hold on to your wallet. The Taurus moon is tricky. Like a sly makeup-counter girl, she'll try to convince you that what's in the bottle will make you beautiful for the low, low price of \$80 — and she may be right. But will the \$3 version make you just as fetching? Be shrewd. Ask for samples. Buy time before you buy anything else.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You will need to take an aggressive stance with someone in order to get something accomplished. You will also be merciful when you need to be. You strike an effective balance.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll be an expert reader of facial expressions and body language. You'll endear others to you by tuning in to their rhythm. Social discourse is like a dance, and you are a beautiful dancer.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Laughter is more than a set of gestures and a production of sound. It's aerobics for the soul. You'll be giggling throughout the afternoon and ensuring your own good health as you do.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll be giving a spontaneous performance of sorts. What appeals to one culture may not read so well to another group of people. Get to know your audience before you launch into your "act."

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). When you hear half of a story, your mind fills in the blanks. Is your version true? Your suppositions are in the realm of possibility, although certainly more creative than what actually happened.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you observe an incongruity long enough, it begins to seem logical. There will be a shift this afternoon. The abnormal will suddenly be normal. Things that do not usually go together will form a complete picture.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are an artful force. The world will

bend to your creative whims. Say what you want things to look like and they begin to take form. Tomorrow it won't be so easy, so do take advantage of your special luck.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will succeed after a period of experimentation. So don't be too afraid of making the wrong choice. Wrong choices will inform you and make your work complex and wonderful.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). However peaceful your intentions, when you combine certain elements (or people), the results are explosive. What happens this afternoon could give you some explaining to do.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a lovely way of catering to a situation without compromising who you are. You may feel out of your element today, but that doesn't stop you from being yourself.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Wherever you wind up, it won't be where you intended to go

when you set out this morning. But it's still good. Life comes at you in an exquisite rush. You don't have to do anything, just experience it.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Bold characters surround you. Free and exciting expressions are the norm. Moderate tones won't be heard. You don't need to shout, but you do need to find a way to capture attention if you want to be heard.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 24). You may have settled for second best in the past, but this year you confidently ask for the moon. For the next three months, you get what you negotiate for, so believe you deserve the best and start with a high bid. February brings a new source of income. Singles find love in March. Investments pay off in September. Cancer and Virgo people adore you. Lucky numbers are: 5, 16, 24, 3 and 19.

**FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:** This isn't the easiest week for male and female relations. Venus in Aquarius pulls against

the energy of Mars in Leo in a tense opposition. The result may be experienced as irritating, frustrating and maddening. Or it could be felt as sparks flying and excitement. Or it could be love. The Venus-Mars opposition is Hepburn and Tracy, Lucy and Ricky, and, for the younger set, Sonny Monroe and Chad Dylan Cooper. And the energy could take many forms. Some will find their foil in a professional setting. Maybe the power struggle is all about a work project or a creative dynamic. For others, a sibling rivalry heats up. By Thursday, this tension will be as strong as it's going to get. Then the full Leo moon on Friday pops the bubble with a pointed version of the truth. After that, everyone can relax again. By Saturday, perspectives will broaden. If you were too close to see the humor in your situation, the weekend makes the big picture impossible to miss. And it's likely that you'll not only have a chuckle about all that's occurred, but will be able to do so

with the very people who were involved in the drama.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Mischa Barton will lend her youthful Aquarian presence to the upcoming film "The Science of Cool." "To Aquarius, "cool" is about staying current and being in touch with friends and trends. It doesn't hurt that Barton has her natal Mercury, the planet of communication, and dreamy Neptune both nestled in Capricorn. Capricorn energy is detached and powerful — that's cool, too!

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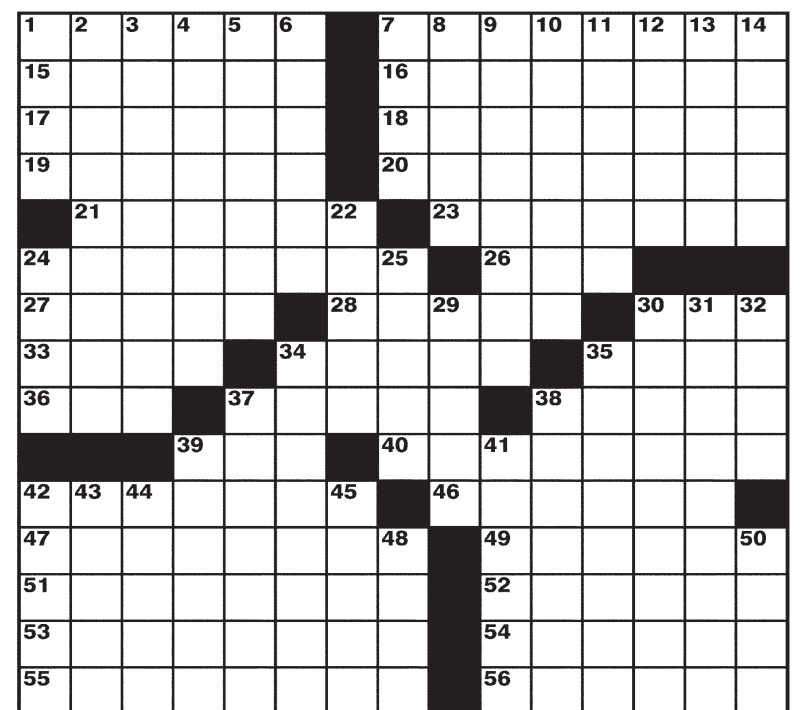
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- |   |                                 |                                  |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                     | 47 Puts faith in                | counterparts                     | 30 Tracking down               |
| 1 Group   | 49 Breakfast servings           | 5 Primers                        | 31 What lambs may represent    |
| 7 Set forth                                       | 51 Fare well                    | 6 Letter                         | 32 Stand out                   |
| 15 Big function                                   | 52 Elegantly maintained         | 7 Some polling data: Abbr.       | 34 Condensed                   |
| 16 Form   | 53 Positive declaration         | 8 Hard to hoe, perhaps           | 35 Some arcana                 |
| 17 Brimless headgear                              | 54 Cause                        | 9 Lands in Asia                  | 37 Need for commercial traffic |
| 18 Grooming routine                               | 55 Turned a corner, in a way    | 10 Galore                        | 38 1909 Physics Nobelist       |
| 19 Heinz brand                                    | 56 Used interdentals improperly | 11 Run-down                      | 39 They're reflective          |
| 20 Transmitted in real time                       |                                 | 12 "One more, please"            | 41 Part of ancient history     |
| 21 Aim  |                                 | 13 Name on a bottle of Re-Nutriv | 42 "It's ___!"                 |
| 23 Us, abroad                                     |                                 | 14 Sealed papers                 | 43 Word of approval            |
| 24 Like newspaper circulars                       |                                 | 22 Fair                          | 44 Football plays              |
| 26 Erstwhile newsroom machine: Abbr.              |                                 | 24 Four on some faces            | 45 10-Grammy artist            |
| 27 Assistants in a 2008 film                      |                                 | 25 City named by William Penn    | 48 Hang ___                    |
| 28 For Your Consideration actress                 |                                 | 29 Bo's co-owner                 | 50 Tuber or bulb               |
| 30 Half of a matched set                          |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 33 Plasma components                              |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 34 Hard-to-please ones, maybe                     |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 35 TV host who wrote <i>Eavesdropper at Large</i> |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 36 How banjos are usually tuned                   |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 37 Hands  |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 38 Sudden help                                    |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 39 Korean War threat                              |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 40 It may be in your blood                        |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 42 Washes one's hands of                          |                                 |                                  |                                |
| 46 ___ valve                                      |                                 |                                  |                                |



Annie's Mailbox®

**Dear Annie:** Those who wear our nation's uniforms and their families bear the heaviest burdens on behalf of our nation. Both at home and abroad, our servicemen and women have sacrificed to protect this great nation from those who hope to extinguish the torch of freedom we hold high in the world.

The Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities provide veterans not only the health care they deserve, but the recognition from a grateful nation, as well. Millions of our nation's veterans receive care in VA health facilities each and every year. VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,400 points of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries and readjustment counseling centers. VA staffs these facilities with more than 239,000 compassionate and dedicated health professionals and 85,000 volunteers who provide an outstanding level of care. However, it is sometimes the direct contact with their local community that provides the ultimate degree of acknowledgment to a veteran.

Last February, many of your readers provided that contact during the National Salute to Hospitalized



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Veterans. More than 500,000 valentines were received at VA medical centers and 19,838 visitors visited over 54,400 veteran patients. Also, four Valentines for Veterans concerts were held across the country — in Tampa and Bay Pines, Florida; Prescott, Arizona; Charleston, South Carolina; and at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

The act of sending a valentine, visiting with a hospitalized veteran or volunteering at one of VA's medical facilities provides a simple acknowledgment of the sacrifice our nation's veterans have endured in the cause of freedom.

This year's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will take place from Feb. 7-13. Getting involved is easy. To deliver a valentine or get additional volunteer information about your local VA medical center, you can find all the information you will need at VA's Volunteer Service Web site ([www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov)). From this site, you can generate an e-mail to your local VA Volunteer Service and find out whether it can use valentines or other items.

I am personally committed to ensuring our nation's veterans receive the exceptional care and respect they deserve. We hold a sacred trust for those who have worn the uniform of the United States of America. Please take some time during the second week of February to honor our veterans. Many of our facilities are planning special events during the week and would be pleased to arrange a visit.

Once again, thank you, Annie, for your support of this outstanding program.

Sincerely — Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

**Dear Secretary Shinseki:** Thank you for allowing us to be part of this terrific and heartwarming annual project. We can never repay these courageous veterans for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, but we can take the time to let them know they have not been forgotten.

Readers, please send valentines to our veterans at VA hospitals. Teachers, you have always been wonderfully supportive in making this a class project, especially with those lovely and much appreciated handmade valentines. Encourage your students to express their creativity while learning the satisfaction of doing for others.

Every year, the dedicated members of Camp Fire USA participate in this VA program, and Salvation Army volunteers distribute valentines, gifts and refreshments to various VA facilities around the country.

The veterans would be especially thrilled if you could spend a few minutes visiting and talking about their families and hometowns. Tell them how much you appreciate their service.

If you do not live close enough to a VA facility to drop off your valentines in person, it's perfectly fine to put them in the mail. Again, the address for the nearest VA hospital is in the phone book or can be found at the VA website. Please remember our veterans this Valentine's Day. We know of nothing else that costs so little and brings so much happiness. — Marcy and Kathy

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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**STALKING: 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, or angry.
- 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 memories.
- 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.

**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.

We can help.

**Stalking resource center**  
To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center Web site  
[www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)

**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR Victims 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

[www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org) · [gethelp@ncvc.org](mailto:gethelp@ncvc.org)

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

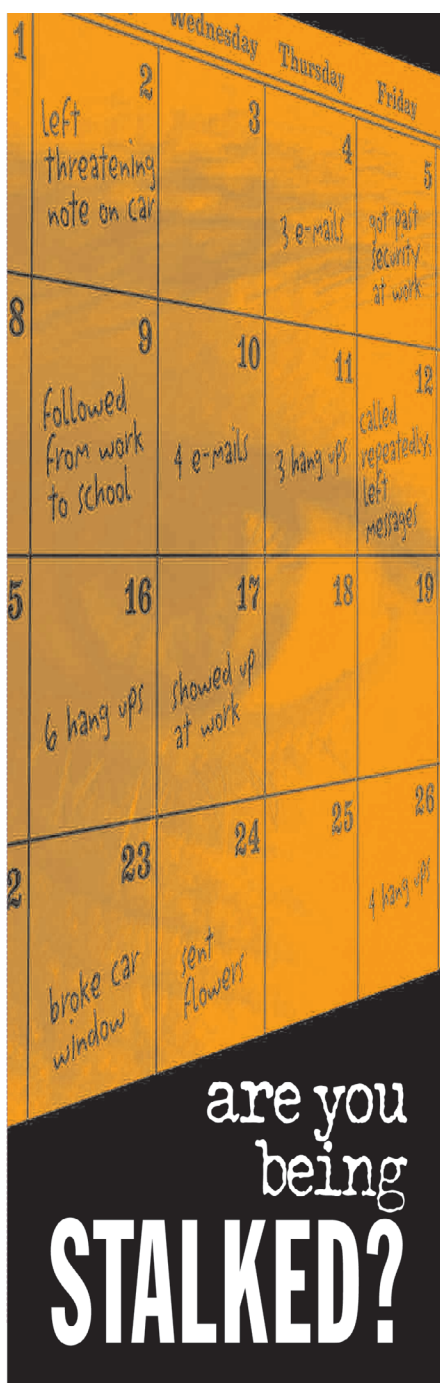
**Victim Services**

**263-3312**

[www.vsofbigspring.com](http://www.vsofbigspring.com)

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**Dear Margo**

**Dear Margo:** My fiancée and I will be getting married in nine months, and we're starting to send out invitations. Over the past couple of years, many of our friends started having kids. (Two of the older ones will be flower girls.) Early on, we discussed the issue of kids at the wedding and agreed that we're totally fine if little Suzie or Johnny goes screaming down the aisle; it's more important to have friends and family there to celebrate with us. And we love our friends' kids. At the same time, we hope that if a child does throw a tantrum, the parent will take the child to the vestibule so as to not be a continual disruption. My question is: Would it be appropriate to include a card with the invitation saying, "Of course children are invited, but if little Suzie or Johnny throws a temper tantrum, please take him or her to the vestibule to calm down"? If you feel it would be appropriate, perhaps you could suggest a better way of wording it. — Eyes on the Important Things in Life



MARGO HOWARD

Dear Eyes: I must say you're a sport not to mind if kids go screaming down the aisle at your wedding. I suspect that may, in fact, happen. As for the card you have in mind advising people what to do in case of a tantrum, let me just say this: I would find that very odd and suggest you not do it. Instead, cross your fingers that the parents of the howling Suzies and Johnnys have the sense to remove them.

There could be quite a crush in the vestibule, but there you are. And while I have you, sending invitations out nine months in advance would be considered exceedingly early.

Have a lovely ceremony. — Margo, permissively

**Dear Margo:** I'm in a relationship with a man I love. This past year, we've grown close and had conversations about the future: getting married, having children, etc. Things are moving in a good direction. The problem is me. I am very thin-skinned. My boyfriend likes to tease me, which I can handle some of the time, but other times I'm quick to feel hurt. When it happens, I become withdrawn. I'm able to hide this better with other people, since they simply consider me shy, but my boyfriend notices immediately. This is, without a doubt, the best and strongest relationship I've ever had, but I worry that being so sensitive will end up driving him crazy and away from me. While I suspect that your advice may be to go to counseling, I have a very basic "sickness plan" — rather than health insurance — that doesn't cover that type of "treatment."

Is it possible to develop a thicker skin? Is there a mantra that I can repeat when my feelings are hurt? I should mention that I am able to recognize when I have overreacted. I also feel ashamed of my behavior when I remember how much he loves me. — Far Too Sensitive

**Dear Far:** Good news — you don't need therapy! Since you understand the situation well, and because the romance sounds so promising, I would make this my mantra: "He likes to tease me, and he loves me." Then don't give it a thought. For what it's worth, my husband does the same thing, and I think it's goofy, but some people just like to tease.

It will bother you less and less once you really understand that teasing is a part of some people's sense of humor. — Margo, tolerantly

*Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to [dear-margo@creators.com](mailto:dear-margo@creators.com). Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.*

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**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, yet 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.

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

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.

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

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