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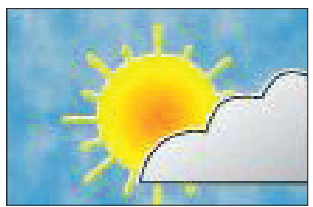
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SUNDAY

JANUARY 31, 2010



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Stevens: BSISD's aging facilities get an F

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles detailing Big Spring Independent School District's upcoming bond election.

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Michael Stevens hardly knows where to start when asked why Big Spring Independent School District needs to build new elementary campuses.



It's not that Stevens, special assistant to the BSISD superintendent, can't think of plausible reasons for new buildings. In fact, he quickly rattles off a number of reasons — the existing buildings are too old, too cramped, too dingy, too expensive to maintain and too much of a



Parkhill, Smith and Cooper illustration

Shown is a conceptual drawing of the proposed Washington Elementary. Big Spring school trustees are close to calling for a bond issue that would finance three new elementary campuses.

security nightmare, among other things.
 But Stevens hesitates in prioritizing those problems. To him, they all add up to one thing — the district needs a facility upgrade, and fast.
 “(The elementary facility situation) is the worst I’ve ever seen. It’s inexcusable,” the long-time school adminis-

trator said. “There’s no use in fixing blame — we are where we are — but the situation needs to be fixed.”
 BSISD trustees are working toward calling a bond election for this May that would provide (pending voter approval, of course) \$60 million for facility improvement. The majority of those funds — \$42

million — would go toward building three new elementary campuses and shuttering existing campuses at Bauer, Washington, Marcy and Goliad.
 “The main focus (on bond projects) has to be on the little kids,” Stevens said. “That’s where we’re hurting the most.”

The reasons Stevens cite for replacing the existing campuses include:
 • Age — There is little doubt BSISD’s elementary campuses are getting on in years; most are over 50 years of age and some, if they were human, would be drawing
 See **BSISD**, Page 2A

AARP Tax-Aide program returns Monday

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

As the April 15 deadline to file federal income tax returns looms on the horizon, one group of Big Spring volunteers is doing its part to help local residents prepare their returns and beat Uncle Sam’s annual countdown.
 Part of the annual AARP Tax-Aide program, program coordinator Gloria Hopkins said she and her band of volunteers are ready to begin filing returns Monday at the Big Spring Senior Center.
 “The AARP program provides free federal tax prepara-



tion assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don’t speak English and people with low-to-moderate income,” said Hopkins.
 “AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them.”
 Tax law can quickly become confusing, according to Hopkins, and with so many changes being made from

year to year it’s easy to miss out many government programs.
 “There’s just so much red tape involved, it’s almost impossible for people to keep up with all of it,” said Hopkins. “And if they don’t have the money to hire a tax professional, they can be missing out on all kinds of deductions and programs the government offers. This program gives them a chance to sit down with someone who is trained to deal with these

things.”
 Hopkins said there are some major changes to the tax law this year that could really benefit Crossroads residents, including tax credits for vehicle and home buyers.
 “Before last year, property taxes would have been an itemized deduction. However, starting last year and continuing this year, they are part of the taxpayer’s standard deductions,” said Hopkins. “So homeowners need to be sure to bring proof they paid their 2008 property taxes with them. The deduction can be as much as \$500
 for a single person and \$1,000 for married couples.”
 Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information before heading to the Senior Center.
 “People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms,” said Hopkins. “They also need to bring any forms that show their 2009 earnings and
 See **AIDE**, Page 12A

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Taxes: It's time to ante up

Property owners face penalties Tuesday if they haven't paid

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Area property owners looking to avoid costly penalties and interest on their taxes will need to move quickly as Monday is the last day to pay

property taxes before the annual fees become overdue.
 County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles said she and her staff will be ready for the last minute rush as the week comes to a close.
 “Fridays are almost always

busy around here, and I don’t expect this Friday to be any exception,” said Sayles with a laugh. “However, since the 31st falls on a Sunday, the deadline is extended until the end of the day Monday. Also, if they want to mail their pay-

ment in, remember, we go by the post mark.”
 Once the close of business has come and gone at 5 p.m. Monday, however, Sayles said things can get pretty
 See **TAXES**, Page 12A

No word yet on infant's death, police say

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Police officials say they are still awaiting autopsy results on a 3-month-old infant who died Jan. 15 at a home in the 4100 block of Parkway.
 Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big

Spring Police Department, said his office has yet to receive any reports from the Lubbock Medical Examiner’s office on the infant’s death, a crucial element in deciding how to handle the incident.
 “These things tend to move a lot slower when you’re dealing with an infant,” said Ev-

erett. “There’s a lot of painstaking work that goes into an autopsy like this, and where we go from here hinges on what the medical examiner gives us. So there’s really no way to estimate how long it will be before we get a report back.”
 Three-month-old Christo-

pher Savell was taken to the emergency room from a home in the 4100 block of Parkway at approximately 7:46 a.m. Jan. 13, suffering from what police officials described as seizures and difficulty breathing.
 “The child was transported
 See **INFANT**, Page 12A

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Coahoma splits with Ballinger; C-City next

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs are alive and kicking as they shrugged off a Tuesday loss to Jim Ned to beat Ballinger 55-42 at home Friday.

Coahoma (15-10, 2-3) got 17 points from senior Josh Paniagua, including four 3-pointers, and 12 from fellow senior Isaac Garcia in the home win. Junior Hunter Williams scored

10 and grabbed nine rebounds.

"Tanner and Hunter really stepped up," head coach Kim Nichols said. "And to say Paniagua stepped up is an understatement. He's really shooting the ball well, and people don't realize they need to guard him. They should."

The three filled in for leading scorer Martin Leija, who played only two minutes Friday.

Nichols said Leija suffered a high-ankle sprain Tuesday but will be back in the lineup next week.

Coahoma used big second and third quarters to pull away from Ballinger. The Bulldogs outscored the Bearcats 22-13 in the second quarter and extended their lead to as many as 15 in the third quarter. The two teams combined for just six fourth-quarter points.

"I was proud of the way we responded after losing to Jim Ned on Tuesday," Nichols said. "They came with full-court pressure early and we were able to break it, we got layups later in the ball game and then they backed off."

The Bulldogs improved to 2-3 in District 7-2A, one game behind Colorado City with the rival Wolves next on the schedule. Coahoma gets a rematch with unde-

feated and sixth-ranked Wall at home Friday, which the Bulldogs lost to 70-63 on the road Jan. 20.

"We're still alive and we need to beat Colorado City Tuesday and Wall at home Friday," Nichols said. "If we can play like we did down there, we've got a good chance at home with a big crowd."

Ballinger 56
Bulldogettes 36

COAHOMA — The

Coahoma Bulldogettes were sunk by 10 Ballinger 3-pointers Friday night as the Lady Bearcats won 56-36.

Six Lady Bearcats connected from behind the arc and Ballinger held the Bulldogettes to 11 points or less in each quarter. Most of the damage came in the second, when Ballinger outscored Coahoma 21-10.

The Bulldogettes were without leading scorer Kylie Gee for the game.



AP PHOTO/Patrick Semansky

Louisiana National Guard captain Percy "P.J." Williams stands on the floor of the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Williams grew up in New Orleans, was stationed in the Superdome during and after Hurricane Katrina and held onto his and his wife's season tickets after the storm.

Saints have New Orleans feverish

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — On his feet, his insides roiling like a butter churn, Percy "PJ" Williams Jr. pulled his leather Saints helmet over his face and closed his eyes.

"Look! Look! Watch this game, baby!" his wife gushed.

"I can't do it!" PJ blurted, hiding his face. Over and over again he cried: "Please, Lord, let this guy make this field goal ... Please, Lord, let this guy ... Please, Lord ..."

The scene: Jan. 24, Section 302 of the Superdome, row 14, seats 15 and 16. Two die-hard Saints fans. The play: Overtime, and Garrett Hartley readies

for a 40-yard field goal to send the Saints on their first trip to the Super Bowl.

Snap. Kick. Victory. Then, the roar.

Everywhere around the city of New Orleans, people cried, or screamed, or both. Nuns danced. Grannies, toddlers, waiters, yogis and jazzmen — all of them donned black and gold. Friends embraced. Shoot, even strangers embraced. Behind PJ, a man and woman wept together.

For a moment, PJ himself was speechless. All he could do was listen to the roar.

It wasn't the roar of the hurricane he remembered so well, tearing the roof off the Dome.

It wasn't the roar of his neighbors, the people he helped with an M16 rifle slung on his back — the barefoot children crying, elderly slumped in wheelchairs moaning, families sweating in the stadium's dark, waiting for relief.

On this night, the 33-year-old soldier and Saints season-ticket holder opened his eyes to the roar of a lifetime: The Saints had kicked away the Katrina blues, patched a city's scars, and put New Orleans in the Super Bowl — touching off the biggest party the Gulf Coast has seen since maybe the end of World War II.

Saints 31, Vikings 28.

At the end of season 43, the football gods had

finally smiled on his hapless Saints.

Few of the 71,276 people at the NFC championship last Sunday night had the same kind of perspective or same raw emotions that PJ did, living from nadir to zenith in New Orleans.

On Aug. 29, 2005, the day Katrina hit, his Louisiana National Guard platoon of MPs was sleeping on the floor of the visitors locker room, almost directly under the season-ticket seats he'd bought a few months prior.

Williams and his men had the mission of manning the biggest, smelliest, weirdest lifeboat ever seen

See **SAINTS**, Page 2B

Pro Bowl a warm up to Miami Super Bowl

Associated Press

MIAMI — For 86 of the NFL's best players, the season is ending where they wanted: in Miami.

Their timing's off, though.

With a new venue and new slot on the league calendar, the Pro Bowl will be played Sunday as a preliminary to next week's Super Bowl on the same field.

It definitely feels like a warmup act.

"There's a bittersweet taste," said quarterback Tony Romo, a late addition to the NFC roster after his Dallas Cowboys came up two wins shy of a Super Bowl berth. "You're always hoping in the big game."

The NFL is trying to transform the Pro Bowl into a bigger game by playing it before the Super Bowl for the first time. In a one-year experiment, the league also moved the game from Honolulu, its home since 1980.

The results: increased media coverage and the best attendance in 51 years, with a sellout crowd of more than 70,000 expected.

The changes haven't helped participation, though. Seven Colts and seven Saints are missing because they're preparing for the Super Bowl, a drawback to playing the Pro Bowl first.

Defections by players citing injuries were high, as usual. More

than a dozen pulled out, leaving the all-star teams with only some stars.

"That has been historic," said Frank Supovitz, the NFL's senior vice president for events. "That's nothing new."

And that's not what the league sought to fix by changing the date and site of the game, Supovitz said.

"The changes were meant to look at two things: Whether we could create more excitement with the Pro Bowl being the first event of Super Bowl week, and whether it would have an impact on TV ratings," he said.

Ticket sales show the excitement level is up, Supovitz said. And he's optimistic about the television audience for the game.

"It's being shown on a weekend when there's usually no football and interest in the NFL is at its highest," he said.

Those tuning in will see established stars such as Ray Lewis, Antonio Gates and DeMarcus Ware, as well as first-time Pro Bowlers such as DeAngelo Williams, Clay Matthews and Matt Schaub. The TV audience they attract will help the NFL decide where and when to play future Pro Bowls.

The game will return to Honolulu in 2011 and 2012, but the league hasn't decided whether to hold those

See **NFL**, Page 3B

Area roundup: Grady girls edge Klondike in OT, GC wins again

Herald Staff Report

LAMESA — The Grady Lady Wildcats topped the Klondike Lady Cougars in a 39-37 overtime thriller that went down to the wire Friday night.

Grady outscored Klondike 5-3 in overtime after a 34-34 regulation tie. Maegan Blocker and Charmynee Arnold scored 10 points apiece

for Grady.

Grady got out to a 18-4 lead after the first quarter but allowed Klondike to climb back in the second half. Abbi Brock and Kiley Howard scored 10 apiece as well for Klondike.

Grady will get Borden County at home Tuesday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Garden City 71
Blackwell 9

BLACKWELL —

Blackwell was no match for the Lady Bearcats as Garden City beat the Lady Hornets 71-9 Friday night.

Morgan Schwartz scored 26, Paige Niehues had 16 and Kate Halfmann added 12 as Garden City (24-1, 7-0) led 45-4 at halftime.

The Lady Bearcats will play Westbrook at home Tuesday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Sands 62
Dawson 21

DAWSON — The Sands Lady Mustangs improved to 5-2 in District 9-A Division II action with a 62-21 drubbing of Dawson on Friday.

Ashley Stockton scored 24, Morgan Yarbrough had 12 and Lani Robles scored 11 to lead the Lady Mustangs.

Sands will play Klondike at home Tuesday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Boys

Grady 70, Klondike 25

LAMESA — The Grady Wildcats outscored Klondike 22-3 in the first quarter en route to a 70-25 rout Friday night at Klondike High School.

Shane Teague had 17 and Dylan Cox added 13

for the Wildcats, who improved to 21-3 on the season and 6-1 in District 9-A Division II.

The win sets up a rematch of two district powers, Grady and Borden County, in Lenora on Tuesday. Borden County nipped Grady 39-38 in the teams' last meeting in Gail. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

See **ROUNDUP**, 3B



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For years, Chef Wolfgang Puck has been an inspiration to home cooks across the country, teaching them how to create contemporary American dishes by mixing formal French techniques with Asian and California influences. At the center of Chef Puck's inspiration is his WELL (Wolfgang's Eat, Love, Live) philosophy, which means using food made with humanely treated, natural, organic and seasonal ingredients when available.

To help bring the WELL philosophy to your own kitchen, Chef Puck has simplified some of his signature recipes, like Chicken with Chardonnay and Fresh Herbs and the creamy and satisfying Hearty Potato and Cheddar Soup. These recipes make it a cinch to channel your inner chef and indulge your culinary passion.

For more recipes and menu ideas from Chef Puck, visit www.wolfgangpucksoup.com.

The Organic Center's Tips for Going Organic

Chef Puck encourages people to participate in The Organic Center's Mission Organic 2010 program, which recommends purchasing at least one organic food item out of every 10 food items whenever you shop.

Other small changes that can have a big impact are:

Shop in season: seasonal produce provides the best flavor and tends to be less expensive.

Buy in bulk: organic grains, cereal and pasta are much more affordable this way.

Upgrade your snacks: think dried fruits and nuts to satisfy your cravings.

Visit www.organiccenter.org for more information on the benefits of organic foods.



Chicken With Chardonnay and Fresh Herbs



Hearty Potato and Cheddar Soup With Bacon

Hearty Potato and Cheddar Soup With Bacon

Prep: 35 minutes
Cook: 40 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- 4 ounces bacon, coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 small leeks, trimmed and chopped
- 1 large onion, diced (about 1 cup)
- 1 large carrot, diced (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 6 cups Wolfgang Puck Organic Free Range Chicken Broth
- 3 large Russet potatoes, cut into cubes (about 4 cups)
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese (about 8 ounces)
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Chopped fresh chives

Cook bacon in a 4-quart saucepan over medium-high heat until crisp. Remove bacon from saucepan. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon drippings. Add butter to saucepan and cook and stir until melted.

Add leeks, onion, carrot and garlic to saucepan and cook until tender, stirring occasionally. Add flour and cook and stir for 2 minutes. Gradually stir in broth.

Add potatoes and heat to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cook for 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender and the broth mixture is thickened.

Stir cream and cheese in saucepan and cook until cheese is melted. Season with black pepper. Crumble bacon. Sprinkle soup with bacon and chives before serving.

Chicken With Chardonnay and Fresh Herbs

Prep: 15 minutes
Cook: 40 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

- 4 ounces fresh goat cheese
- 1 tablespoon each chopped fresh tarragon leaves and Italian (flat-leaf) parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 boneless or bone-in chicken breast halves*, skin on
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 shallot, minced (about 1/4 cup)
- 1/2 cup Chardonnay or other white wine
- 1 1/2 cups Wolfgang Puck Free Range Chicken Stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut up

Heat the oven to 450°F. Stir cheese and half the herbs in a small bowl. Season with black pepper.

Loosen skin on chicken. Spread 1/4 of cheese mixture under skin of each chicken breast half. Place chicken, skin-side up, into a shallow 3-quart baking dish. Brush chicken with oil.

Roast for 20 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.

Heat shallots, wine and stock in a 1-quart saucepan over medium heat to a boil. Cook and stir until the mixture is reduced to 1/2 cup. Stir in cream. Stir in butter, 1 piece at a time, making sure it is melted before adding another. Stir in remaining herbs. Season with additional black pepper.

Spoon sauce onto 4 plates. Cut chicken into slices and place on sauce.

*If using bone-in chicken breast halves, increase the roasting time to 30 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through.

Braised Short Ribs

Prep: 30 minutes
Cook: 3 hours 5 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- 6 serving-sized pieces beef short ribs (about 4 pounds)
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns, crushed
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 10 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 large onion, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 1 cup)
- 2 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 1 cup)
- 2 stalks celery, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 6 sprigs fresh Italian (flat-leaf) parsley
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme leaves
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 cups Cabernet Sauvignon or other dry red wine
- 4 cups Wolfgang Puck All Natural Beef-Flavored Stock
- Hot cooked noodles or mashed potatoes

Season beef with peppercorns. Coat beef with flour.

Heat 3 tablespoons oil in an oven-safe 8-quart saucepot over medium-high heat. Add beef and cook for 10 minutes or until well browned on both sides. Remove beef from saucepot. Pour off any fat.

Heat remaining oil in saucepot over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrots, celery, parsley, thyme and bay leaves and cook for 5 minutes or until vegetables are lightly browned, stirring often.

Stir in tomato paste and cook for 1 minute. Stir in wine and stock and heat to a boil. Return beef to the saucepot. Cover saucepot.

Bake at 350°F for 2 1/2 hours or until beef is fork-tender. Skim fat from surface of stock mixture.

Transfer beef to a serving platter. Heat stock mixture in saucepot over medium heat to a boil. Cook until mixture is reduced to 1 quart. Remove and discard parsley and thyme sprigs and bay leaves. Serve beef and gravy over noodles.

Dutch Onion Soup

Prep: 20 minutes
Cook: 55 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- 4 sweet onions or large yellow onions, thinly sliced (about 4 cups)
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup port wine
- 6 cups Wolfgang Puck Organic Beef-Flavored Broth
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme leaves
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 12 slices French bread (about 1/4-inch-thick)
- 1 1/2 cups grated Gouda cheese (about 6 ounces)

Heat oil in a 6-quart saucepot over medium-high heat. Add onions and cook for 20 minutes or until golden brown, stirring often. Add celery and cook and stir for 3 minutes.

Add port, broth, thyme, bay leaves and black pepper to saucepot, stirring to scrape up browned bits from bottom of pot. Reduce heat to low. Cook for 30 minutes. Remove and discard thyme sprigs and bay leaves.

Heat broiler. Place bread slices onto a baking sheet 2 at a time, making 6 pairs in all. Sprinkle each pair with 1/4 cup cheese.

Broil 4 inches from heat until cheese is melted. Divide soup among 6 bowls. Top with bread and cheese.



Dutch Onion Soup



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- CARL EDWARD DUHAMEL, 32, 1425 E. Sixth No. 114, was arrested on two local warrants.
- JACOB ANDREW FERRO, 29, 810 S. Johnson, was arrested on two local warrants.
- JOSE ARENIVAZ, 43, 100 Carey, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open container.
- LISA HENSLEY, 24, 605 Linda Lane, was arrested on a charge of harassment.
- MICHELLE CARRASCO, 37, 2609 Wasson No. 3A, was arrested on charges of diving while license suspended/invalid and no insurance, and on three warrants from other agencies.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad and the 1800 block of FM 700.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED/OPEN CONTAINER was reported in the 1600 block of FM 700.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

Social Security. Bauer, the oldest campus, was built during the Great Depression, while Washington and Goliad were constructed in 1951 and 1958, respectively. Marcy is the youngster of the group targeted for closure, having been built in 1960.

"There's people who will say, 'Well, there's nothing wrong with a 1951 building,'" Stevens said. "Would you want to drive a 1951 car?"

But it's not just that the buildings are old — they're out of date, Stevens said, and ill-equipped to handle modern educational requirements.

"It's a different era, now," he said. "When those schools were built, we didn't have the requirements we have

today."

For example, simply increasing classroom size to meet state recommendations in those buildings would be prohibitively expensive, Stevens said. And that doesn't even take into account modern educational needs in the area of technology or security, he added.

Another factor working against the older buildings are their design. At Washington and Bauer, for example, most classrooms open to the outside, meaning students must bundle up during colder days when they leave their class to go eat lunch, use the restroom or visit another office.

During Thursday's heavy rains, Washington personnel had to place pallets on the ground for students to walk on because of flooding.

"Anyone who saw

those little kids bundled up wearing in coats and standing on pallets while they waited to use the restroom would realize the problem," Stevens said.

And Marcy, the largest elementary school in terms of enrollment, is overcrowded to the extent that the district has had to add two wings of portable classrooms which, similar to Washington and Bauer, require students to step outside to go to the cafeteria or restrooms.

• Increased maintenance costs — When people get older, their medical bills usually increase. When buildings get older, they get more expensive to maintain — and BSISD has the bills to prove it, Stevens said.

During the current fiscal year, the district will spend \$5.36 million on building maintenance, a full 15 percent of its budget. That percentage is 50 percent more than the state average.

It is unclear how much money would be saved in maintenance costs with the construction of new schools, but Stevens said it stands to reason that newer buildings would result in savings in that area.

At the very least, he added, the newer schools would allow the district to be much more selective in addressing its maintenance needs.

"Instead of being in crisis mode all the time — because something is always breaking — you can be much more efficient with things," he said.

• "Fixability" — Renovating the buildings is out of the question, Stevens said.

"They can't be fixed," he said. "It would cost just as much or more than a new building simply to bring those schools up to standard — and at the end of the day, you'd still be stuck with old buildings."

For example, renovating Goliad to bring it up

to elementary campus standards would cost about \$12 million, while a new school there would be in the \$10-million to \$11 million price range, Stevens said.

• Security concerns — "That bothers us every day," Stevens said. "It's a major issue."

At Washington, Bauer and Marcy — schools with classes that open to the outside — the problem is even more pronounced, he said.

"Almost anyone who wanted to come in off the street and do something could do so," Stevens said. "And there's nothing we can do about it."

New buildings, on the other hand, would have only one entrance available to the public during school hours, allowing educators to monitor who enters or leaves the building during the day, he said.

• Civic pride — Not to be discounted in the debate over whether to build new schools, Stevens noted, is the boost to district and community morale modern buildings would provide.

"When prospective businesses visit Big Spring, what's one of the first things those people want to see? The schools," he said. "And when we try to recruit teachers, how much luck to you think we have when we show them around Bauer or Washington?"

Besides just looking nicer, modern school buildings would have other tangible benefits, he added.

"Studies show that it would increase the quality of teaching and learning. Achievement would go up 5 percent to 10 percent," Stevens said. "Also, they would create pride in the school system, make it easier for us to attract and retain quality staff and enhance the opportunity to attract new industry and business to Big Spring."

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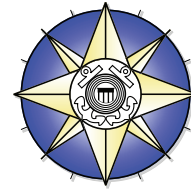
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Who's Who

Felicia Rios graduated cum laude from Texas Tech University with a bachelor of science degree in multidisciplinary studies with a concentration in ESL studies on Dec. 19, 2009. She is certified to teach early childhood through fourth grade.

Felicia is a 2005 Big Spring High School graduate and a 2007 Howard College graduate.

Her parents are Robert Sr. and Elizabeth Rios of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of Maria Florez of Bryan and the late Fermin Florez Sr., Faustino Sr. and Crescencia Rios.

GEORGETOWN — Two students from Big Spring have been named to the 2009 Fall Dean's List at Southwestern University. They are Callie Paige and Christopher Weihert.

To be selected, students must have at least a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded hours and be in good standing with the university.

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Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Dr. John Andrew Lang

Davila and Lang

Lisa Davila and Dr. John Andrew Lang were united in marriage Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at their residence in Big Spring at 4:30 p.m. with Lloyd Wells of Big Spring officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Willie and Margie Davila Sr. of Colorado City. The groom is the son of Dr. C. Max and Sylvia Lang of Hershey, Pa.

Given in marriage by her father, Willie Davila Sr., Lisa wore a Maggie Sottero strapless, sheath gown with lace-up closure, vertically beaded lines enhanced the bodice and cascaded toward the embellished lace skirt draping over demir stretch satin. She carried bouquet of yellow lilies and white gerbera daisies.

Cecilia Davila of Sweetwater, sister of the bride, read "The Art of Marriage" during the ceremony. A dinner reception was held at K.C. Steaks and Seafood.

Lisa is a 1994 graduate of Colorado High School in Colorado City and a 1995 graduate of Western Texas College in Snyder. Lisa is employed part-time by Scenic Mountain Medical Center as a LVN on the medical/surgical unit. She is pursuing an associates nursing degree.

John is a 1988 graduate of Hershey High School in Hershey, Pa., and graduated Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., with bachelor's degree in chemistry. He then attended Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey. John did his surgical residence at Pinnacle Health Hospitals in Harrisburg, Pa. Then John did a colon and rectal surgical fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

John is board certified in general surgery and is employed by Scenic Mountain Medical Center Medical Group in Big Spring.

Club News

Howard County Sheriff's Posse will have its monthly meeting Feb. 2 at Herman's Restaurant at 7 p.m. They welcome any prospective new members. The meeting is Dutch treat. Anyone interested in any information about the Sheriff's Posse, call Steve Gray at (432) 213-6104.

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Obituaries

Maria Franco Diaz



Maria Franco Diaz, 87, of Big Spring passed away Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Funeral services will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Eliseo Gamboa officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Jan. 4, 1923, to Guadalupe and Juan Franco, as an only daughter, in Loving, N.M. She grew up in Marfa and had been a resident of Big Spring for more than 60 years. She married Pioquinto "Jacinto" Diaz Nov. 23, 1945, in Big Spring. She was a strong and independent individual. In her younger years, she was a registered nurse. She worked many different jobs to provide for her family. She taught her family the importance of values and hard work.

In 1970, Mrs. Diaz, along with her husband, started a small janitorial business that thrived and became part of the Big Spring community. Diaz Janitorial Service was not only their way of making a living but of doing the thing they did best, serving the community and providing exceptional service. They involved their family in all facets of the business and all of their children worked for them at one time or another. She worked alongside her husband for several years and even after her retirement from the business in 2003, she stayed on as a bookkeeper to the new owner of the business, her son Salvador. Mrs. Diaz' mind never faltered, she enjoyed the challenge of her work and worked diligently every day.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Pioquinto, her parents, one grandchild, and one great-grandchild.

She is survived by her loving family, Abel Diaz and his wife Elsie; Viola Cooper and her husband Darrell, Ernesto Diaz and his wife Alisa; Salvador Diaz and his wife Gloria and Estella Valenzuela and her late husband Jesse. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

We will miss you, our loving mother. The warmth that you gave us will sustain us through the grief. We will always remember the loving way you cooked for all of us, especially the wonderful homemade tortillas that you made in a matter of minutes. Your laughter, your stories, and the love you gave all of us will be so dearly missed. You were the strongest person we knew. You knew how to rise from the ashes to be the most kind and caring person God put on this earth. Sleep well our dear, dear mother. We long for the day we can see your beautiful face again and hold you in our arms, your loving children, Bill, Ernie, Sal, Viola, and Stella.

Pallbearers will be Adam Diaz, Ernest Diaz Jr., Daniel Alvarado, Jesse Valenzuela Jr., Bill Diaz, Anthony Saracho and honorary pallbearer will be A.J. Martinez.

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

Paid obituary

Doris Jones

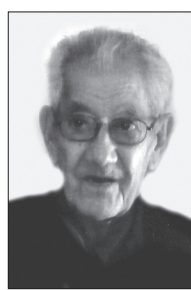
Doris Jones, 85, of Abilene, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, January 30, 2010 in an Abilene hospice facility. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

To submit a news item, call 263-7331

Thank You St. Jude For All Your Blessings

D.H.

Frank Salazar



Frank Salazar, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Msgr. Bernard L. Gully of Big Spring and the Rev. Barry Mclean of San Angelo officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial park.

He was born June 4, 1925, in Big Spring to Isabel and Catarino Salazar, and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He married Ruth White May 31, 1964, in Big Spring. He worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 35 years, retiring in 1992.

He played Semi-pro baseball in Big Spring. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and was a past president of the Parrish Council. He was a Cursillista and Eucharistic Minister. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Lodge and served on the school board of Immaculate Heart of Mary School and as a reserve deputy sheriff in Howard County, and was past president of the United Girls Softball League.

He is survived by his wife Ruth Salazar of Big Spring; one daughter: Lisa Williams and her husband Mark of Midland; two sons: Tony Salazar and his wife Michelle, and John Salazar, all of Big Spring; two sisters: Flora Salazar and Mary Salazar, both of Big Spring; one brother: Celedonio "Joe" Salazar and his wife Cruz of Big Spring; sister-in-law: Gina Salazar of Big Spring; seven grandchildren: Laura Williams and Jordan Williams, both of Midland, Michael Salazar, Beth Salazar, William Salazar, Aaron Patterson and Alana Salazar, all of Big Spring; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Tim Salazar, and two sisters, Inez and Juanita Salazar.

Pallbearers will be Jack Stovall, Dale Pittman, Brian White, Geoff Williams, Doroteo Alviar, and Ben McGee.

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

Paid obituary

Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the "MEGA Millions" game were: 1-10-22-23-38, Mega Ball: 19.

Winning numbers in Friday's Cash 5 drawing were: 10-12-13-29-30.

Winning Daily 4 numbers drawn by the Texas Lottery Friday night were: 4-2-3-2. Sum It Up: 11.

Winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night were: 4-3-2. Sum It Up: 9.

Visit us online

A Walmart advertising circular for Sunday, January 31 - Saturday, February 6, 2010 mistakenly identified the price of 90-day generic prescriptions as \$9 and omitted reference to Prescription Program restrictions. The correct price is \$10 and Prescription Program restrictions can be found at walmart.com/pharmacy and your local Walmart pharmacy.

Helen Bates

Helen Bates, 75, of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at the Hospice House in Odessa. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park Chapel.

She was born June 4, 1934, to Ruby and Chester Payton Altom in Snyder. She graduated from Monahans High School and lived in Big Spring for 60 years.

She married D. R. Bates Dec. 16, 1955, in Big Spring. She and her husband farmed on the family farm. She worked for the Agriculture Conservation Stabilization Service (now called the Farm Service Agency) for 25 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Donna Whetsel and her husband Marty of Forsan; and Diane McLemore and her husband Jeff of Greenwood; son-in-law Tim Spivey of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter, Debbie Spivey, one brother, Melvin Altom and one sister, Flo Carrell.

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

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Marcela Rivera, 47, died Wednesday. Funeral Services were at 1:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Frank Salazar, 84, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1:00 PM Monday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial park.

Maria Diaz, 87, died Friday. Funeral Service will be at 9:30 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Helen Bates, 75, died Friday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park Chapel.

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Special thanks to Nalley-Pickle & Welch and Trinity Memorial Park for being so kind and understanding.

Thanks to Chad & Robert Williams for being the escorts.

To Val for her beautiful voice that sang the songs.

To Jerry for the wonderful music.

To all the people who sent flowers or food or just a shoulder to cry on. It was all very appreciated. There are not enough words to say.

Thanks to all the friends that knew Johnny for the person that he was.

Thanks to neighbors who came by to leave a little something or just a card.

We could not have gotten through all this without family, friends and neighbors.

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ROUNDUP

Continued from 1B

GC 42, Blackwell 28

BLACKWELL — The Garden City Bearkats used a big second quarter to pull away from Blackwell in a 42-28 win Friday night.

After managing just three in the first quarter, the Bearkats outscored Blackwell 17-7 in the second period. Aaron Long hit four 3-pointers en route to 16 points and Hayden Halfmann chipped in 14. Garden City improved to 4-2 in District 8-A Division I action.

The Bearkats will host Westbrook on Tuesday. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

Sands 55, Dawson 38

DAWSON — The Sands Mustangs earned

their eighth win of the season Friday as they took down Dawson 55-38 on the road.

Bert Ybarra scored 18 points to lead the Mustangs and Gabe Guillen added 13. The Mustangs scored 19 first quarter points and held Dawson to eight as they allowed just 15 first-half points.

Grady will play Klondike at home Tuesday. Tipoff is 8 p.m.

Girls Box Scores

GC 19 26 10 16 — 71
BHSI 4 0 3 2 — 9
Garden City (24-1, 7-0): Morgan Schwartz 26, Paige Niehues 16, Kate Halfmann 12, Amber Halfmann 8, Lauren Schwartz 5, Adriana Ramirez 2, Britni Cook 2.
Blackwell (1-6): Metcalf 3, Saunders 4, Gaston 2.
Free throws — Garden City 4-10, Blackwell 1-5; 3-point goals — Garden City 3 (A. Halfmann 2, L. Schwartz 1), Blackwell 0; Total fouls — Garden City 13, Blackwell 10; Fouled out —

None.

Grady 39, Klondike 37, OT

Grady 18 7 4 5 5 — 39
KHS 4 10 13 7 3 — 37
Grady (10-16, 2-5)- Maegan Blocker 10, Charmynee Arnold 10, Kelly Cook 7, Julia Schuelke 6, Cayley Oppegard 5, M.J. Price 2.
Klondike (16-8, 3-4)- Brock 10, Howard 10, Conde 5, Torres 4, Wiebe 4, Banuelos 2, Dyck 2.
Free throws — Grady 13-23, Klondike 4-17; 3-point goals — Grady 1 (Oppegard), Klondike 1 (Conde); Total fouls — Grady 17, Klondike 21; Fouled out — Grady, Klondike (Torres, Skiles).

Sands 62 Dawson 21

SHS 28 13 7 14 — 62
DHS 5 5 2 9 — 21
SHS (16-10, 5-2)- Stockton 24, Mo. Yarbrough 12, Robles 11, J. Gomez 6, Wigginton 5, Me. Yarbrough 2, Ybarra 2.
DHS- Cruz 19, Guzman 2.
3-point goals — Sands 4 (Stockton 4), Dawson — none; Free throws — Sands 13-29, Dawson 5-12; Total fouls — Sands 14, Dawson 25;

Boys

Grady 70, Klondike 25

Grady 22 12 12 24 — 70
KHS 3 8 6 8 — 25
Grady (21-3, 6-1)- Shane Teague 17, Dylan Cox 13, Tyler Matthews 4, Johan Weibe 7, Carston Russell 2, Bryley Pinkerton 9, Jacob Rodriguez 4, Zach Perez 10, Tyler Gifford 2, Zane Robinson 2.
Klondike (0-7)- Gregory 10,

Torres 4, Barkowsky 4, O'Brien 6

Free throws — Grady 16-30, Klondike 5-14; 3-point goals — Grady 6 (Cox 4, Teague 1, Weibe 1), Klondike 3 (O'Brien 2, Gregory 1); Total fouls — Grady 13, Klondike 19; Fouled out — Klondike, Forrest.

Garden City 42, Blackwell 28

GC 3 17 10 12 — 42
BHS 6 7 9 6 — 28
Garden City (8-5, 4-2)- Aaron Long 16, Hayden Halfmann 14,

Brett Chudej 8, Jesse Montes 2, Peyton Schaefer 2

Blackwell (4-2)- Burwick 11, White 11, Friar 3, Magnus 3.
Free throws — Garden City 4-8, Blackwell 2-5; 3-point goals — Garden City 4 (Long), Blackwell 6 (White 3, Burwick 2, Friar 1); Total fouls — Garden City 10, Blackwell 11; Fouled out — None

Sands 55, Dawson 38

SHS 19 11 7 18 — 55
DHS 8 7 11 12 — 38

Sands (8-14, 2-5)- Ybarra 18, Guillen 13, Zant 9, Jo. Rogers 7, Ju. Rogers 4, S. Blagrove 2, Armendariz 2.
Dawson- Ramos 9, La. Brown 8, Lo. Brown 7, Morrison 6, Middleton 6, Contreras 2.
Free throws- Sands 16-23, Dawson 7-14; 3-point goals — Sands (Guillen, Ybarra, Zant), Dawson none; Total fouls — Sands 15, Dawson 15; Fouled out — Sands, Armendariz

NFL

Continued from 1B

before or after the Super Bowl. The Pro Bowl site for 2013 and beyond hasn't been determined.

Players had mixed reactions to this year's changes. Many said they preferred the old schedule so those in the Super Bowl could also be available for the Pro Bowl.

"I'd rather have it after the Super Bowl," 49ers linebacker Patrick Willis said. "I truly believe next year we're going to be in the Super Bowl, and I want to play in the Pro Bowl too."

But Romo said he could see the appeal of putting the Pro Bowl first.

"There's something to be said for playing the

game during the season," he said. "I think more people are interested."

By moving the game to the Super Bowl site, the NFL created a bigger spotlight for the Pro Bowl. There are 1,076 credentialed media members this week, compared with 334 in Honolulu a year ago.

That's good for the league, and maybe not

so good for the all-stars.

"There's a lot more media here, that's for sure," said eight-time Pro Bowl center Kevin Mawae, addressing a throng of reporters after an AFC practice. "It's not as relaxed here. There's a little more hustle and bustle here than there would be at the resort where we stay in Hawaii."

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Courtesy photo

From left, great-grandfather Billy Barber, father Garrett Huitt, holding Kendall Huitt, grandfather Terry Huitt and great-grandmother Louise Huitt pose for a five generation photo. Garrett and Kendall reside in Colorado Springs, Colo. The rest of the clan makes their home in Big Spring.

Engagements



Lauren Brooke Day and Justin Allan Sims

Day and Sims

Lauren Brooke Day and Justin Allan Sims will be married at 6 p.m. June 5, at The Legacy in Lubbock. The bride-elect is the daughter of Rick and Teresa Day of Lubbock. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Jimmy and Mary Jean Sims of Sonora.

Lauren is a 2003 graduate of Lubbock Monterrey High School and earned her B.S. in biomedical science from Texas A&M University in May of 2007. She is currently a third-year dental student at UT Health Science Center San Antonio Dental School.

Justin is a 2003 graduate of Sonora High School and attended Texas A&M University. He is currently employed with Lee George Construction in Big Spring.

Births



Mi' Rayna Maria De Los Santos Rodriguez, a girl, was born Jan. 18, 2010, at 5:40 p.m. at Odessa Regional Medical Center, weighing 7 pounds, 3.8 ounces and was 19.25 inches long.

She is the daughter of Justin and Niki Rodriguez of Big Spring. Grandparents are Jacqueline De Los Santos and Fred Flores of Knott, JoAnn Rodriguez and Juan Uribe of Big Spring, and Virginia Taylor and Joe Rodriguez Sr. of Midland.

Great-grandparents are Manuela De Los Santos of Big Spring and Luz De Los Santos Jr. of Tye, Inez Chavarria and Joe Olivio of Big Spring

and Juan and the late Maria Rodriguez of Big Spring.

Christopher John Dale Whitt, a boy, was born at 12:49 a.m. Jan. 22, 2010, weighing 7.2 pounds and was 19 inches long.

He is the son of Tamara Ruth Whitt of Big Spring. Grandparents are Edgar "Dale" Whitt of Big Spring and the late Kandice Whitt.

He was welcomed home by siblings Virgel Keith and Beth Whitt.



Rylan Gabriel Rodriguez, a baby boy, was born at 8:51 p.m. Jan. 25, 2010, weighing 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 16 inches long.

She is the daughter of Dominique Eagle and Gabriel Rodriguez of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Elsa and Danny Eagle and Sandy and Martin Mier.

Alejandro Manuel Valbuena, a boy, was born at 11:02 a.m. Jan. 7, 2010, weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He is the son of Joanne Cervantes and Ramon Valbuena of Big Spring. His grandparents are Margaret and Manuel Cervantes Jr. and Rita and Lorenzo Valbuena, all of Big Spring. Great-grandparents are Maria and the late Manuel Cervantes Sr. and the late Maria and late Pedro Resendez, all of Big Spring.



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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.

We can help.

Stalking resource center
To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center Web site
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 · gethelp@ncvc.org

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

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.

Victim Services
263-3312
www.vsofbigspring.com

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ARE YOU BEING STALKED?

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

Stalking is a crime.

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

Some things stalkers do:

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

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

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, 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.

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

Contact the **police**. Every state has stalking laws. The stalker may also have broken other laws by 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.

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

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

Monday's deadline for property taxes, voter registrations

Deadlines, deadlines and more deadlines. They are a way of life in the newspaper business. They are, in a word, important. No, make that paramount for those of us in the news business and that's true for all forms of media.

But Monday will be deadline of importance to many people here in Howard County, because that's the last day to register to vote for March 2 primaries, and it's also the last day to pay property taxes before they become overdue and start accruing penalties and interest.

Normally, tax bills become delinquent on Feb. 1, but since Jan. 31 fell on a Sunday this year, the deadline has been extended until the end of the day Monday.

"Once the taxes go delinquent Tuesday, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Howard County Tax Assessor-Collector Kathy Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

Sayles said area residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that's due. So if you haven't received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.

"They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment."

For taxpayers over the age of 65 or currently on disability, there is an installment plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest.

Monday is also the deadline to register to vote. And several contested races in Howard County and the outlying areas and early voting set to begin in slightly more than two weeks, Howard County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom said now is the time for prospective voters to double-check their readiness.

"You can check the expiration date on your voter registration card, or if your unsure, you can contact our office and we can look it up for you," said Bloom. "Either way, it's better to be sure before Monday's deadline gets here, that way you have time to make any necessary changes or corrections."

Bloom said early voting in both the Democratic and Republican primaries is set to begin Feb. 16 and continue through Feb. 26 at the county elections office, located on the third floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

"Both party's primaries are being held in conjunction with one another, meaning Republican and Democratic voters will cast their ballots at the same location," she said. "That should help simplify things and cut down on any confusion, both during early voting and on election day."

With more than a dozen local residents vying for their party's nomination going into the November election, area voters will have plenty of decisions to make during the primaries.

Now, those really are important deadlines, aren't they?

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When issues from the past crop up, Lord, may we hand them over to You.

Amen

Pentagon clueless on Fort Hood

Political correctness is alive in the Pentagon. Witness "Protecting the Force: Lessons from Fort Hood," a Department of Defense report released last week on the Nov. 5 shootings that left 13 people dead.

Granted, drafters of the report had to be careful not to say anything that would help the defense of accused shooter Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, who has pleaded not guilty. Even so, if the report's purpose was to craft lessons to prevent future attacks, how could they leave out radical Islam?

"Our concern is with actions and effects, not necessarily with motivations," former Army Secretary Togo West explained to Time magazine.

In that turn-a-blind-eye spirit, the report essentially whited out the many warning signs left by the Army psychiatrist. On the Internet, Hasan compared Islamist suicide bombers with an American soldier who threw himself on a grenade in Iraq to protect fellow troops. As re-

ported in the Times of London, Hasan explained, "Scholars have paralleled this to suicide bombers whose intention, by sacrificing their lives, is to help save Muslims by killing enemy soldiers. If one suicide bomber can kill 100 enemy soldiers because they were caught off guard, that would be considered a strategic victory." The Washington Post reported that Hasan gave public talks to his colleagues in which he equated the war on terror with a war on Islam.

M. Zuhdi Jasser, founder of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, which challenges radicalized Islam, also is an internist and former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. As one who went through the same system that trained Hasan, Jasser believes the biggest lesson from Fort Hood should be that a "culture of political correctness" kept concerned officers from reporting Hasan. Yet the report papers over the elephant in the room.

To Pentagon report writers, the shootings have an air of mystery. As in: "Detecting a trusted insider's intention to commit a violent act requires observation of behavioral cues/anomalies." It helps if you can believe that Hasan's cues were observable

only to the trained eye.

Ignoring Hasan's pro-terrorist Web postings, the report instead focuses on workplace violence, programs to prevent workplace violence — such as the Post Office's "Going Postal Program" — and the stress imposed on military health care providers.

The report does refer to "radicalization," which is good. But it overuses the term "self-radicalization," despite Hasan's contact with Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaki before the shootings. Said Jasser: "They are simply trying to exaggerate the fact that these are lone actors. I do not believe they are."

Jasser is especially offended at the notion that Hasan's actions were the fruit of psychological problems — or, as per the report, "cumulative psychological effects of persistent conflict." (To me, the report read like the first draft of a not-guilty-by-reason-of-insanity plea.)

To Jasser, the more obvious finding could be that the shooter, like Osama bin Laden, simply decided that the ends justify the means.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at

dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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SYNDICATE



DEBRA SAUNDERS



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

A \$4.2 million water park? Has the governing body of Big Spring lost its mind? A new pool? Yes. But a water park? No!

Look around, the water park between Midland and Odessa went belly up and it is surrounded by a population of 200,000-plus.

Ask Wichita Falls about its water park, same situation, belly up.

Is this water park going to run year round? Probably not, maybe 75 to 90 days of the year. And with the maintenance and operation of such a facility, where is that money coming from? Eventually a tax increase?

Fredericksburg doesn't have a "water park" but has great tourism. It has been building on its infrastructure and scenery. On any given day, on any given week you can drive down a Big Spring street and see a "water park" — water running down the streets and patches and holes where leaks were repaired again and again.

A water park? Totally ridiculous.

Build up the town's infrastructure, give pay raises to city employees and law enforcement to protect and lower the crime and drug problem that plagues our city and makes us a laughing stock to Midland and Odessa.

Build on the assets that we already have, historic downtown, state park, city park and don't bring another liability like a water park to our community.

I am proud to call Big Spring my home, but some of the decisions the city council and county commissioners have made have cost our community dearly in the past. Lets not make another

costly mistake by building a water park.

Our money can be better spent on infrastructure, industrial solicitation and job creation. Tourism will take care of itself.

CHARLES SMITH
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I have some concerns regarding the proposed water park. To begin with, I am worried about the usage of millions of gallons of drinking water for a recreational facility. Many towns in West Texas are expressing future concerns over water and the potential future problems of scarcity. Lakes are drying up, rainfall is iffy. Is this something that should be carefully looked into versus building a water park that will use up such a precious resource?

Another concern I have is the cost of this project. I'm 66 years old. I've lost count of politicians telling me, "no new taxes." I'd laugh at such a promise, but it's not funny. I'm suspicious of such a promise. It's so easy to propose tax money for this project by spinning the words and calling it something else.

Could we see a budget that lists all the costs, like salaries of staff, liability insurance, maintenance, repair, water costs? I like to see what I'm buying with my tax money. Insurance may be a key item, what with all the legal angles to everything.

Related to the legal issue is the potential for vandalism. Can we expect the water park to be a target for our local vandals? Can we make this park secure and safe?

Couldn't the city council check

around and get other companies to propose and bid on this water park? Shopping around might uncover a better deal.

Speaking of shopping around, wouldn't it be a good idea to consider less costly alternatives to this water park? Maybe just build a pool, or maybe build a covered pool and use it year round and for high school and junior high swim meets.

Can we expect the water park to raise enough money to pay for itself once it's built? Will the cost of admission or concessions generate enough revenue? This may be the part where more tax comes into play. I remember the water park between Midland and Odessa. That park opened and failed three separate times. It had a much larger population to draw from and it still couldn't succeed. Big Spring is much smaller — there are about 30,000 people in Howard County, compared to more than 200,000 in Midland and Odessa. Those two towns have more money than we do as well.

Right now, with the economy the way it is, it will be a stretch for the income from this to contribute much. I wonder if there are some statistics to tell us how many people used the old pool each day. That would be helpful. It would be helpful to know what the fee was before the pool shut down.

I am puzzled why this project is being pushed so hard in the face of our water woes, the poor economy and the crime problems. Is there something else going on that I don't know about?

I know some parents buy \$150 pairs of sneakers for their kids

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

2010 Best Loser Fat To Fitness Spring Challenge

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Price
\$500 to \$1,000**

Deadline Extention To

February 5th

DUE TO NUMEROUS REQUEST

Those who have signed up may weigh in at

Serenity Spa

1115 S. Scurry (located next to Back in Motion)

9:30 am to 6:00 pm *Starting Tomorrow*

February 1 to February 5

*Photos will be taken February 8 to
February 12 at the Big Spring Herald
between 8-12 and 1-5*

*After hours photos
may be taken by
appointment.*

***Don't
miss
this
Challenge!***



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Texas acreage to be part of ecological project

STEVE CAMPBELL

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

DECATUR — What was once Dust Bowl farmland in North Texas is poised to be on the front line of one of the nation's largest ecological projects.

Over 30 years, the rolling prairies and woodlands of the Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands will serve as part of a living, changing laboratory in the first-ever continental ecological observatory.

The National Ecological Observatory Network is designed to increase understanding and forecasting of the effects of climate change, biodiversity, land-use changes, invasive species, pollution and other issues, said Dr. Michael Keller, chief scientist of

the Boulder, Colo.-based nonprofit organization.

The project is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, an independent agency that directs federal funding for research.

Last week, the foundation approved the network's final design review, a major planning hurdle for the project, said Jennifer Walton, the network's public relations manager.

Since 2007, the network has received \$27 million in federal money, she said. Next up: final approval of future funding this summer by the foundation board and director, before heading to Congress for its blessing, Walton said.

See **GRASSLAND**, Page 12C



AP photo/Paul Moseley/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Jim Crooks walks in the grasslands in a parcel of the Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands in Decatur with a vintage windmill in the background. Over 30 years, the Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands will serve as part of a living, changing laboratory in the first-ever continental ecological observatory, the National Ecological Observatory Network.

Chevron quarterly profit falls

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK — Chevron Corp. said Friday its fourth-quarter profit fell 37 percent as higher crude prices led to huge losses in its refining business.

The second-largest U.S. oil company reported earnings of \$3.1 billion, or \$1.53 per share, for the final three months of 2009. That compares with \$4.9 billion, or \$2.44 per share for the same period of 2008. Revenue increased 10.3 percent to \$47.6 billion.

Analysts expected quarterly earnings of \$1.70 a share on revenue of \$40.4 billion.

For the full year, Chevron earned \$10.5 billion, or \$5.24 per share, compared with \$23.9 billion, or \$11.67 per share in 2008.

Chevron chairman and CEO John Watson blamed the drop in profits on a weak economy and a wild swing in energy prices from 2008 to 2009.

In the fourth quarter of 2009, oil prices climbed as energy traders anticipated an economic recovery and a rise in oil consumption. In the same period of 2008, they were in free fall, giving up nearly 60 percent of their value in three months.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Larry Stewart cuts the cake at a reception in his honor in the Howard County Courthouse Jan. 22. Stewart is retiring after a career with the county juvenile probation department.

Energy Watch



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

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



The stock market was closed Monday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but there were still lots of big "doings" in only four market sessions. Our nation was focused on the Senate race in Massachusetts Tuesday as it seemed to hold major implications for the political environment and now three days out, indeed it did.

With the come-from-behind victory of conservative Scott Brown, two things happened. Health care reform in its current incarnation died and then in an effort to politically pivot, the Obama administration came out swinging at the banks. By Friday, the Dow Jones closed 557 points down from Tuesday's close.

Both of these are big time stuff for the stock market to deal with. So what are mere mortal market strategists to do? One aspect of our job is clear at the moment and that is what we believe to be the long term outlook for stock. The economy is recovering slowly, despite the poor jobs numbers, and stocks appear to be reasonably priced, overall. Therefore, we remain long term bullish on the outlook for the stock market for the rest of 2010.

The difficult problem relates to the short term. Most investors should not even worry about short periods like several weeks, but we know most do. We Americans are very impatient, and seeking almost instant gratification is a too common personality trait for most of us. The long term outlook is based on fundamentals, the mood of investors and the amount of money available to buy stocks. Keep in mind, that all of these factors appear positive at this time.

An opinion of the very short term market outlook is, at best an educated gut feeling and we hope that the feeling is educated. To be honest, our gut feeling is a bit nervous. The main reason is that the stock market last week had to struggle to rise modestly and then it was hit hard this week. To us, this was a personality change in market actions since the steady rise from mid-December, and personality changes must be respected.

As you know, optimism in the stock market has risen sharply with the bullish camp way up and bears way down. Even in light of current events, we would not sell good stocks and we would remain bullish. The economic news from last week continues to confirm that the economy in 2010 should be up moderately, and inflation should not be a problem, at least this year.

The economic data, plus a very good stock market since March 2009, keep us bullish long term. The reason for stating our "gut" short-term cautious opinion is to provide some direction for very aggressive traders and to keep long term investors from getting too concerned about a possible normal correction.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Jan. 19 by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrument to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

Bernanke's Senate fight undercuts Fed?

JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke survived a Senate battle, bruised. The question is whether the Federal Reserve was scarred, too.

The anti-bailout anger that eroded Bernanke's support in the Senate on Thursday produced the most "no" votes ever on the confirmation of a Fed chairman. That could have lasting impact on the Fed's ability to manage the economy without regard to the political winds.

To shore up his support, Bernanke made the rounds with congressional leaders, meeting privately with senators including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat leader in the Senate, in the days leading to Thursday's 70-30 confirmation vote.

Bernanke was in the awkward position of having to lobby for his own job and defend the Fed against efforts to strip it of some of its regulatory authority.



Bernanke

Those meetings alone raise at least the perception of a Fed co-dependency with Congress. What, if any, assurances did Bernanke give lawmakers about interest rates and other Fed policies?

"We don't know what Bernanke agreed to do in those meetings, what he promised," said Allan Meltzer, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University and author of a history of the central bank. "The Fed's job is to be independent, and the Fed isn't doing that."

The Fed often must make decisions, such as raising interest rates to keep inflation in check, that are unpopular with individuals and companies. Its role in bailing out Wall Street banks to prevent a broader crisis angered the public, too. That's why economists say the Fed's political independence is essential to its mission.

Its interest-rate policy can have huge consequences, affecting everything from large companies, to a homebuyer's ability to get an affordable loan, to the price of cereal. Any influence from the political arena risks compromising the Fed's credibility.

Keeping rates too low for too

long could unleash inflation and trigger another speculative bubble like the one in housing that plunged the country into a recession in the first place.

Senate opposition to Bernanke intensified after Republican Scott Brown's upset victory in the Senate race in Massachusetts. Brown's election jolted congressional Democrats and led some to reconsider their support for Bernanke. The Fed chairman's critics cast him as a symbol of the Wall Street bailouts.

"This is a perfect example where the world of politics collides with the world of economics, and the result is not good," said Kenneth Thomas, a lecturer in finance at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

If the Fed were to lose credibility on Wall Street and from investors around the globe, it would fan inflation pressures and send up interest rates, choking the U.S. economic rebound.

Bank industry lobbyists say Congress' increased scrutiny could lead the Fed to weigh the political consequences of its

See **BERNANKE**, Page 5C

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4a

when a \$50 pair will do. The children do need a place to swim, but do they need a water park?

JAKE GLICKMAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

At its last meeting the Big Spring City Council voted to construct a "water park" in lieu of a conventional swimming pool. Once again, the city government seems more interested in providing "frills and fancies" than basic needs for the community.

Most residents probably would like to have some form of swimming facility, but the type suggested, and the means of funding its construction, are questionable at best.

The city proposes to use a portion of a past tax rate that was devoted to a previous bond issue to further the unit's development. Voters opted to allow the issuance of this retired bond with the understanding the portion of the tax devoted to the bond would be removed when the bond was retired. The mayor has, in essence, stated that since we have been paying this tax percentage in the past, we should be willing to just keep it going and apply it to fund another project. This sets a very bad precedent. Is this going to be the norm in the future when all of the present bond issues are retired?

The council also intends to fund the "water park" by issuing certificates of obligation that take any input away from the taxpayer. An "emergency" council meeting has been called in order that the

legal requirements to obtain the certificates can be completed in time. Is the council afraid that if the voters were allowed to have direct input, the project might fail?

The mayor has made the statement that the voters elected the council members to make decisions, and that is what they are going to do, evidently on all matters, without any citizen input. I do not believe that voters elected the council to be autonomous, especially on matters of large expenditures that have no direct bearing on providing a good infrastructure for the community.

The industrial development organization is continuously expressing the need to bring taxable businesses to Big Spring. If this "water park" is proposed to be so desirable and heavily used, why not seek a developer that would build it and add to our tax base?

A question raised by a citizen at a council meeting concerned whether a tax raise would be in the offing should the proposed water park not pay its way, since the \$3 usage fee suggested is the same as the theme park that was between Midland and Odessa, and it couldn't make it at that rate. The mayor stated that the existing swimming pool has been operating at a deficit for years, and the proposed water park was also not intended to be self-supporting. Funds from the operating budget would be used to keep it going.

The Jan. 25, 2010, issue of the Herald had an article referencing highway funding.

The gist of the article was that just because money is poured into a certain area is no guarantee that the intended area will be improved. In the article Justin Keener, vice president for policy and

communications at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a nonpartisan research institute in Austin, made the following statement that could certainly be applied to the approach taken by the council of Big Spring, "What if the roof of your house was leaking, pipes were breaking, and the government tells you that you have to spend money to buy a fancy piece of art on the wall?"

The first priority of a city government should be to provide a good infrastructure on which the community can build. Instead of substance, the council seems more occupied with producing "showtime." Taxpayers, not private industry, are footing the bill for both construction and operation.

It will be a miracle if all of the moneys spent on the sports complex, golf course, downtown street improvements, water park, etc. attract enough non-residents to more than pay for the cost of construction and operation. Cecil B. DeMille was not the only one who could produce fantasies.

ARDIS McCASLAND JR.
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to ask a question has anyone ever thought about the idea of what the mayor wants? Not a swimming pool to replace the old one, but a water park! And he says it's not going to cost us anything!

Has anyone ever read the whole story about this new water park? It's going to cost the kids \$3 a day to get in. How many families in this city with children can afford \$3 a day to send their children to the new pool? Most people here are either on fixed incomes, welfare or unemployment.

Mayor McEwen seems to think we all have money trees growing in our back yards. I'm sorry, but I think Mayor McEwen has bled us dry long enough and it's time for a new mayor — one that's for the people, not the same old, same old that we've had since he's been mayor!

And to the people who disagree with me, I pity you. It will cost you. Believe me.

MALCOLM FARR
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I believe retaining the right and liberty to choose a safe, legal abortion is the most important issue facing American women since we had to fight for our right to vote. Personally, I intend to do everything in my power to retain that right.

This issue does not belong in the political arena, the Vatican, nor in the hands of men. I believe in the separation of church and state. This is an extremely personal and private decision that only we women can make for ourselves.

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

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

It is exactly this plurality of belief that leads me to the conviction that the abortion decision must remain with the individual to be made on

the basis of conscience and personal religious principles, free from the government's interference.

CAROL SMITH
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In reply to Mr. Wingert's letter in the Jan. 17 edition of the paper, I didn't pay much attention to Mr. Maness' letter from Davenport, Iowa. I am probably the only person in Big Spring that has a Davenport, Iowa, telephone book. We lived and worked there 32 years. I worked at Farmall at Rock AIsland, Ill.; ALCOA in Riverdale, Iowa; J.I. Case in Bettendorf, Iowa; and Oscar Mayer in Davenport, Iowa. Then I became a "Ma Bell" employee for the next 25 years.

The whole area is called the "Quad Cities," which is two states — Iowa and Illinois, separated by the Mississippi River. The whole area encompasses a 40-mile radius and is populated by 350,000 citizens.

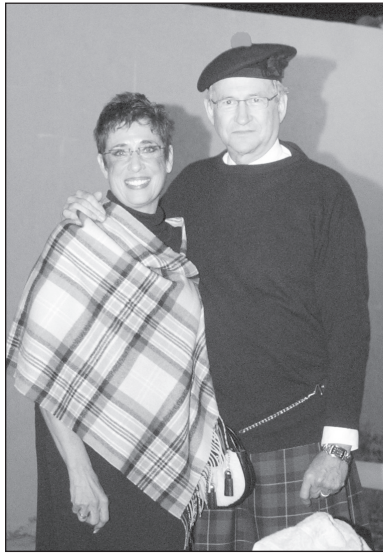
I only have a 12th grade education and more than 6-1/2 decades of experience in the real world. Meaning I am not a "1 percenter." Nor have I ever been elected at a state or federal level.

Japan, has the best health care system on the planet. I was only 3 years old when World War II ended. I have no idea what your age was then, Mr. Wingert.

Japan has a medical price book bigger than any dictionary I've ever seen. It has all charges for medicine, doctor's visits, tests and operation procedures. These are not inflated year after year. They remain the same, but are but a pittance to what the same things cost in the U.S.

The total bill to each

See LETTERS, Page 8A



St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church

Invites you to attend our 16-week information course

What: Inquirer's Class

When: Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Begins February 18-May 27, 2010

Where: St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church Parish Hall
1001 South Goliad, Big Spring

Why: To learn about the Christian Faith through Theology, Bible Basics, Heritage and the Episcopal Way that incorporates Faith, Tradition and Reason

How: Registration is required by noon Friday, February 5, in order to purchase workbooks. Please call, 432-267-8201.



Rector - The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris

VISIT US ONLINE

www.bigspringherald.com

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 Cal-laston 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
Krisha 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 Alame-sa 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 Paredes 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. Sev-enth, 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
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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 Lin-da Ct., Arlington
Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock
Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder
Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. No-ble, Falfurrias
Veronica Cervantes Hernan-dez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa
Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Comberland, Odessa
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. High-way 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 Plea-son-ton, 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 Lan-caster, 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. Ben-ton, Big Spring
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Richard Leos, 509 W. Eighth St., Big Spring
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Red-

wood, Odessa
Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 1512 Sycamore Apt. A, Big Spring
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Terry Marquez, 1518 El Cami-no, 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 Au-burn Ave., Big Spring
Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eu-banks, Big Spring
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bon-ham Ave, Odessa
Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Si-erra, Kenah
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lan-caster, Houston
Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin
Joe Luis Miramontes, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring
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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 Ala-bama, Big Spring
Nancy Ortega, 601 Abrams, Big Spring
Liza L. Ovalle, 3304 W. High-way 80 Apt. 44, Big Spring
Alesha Pace, 700 N. Dixie, Odessa
Christopher Eric Painter, 1503 S. Johnson, Big Spring
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Benson Nelson Payne, 1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo
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David Lee Powell Jr., 2511 Broadway, Big Spring
Ruth Heinen Privett, 5822 Oak, Big Spring
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Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Or-ange 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 Chey-enne, Big Spring
Mandi E. Cevalos Rodriguez, 406 North Scurry, Big Spring
Magaly Romero, 1900 MLK Blvd. Apt. 603, Big Spring
Robert Christopher Rosa-mond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
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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
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Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring
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Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lan-caster, 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 Mill-brook 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 Wad-ley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Ad-ams, Denver City
Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Sev-enth St., Scotland TX
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Robert Summers, 1905 Was-son 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. Illi-nois, Midland
Liandro Ventura, 1905 Was-son 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. De-troit, Lamesa
James M. Ward, PO Box 279, Colorado City
Jasmin Shawnta Ward, 222 N. Dixie Blvd. Apt. E6, Odessa
Jim 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 West-view 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

District Court Filings:
Sylvester Graham vs. Brianna Graham, divorce.
Jeffrey Anthony Rodriguez vs. Latasha Marie Rodriguez, di-vice.
Lisa Marquez Trejo vs. Luis Ariel Trejo, divorce.
Chevy Chase Downs Apart-ments vs. Christopher West, ac-counts, notes and contracts.
Charlie Rodriguez vs. Marlene Rodriguez, divorce.

Michael Shane Gressett vs. Tiffany Gressett, divorce.
Deborah Liz Rodriguez vs. Ronnie H. Jones Jr., divorce.
iRe Edlin Paola Porras, family.
In Re Braden Lee Gott, family.
James Clinton Clanton vs. Sarah Clanton, divorce.
David Hughes vs. Tania Hughes, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Oscar Trevino, 56, and Judy Lopez Trevino, 49, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Cindi M. Moore
Grantee: John J. White
Property: Lot 8, Block 12, Douglass Addition No. 2
Date: Jan. 15, 2010

Grantor: Rebekay Byerly
Grantee: Axel and Judith Mo-rales Chavez
Property: A part of Lot 4, Block 2, Highland Addition
Date: Jan. 15, 2010

Grantor: Jackie L. Miller and Julie Miller
Grantee: West Texas Centers for MHMR
Property: Lot 22, Block 5, Col-lege Park Estates
Date: Jan. 20, 2010

Grantor: Hector Moreno and Luis Moreno
Grantee: Jose A. Talamantes Sr. and Gloria Talamantes
Property: A 3-acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 21, 2010

Grantor: James Glenn Price and Jerry Price
Grantee: Phillip Ritchey and Carmen Ritchey
Property: Lot 3, Block 13, Cor-onado Hills
Date: Jan. 21, 2010

Grantor: Gerald L. Harris and Ramona Harris
Grantee: Muffin Holdings LLC
Property: Lot 20, Block 3, Stanford Park Addition
Date: Jan. 21, 2010

Grantor: David Tubb
Grantee: Joe Kerby
Property: A tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 22, 2010

Grantor: Hubert Barber
Grantee: Muffin Holdings LLC
Property: Lot 7, Block 1, Sun-set Place Annex
Date: Jan. 22, 2010

Grantor: John Grier Little Jr.,

Sue Ellen Little Pruitt and Sherry Lynn Little Walker
Grantee: Dorothy Walden Little Family Trust
Property: A tract out of Section 31, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 25, 2010

Grantor: Michael Mauzey and Melissa Mauzey
Grantee: Robert Baker and Sharon Baker
Property: A 3.2-acre tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 26, 2010

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: D. Carroll Hardison and Pat Hardison
Grantee: Big Spring Realty Inc.
Property: Lot 14, Block 6, Douglass Addition
Date: Jan. 12, 2010

Grantor: Albert Eugene Kelley
Grantee: Juanita Flores
Property: Parts of lots 7-8, Block 48, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Jan. 13, 2010

Grantor: Jean Broughton, John Wilson, John T. Ferguson and Lonnie Newton
Grantee: Fred Walter Eckert and Rebecca Eckert
Property: A tract out of Section 36, Block 35, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 14, 2010

Grantor: Donald R. Taylor and Mavis Taylor
Grantee: Jeff Denton and Rachel Denton
Property: Lot 21, Block 2, Col-lege Park Estates
Date: Jan. 15, 2010

Grantor: C-Par Land Company LLC and J.W. Grimes Inc.
Grantee: Teresa J. Clingman, Gary Clingman and Alice Cling-man
Property: A 484.3-acre tract out of Section 37, Block 31, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 15, 2010

Grantor: Allene Pearce
Grantee: Ashley Rosanne Kesler and Kevin Kesler
Property: Lots 5-6, Block 19, Washington Place
Date: Jan. 20, 2010

Grantor: Sherry Faye Adams
Grantee: Ira Thompson
Property: A 5-acre tract out of Section 32, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 26, 2010

BERNANKE

Continued from Page 4C

regulatory actions.
“They will be more aware of the political forces,” said Scott Talbott, chief lobbyist for the Financial Services Roundtable, a trade group whose members include the largest banks.
Bernanke’s confirmation comes as Congress is writing an overhaul of financial regulations aimed at avoid-ing another financial crisis.
A House of Representatives bill would remove its power to oversee consumer protections and subject it to a congressional audit. A Senate bill

would create a single banking regula-tor that would strip the Fed of its su-pervision of bank holding companies, such as Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs.
Even Bernanke’s supporters worry about the long-term consequences of his nomination fight.
It sends “the message that the Fed-eral Reserve and its monetary policy decisions are under the thumb of Con-gress,” said Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who voted for Bernanke.
The Fed wasn’t always indepen-dent.
The Treasury Secretary used to serve on its board. Congress changed that in 1935. And past Fed chairman have battled with Congress and presi-dents.

Farmers Coop Gin Of Knott
would like to thank the good Lord for a great crop and its producers.
Thank you for your business!
From the Directors, Management, and Staff
We hope to see you next season!
Junior Casas

209743

Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: After 30 years of a turbulent marriage, my ex-wife and I had an amicable divorce. Before the ink was dry, she remarried. I later married a beautiful young woman. My daughter, who is 10 years older than my new wife, became quite upset over this, and our relationship quickly deteriorated.

Eventually, my daughter wrote to say she didn't know me anymore and already had a dad (meaning my

ex's new husband). My lovely wife is terribly upset because she fears it's her fault — that she came between my daughter and me. I believe this is the exact reaction my daughter is hoping for — to make my wife feel guilty.

I do not have my daughter's current address or phone number, although I could probably find it if need be. I am upset about the situation, but if she really

no longer wants me in her life, I don't want to push it. Any advice? — C.C.

Dear C.C.: Your daughter is testing you, and although she is behaving selfishly and childishly, please don't throw in the towel. It will only confirm her worst fear — that you no longer need her in your life because you've replaced her with your new, younger wife. If you are on good terms with your ex, please discuss it with her and suggest she help your daughter accept your marriage. Also continue to stay in touch with your daughter and tell her you love her, regardless of her response. Time can heal this if you don't give up.

Dear Annie: My younger brother is married with three kids. The problem is, he and his wife expect my parents to pick up their kids and spend time with them frequently. They become angry when my parents aren't able to do this as often as they'd

like.

Annie, my parents have 23 grandchildren. For them to spend that kind of time with each of them would be impossible. They always offer to baby-sit when my brother and his wife go out. They never miss a birthday or Christmas. But my sister-in-law says if my parents don't start being "dotting grandparents," they will be written off.

When we were kids, my grandparents did not spend tons of time with us for the same reasons my parents don't. My parents are beside themselves because they really do love all of their grandchildren and are fair to each of them. Whatever happened to children respecting their parents? What can we do? — Concerned Sister

Dear Concerned: Some parents think the world begins and ends with their children. When your parents say they are busy, or that they need to spend time with the other grandchildren, your brother

and his wife become offended and angry. Your siblings who have children might try talking to your brother. Perhaps they can help him understand that he should accept his parents as they are and encourage a closer relationship instead of making threats. Keeping the grandparents away hurts his children, too.

Dear Annie: I think you missed on your response to "Don't Want To Go," the sibling whose sisters scheduled a birthday party for their 90-year-old mother in Florida on Christmas Eve.

It is unreasonable to expect other families to put aside their holiday plans and spend thousands to travel at the most expensive time of the year. It is true that they are missing an opportunity for a great family time, and who knows how many more birthdays Mom may have, but these arguments raise feelings of guilt by which we are all manipulated into doing

things we really should not. The sibling has a right to say, "Go ahead without me. I will make it up to you later, Mom," and send a nice card and a gift, and then call. Those sisters should understand. — M.K.

Dear M.K.: We agree it is an imposition, and if it's impossible to arrange, so be it. But sometimes these things are worth the effort. They may not be able to make it up to Mom "later."

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

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

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

Putting the lid on favoritism

Dear Margo: My grandmother has some deep-seated psychological issues when it comes to her children. Aunt No. 1 she is practically obsessed with. We're constantly hearing about her and her kids. With the other one, Aunt No. 2, it's basically complaints and really rude behavior toward her. My mother is somewhere in the middle in terms of how much my

grandmother likes each of her children.

Every year, my family makes a very long trip to visit her. When we get there, all we hear from my grandmother is how much she wishes Aunt No. 1 would come. Clearly, the reason she isn't coming is because we're there. Also, there are some distinct differences in the way she treats Aunt No. 1's children and how she treats us.

The older grandchildren are constantly bombarded with accusations of not loving

Aunt No. 1 and her children. Frankly, it's a really stressful situation, and everyone is always walking on eggshells when the whole family is together. And ... Aunt No. 1's kids are not very likable children. I know they're my cousins, but I cannot deal with them. To give you a glimpse of the situation: My grandmother gets angry with me and my other two siblings because we stick up for our younger brother when Aunt No. 1's kids are harassing him.

It is close to psychological torment whenever we go on this so-called "vacation." I'm also sick of my mother never saying anything. I think they all need to go to a therapist. What can we do to not let my

grandmother's insensitive behavior get to us? — So-Over-It Granddaughter

Dear So: What can you do? Stay home and invite your mother to do the same. Granny has a screw loose and no common sense at all. I am not being flip with this short answer. Everything you need to know is in my first three sentences. — Margo, therapeutically

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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Roy Don Beauchamp
Republican Candidate

ELECT**ROY DON
BEAUCHAMP**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 4
HOWARD COUNTY**

Roy Don will:

- Insist on cooperation between county and city government.
- Be responsive to the needs and desires of the people of Precinct 4
- Make every effort to support future growth and economic development of Howard County

*Your Vote for **Roy Don** will
Assure Progress*

209745

Something special's
happening in the Circle.

February 2010 Activities

- Feb. 1** – Games, 1-4 p.m.
- Feb. 2** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ PRL, 10 a.m.
Supper Club "Spanish Inn", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"
- Feb. 4** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café, 10 a.m.
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 5** – LUNCH BUNCH & BIRTHDAYS
Just Peachy's Cafe, 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 8** – Games, 1-4 p.m.
- Feb. 9** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club, "Red Mesa", 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10** – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1 p.m., "Race to Witch Mountain"
- Feb. 11** – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 12** – Valentine's Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30 a.m.

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

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Senior & Circle

Valentine's
Potluck & Bingo

February 12, 2010 • 11:30 AM

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Saturday & Sunday
Jan. 30th & 31st • 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.
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GOLD COINS

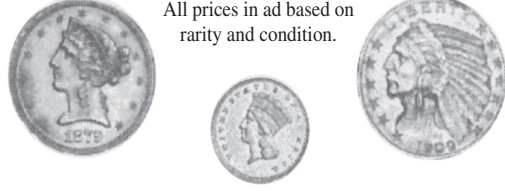


Pay up to for the following rare gold:

United States	Used	New
\$1.00 - 1849 to 1889	Up To \$1,000	\$10,000
\$2.50 - 1796 to 1834	Up To \$5,500	\$17,500
\$2.50 - 1840 to 1929	Up To \$1,000	\$5,000
\$3.00 - 1854 to 1889	Up To \$3,000	\$10,000
\$5.00 - 1795 to 1833	Up To \$10,000	\$50,000
\$5.00 - 1834 to 1838	Up To \$1,000	\$10,000
\$5.00 - 1839 to 1908	Up To \$1,500	\$6,000
\$5.00 - 1908 to 1929 (Indian)	Up To \$1,500	\$6,000
\$10.00 - 1795 to 1804	Up To \$9,000	\$20,000
\$10.00 - 1839 to 1932	Up To \$1,000	\$7,500
\$20.00 - 1850 to 1933	Up To \$1,500	\$10,000
\$50.00 - 1851 to 1852	Up To \$5,000	\$15,000
\$50.00 - 1915 Pan-pac	Up To \$7,500	\$25,000

Premiums paid for type sets, date sets or quantities!

All prices in ad based on rarity and condition.



SILVER DOLLARS



Pay up to for the following sets of dollars:

United States	Used	New
1794 to 1803	Up To \$2,000	\$50,000
1836 to 1839	Up To \$1,000	\$5,000
1840 to 1873	Up To \$500	\$5,000
Trade Dollars	Up To \$100	\$2,500
1878 to 1904	Up To \$1,500	\$12,500
1921 to 1935	Up To \$50	\$5,000

All prices in ad based on rarity and condition.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS



1954 and Older
Silver & Gold
Pay up to \$5,000

We Buy Coin Collections.

If you have a large coin collection, we will come to your home or your bank. Call for an appointment.

We buy silver, gold and platinum watches.

SILVER COINS



PAYING TOP DOLLAR on face value on coins 1964 & older

COMPLETE SETS



Pay up to for the following rare sets:

United States	Up To
Flying Eagle - Indian Cent	\$7,500
Lincoln Cents	\$5,000
Buffalo Nickels	\$12,500
Barber Dimes	\$10,000
Mercury Dimes	\$10,000
Standing Liberty 25c	\$12,500
Walking Liberty 50c	\$12,500
Morgan Dollars	\$50,000
Peace Dollars	\$10,000
50 pc. Commemorative Silver	\$25,000

We also purchase partial sets.

WHEAT PENNIES



1958 & Older Pay 20% & up over face value

SPECIALTY ITEMS

- 45 Records & Covers (No tears or faded covers)
- Vintage Post Cards
- Sports Cards • Pre-1960
- Historical Documents & Signatures
- Coke Cola Memorabilia • Pre-1965
- Civil War Memorabilia

BUYING PCGS OR NGC

& OTHER CERTIFIED COINS

We need certified coins for our investors!!



We Buy All Types of Paper Currency

We Buy Foreign Coins

GOLD

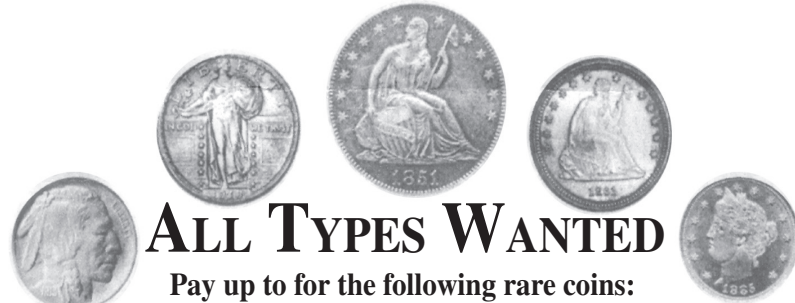


ALL FORMS NEEDED Instant Cash For:

Pay up to for the following:

Class Rings	\$110
Chains & Necklaces	\$5,000
Charm Bracelets	\$4,000
Wedding Bands	\$100
Mountings	\$500
Antique Items	\$5,000
Dental Gold Items	\$200
Coins & Bullion	Bring for Quote
Scrap Gold & Platinum	Bring for Quote

We Buy Anything Made of Gold or Platinum, Even Broken or Damaged!!



ALL TYPES WANTED

Pay up to for the following rare coins:

United States	Up To
Silver Halves 1934 and Older	\$2,500
Silver Quarter 1932 and Older	\$2,000
Silver Dimes 1934 and Older	\$2,000
Half Dimes 1873 and Older	\$3,500
Nickels 1938 and Older	\$500
Three Cent Pieces 1889 and Older	\$500
Two Cent 1873 and Older	\$500
Indianhead 1c 1909 and Older	\$1,000
Large Cent 1857 and Older	\$1,000
Half Cent 1857 and Older	\$1,000
Commemorative Coins	\$4,000

PLEASE DO NOT CLEAN COINS

STERLING & SILVER

All Time Periods. All Kinds, All Types.

We do not buy silver plate.



Pay up to for the following:

Full Flatware Set	\$8,000
Single Flatware Items	\$500
Punch Bowls & Sets	\$5,000
Water Pitchers	\$5,000
Centerpieces	\$3,000
Tea Sets	\$10,000
Trays	\$3,000
Candelabra	\$2,500
Epergne	\$7,500
Table Candlesticks	\$200
Mexican Silver	\$5,000
Claret Jugs	\$500
Trophies	\$1,200

Sterling & Silver expert pay more for rare or unusual items. We just don't have room to list everything. We buy all forms of silver - scrap, medallions & collectible.

SENIOR BONUS: Additional 5% For All Seniors With this Coupon

NOT VALID FOR GOLD COIN PURCHASES

Each piece must be stamped with sterling or .925 or it is silver plate.

FOR YOUR SECURITY:

ALL ITEMS ARE SHOWN IN PRIVATE, SECURE VIEWING ROOMS.

Road Show Expects To Put Thousands Into Local Economy When Antiquities Gold & Silver Exchange Opens In Big Spring

By William Gardner
Staff Writer

With the spring so quickly approaching, local residents are getting a jump start on their spring cleaning by turning their jewelry and coins into extra holiday spending cash.

Antiquities Gold & Silver Exchange has brought their road show to **Big Spring** for 5 days to stimulate the local economy by purchasing gold, silver and other collectable items from its residents. The event is being held at the **Holiday Inn Express** beginning **Tuesday, February 2nd** and **going through Saturday, February 6th**.

"I'm getting how much for this little bit of gold?", one customer said after receiving a check for \$420.00. "I didn't even want to come in, because I didn't think I had anything. I was shocked"

She's not the only one though. Many folks with old coins dated back before 1964 are cashing in too. One lady from a previous show had several old coins she had received from an inheritance and was ecstatic to find out they were worth more than their face value.

"We see this all the time" said one of the buyers from the road show.

With Gold trading at over \$1000.00 an ounce and Silver trading at over \$17.00 an ounce, people want to cash in but don't want to travel to the big city or send it in the mail. This week they don't have to, because they've come to you! This is really a great opportunity for everyone.

"I had received a bunch of sterling silverware from my parents and grandparents and never use it.



Above: Two recent purchases; including sterling silver, coins, broken & unused gold jewelry who received over \$700.00.

I didn't know where to turn it in until you guys came around."

A road show spokesman said they see items come in ranging from sterling silver flatware to gold teeth and watches.

"It's amazing at what people have stored in their jewelry boxes or closet that could be turned into cold hard cash", she said.

"After reading the newspaper, I decided to go through my jewelry box and just started pulling stuff out", Clemy Murillo, a previous customer told us. "I didn't think I had that much, but I was very happy when I left, because I was able to buy some school clothes for my kids. After all they were right here in town"

Another lady from Alice told us, "I have seen ads on TV to mail your Gold in, but I was very skeptical. I would rather deal with someone in person."

"We understand that folks are skeptical of these TV ads and rightfully so—that's why we've come to town", the spokesman said.

"Customers are able to come in and sit down with one of our buyers who will inspect all your items right in front of you.

We don't send cash through the mail anymore, so why would someone take the chance and send their gold or silver through the mail", he said.

The road show has seen a lot of interesting things at past events. Items including herringbone necklaces, class rings, broken gold chains, and even British Gold coins. Customers brought in Canada Silver, Gold Mexican Pesos, Hamilton, Illinois & Elgin Pocket Watches and walked away very happy.

Some of these items tally up to hundred even thousands of dollars to give local residents a stimulus they can actually use.

A mid-state lady told us, "I liked the fact that they didn't just want to see my gold, but my silver and other stuff I brought in as well."

The road show is **free** and is open to the public starting Tuesday and running everyday this week from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm and Saturday until 4:00pm at the **Holiday Inn Express** right here in **Big Spring** - with no appointments necessary.

Who:
Open to the Public
When:
This Week ~ Mon. thru Fri.
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where:
Holiday Inn Express
1109 N. Aylesford
Big Spring, Texas 79720
432-263-5400
(right off I-20 at exit 177)

What:
Class & Old Wedding Rings,
Gold & Silver Chains,
Gold & Silver Necklaces, Gold & Silver Bracelets,
Cluster Rings, Gold Watches,
Gold Dental Filling,
.999 Silver Bars,
Silver Coins Predating 1964,
Sterling Silverware Sets.

Items can be in any condition

Down Economy Pushes Silver and Gold Coin Prices Higher For Their Owners?

"Silver and Gold is high right now and so are Silver and Gold Coins. Now is the time to cash in!"

By Isaac Manrique
Staff Writer

Have you ever asked yourself – What should I do with these old silver coins? Perhaps, it's the right time to cash them in.

This week only for 5 days starting Thursday and running through Saturday the Antiquities Gold & Silver Exchange Road Show will be purchasing various kinds of Gold and Silver coins directly from Big Spring local residents.

The road show has buyers that will evaluate the coins based on the coins grading and then a price will be determined.

Just like with any unique item, the better the grading the more collectors are willing to pay. With the Gold and Silver markets up older coins are up as well.

Why are they interested in coins before 1964?

The U.S. Mint, maker of all U.S. coins, was established in 1792 by Congress and became an operating bureau of the Treasury Department in 1873.

The Philadelphia Mint continued its operation since 1792 and in 1906 the Denver Mint began its coinage operations. Several years later, West Point, New York, and San Francisco Mints gained official Mint status.

The West Point Mint, was exclusively used as a bullion depository, is now the U.S. Mint chief producer of all U.S. gold coins.

U.S. coins minted in 1964 and earlier are made up of 90% silver and 10% other alloys. This being true except for pennies which are mostly copper and nickels.

This is one of the reasons The Antiquities Gold and Silver Exchange Road Show is in town – they're here to purchase these coins and put money in your hands.

Even coins that have been in circulation and well worn will put good money in your hand. Silver Dollars, Liberty, Franklin and Kennedy Half Dollars, Quarters and Dimes before 1964 are paying high too.

What about Gold Coins?



In 1834 and 1837 Congress changed the specs for gold - setting the price at \$20.67 per ounce. When the Great Depression hit the U.S. in 1933, President Roosevelt made it illegal for citizens of the United States to use gold coins. Roosevelt ordered that all gold coins be returned to U.S. Treasury and then melted into gold bars. Soon after the price of gold was set to \$35.00 an ounce.

When several million gold coins were melted into bars, the coins instantly became rare and highly sought after by various collectors.

According to currency experts only about one percent of gold coins are still in the public today - another one of the reason why the Antiquities Gold and Silver Exchange Road Show will be here starting **Tuesday**.

Coins signifying different mint marks such as S, D, P or CC can be worth more too. Other coins of interest are State Commutative coins as well as foreign gold and silver coins.

Ringing Off The Hook!!

"Inquiries are coming in from local residents wanting to know what they should bring"

By Heather Marie
Staff Writer

The inquiries are coming in from local residents wanting to know what they should bring in to the Antiquities Gold and Silver Road Show this week in order to get paid!

The Road Show buyers will be ready to look and make offers on all different types of gold and silver items. Class rings, old wedding rings, herringbone necklaces all types of gold and silver jewelry – broken or not.

Our buyers will also be looking at coins too. All U.S. silver coins pre-dated 1964 – like Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars, Liberty, Franklin and Kennedy Halfs, Mercury and Roosevelt Dimes too. They will be looking at all forms of gold coins – foreign and domestic. Just bring them in to get an offer and walk away with some spending money.

CLASSIFIEDS

710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Business Opportunity



LAKE ALAN Henry Convenience Store with beer/wine/restaurant/live bait, additional land to develop RV Park. \$450,000+ sales. For further information call Nita Kiesling, WestMark, Realtors (806)794-3300.

PART-TIME ACTIVITY Coordinator for Non-Profit organization needed. Community center located in an apt. community. Person must have experience w/families & children. Must be motivated, creative, resourceful & love to plan activities. Teaching background is a plus, and must be able to start immediately! Rewarding position that motivates & empowers residents. \$15/hr (44 hrs/mo) Email resume- emiles@ti-f.org.

Garage Sales

WORKSHOP LIQUIDATION/ 50 Years. 3 Riding lawnmowers, gas welder/ assessors, drill press, bandsaw, air compressor, tools, sanders, drills, vices, grinders, electrical, work benches, ladders, shelving, wood variety, chains, fishing, patio, yard. Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm. 402 Rocco Road.

Help Wanted

Drivers:

Dedicated Run w/Consistent Freight. Top Pay, Weekly Home-time & More!

Werner Enterprises
888-567-3108

******ATTENTION DRIVERS******
Duncan Disposal- Now hiring for a driver for Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri., with some Sat. mornings. Please come by our Coahoma office or call Arthur at (432)770-3966. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

\$\$\$Immediate Opening\$\$\$
Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez

Texas State Veterans Home
We recognize that our employees are our greatest asset, providing flexible schedules and one of the most attractive benefits packet.

Currently hiring the following positions:

Licensed Vocational Nurse- 2 Positions
Shift- 2-10

Salary Based On Experience
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Big Spring, Tx 79720
(432)268-8387

Fax (432)268-1987
"Equal Opportunity Employer"
badominguez@sears-methodist.com

APPLY NOW

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Big Spring Herald is looking for an individual to sell advertising in our retail department.

If you like people, have sales experience (advertise sales a plus), are a team player, have dependable transportation, are organized, pay attention to details, are creative, and like to make money, we want to talk to you. We offer an established account list, benefits, paid vacation, mileage reimbursement, base salary plus commission.

Apply in person at 710 Scurry send resume to: Big Spring Herald Advertising P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring, TX 79721 or email resume to: advertising@bigspringherald.com

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.

DRIVERS:

Avg. Weekly \$800-\$1000 Local/Regional Work Odessa, TX Great Pay, Hometown, Benefits CDL-A w/X End., 2yrs Exp Req 866-339-0072 www.cryodriverson.com

Help Wanted

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGERS

The Cash Store is a leader in consumer financial services with over 200 stores in eight states. We currently have an opening for an Assistant Store Manager in our Big Spring location. Starting annual pay \$19,968, with the ability to earn an additional \$562.50 in performance incentives every month. We have one of the best retail schedules available: closed Sundays, open half a day on Saturday, and closed early evening Monday-Friday. Primary duties involve processing loan applications, making loans and providing excellent customer service. Applicants must have a High School diploma and minimum of three years previous experience in Retail, Restaurant, Hospital, Banking, or Customer Service. Call (432)267-1118 an interview. EOE

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.

Help Wanted

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA taking applications for Sales Clerk all shifts. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

CITY OF BIG SPRING

Plant Operator
Communications Officer
Utility Service Worker
Maintenance Worker
Plant Operator
Maintenance-Superintendent
Purchasing Agent
Heavy Equipment Operator
Heavy Equipment Operator
For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

COASTAL TRANSPORT

We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around surrounding areas of the Permian Basin.

Qualifications:
*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
*23 years of age or older
*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
*Clean driving record
Please contact our office M-F 8am/5pm for more information 1-888-527-7221.

DENTAL OFFICE

Front desk-- customer service, collections & billing experience helpful. Must be able to multi-task. Will train right person. Mon.-Thurs. Accepting resumes only! 710 Main St.

Licensed Vocational Nurse

We offer competitive wages and benefits are available. If you are a person committed to providing quality care please apply in person or fax resume to:

Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation, L.P.
1100 West Broadway, Stanton, TX 79782
PH: (432) 756-2841 FX: (432) 756-2190
EOE

For other job opportunities please visit our website at www.daybreakventure.com

Cowboy Construction

Local oilfield Construction Company has immediate opening for the following positions:

Supervisor Position: Applicants must have experience in oilfield construction including tank battery construction, flow lines, well head hook ups, and water floor installations. Must be able to process all paperwork involved.

Maintainer Operator: Must have experience building drilling site locations and roads.

All applicants need clean driving record, must pass drug screen and alcohol test and have good work ethics.

All qualified applicants can apply in person at

Cowboy Construction
9400 South Service Road
Coahoma, TX

Help Wanted

NURSES UNLIMITED

Seeking CNA's to work for CBA Clients. Weekdays & Weekends. Hourly Rate. Call: Liz 1-800-458-3257 Monday-Thursday 8-5 Friday 8-12 E.O.E.

EARN UP to \$150 /day Undercover Shoppers Needed to Judge Retail & Dining Establishments Experience Not Required Call Now 1-800-565-8079

EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com

Help Wanted

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

HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operators' Needed. Experienced Dozer Operator, Blade Operator and Excavator needed for Oil Field. Salary DOE, Health Insurance, and 401K Plan. If interested please call Cliff Price (432)517-0288 or apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to (432)267-1694. EOE

LEARNING TREE Academy now hiring friendly energetic Pre-school Teacher with High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience preferred, but will train right person. Apply in person.

West Texas Centers for MHMR

MR Residential Support Technician: Position provides services within the community and in the home to individuals with mental retardation. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$655.85-699.69 bi weekly \$17,052 - \$18,192 annually) Depending on experience. Benefits.

MR Support Service Tech: Provides services to individuals with mental retardation in the community and person's home. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 annually) Depending on experience. Benefits.

MR Part time Direct Care Staff: Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED. Salary \$8.20hr. hours vary.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE

"Check Out What You're Missing!"

"I couldn't think of a better way to start the day than to be at a job that I love. I work in a professional environment that really lets me develop my customer service skills. Great people, great environment and great benefits, who could ask for more?"

Assistant Manager Big Spring, TX

No Experience Required... We're willing to train anyone with the Desire to SUCCEED!

Sun Loan Offers...

- Salary + Bonus
- Paid Training
- 401(k)
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- Opportunities for Advancement
- Over 230 offices in 9 states!
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NOW HIRING BROADBAND TECHNICIANS in Andrews and Big Spring!

Under minimal supervision Broadband Technician I installs, disconnects, changes and repairs service. Educates customers regarding their existing and new services, informs them about other services and proposes solutions to customer problems. Performs basic troubleshooting at time of installation from tap to customer's electronic devices. Buries drops, locates lines and performs service audits. Must have a valid TX driver's license and be insurable. Must be able to lift 85 lbs. regularly and work any shift.

To see full job description, qualifications and/or apply, go to our website.

www.work4suddenlink.com
APPLY TODAY

Suddenlink is an EEO/AAP employer.

AUCTION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2..... 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Big Spring, TX (Howard Co.) From Intersection of US 87 and I-20, north 3 miles on 87 to Co-op Gin of Big Spring.

HOWARD COUNTY FARMERS ... OWNERS

TRACTORS / MODULE BUILDER / STRIPPER / BOLL BUGGY: '94 Cast Int. 7230 MFWD, John Blue Module Builder, CMC Module Builder, Caldwell Boll Buggy, JD 484 Stripper w/Yellow Cab, JD 7440 Stripper, '82 JD 484 Stripper, 2-'49 JD Model A Antique Tractors,

EQUIPMENT and LIVESTOCK: JD ripper Plow, Rhino Shredder, Int. Lister, Rotary Hoe, P & W Stalk Cutter, Assorted Tool Bars, Alloway Flail Shredder, Int. #145 Reversible Breaking Plow, Baker Switch Plow, 100 New Wooden Fence Posts, 8 Gates, Water/Feed Troughs, Cattle Truck Loading Chute, Flat Bed Trailer and more.

CONTACT: Quality Auctioneers (806) 866-4646. Charles Macha, Auctioneer #6911 (806) 893-7151. See pics and full description: www.qualityauctioneers.com

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Accepting applications for:
Managers, Assistant Managers. Sales Associates

- Health Insurance • 401K • Sick Leave
- Paid Vacation • Flexible Schedules
- Opportunities For Advancement
- Starting pay depending on experience

Applications available at any Big Spring 7-Eleven Store For interview consideration, call (432) 580-8850 ext.315 or ext. 311

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

Japanese patient? Zero. There is not charge for medicine, doctors or hospitals. All are paid a fair fee for services and everyone associated with the medical profession lives quite well in Japan.

They do pay a higher tax annually, but year after year the U.S. taxes everyone more and more.

France has the same concept. Medicine is an honored profession, but it is controlled without runaway monthly inflation. Again, the charge to the citizens — nothing. England has the same deal. Canada virtually the same. If it is not free, then there is a very small co-pay fee of \$2 or \$3.

In Sweden, if you lose your job, you keep your health care. You are also paid 80 percent of your wages you were earning if you go to a trade school or college in an effort to find a better paying or more satisfying job.

Even Taiwan, a “third world” country, has free health care modeled after our Medicare plan.

Many doctors do charity work? How true. Many are in Haiti today. But in Big Spring, Texas?

We have lived here three years now. My wife has a Medicare card, Part A & B. Guess what, when my wife called, each doctor's office here she was told the doctor isn't accepting any new Medicare patients.

My wife had a light stroke in April 2006. I don't believe there are any philanthropist practitioners in fluid motion here.

Mr. Wingert have you ever had an occasion for the fire department to come to your aid? Have you ever had occasion where the police came to your aid? If so, in either incident, how much did you pay the fireman or the policeman?

I fail to fathom your bemusement. What don't you understand about uncontrolled greed? The doctors? The for profit hospitals? Perhaps a modest prescription from the legal drug cartel?

What don't you understand about health care for all, not just the wealthy, but not at an astronomical, unjustified and uncontrollable price of 99 percent to U.S. taxpayers?

Most citizens today, myself included, don't need a painting on the wall to explain what is taking place today in this country. This is only an exercise in futility.

So, who is my health care provider? The VA system. It only cost me 1,109 days and a free bullet in my back, where it remains today.

CLARK KIRKMAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I just paid my 2009 real estate taxes and sat down and figured out that they have gone up 68 percent since 2004. And now we are going to have a \$4.2 million pool bond followed by a \$60 million school bond.

Being retired, it's a little hard on a fixed income to keep up with the taxes. I've made a lot of good friends in town, so I doubt if I'll be moving but I sure can't recommend to anyone moving here that this is a retirement area.

Maybe the council should sit back and take a look at its decisions and let the people decide on how much we should spend on a pool. At least the school bond will let us have a say on spending.

JOHN LEONARDI
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank Mr. Flores for writing what he did in Sunday's paper. He said everything I wanted to say but I did not know how to go about saying it without making people mad.

He is right, the U.S. should help us first and foremost before any one else. We are having a horrible time here in America, but I have not seen anyone else coming to help us. I am sorry for the people in Haiti, but we need help also and where is our money going to? Well it is not here.

As Mr. Flores said, “God bless America,” and I say, “God Bless Mr. Flores” for saying what a lot of us want to say.

Now, Big Spring says keep our money here. Well, if we had more here we might. There are a lot of new movies out but we will not get them. We are told if we do not like what is here to go to Midland, so Midland gets our money, not Big Spring.

So why can't we get movies like Midland does? If the kids had more things to do, maybe there wouldn't be a lot of kids getting into trouble. All we have is the movies and bowling and, yes, we also have the YMCA which is a great place for kids to go and they can afford that.

Even the bowling alley makes it where kids can afford to bowl with specials, and my hat goes off to the new owners. They have made it a great place to go with the family or with friends.

The schools have athletics but not all kids do that, so it is those kids who don't have things to do that need a place to hang out without getting into trouble.

When I drive on Wasson Road and see the men playing golf, well that is great, but the money that went to fix up the greens should have gone to make something for our kids.

Why don't we get a drive in theater here? There used to be one. Midland has one, so does Lamesa. Why can't we have one? It could go where the Jet Drive In was and then maybe we could get more new movies.

If I had the funds to do that, I would like to put one back here. It could even be a two-screen theater and then we could more new shows.

MARILLYN MIEARS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

This afternoon, in the afterglow of the election of a conservative to the Senate seat of Massachusetts, I was musing on what this meant. And as I mused, I was struck by a parallel in our country's history.

When our country was attacked by Japan, we were ill prepared to face the foe. We were caught off guard. We were weak and unfocused, stunned and shocked by their ferocity and barbarism. Their values were nothing like our values. They had prepared, they had struck and they left us with little to fight back with.

The people of the United States were angry. They cried out to strike back, to stop the foe, but there was no way to reach them.

Then in 1942, a small group of warriors came together with a plan — to strike into the very heart of the foe's homeland, the fortress impregnable. The raid was led by Lt. Col. James “Jimmy” Doolittle, who said, “The

Japanese had been told they were invulnerable. An attack on the Japanese homeland would cause confusion in the minds of the Japanese people and sow doubt about the reliability of their leaders. There was a second, equally important, psychological reason for this attack ... Americans badly needed a morale boost.”

This past year we have been in much the same position as in 1942. Our country has been under terrific attack by a foe who has been arrogant, ferocious, who's values are nothing like our values. Only this time the foe is from within — our very elected leaders.

The American people cried out in anger and to stop the foe, but there has been no reaching this foe. They felt strong in their isolation at the top.

Then this week there was mounted a raid on their fortress impregnable — planned and executed not by a small group, but by the very people of the United States of America — you and I. Scott Brown was elected a U.S. Senator and a bomb was dropped right in their homeland.

And this raid into their heartland has sown confusion and doubt about the reliability of their leaders. And it has an equally important result, a badly needed morale boost for the American people who saw their country disintegrating before their eyes.

Doolittle's raid was a first step to fight back the foe while American began to organize herself into the fighting force needed to win that war. Brown's electing is that same first step to fight back the foe while America begins to organize into the fighting force needed to take back our country.

Do not confuse the “Brown Raid” with victory. It is not.

As Churchill said, “This is not the beginning, this is not the end, but it is the beginning of the end for our foes.”

Do not tire. Do not think this is over. It isn't. Do not flag in your vigilance of watching what the foe is doing. When the light of truth begins to shine, the rats move to the shadows, but they never stop gnawing. We are the same American people we were in 1942; let us roll up our sleeves and get to work. We can do it.

KENT LEE IVEY
BIG SPRING

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



Guest Speakers

April Renée

Keynote speaker for VIC (Vaccine Information Coalition) & former President of TAAP (the Autism Autoimmunity Project). Her presentation is over 20 years of research and facts of exposing the dangers, including the upcoming H1N1 swine

&

Gary L. Tunsky

Cellular Disease Specialist

International speaker/author and represents (PHT) Precision Healing Technologies. He is a traditional naturopath and has a 24-year diverse background in a wide array of healing arts. He has opened up new doors to the world of customized human cell restoration treatment protocols. His non-toxic, non-invasive cellular treatment strategies are directed to a wide spectrum of degenerative, metabolic and autoimmune disorders that are so prevalent in the 21st century. He will be scheduling private consultations after the event.

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209279

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VOTE

C.E. (MIKE) THOMAS

FOR 118TH DISTRICT JUDGE



I am a lifelong resident of Howard County and proud to call it home. I graduated from Big Spring High School, graduated from the University of Texas with a Business Administration degree and the University of Houston with a Law degree.

My parents were Dr. Clyde and Jane Thomas. I am married to my wife, Sandra and have three children and two stepchildren.

I have the qualifications to be District Judge with over 25 years of practicing criminal, civil and family law in West Texas. I also have numerous hours of courtroom experience from not only my private practice but as Big Spring City Attorney and Howard County Attorney.

I have served on the board of Directors of the YMCA and Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

As District Judge, I would remember that it is a privilege to serve in such a capacity and not my right. That my power comes from the people of Howard, Glasscock and Martin County and it would be an honor to serve as 118th District Judge.

I would appreciate your vote and remember... *every vote is important!*

Early voting begins February 16, 2010
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News in brief

China suspends military exchanges with U.S. over planned arms sales to Taiwan
BEIJING (AP) — China suspended military exchange visits with the United States on Saturday in protest over \$6.4 billion in planned U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and warned the U.S. ambassador that the sales would harm already strained ties.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency cited the Defense Ministry as saying the suspension is due to the “bad impact” of the arms sales on the two countries’ military relations.

China took a similar step in 2008 after the former Bush administration announced a multibillion-dollar arms sale to Taiwan. The latest arms sales could complicate the cooperation the U.S. seeks on issues ranging from Iran’s nuclear program to the loosening of Internet controls, including a Google-China standoff over censorship.

Details of arms sale were posted Friday on a Pentagon Web site. It would include 60 UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, 114 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles, mine-hunting ships and information technology. U.S. lawmakers have 30 days to com-

ment on the proposed sale. Without objections, it would proceed.

Skyrocketing costs, security clampdown may have doomed terror trial plan

NEW YORK (AP) — A letter and a speech may have doomed plans to bring the Sept. 11 terror trial to New York.

The letter written by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to Washington earlier this month set a whopping \$200-million-a-year price tag to secure the city during the trial — more than double the original estimate. The speech by Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly detailed a planned lockdown of lower Manhattan certain to set new standards for gridlock.

The resulting political and public outcry has forced the Obama administration to consider looking for a friendlier home for the high-profile trial, even as the legitimacy of the New York Police Department’s security plan and its estimated cost goes unchallenged.

Kelly insists the plan is necessary — a reality that started to sink in after his remarks before business leaders.

www.bigspringherald.com

Employee of the Month



Katrina Juarez

Congratulations to Katrina on receiving Employee of the Month. Nina does a wonderful job as a Certified Nurse Aide and has just recently earned her Certification as a Med-Aide. Nina has been employed with us since April 2007. All the residents, families and employees of Parkview Nursing and Rehab. appreciate all that you do.

Thank you from the bottom of our heart!!

209696

Menus

Senior Citizens Center
Monday — Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, apple cobbler, milk.
Tuesday — Beef and chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, guacamole, lettuce, tomatoes, tortilla chips, fruit, milk.
Wednesday — Lasagna, capti blend vegetables, tossed green salad, garlic bread, cake, milk.
Thursday — Baked chicken, buttered noodles, squash medley, rolls, tapioca pudding, milk.
Friday — Albacore tuna sandwich, baked potato chips, carrot and rice salad, cookies, milk, V8 juice.

Forsan ISD
Monday — Breakfast: Muffin, banana, juice, milk; Lunch: Hot dog, tater tots, ranch style beans, baby car-

rots, cinnamon apples, milk.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Pizza, seasoned corn, tossed salad, orange smiles, Rice Krispy Treat, milk.
Wednesday — Breakfast: French toast, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Ravioli, green beans, garlic toast, sliced peaches, milk.
Thursday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza; juice, milk; Lunch: Carne Guisada, re-fried beans, flour tortilla, tossed salad, applesauce, cake, milk.
Friday — Breakfast: Cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, green beans, tossed salad, roll, fruited gelatin, milk.

Big Spring ISD
Monday — Breakfast: Ce- real, cheddar cheese, juice,

milk; Lunch: Pizza, carrots, applesauce, milk.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage patty, cinnamon biscuit, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, garden salad, green peas, apricots, rolls, milk.
Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Beef taco, corn, Spanish rice, lettuce/tomato salad, orange smiles, salsa, milk.
Thursday — Breakfast: PBJ uncrustable, juice, milk; Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, pineapple chunks, rolls, milk, Rice Krispy Treat.
Friday — Breakfast: Honey Bun, juice, milk; Lunch: Bar-becue beef, lettuce, tomato, pickles, french fries, straw-berries, fruit, milk.

The Family of Jerod Boyd
would like to send out a heartfelt thank-you
to all of you who came together in our time of sorrow.
From complete strangers to friends for all your gracious generosity,
your flowers, your donations and your prayers.
To Myers & Smith and the love they have shown,
to College Baptist Church for your beautiful ceremony.
A special thanks to the pallbearers:
Jeremy Williams, Bryan Stokes, Jeremy Jones,
Russell Grant, Cody Osborn, Tye Butler.
Thank-you from the depths of our hearts for helping us
lay to rest our beloved son, brother, uncle and friend who will never
leave our hearts or our thoughts.
The memories we shared will never be forgotten.
Thank you for helping send him home.
From the Waddill, Williams and Loudermill Families

209700



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Big Spring Independent School District
Statement Of Revenues, Expenditures, And Changes In Fund Balances
Governmental Funds For The Year Ended August 31, 2009

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
<i>Local and Intermediate Sources</i>	\$13,998,177	\$1,552,653	\$15,550,830
<i>State Program Revenues</i>	17,244,773	749,011	\$17,993,784
<i>Federal Program Revenues</i>	105,984	4,638,367	4,744,351
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>\$31,348,934</u>	<u>\$6,940,031</u>	<u>\$38,288,965</u>
EXPENDITURES:			
<i>Current</i>			
<i>Instruction</i>	\$14,048,096	\$2,712,191	\$16,760,287
<i>Instructional Resources and Media Services</i>	412,652	20,119	432,771
<i>Curriculum and Staff Development</i>	127,951	445,277	573,228
<i>Instructional Leadership</i>	367,315	20,997	388,312
<i>School Leadership</i>	1,611,074	20,968	1,632,042
<i>Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services</i>	764,596	254,307	1,018,903
<i>Social Work Services</i>	61,007	11,104	72,111
<i>Health Services</i>	311,855	-	311,855
<i>Student Transportation</i>	1,469,312	-	1,469,312
<i>Food Services</i>	-	2,508,426	2,508,426
<i>Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities</i>	1,105,095	2,581	1,107,676
<i>General Administration</i>	788,487	-	788,487
<i>Plant Maintenance and Operations</i>	4,046,768	3,877	4,050,645
<i>Security and Monitoring Services</i>	25,581	-	25,581
<i>Data Processing Services</i>	489,666	61,015	550,681
<i>Debt Service - Principal</i>	372,958	510,000	882,958
<i>Debt Service - Interest</i>	39,796	373,202	412,998
<i>Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees</i>	-	300	300
<i>Facilities Acquisition and Construction</i>	402,821	-	402,821
<i>Other Governmental Charges</i>	249,927	-	\$249,927
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>\$26,694,957</u>	<u>\$6,944,364</u>	<u>\$33,639,321</u>
<i>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under)</i>			
<i>Expenditures</i>	\$4,653,977	(\$4,333)	\$4,649,644
<i>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</i>			
<i>Sale of Real Property</i>	5,850	813	6,663
<i>Transfers In</i>	3,451	207,789	211,240
<i>Transfers Out (Use)</i>	(207,789)	(3,451)	(211,240)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(\$198,488)</u>	<u>\$205,151</u>	<u>6,663</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	\$4,455,489	\$200,818	\$4,656,307
<i>Fund Balances - Beginning (September 1, 2008)</i>			
	\$5,925,614	160,610	6,086,224
<i>Fund Balances - Ending (August 31, 2009)</i>			
	<u>\$10,381,103</u>	<u>361,428</u>	<u>\$10,742,531</u>

206237

News in brief

Bankers, gov't officials meet in Davos over financial reforms the industry doesn't want

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — International bankers and government officials met behind closed doors Saturday to discuss proposed financial reforms the industry feels are threatening economic recovery — and emerged calling the talks useful but inconclusive.

"It was the most constructive dialogue I've seen between policymakers and industry officials and hopefully that's a base people can build from," said Duncan Niederauer, chief executive of stock exchange operator NYSE Euronext Inc.

The more than two-hour meeting, held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, reflected deep divisions at the annual event over what effect proposed regulations could have on the nascent economic recovery worldwide.

"It was the first time I've seen both sides go beyond the rhetoric," Niederauer added. "There were practical suggestions being discussed."

The event was not on the forum's official agenda, but quickly became the most significant development of the day.

Campaign finance decision sparks debate on foreign influence in U.S. campaigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's decision on campaign finance has jumbled a seemingly simple rule

of American politics — foreigners should play no role in U.S. elections.

President Barack Obama and other critics say the court's decision to let corporations spend their money to directly influence elections opened the floodgates to foreign involvement. In last week's address to Congress and the nation, Obama asserted the court had allowed special interests, "including foreign corporations, to spend without limit on our elections."

That was a step too far. At the moment, foreign corporations may not spend any money in U.S. elections under a provision of federal election law that was untouched by the high court.

The court's majority opinion by Justice Anthony Kennedy specifically left for another day "whether the government has a compelling interest in preventing foreign individuals or associations from influencing our nation's political process."

But Justice John Paul Stevens said in his dissenting opinion that the reasoning underlying the ruling "would appear to afford the same protection to multinational corporations controlled by foreigners as to individual Americans."

Japanese not as worried as Americans about massive Toyota recalls

TOKYO (AP) — American Toyota owners are understandably alarmed about ballooning recalls over faulty gas pedals and floor mats. In Japan,

the automaker's home market, where there have been no such recalls, the reaction is — also understandably — muted.

Some of the same Toyota Motor Corp. models recalled in the U.S., Europe and China are on Japanese roads. But they use a different parts supplier than CTS Corp., the American parts-maker which has been rushing to fix the faulty parts behind the massive recalls.

Dealers in the U.S. are being deluged with queries from worried customers. For dealers in Japan, it's basically business as usual.

"Some of our customers express sympathy about Toyota's overseas problems," Naeko Kawamata, a saleswoman at a Tokyo Toyota dealer, said Saturday. "But we aren't getting queries on recalls."

So far, Toyota's reputation for quality is holding up in Japan. One factor in Toyota's favor is that Japanese often assume that Japan-made products are better than those made abroad — meaning that their Toyotas are safe.

Desperation for Haitians grows with reconstruction plans nowhere in sight

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — They are the latest scenes of survival and of death in Haiti's deadliest disaster — a looter shot dead for breaking into an appliance store and crowds erecting new houses on shaky ground.

More than two weeks have passed since an earthquake destroyed much of Haiti's capital and left a vacuum of power over who should rebuild the country.

In a snapshot of the growing desperation, a private security guard fatally shot a looter who joined with others in breaking into a damaged

appliance store in the commercial district Friday. As young scavengers carted away ovens, refrigerators and an air conditioner, an Associated Press journalist watched as the guard arrived firing an automatic pistol.

About a dozen soldiers from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division rushed to calm the situation but it was too late. The looter lay dead, face-down at the bottom of the stairs, splattered in blood.

Other Haitians are trying to focus on getting on with life, but the mood is grim everywhere.

Southeastern U.S. gets ready for icy weekend as storm that struck Plains moves east

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A thick band of heavy snow, freezing rain and cold temperatures was spreading across southeastern states early Saturday, promising a messy weekend of slick roads, power outages and prime sledding for kids out of school.

The heaviest snow, possibly up to a foot, was predicted in Arkansas near the Missouri state line, northern Tennessee near the Kentucky and Virginia borders and western North Carolina, according to the National Weather Service.

Mark Rose, a forecaster with the weather service's Nashville office, called it "a major winter storm for this part of the country — heck, for any part of it."


The weather service warned that icy roads and downed power lines were likely after snow changed to freezing rain Friday night over western Tennessee and northeastern Arkansas.

With temperatures expected to remain below freezing through the weekend, a fresh coating of ice was possible over the area, much of it along the Interstate 40 corridor.

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209448



Tim YEATS
Republican
for
District Judge

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52 years of age
Lifetime resident of Howard County

★ Education

Graduate of Forsan High School, Howard College, Texas Tech University and Texas Tech School of Law

★ Community Leadership

Served on Board of Directors for United Way of Howard County (immediate past president), Big Spring YMCA, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Boys Club of Big Spring, Big Spring Rotary Club, Big Spring Main Street, Inc., Big Spring Civil Service Commission and Howard County 911 Communication District
Active member of College Baptist Church (treasurer and musician)

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-Timothy D. Yeats

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Legals

SECTION 00020
ADVERTISEMENT OF
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, will be received at the office of the City Manager, City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, until **February 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**, for Groundwater Monitor Wells at the City's Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.
All work described will be for the City of Big Spring, Texas. The sealed bid shall clearly state on the face thereof: "Proposal for the City of Big Spring Municipal Solid Waste Landfill- Groundwater Monitor Wells."
Following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Council City Chambers. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.
Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Proposal Bond from a reliable Surety Company, payable without recourse to the order of the City of Plainview, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds and guaranty in the forms provided within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required check or Proposal Bond will not be considered.
The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible Surety Company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and satisfactory to the Owner, as required by Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by H.B.344, passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular Session 1959 and Experience Record.
BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO INSPECT THE SITE OF THE WORK AND TO INFORM THEMSELVES REGARDING ALL LOCAL CONDITIONS.
Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file in the office of the City Manager, City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, and at the office of the engineer, Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79423 (Phone 806/473-2200).
Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of the engineer for a price of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each set of plans and specifications. Upon return, in good condition and within ten (10) days after the bids have been opened, of each set of documents, the entire deposit will be refunded.
Attention is called to the fact that there must be paid on this project not less than the general prevailing rates of wages which have been established by the Secretary of Labor.
Equal Opportunity in Employment: All qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11256, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications.
CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS
By Honorable Russ McEwen
Mayor
#6412 January 24 and 31, 2010

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Legals

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432-264-2513
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 28-2009 WHICH ORDINANCE ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR INCREASING THE UTILITY FUND BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING PROJECT COST INCREASES RELATED TO CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 3 FOR THE FINAL CLARIFIER & TRICKLING FILTER REHABILITATION FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6415 JANUARY 31, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:
This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on January 27, 2010. You have until July 26, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1152 Loteria Texas** (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.87. This Texas Lottery Commission game will close on February 11, 2010. You have until August 10, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1193 Merry Millionaire** (\$20) overall odds are 1 in 3.04. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 19, 2010. You have until August 18, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1190 Merry Money** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.01. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 21, 2010. You have until August 20, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1201 Big Payout** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.88. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on February 27, 2010. You have until August 26, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1194 Cadillac Escalade™ Cash** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.44. These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 6, 2010. You have until September 2, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1062 Monthly Bonus** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.49, **#1102 Cash Bingo** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.63. These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close April 7, 2010. You have until October 4, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1183 Money Tree** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.39, **#1179 Diamonds & Gold** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.76, **#1166 Summer Spectacular** (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.36, **#1200 Super Blackjack** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.94, **#1178 Take 5** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.88, **#1157 What's Your Number?** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.93, **#1141 7-11-21** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.77. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education.
#6418 January 31, 2010

The Leo moon is a diva who only feels complete when all eyes are on her. She strikes a chord with the part of us that needs attention. There will be plenty of name-dropping, boasting and showing off. It's not in the best of taste, but cut yourself and others some slack. We all like to be acknowledged at times — it's a basic human need.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do some detective work so that you can better understand those you love. Figure out what the other person is going through. Only then will you be struck with insight into how you can help.

TAURUS (April 20-

Legals

Forsan Independent School District will be accepting proposals for the purchase and installation of artificial turf for the football, softball, baseball fields and one golf green, located at the Forsan campus. Sealed proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on February 9, 2010. Proposals must be clearly marked on the envelope: **SEALED PROPOSAL- ARTIFICIAL TURF.** Please mail or deliver your proposal to:
Forsan ISD
Attn: Business Office
411 W. 6th Street
PO Drawer A
Forsan, TX 79733
Forsan ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Requests for specifications and any additional information shall be made no later than February 5, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. by contacting Randy Johnson, Superintendent at (432)457-2223, ext. 2, or Terry McDonald, Athletic Director at (432)457-2223, ext 320. #6403 January 24 & 31, 2010

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed bids on the following date/time for the purchase of the below listed items/equipment:
1. Date/Time: Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., for the following:
1. Voting Repeater System for the Police Department
Bids are to be opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers at 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airpark Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All bids must be marked with the date of the bid and a general description of the bid item(s).
The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities.
#6420 January 31, and February 7, 2010

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, TX 79720-2657
432-264-2513
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 28-2009 WHICH ORDINANCE ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR DECREASING THE GENERAL FUND'S FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECREASING PROPERTY TAX REVENUE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6414 JANUARY 31, 2010 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Tomorrow's Horoscope

May 20). In your midst, there's that person intent on discussing the worst-case scenario. He or she is a valuable ally of yours today. You'll find humor in the exaggeration of circumstances, and your laughter is healing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Drink from a silly straw. Wear ridiculous glasses. Go out of your way to add elements of absurdity to your day. Your quality of life will be increased to an immeasurable degree.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A strength, exaggerated, becomes a weakness. But does a weakness, exaggerated, become a strength? Highlight one of your limitations and you'll find that you're better off for having such a so-called flaw.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know how to make an entrance. People pay attention when you walk into the room today. Make your exit with equal grace. Leave before they want you to and they'll want more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whenever possible, show up in person. You have more than your fair share of charisma today. Noting your winning presence, others will want to help you succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a talent for making relationships work. You're full of solutions, but it's important to know which problem is the most pressing. Pump the other person for information. What are the wants and needs involved?

Legals

SECTION 00020
ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Commission of the City of Big Spring, Texas, will be received at the office of the Assistant City Manager, 310 Nolan, 2nd Floor, until 2:00 p.m., February 8, 2010 for removal and dewatering of water treatment plant alum sludge. Specifically, the project consists of removing alum sludge from the water treatment plant's sedimentation basin, dewatering the sludge and conveying the dewatered sludge into City owned trucks for disposal.
Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the City Commission for award at a later date.
Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Proposal Bond from a reliable Surety Company, payable without recourse to the order of the City of Big Spring, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible bid submitted as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds in the forms provided within fifteen (15) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required check or Proposal Bond will not be considered.
The successful Bidder must furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, from a Surety Company holding a permit from the State of Texas, to act as a Surety or other Surety or Sureties satisfactory to the Owner.
Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions.
Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file in the office of the City of Big Spring, Texas, and at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423. (Phone 806/473-2200) for a price of Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) for each set of plans and specifications. Upon return, (of each set of documents), in good condition and within 15 days after the bids have been opened, the entire deposit will be refunded.
CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS
By: Honorable Russ McEwen,
Mayor
#6410 January 24 & 31, 2010

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is a fine line between sharing and over-sharing. Give others the sense of who you are — where you're coming from and where you're going. But do it briefly. Refrain from going on too long.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relating to others has very little to do with what or who you know. Most people are thinking about themselves and what you can do for them. If you make them feel good about themselves, they'll like you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in danger of becoming too thrifty. Show some disregard for the rules of frugal finance. Buy something that makes you happy. As you spend, you'll widen the channel for greater earning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It would benefit you to get involved in a group effort. There is much you could contribute, and you have much to gain. You'll ask excellent questions and learn all you need to know to fit in nicely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be certain of your course. But that alone will not be enough to make it go the way you want it to go. Whatever happens, don't complain or explain. Apply your energy to building on the moment.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 3). You lighten up this month. Your levity is partly due to the addition of a few new faces to your group of friends. You'll find those who satisfy your curiosity, stimulate your intellect and relate to you easily and naturally. March and June are excellent for your financial picture. You'll make responsible decisions. Cancer and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 44, 33 and 15.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It turns out that common sense is not common, after all. What to one person is the obvious next step appears to another to be a leap into the dark. The seemingly weird choice may very well be the best

one. It's not about who is more intelligent; it's that there are so many different kinds of intelligence that the range of options is broader than ever. If things seem up in the air, that's because they are. Uncertainty prevails, leaving room for things like imagination and invention to drop in and have their way. And that's what makes this an exciting and fascinating time to be alive. Jupiter and Neptune have been thick as thieves lately, in a conjunction that peaked several times in 2009. The spell breaks this week. During the conjunction of these two planets in Aquarius, technological and philanthropic developments were made. Now it's time to apply the ideas, take the plans and build them into something tangible — to produce physical results. Granted, many high-minded plans take years to unfold. But the important thing is that we get started. The sun and Mercury are conjunct in Capricorn, adding some much-needed pragmatism to the atmosphere.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Mad Men's" Betty Draper is played by the lovely January Jones. And though this lovely Capricorn actress was born in the month of January, she is actually named for a character in a novel. With her natal Mars and Saturn in Leo, Jones finds her greatest challenges and lessons in the world of entertainment. She also has a natural instinct for what will interest and delight an audience.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Eliminating the Negative

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 6 3
♥ 10 6 2
♦ A K 9
♣ A J 9 4
WEST
♠ Q J 10 7 4
♥ A 8
♦ Q 7 3
♣ 6 5 2
EAST
♠ 9 2
♥ Q 7 5 4 3
♦ 10 8 4 2
♣ K 7
SOUTH
♠ A K 5
♥ K J 9
♦ J 6 5
♣ Q 10 8 3
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — queen of spades.
Many deals offer declarer a choice of several lines of play. While it may not always be clear which approach is the best of the lot, it shouldn't be too difficult to decide which is the worst.
Today's deal from a duplicate game is of this type. At every table, South wound up in three trump, and West led the queen of spades after having overcalled in spades.
At some tables, declarer won the first trick and immediately tried a club finesse. East won and returned a spade, and it was then just a matter of time before West gained the lead with the ace of hearts to cash his spades and set the contract.
Other declarers decided that since at least one heart trick would be needed to score nine tricks, hearts should be attacked before clubs. This would force West to take the ace of hearts — possibly his only entry — before his spades became established.
So these declarers won the first spade, crossed to dummy with a diamond, led the ten of hearts and let it ride. West took the ace and returned a spade, but South was now in full control. Even though the club finesse lost, East was out of spades and had to return another suit. A repeat of the heart finesse then brought declarer to nine tricks in the form of two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs.
Yet another variation was found at other tables. These declarers ducked the first spade lead entirely, won the spade continuation and then tried the club finesse. East won but could not return a spade, so declarer had time to finesse East for the queen of hearts. West won the heart with the ace, but since South still had a spade stopper, these declarers also finished with nine tricks.
The relative merits of the second and third lines of play may be debatable, but one thing is certain: Those who chose the first line, making no effort whatsoever to defuse the threat of West's spades, clearly adopted the worst approach.
Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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Swift murder conviction in abortion doctor's death

MARIA SUDEKUM FISHER

Associated Press Writer

WICHITA, Kan. — An activist who confessed to gunning down one of the only U.S. doctors to offer late-term abortions faces a sentence of life in prison after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder.

Jurors took just 37 minutes Friday to convict Scott Roeder for putting a .22-caliber gun to Dr. George Tiller's forehead and pulling the trigger in the foyer of a church.

Roeder's attorneys had hoped to argue for a lesser conviction of voluntary manslaughter, based on the defendant's belief that the killing was justified to save the lives of unborn children. But the judge threw out that defense, leaving jurors to choose between a murder conviction or acquittal.

Roeder, 51, of Kansas City, Mo., admitted his actions on the witness stand. Defense attorney Mark Rudy described his case as "helpless and hopeless."

"I've never seen anyone lay himself out as much as Mr. Roeder did," Rudy said after the verdict.



Roeder

Prosecutors carefully sidestepped the abortion debate as they painted Roeder as a cold and careful killer who methodically planned his attack. But both sides of the abortion debate lined up to respond to the verdict.

Abortion-rights advocates said the decision would send a message to the militant fringe of the anti-abortion movement.

Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, said she hoped the verdict would be a "deterrent to those that are considering following in Roeder's footsteps."

"While the verdict won't bring back Dr. Tiller, it was very important justice was done today for the safety and security of other abortion providers across the country and women's ability to access abortion care," Saporta said.

Troy Newman, president of Wichita-based Operation Rescue, said "pro-life was not on trial. An insane man doing an insane thing was on trial."

Roeder could be considered for parole after 25 years. But prosecutor Nola Foulston said she would seek to ensure that he serve at least 50 years before being eligible. Sentencing was set for March 9.

Tiller's family held hands and fought tears as the verdicts were read. Tiller's widow, Jeanne, later released a statement saying the jury had "reached a just verdict."

The family said it wanted Tiller to be "remembered for his legacy of service to women, the help he provided for those who needed it and the love and happiness he provided us as a husband, father and grandfather."

In a November interview with The Associated Press, Roeder admitted shooting Tiller in the foyer of the Wichita church where the doctor was serving as an usher. On the witness stand, he testified he felt that Tiller placed unborn children's lives in "immediate danger."

During closing arguments Friday, Rudy urged the jury

to reject the murder charge. "No one," he said, "should be convicted based on his convictions."

Rudy mentioned leaders who stood up for their beliefs, including Martin Luther King Jr. They were "celebrated individuals (who) stood up and made the world a better place."

"They leave their marks based on their words and deeds," Rudy said.

But prosecutor Kim Parker said Roeder was "simply guilty of the crime he has been charged with."

Prosecutor Ann Swegle told jurors to use their "common sense" and find Roeder guilty based not only on the state's case but also on Roeder's own testimony in which he described how he killed Tiller in a "planned assassination."

"There could be no other verdict in this case," she said.

Wearing a dark suit with a red tie, Roeder sat expressionless as the verdict was read. He moved his head toward the judge and to the jury as each juror confirmed the decision.

Tiller's Wichita clinic was the focus of many protests

and had been under investigation by a former state district attorney who accused the doctor of skirting Kansas' abortion laws. In 2009, Tiller was acquitted of misdemeanor charges of violating Kansas restrictions on late-term abortions.

Roeder, the sole defense witness, testified Thursday that he considered elaborate schemes to stop the doctor, including chopping off his hands, crashing a car into him or sneaking into his home to kill him.

But in the end, Roeder told jurors, the easiest way was to walk into Tiller's church and shoot him.

"Those children were in immediate danger if someone did not stop George Tiller," Roeder told jurors.

But after hearing Roeder testify, District Judge Warren Wilbert ruled his lawyers had failed to show that Tiller posed an imminent threat and the jury could not consider a manslaughter verdict.

Roeder also was convicted of aggravated assault for threatening two church ushers who tried to stop him from fleeing.



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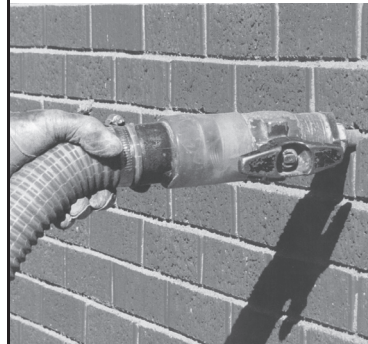
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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard Hornsby (with scissors) is joined by co-workers and Chamber of Commerce representatives during ribbon cutting ceremonies at Back In Motion Chiropractic Thursday. The new clinic is located in the 1200 block of Scurry Street.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Denise Wagner (with scissors), who operates Serenity Spa, is joined by co-workers and Chamber of Commerce representatives during ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the business Thursday. The spa is located adjacent to Back In Motion Chiropractic in the 1200 block of Scurry Street.

Wages and benefits rise weak 1.5 percent in 2009

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Wages and benefits paid to U.S. workers posted a modest gain in the fourth quarter, ending a year in which recession-battered workers saw their compensation rise by the smallest amount on records going back more than a quarter-century.

The anemic gains have raised concerns about the durability of the economic recovery. The fear is that consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, could falter if households don't have the income growth to support their spending.

The Labor Department said Friday that wages and benefits rose by 0.5 percent in the three months ending in December. For the entire year, wages and benefits were up 1.5 percent, the weakest showing on records that go

back to 1982.

The 1.5 percent increase in total compensation in 2009 was about half the 2.6 percent increase in 2008 and both years represented the smallest gains for the government's Employment Compensation Index.

Last year, wages were up by just 1.5 percent and benefits rose by the same 1.5 percent, both record lows. In 2008, wages and salaries had been up 2.7 percent and benefits, which cover such things as health insurance and pension contributions, had risen by 2.2 percent.

The 0.5 percent rise in the fourth quarter for total compensation was slightly higher than the 0.4 percent advance economists had expected, and was the biggest quarterly gain since a 0.6 percent rise in the third quarter of 2008. Compensation had been up 0.4 percent in both the second and third

quarters of this year.

Workers' compensation has been battered by the country's deep recession as a loss of 7.2 million jobs over the

past two years has depressed wage gains. A separate report from the Labor Department earlier this month showed that nonsupervisory

workers' inflation-adjusted weekly earnings fell by 1.6 percent last year, the sharpest drop since 1990.

The concern among

economists is that the economic recovery that began in the summer could falter in coming months if consumer spending slows.



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INFANT

Continued from Page 1A

to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center," said Everett. "He was then transferred to Covenant Mothers and Children Hospital in Lubbock, where he later died."

Everett declined to comment on the circumstances surrounding the child's death, citing an ongoing investigation.

"We're not releasing any details until the autopsy report comes back," said Everett. "Once we get that report in, we'll have a better idea whether or not to move forward with criminal charges."

AIDE

Continued from Page 1A

their 2008 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the

person filing."

Participants in the program will be able to e-file their tax returns at no charge, according to Hopkins.

"The e-file procedure is so much easier than having to mail in your tax return," said Hopkins. "And if you're due a

tax refund, you can get it a lot faster. We've really had a lot of success with the e-filing over the past several years."

The program will continue each Monday from the start date until April 11 at the Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Drive in the McMahan-

Wrinkle Airpark — from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

expensive for those who miss the deadline.

"Once the taxes go delinquent the first of February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

Approximately 36,000 tax statements were mailed out in mid-October, according to Sayles, and area residents that aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

"Some individuals don't get their statement for whatever reason," said Sayles. "We can pull up their name on the system and tell them the amount that's due. So if you haven't re-

ceived a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don't send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.

"They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that's done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment."

For taxpayers over the age of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special installment plan that can help

them avoid penalties and interest, which can quickly add up.

"There is a provision that allows taxpayers over the age of 65 to pay their taxes in four installments without any penalties or interest," said Sayles.

"You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and Aug. 1. This is for people 65 and older or are receiving disability."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after

Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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GRASSLAND

Continued from Page 4C

"We're very optimistic," Keller said.

The network's staff of about 65 people is expected to double during the construction phase in 2011, then increase to about 250 when the project is fully operational in 2016.

The project is geared toward understanding how "big-scale forces" are changing the country's ecosystem, Keller said.

"Our ecosystems are changing; they are doing so in response to some really important big-scale forces, and those are the change in climate, the change in how we are using the land and the change in how species are distributed over our national territory," he said.

"It's about understanding how those forces are then changing the way ecosystems function. And we are interested in how ecosystems function because we live off the products of ecosystems, whether it be wood from forests or food from farms or fresh water," Keller said.

The grasslands' core site will be part of a connected network of 20 eco-climatic domains that represent regions of vegetation, landforms and climate across the country, Keller said. Other domain locations include the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone,

the Appalachians, western Massachusetts, northern Wisconsin and the U.S.-Mexico border.

At each domain, the ecology will be measured using sensor instrumentation, satellite orbiters, a specially equipped airplane, and samples of plants, animals, insects, soil and water collected by hand, he said.

That data will be supplemented with information from other sources, such as National Weather Service stations and historical archives.

Each domain will employ about six people and host two mobile-deployment systems with the same array of sensors as the core site, Keller said.

The strategy is to stay nimble and be adaptive to new research needs, he said.

But it's not all high-tech. "Our observations will include human observers. The biggest source of data collection will be people," Keller said.

The biologically diverse Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands is a patchwork of federal lands that share boundaries with everything from ranches and trophy homes to a junkyard.

Its name belies the nature of the landscape, District Ranger Jim Crooks said.

"People think of the terrain in Dances With Wolves, but we are 60 percent forest," said Crooks, who manages the U.S. Forest Service property from Decatur, about 40 miles northwest of Fort Worth.

It's not a pristine wilderness by

any stretch of the imagination, with a maze of roads and 73 drilling sites within its borders.

But with 20,250 acres in the LBJ Grasslands in Wise County and 17,785 acres in the Caddo unit west of Paris, the site "was a perfect fit" for the network's needs for the Southern Plains Domain, Crooks said.

"This is a real rich area for diversity. We've got nearly 1,400 known plant species just here in the LBJ Grasslands, and there's probably only about 2,000 native species in Texas," Crooks said. "Two hours east of here, you are in deciduous forest and two hours west of here you are in the Great Plains, and we're a wedge right in the middle of it."

The federal acquisition of the grasslands started in the late 1930s, when the government started buying worn-out Dust Bowl farms.

But when World War II started, efforts to consolidate the holdings ended, he said. The U.S. Forest Service acquired the land in the 1960s and has focused on restoration of native plants, Crooks said.

Only about 600 acres remain in a native state. "It was too steep to farm, and that protected it," Crooks said.

Controlled fire is the primary tool for returning the land to its native character, he said.

"What we are seeing is that native plants are coming back after our prescribed burns," Crooks said. "Mother Nature is a lot smarter and better than us at restoring these prairies."

Bob O'Kennon, vice chairman of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth, has been studying plant life in the grasslands for 10 years and has discovered three plant species there.

"It's a phenomenal place," O'Kennon said. "We are so lucky that NEON is going to put the site right here."

The Southern Plains domain encompasses most of Texas and Oklahoma and small parts of Arkansas and Kansas.

The network also considered a site in the Texas Hill Country and another near the King Ranch in South Texas, said Steve Hallgren, a professor of forest ecology at Oklahoma State University.

The possibility of a new highway complicated the Hill Country site, and private ownership made the South Texas site problematic, he said.

"Access is critical," Hallgren said. "You need infrastructure like power and roads for the core site." Even more important, he said, is a commitment to access and protection for 30 years that federal land allows.

Dave Sire, a Washington-based Forest Service planner coordinating with the foundation and the 10 forest units that will serve as core sites, said agency researchers are excited about the network.

"This is going to provide a lot of valuable long-term ecological data," Sire said.

A hallmark of the project is that all of the data will be standardized, he said. "The 30-year lifespan of the study will give us something that hasn't been easy to obtain in the past."

The grasslands location between forested areas to the east and plains to the west makes it an ideal "transition zone," Hallgren said.

"Another advantage I saw is that it's close to Dallas-Fort Worth, and it's going to show what happens in land-use changes," he said. "Now we have a core site that over the next 30 years is going to see itself surrounded by development."

"One could argue it should be out in wild lands where that will never happen," Hallgren said. "Well, that is not very representative of the United States."

The project will be a unique resource for scientists, land managers and academia, Crooks said.

"There's a lot of interest from area universities; Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, UNT and TCU," he said. "Researchers from around the region are having a meeting next month for Domain 11, where scientists and researchers get together to start focusing on where they want to lead the research."

The network will help integrate science across the U.S.

It will also be a rich opportunity for students. They will all help forecast the ecological future.



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