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THURSDAY

February 4, 2010



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Clara Lewis, a volunteer with the Big Spring VA Medical Center, places miniature U.S. flags on a display during the Four Chaplains ceremony at First Baptist Church Wednesday morning. The ceremony honored area veterans who died in 2009.

office

Veterans who have passed remembered

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

About 200 people stepped in out of the rain Tuesday to pay homage to military veterans who have passed away in the past 12 months. Despite Wednesday's constant downpour,

the Big Spring VA Medical Center's "We not looking so annual Four Chaplains ceremony drew a large crowd to the First Baptist Church Chapel. Inside, the crowd was treated to a solemn remembrance area veterans who passed away in

But the service was about much more than remem-

2009.

much that they passed away last year as that one time, maybe years ago, they put their lives on the line for their country."

—Chaplain Dean Thomas

bering that the veterans died, officials said.

"We not looking so much that they passed away last year as that one time, maybe years ago, they put their lives on the line for their

See VETERANS, Page 3A

Time for getting wild is running short

Friday is the final day to purchase tickets for the annual chamber banquet

News Editor

Crossroads residents planning to get "Wild About Big Spring and Howard County" are reminded that Friday is the final day to purchase tickets to the event — Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet. The banquet is scheduled

Thursday, Feb. 11, at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets



tertainment and a meal catered by Western Great Dining. Coliseum doors open at 6 ValVerde p.m. Serving begins at 6:30 p.m. Highlights of the event will

Chamber

and include en-

be the presentation of new chamber officers for the com-

the naming of the chamber's man and woman of the year.

Executive Director Deb-

bye ValVerde said outgoing Chamber President Steve Herren will turn over the reins to his successor, David

The live auction is an event that was added in 2009 in place of the traditional guest speaker and proved to be a

are \$25 each at the ing year, a live auction and big success, ValVerde said. "We got such a good re-

> sponse from everyone that we've decided to have the auction again," ValVerde said. "It's something everyone liked ... and it's also a good way to bring in non-dues revenue." Included in the auction will

be a Cancun trip donated by Don Knight, Big Spring High School graduate of 1978; a

package donated by Alon USA; a Moss Creek Ranch weekend for two; and a basket of "goodies" donated by Serenity Spa and Back in Mo-

Most anticipated, of course, will be the annual presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year awards. Last year's

See BANQUET, Page 3A

ISD candidate filing begins Monday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer Monday is the first day can-

didates may file for upcoming area school board races. Candidates for board elec-

tions at Howard College and school districts in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Sands can file for their respective races through March 8, school officials said. Trustee elections will be

held May 10. Big Spring Independent

School District voters will elect three trustees this year. Single-member seats currently held by Mike Dawson (District 5), Jeff Brorman (District 6) and Phil Furqueron (District 7) will be contested,

said Debbie Green. **BSISD** business manager. All three positions are for three years. Dawson recently

announced he is stepping down after 12 years on the Brorman board, while both Brorman and Furqueron

said they intend to seek new Prospective candidates

must be at least 18 years of age, registered voters and Texas residents and must

have resided in the district they wish to represent for at least six months, Green said. Interested persons may file their candidacies at the



Green added. At-large seats currently held by

tion at Coahoma ISD, said

secretary. Persons interested in running for the three-year posts can do so at the CISD

James White and Furqueron Sissy Franklin will be up for elec-

BSISD business

office during nor-

mal office hours

through March 8,

Judy Dobbs, administration

administration building through March 8. Forsan ISD has two position up for election this year — atlarge posts currently held by Tom Bill Kuykendall and

Chris Evans. Candidates may

file papers at the superintendent's office in Forsan between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., said Judy Park, superintendent's Sands CISD voters also will

elect two trustees this year. Three-year, at-large seats currently held by Stan Blagrave and Michelle Zant will be decided. Candidates may file at the

superintendent's office during normal office hours, Superintendent Wayne Blount

Two single-member positions are up for election at Stanton ISD. Three-year

terms in District 1 (currently See FILING, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-4B **Features** 6A **Obituaries** 2A Opinion 4A **Sports** 1-2B To reach us:

Please call 263-7331.

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SPRING HERALD

7331, Ext. 237. E-mail results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Joe Zigtema at 263-

> Page 1B Thursday, February 4, 2010

Hawks to welcome South Plains in key game



Kenyatta Colbert and the Hawks have won three straight WJCAC games going into tonight's matchup.

Herald Staff Report

The Howard College Hawks welcome South Plains in a pair key WJCAC Region 5 matchups.

On the women's side, South Plains comes to Big Spring with a 5-1 WJCAC record, its only blemish coming at the hands of Midland on Jan. 14.

Since then, the Lady Texans have reeled off four straight conference

For the Hawks, currently third in the conference standings, a win tonight could be a big boost to a team that lost its conference opener in Levelland 51-44.

The Hawks had multiple opportunities to win in that game, but turnovers and a lack of offensive consistency down the stretch prevented Howard from making a comeback.

However, the Hawks have won their last three conference contests, including a come-from-behind win Monday against Frank Phillips when Howard was down 15 at the half.

Kenyatta Colbert has been on fire for the Hawks in recent games, averaging 20 points in her last two contests.

The Hawks were outrebounded 52-34

See HOWARD, 2B

WJCAC Region 5 Women's Standings

Team	Dist.	Overall
Midland	5-1	21-3
S. Plains	5-1	14-7
Howard	3-3	17-4
NMJC	3-3	12-11
Odessa	2-4	18-5
Frank Phillips	2-4	15-7
W. Texas	1-5	12-11
Clarendon	0-0	13-9

MOVING ON



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

From left, Thaddeus Straighter, Steven Henry, Matt Ritchey and Kyler McGee sit in front of their signed letters of intent Wednesday at Big Spring High School. Ritchey will attend Baylor, McGee and Henry will enroll at Division II schools and Straughter signed with a junior college.

BY JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

Wednesday was the cherry on top of a season to remember for four Big Spring Steers who are moving on to play at the college

Seniors MattRitchey, Steven Henry, Kyler McGee and Thaddeus Straughter all signed national letters of intent at Big Spring High School on national signing day as they move on from a 10-win season and a thirdround playoff run.

Ritchey signed with Baylor, which he committed to last year; Henry will enroll at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, a Division II institution; McGee will play at Eastern New Mexico, also a Division II school; and Straughter will play at Cisco College in the NJCAA.

"It's an ending to a great season," coach Phillip Ritchey said. "These guys had dreams of playing at the next level, and that that's come to fruition

today is great. To know Panhandle third round, it's just Aggies. all a big positive for our school system."

Matt Ritchey was named this season's District 4-4A defensive MVP and was a twoyear all-district selection. Ritchey played quarterback, running back, tight end, punter and linebacker during his time at Big Spring, including a 1,000-yard running and passing season as signal caller in 2008 while filling in for an injured Tyler Tannehill. He committed to Baylor last spring as a junior and will play linebacker for the Bears.

"It was a big relief to know it's a done deal," Matt Ritchey said. "I'm excited to go on and play and compete at such a high level, and hopefully make a difference for the team."

Henry is one of five defensive recruits joining Oklahoma

that our season prob- which was a 5-6 team ably had a part in that, a year ago. The Allus having the succes District 4-4A selection ily environment down that we did and hav- is projected to compete ing a little extra atten- on special teams in his tion for our kids in the first season with the he said. "I fit in down

> I'm just excited to go play and continue on with my football career, and do it while I get my education," Henry said. "Football is one of my loves of this world. When you get to continue one of your favorite things, it makes you happy."

McGee, an honorable mention District 4-4A selection in 2009, joins an Eastern New Mexico team that will play its first season in the Lone Star Conference north division in 2010. The Greyhounds went 6-5 last season.

McGee wasn't originally targeted by the Greyhounds, but he impressed scouts at the Steers' playoff win over Canyon in Lubbock this season. McGee said he chose Eastern New Mexico over several other Lone Star Conference

State, schools who offered him.

> "It's a real famthere, so that was a big part of my decision,' there and that's pretty much why I'm going.

> Straughter take the junior college route to what he hopes parlays into a four-year college offer. Straughter, who caught 45 balls for 848 yards and 15 touchdowns this season and was name firstteam all-district, says he's ready to get to work and improve his

> game. "I know I can get there," Straughter said of his goals. "I know it will take two years of work. I'm going to work hard, and I already met a couple people out there on the team who told me I have to work hard and be dedicated.

> "I'm happy to get there. I never really thought I would when I started playing junior high football, but I'm happy. I'm proud of myself."

Mavs avenge loss vs. Golden State

Associated Press

DALLAS Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks picked up the pace in the fourth quarter to hold off the sputtering Golden State Warriors.

Nowitzki scored nine of his 20 points in the final period, Jason Terry had 21 points and the Mavericks extended Golden State's losing streak to seven games, beating the Warriors 110-101 on Wednesday night.

In a loss at Utah on Monday night, Nowitzki did not take a shot from the field in the final quarter. The Jazz led by one after three and eventually won 104-92 as the Dallas star took only two free throws in the last 12 minutes.

Nowitzki, who had his thumb wrapped late in the third, scored six straight points after Golden State crept to 95-92 in the fourth.

smaller guys on me," Nowitzki said. "When I go into the post, here comes the double-team and the ball is out of my hands. I wasn't getting a lot of looks. But I got enough to win the game."

Nowitzki was kicked in the right hand when he was fouled with 3:10 left in the third quarter. He left the game 17 seconds later and the training staff wrapped his thumb on the bench.

Nowitzki returned with 8:01 remaining in the game and was fouled hard driving to the basket seconds later.

"I bruised it two games ago and I got it kicked tonight," Nowitzki said. "So it'll stay sore for a while. But I was able to tape it and stay out there."

Four days after Portland's Andre Miller scored 52 points against Dallas, Golden State's Monta Ellis poured in a career-high 46 points.

"That's what we do," Nowitzki joked. "We give guys contract extensions."

Ellis hit 17 of 23 shots from the field and 8 of 13 free throws. Corey Maggette scored 20 points in the second half, and C.J. Watson had 14 points for the Warriors. "That was a remark-

able performance by Monta," said Golden State coach Don Nelson, who needs 11 wins to become the winningest coach in NBA history. "He didn't have a great supporting cast. But he fought and kept us in the game."

This is Golden State's second seven-game losing streak of the season. They also dropped seven straight from Dec. 9-23.

The Warriors slipped to 4-22 on the road and 13-35 overall, the second-worst record in the Western Conference.

"There's a lot we could "Teams are putting have done to win this game," Ellis said. "We did everything we could to get back into it."

Dallas' Josh Howard scored 19 points, Shawn Marion added 18 and Drew Gooden had 16. Jason Kidd had 16 assists and tied a season high with six steals to help the Mavericks snap a three-game losing streak.

The Mavericks led by 18 points in the second quarter before the Warriors trimmed their deficit in the second

Ellis scored 12 in the third quarter to bring the Warriors within six and his layup sliced it to 95-92.

Nowitzki hit two free throws after grabbing an offensive rebound off a Terry miss. He added two mid-range jumpers to give Dallas a 101-92 lead with 3:20 remain-

Ellis kept the Warriors

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Coahoma softball players invited for alumni game

All Coahoma Bulldogette softball alumni are invited to join in the 8th annual Coahoma softball alumni game scheduled for Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.

The game will be played at the Coahoma High School field as the Bulldogettes 2010 season open-

Call Amy Dunn at 268-3228 or e-mail at adunn@ coahoma.esc18.net for more information.

Big spring softball tourney needs community support

Lady Steer softball parents and the city of Big Spring Parks and Recreation Department are hosting a 22-team high school softball tournament March

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

Call John Sparks for information at 270-2711.

Big Spring Credit Unions foot bill for Thursday game

Admission is free to Howard College's matchup with South Plains Thursday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, thanks to Big Spring area credit

The Hawk women tipoff at 5:45 p.m., followed by the men at 7:45 p.m. The rodeo team will be introduced between games and the YMCA youth basketball teams will be introduced at halftime. See Friday's Herald for results.

Obituaries

Ronald Edward Robey

Ronald Edward Robey, 61, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, at his residence. Graveside memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday,

Feb. 5, 2010, at Trinity Memorial The family will receive friends

from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. He was born April 3, 1948, in

Midland. Ron was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and attended Big Spring High School. He owned Robey's Gun Shop for 14 years.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Heith and Kami Robey of Wichita, Kan., Scott and Amanda Robey of

Hollis, Okla., and Zacherv and Brandi Johnson of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Amanda and Jimmie Winer of Portland, Texas; two sisters, Tammy Jones and Brenda Ragsdale; and four grand-

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Robey and Doris Clawson; and one brother, Michael Robey.

The family suggests memorials be made to Disabled American Veterans, 807 W. Maine Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; or to Compass Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Take Note

- Canterbury and Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster and is open to all seniors. Admission is free and music will be provided by the Country Classics.
- A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel to help pay expenses in the death of Marcela "Marcy" Rivera, who died Wednesday following a one-vehicle traffic accident. Donations can be delivered to the funeral home at 301 E. 24th or mailed to P.O. Box 2760, Big Spring, 79721.
- David Andrews of Noodle, Republican candidate for Texas House District 85, will hold a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 9, in the Big Spring Country Club Wasson Room. Everyone is invited.
- A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock. He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys. The medical bills and family travel expenses are adding up. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

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cupids Feb. 1 to Feb. 14

Police blotter

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

- JOHN LOPEZ, 22, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 125, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- CHARLES RODNEY, 61, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DEADLY CONDUCT DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM was reported in the 1000 block of Third
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 800 block of Creighton.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 700 block of 11th Street. ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported:
- In the 1100 block of Goliad.

In the 700 block of 11th Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail

reported having 64 inmates at the time of this • MANUEL ROMERO LOZANO III, 37, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of delivery

- of a controlled substance. JOSE TRINIDAD CANTU, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence
- for delivery of a controlled substance. • JOHN CARLOS LOPEZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge
- CHARLES LEROY RODNEY, 61, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- DANIEL RIOS, 23, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear (three counts).
- DAVID RIOS, 23, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of assault – physical contact and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

- · TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of W. Fifth Street and Abrams. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- \bullet MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Highway 87. One person was transported to
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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

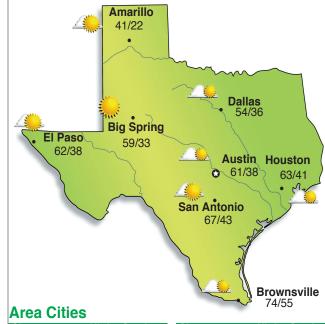
FRIDAY

 AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.



Texas At A Glance

Local 3-Da	y Forecast				
Fri 2/5	Sat 2/6	Sun 2/7			
The same	Zimiz Zimiz	D			
59/33	56/40	61/38			
Mainly sunny. High 59F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.	Cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.			
Sunrise: 7:37 AM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM			
Sunset:	Sunset:	Sunset:			
6:23 PM	6:24 PM	6:25 PM			



Abilene	55	33	pt sunny	Kingsville	71	48	pt sunny
Amarillo	41	22	mst sunny	Livingston	59	35	pt sunny
Austin	61	38	pt sunny	Longview	53	36	cloudy
Beaumont	60	42	pt sunny	Lubbock	50	28	sunny
Brownsville	74	55	pt sunny	Lufkin	58	36	cloudy
Brownwood	58	35	mst sunny	Midland	61	36	sunny
Corpus Christi	67	48	pt sunny	Raymondville	74	51	pt sunny
Corsicana	54	35	pt sunny	Rosenberg	63	40	pt sunny
Dallas	54	36	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	43	mst sunn
Del Rio	69	43	pt sunny	San Marcos	62	39	pt sunny
El Paso	62	38	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	49	36	cloudy
Fort Stockton	64	39	sunny	Sweetwater	57	33	pt sunny
Gainesville	50	31	pt sunny	Tyler	52	35	cloudy
Greenville	49	33	pt sunny	Weatherford	53	31	pt sunny
Houston	63	41	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	49	30	pt sunny
Matianal C	1416	_					

National Cities

rational	Oitio	9					
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	40	37	rain	Minneapolis	31	20	sn show
Boston	35	18	mst sunny	New York	36	26	cloudy
Chicago	34	27	sn shower	Phoenix	66	48	cloudy
Dallas	54	36	pt sunny	San Francisco	56	48	rain
Denver	47	27	mst sunny	Seattle	53	40	rain
Houston	63	41	pt sunny	St. Louis	35	31	snow
Los Angeles	62	49	rain	Washington, DC	37	31	snow
Miami	78	68	cloudy				

Lotterv

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday

Winning numbers drawn: 14-39-41-44-48-49. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-24-28-32.

Number matching five of five: 0. The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-0-6-5. Sum It

Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-4-6. Sum It



cupids between Feb. 1 to Feb. 14.

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AUSTIN, Texas (AP) Texas went heavy for defense to sign one of the top recruiting classes in the country, tossing in a quarterback with a familiar last name.

The Longhorns signed 25 players Wednesday, including nine defensive linemen and linebackers, in a class rated as high as No. 2 in the country by some recruiting analysts.

Among the top players are Plano defensive lineman Jackson Jeffcoat, son of former Dallas Cowboys star Jim Jeffcoat, and linebacker Jordan Hicks of West Chester, Ohio. Both were rated among the top players at their positions in the country.

Texas also signed quarterback Case McCoy, younger brother of former Longhorn Colt McCoy, who led Texas to last season's BCS championship game.

The group includes 17 players who earned high school All-American honors, but Longhorns Mack Brown coach deflected some claims that the 2010 group is the best in his 13 seasons in Austin.

"It definitely has the potential to be. A lot of recruiting is determined on how they finish," Brown said. "In four or five years we hope all of these guys will graduate. We have some great players on campus. We feel like this group will continue in that tradi-

Brown has long had a reputation as a master recruiter, but several classes in recent years were notable for the players who spurned the Longhorns at the 11th hour and signed elsewhere.

Most of Wednesday's class had committed before last season. Jeffcoat and Hicks waited until last week and their commitments bolstered a class already rated among the best in the country.

"We didn't have drama at the end. All of our guys were honest with us. None of our guys wavered," Brown said.

As usual, the class is dominated by homegrown athletes. Twentytwo of the 25 are from Texas. Hicks is just second the player from Ohio to sign with Texas. Running back A.J. "Jam" Jones of Youngstown (1978) was the other.

"He can do it all," Brown said of Hicks. "He can hit."

Jeffcoat is the second son of a former Dallas Cowboys player on the roster. Tailback Tre' Newton is the son of former Cowboys offensive lineman Nate Newton.

Case McCoy passed for 10,711 yards and 111 touchdowns at Graham High School.

"The fact Colt was here ... has absolutely nothing to do with signing Case," Brown said.

MAVS

Continued from 1B

close by scoring the next five points. The Mavericks pulled away when Nowitzki found Terry for a jumper and Kidd connected on a 3-pointer to make it 106-97 with 1:25 left.

"We had some tough stretches," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "We were able to get a couple of big stops and finish the game off. We needed a win, so it was good."

The Warriors hit 12 of 17 shots in the third, and they outscored the Mavericks 19-10 over

HOWARD

Continued from 1B

outrebounded

The

all tickets.

tonight's matchup.

ed 52-34 in the two

teams' last matchup,

and after Monday's win

in which Howard was

that stat will be key in

game

underway at 5:45 p.m.

Admission is free thanks

to Big Spring area credit unions, which paid for

The Hawk men seem

to be on a roll heading

into tonight's matchup

with the Texans.

Howard led

by as many

as 40 against Frank

Phillips on

Monday

Plainsmen

mounted a

furious come-

back to get within 20. Still, since

a 64-54 loss at No.1Midland

on Jan. 21,

the Hawks

have steam-

the

before

55-42,

gets

quarter to get to 81-75.

jumper Dallas' lead to six.

cushion after going on 25-8 run that spanned the first and second quarters. scored nine points, and Gooden added eight in the surge.

F Vladimir Radmanovic (sore right Achilles') and G Anthony Morrow (sprainedrightknee)did not play. ... Mavericks C Erick Dampier (sore

the final 7:36 of the

Maggette, who scored 11 in the third, hit a and added a 3-pointer that cut

Dallas built a 41-23 Howard

NOTES: Golden State left knee) was inactive.

rolled Western Texas, then-No. 10 Odessa and Frank Phillips.

Howard will get a rematch of a hard-fought 59-47 win in Levelland to open conference play. Coach Mark Adams said he knows his team has a tough test ahead of it.

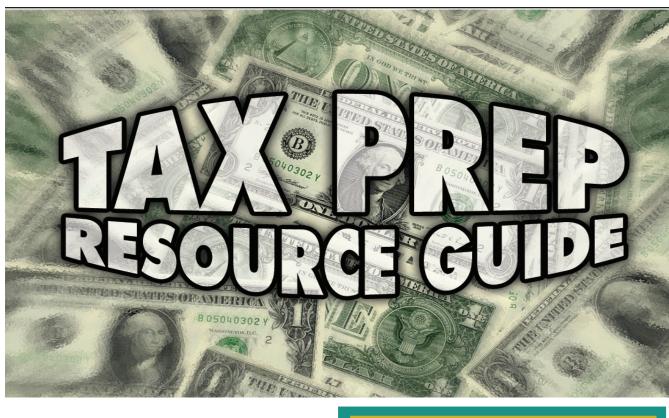
"They're a lot better, Adams said of the Texans, who have won three straight. "They're a team that's vastly improved since we've played them. I think they're the most improved team in the league."

Tipoff is at 7:45 p.m.

WJCAC Region 5

Men's Conference Standings

Team Midland Howard S. Plains Odessa Frank Phillips NMJC W. Texas NMMI Clarendon	Dist. 7-0 6-1 4-3 3-4 2-5 2-5 1-6 0-0	23-0 19-2 14-7 18-5 17-6 15-8 12-8 8-13 11-10
Clarendon	0-0	11-10







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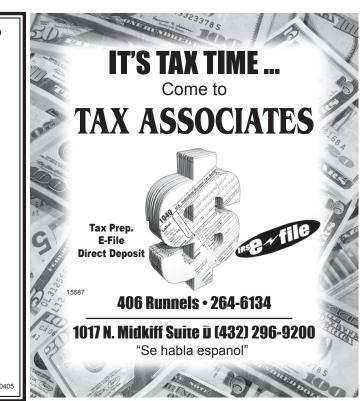
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February order times for Angel Food will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, at North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell Lane.

Because of a lack of participation at the mall, no orders will be taken there.

Orders will also be taken at the church Friday, Feb. 12, and Saturday, Feb. 13 at the usual times. Angel Food orders must be paid for at the time

your order is placed. We accept cash, money orders and Lone Star cards. You can also go to anglefoodministries.com to place an online order using a credit or debit cards.

Pick up day for the month is Feb. 26 at the church from noon until 1 p.m.

Signature Box, \$30

2 lb. top sirloin steaks (4.8 oz.); 1.5 lb. boneless pork roast; 2 lb. IQF boneless, skinless chicken breast, 2 lb. lasagna with meat sauce; 1.5 lb. cooked boneless chicken drumsticks; 1 lb. lean ground beef; 1 lb. frozen lima beans; 1 lb. frozen green beans; 1 lb. pasta; 25 oz. pasta sauce; 4 russet potatoes; 32 oz. 2 percent shelf stable milk; dozen eggs; dessert item.

Senior Convience, \$28

Chicken parmesan, brussels sprouts and zucchini Charbroiled beef patty, mashed potatoes, carrots and corn blend

Macaroni and beef, noodles, carrots and zucchini Lemon pepper fish, rice, peas and zucchini blend

Mesquite chicken, rice, carrots and green beans Spaghetti and meatballs, corn, peas and carrots Boneless pork patty, roasted sweet potatoes, sugar snap peas, broccoli/cauliflower

Cheese manicotti, green beans, peas and carrots Chicken and rice, muchroom sauce, green beans,

Macaroni and cheese, broccoli, lima beans

Desserts: Assorted cookies, strawberry yogurt cup, pineapple fruit cup, peach fruit cup, orange juice, fruit

Allergen-Free Box, \$23

Processed to eliminate the eight top serious allergens: Peanuts, soy beans, milk, eggs, fish, crustea, tree nuts and gluten (wheat, rye and barley).

1 lb. breaded chicken breast fillets; 1 lb. breaded chicken breast nuggets; 1 lb. breaded steak fingers; 1 lb. breaded chicken wings; 1 lb. breaded chicken tenders.

Seafood Variety, \$35 2 lb. Alaskan snow crab legs; 1 lb. large shrimp; 2

lb. oven ready popcorn shrimp; 1 lb. stuffed crab in natural shell (8 count).

Assorted Grill, \$23

1.5 lb. T-bone steaks (2x12 oz.); 2 lb. boneless pork chips (4x8 oz.); 1.5 lb. lean hamburger patties (4x6 oz.); 1.5 lb. mild Italian sausage links with cheese.

Meat and Chicken Combo, \$22) 5 lb. Kansas City strips (2x12 oz.); 1.5 lb. prime

rib steaks (2x12 oz.); 2 lb. gormet flavored chicken breasts, Mesquite (4x4 oz.) and Lemon Herb (4x4

Stuffed Chicken Variety, \$18 1.5 lb. Chicken cordon blue (4x6 oz.); 1.5 lb. chicken

with broccoli and cheese (4x6 oz.); 1.5 lb. Chicken Kiev (4x6 oz.).

Fajita Kit, \$21

2 lb. steak fajita srip packs (2x1 lb.); 2 lb. chicken breast fajita stip packs (2x1 lb.); 1 lb. onions and bell peppers; 20 8-inch flour tortillas.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, \$22

3 lb. oranges, 2 lb. Delicious apples; 1 lb. Chilean plums; 4 Washington pears; 4 Washington Fuji apples; 4 tangerines; 2 red grapefruit; 6 pack 1 oz. box of raisins; 3 lb. red potatoes; 2 lb. yellow onions; 1 head green cabbage; 1 lb. baby carrots; 1 lb. pinto beans; fruit and vegetable recipe sheet. For more information, contact Madeline Boadle

at 267-2203.



Toyota says **Prius had brake** design problems

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota acknowledged design problems with the brakes in its prized Prius, adding to the catalog of woes for the Japanese automaker still reeling from massive gas-pedal recalls in the U.S. Tovota Motor Corp.

said Thursday it found there were design problems with the antilock brake system and corrected them for Prius models sold since late including January, those being shipped overseas. But the company said

it was still investigating how to inform people who had bought them earlier. Nothing was decided on that front for Prius gas-electric hybrids sold overseas, according to Toyota. Complaints about

braking problems in the Prius — the world's topselling hvbrid — have been reported in the U.S. and Japan, combining to some 180, and come amid a global recall of nearly 4.5 million vehicles for faulty gas pedals.

"We are investigating whether there are defects in the Prius," Toyota executive Hiroyuki Yokoyama told reporters at the automaker's Tokyo headquarters. Paul Nolasco, a com-

pany spokesman, said the time lag for brakes kicking in felt by drivers stem from the two systems in a gas-electric hybrid — the gas-engine and the electric motor.

House faces election-year vote on allowing \$6,000 more in federal debt for each person WASHINGTON (AP)

Facing a politically excruciating vote, House Democratic leaders are counting on new budget deficit curbs to help smooth the way for a bill allowing the government to go \$1.9 trillion deeper into debt over the next year — or about \$6,000 more for every U.S. resident.

The debt measure

set for a House vote Thursday would raise the cap on federal borrowing to \$14.3 trillion. That's enough to keep Congress from having to vote again before the November elections on an issue that is feeding a sense among voters that the government is spending too much and putting future generations under a mountain of debt to do it.

Already, the accumulated debt amounts to \$40,000 per person. And the debt is increasingly held by foreign nations such as China.

Passage of the bill would send it to President Barack Obama. who will sign it to avoid a first-ever, marketrattling default on U.S. obligations. Democrats barely passed it through the Senate last week over a unanimous "no" vote from GOP members present.

To ease its passage, Democrats attached tougher budget rules designed to curb a spiraling upward annual deficit — projected by Obama to hit a record \$1.56 trillion for the budget year ending Sept. 30. The new rules would require future spending increases or tax cuts to be paid for with either cuts to other programs or equivalent tax increases.

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VETERANS time to serve their country, so the Continued from Page 1A

BANQUET

Continued from Page 1A

awards, ValVerde noted.

country," said Dean Thomas, a chaplain at the VAMC. "That's what we're here to remember." The highlight of the ceremony was

the reading of names of military veterans in the VAMC's service area who died in the past 12 months. After reading through the hundreds

of names on the list, Thomas made no apologies for the length of the cer-"I know it was long," he told the

recipients, Carl Bradley and Jan

Hansen, will hand out this year's

Chamber members will be decorat-

ing the colisuem under the theme

"Wild About Big Spring and Howard

County." More than 50 businesses

Major sponsors for the banquet are

State National Bank, Wal-Mart Su-

perCenter, Water Water/Supreme

will be decorating tables as well.

least we could do was take the time to read their names." Also during the event, the Legion of

crowd. "But those people took the

Honor Award was presented to four VAMC volunteers who best exemplified service to this area's veterans, Thomas said. Volunteers honored with the award

were Mary Beth Yeater, Lawrence Walker, Laverne Atwell and Ray Stukel.

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

Car Wash, Wells Fargo and Western

Ticket sales end at 5 p.m. Friday will be no tickets sold at the coliseum

Chamber at 263-7641.

Staff Writer Steve Reagan contributed to this article.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

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FILING

Continued from Page 1A

held by Daniel Ramos) and District 5 (Darren Patrick is the incumbent) will be decided.

Candidacy papers can be filed in the superintendent's office. Four trustee positions are up for election this

year at Howard College. Six-year terms in Precinct 1 (currently held by Michael Flores) and Precinct 2 (where Murray Murphy is the incumbent) will be In addition, special elections to fill unexpired

terms will be held in Precinct 3 and 4. Those positions, currently held by Larry McLellan and Maxwell Barr, respectively, are for two years.

Candidates may file their papers in the president's office in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, said Judy Bailey, secretary to the college president.

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

at the Chamber, 215 W. Third. There

door Feb. 11. For more information, contact the

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this nation and world are not.

All Week 1000 S. Gregg St.

present and security in the future. Commentators and agitators add to the chaos as they play tug-of-war with politics and social issues. Here are some things you can do: Take inventory of your life and root out any immoral habits you have. Teach your children and family about right and wrong. Encourage people that are living in accordance with scripture. Love, teach and respect those who are not living in accordance with scripture. Pray for governmental leaders to have wisdom as they make decisions. Recognize that sin is not limited to a particular political party;

neither is salvation. Acknowledge that the church is the bride and body of

Christ; this nation is not. Understand that heaven is a place of perfection;

People are concerned about our nation. They wonder about morality in the

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WORD

ENCOURAGING

By Eddy Pitchford

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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.

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GARAGE SALE: Holy Mission (302 East 11th. Place, Big Spring), Saturday 8:00-? Too much to list. Come See!!!

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DITORIAL

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

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

Ron Midkiff

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

Our View

Coahoma's kids once again get busy for a cause

here are times when a great many so-called adults, particularly those of the senior citizen variety, wonder what this world is coming to. We know this, of course, because some of us fall into both categories.

But young people in Howard County for a second time in recent days, have given us real hope for the future ... maybe not for the world, but for West Texas anyway. Students and staff members at Coahoma Elementary are reaching out to help those whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake in Haiti.

Spurred by the Coahoma Elementary Student Council, the campus raised more than \$3,000 to help victims of the earthquake. The council members, according to Princi-

pal Patricia Bennett, made a presentation to the student body, and students and teachers responded by depositing their loose change in buckets at their respective classrooms.

Students responded in nothing short of impressive fashion. The council's efforts collected \$2,600. On top of that, the student council will add \$500 itself, to bring the school's total contribution to the relief effort to \$3,100.

Money raised in this most recent drive will go to Real Hope for Haiti, a non-profit organization in Elwood, Ind., that provides an orphanage and a rescue center in Haiti.

"I'm just extremely proud of our student body," Bennett said. "Anytime someone's kids need help, they're right there ... They really practice the art of kindness."

We here at the Herald have always taken pride in our fellow Howard Countians, but we can't help but admit having a little bit of a puffed up chest when we think about the youngsters in Coahoma.

After all, this isn't the first time Coahoma students have responded to a disaster with the "art of kindness."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the students organized a Teddy bear drive. And a few years later, when the 2006 Indonesian tsunami devastated lives there, the youngsters raised more than \$1,500 to help with relief efforts.

So, Coahoma Elementary School students, especially you student council members and your advisor, Russ Mullins, we think you deserve to take a bow. You've not only given us a lesson in how we should help others, but confidence that the future of West Texas is in good hands.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter. · Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a
- street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Today, Lord, is a good day to make a choice for

Massachusetts: The Dems blew it

ow come when the Republicans lose an election — as in Barack Obama sweeping the presidency in a landslide — the Right Wing responds by saying: "This proves the Republican Party has to be-

come more conservative." But when the

Republicans win one — be it even a single Senate race — Democrats start rending their clothes and saying: "We've got to become more conservative.'

The Democrats are wimps, that's how come.

There are myriad explanations for Martha Coakley's defeat in the special Senate election to fill the late Ted Kennedy's chair: She was a lousy candidate,

clothed in arrogance and complacency, who took voters for granted and didn't work hard enough. After winning her primary she took a vacation from the campaign, la-dee-dah. Her opponent, Scott Brown,

was an exceptionally attractive candidate with Sarah Palin good looks and an appealing personal narrative. Also, he did work hard enough, traveling around in a pickup truck that he claimed had 170,000 miles on it. (I can just see Mitt Romney right now, hiring a team of drivers to get 200,000 miles on his pickup before the 2012 campaign.) • The election was a referen-

dum on the president's healthcare plan and it was rejected.

• The election was a referendum on Barack Obama and he was rejected.

 Massachusetts voters are selfish, irresponsible, and not to be trusted with the franchise. It was the place, remember, that hosted the Salem witch trials.

There's some truth to all of these analyses — well, some of them anyway — but you can come up with just as persuasive a case for Coakley winning:

• Ted Kennedy had held that particular seat for 47 years at the time of his death and no Republican had been elected to the Senate in Massachusetts since 1972.

 Obama had carried the state a little more than a year ago by 26 points.

• To call Brown, a conservative Republican, "little-known" isn't a wild exaggeration. He was a single-practitioner attornev and a practically invisible state senator. Six months ago, not one Massachusetts voter in 10 could have picked him out of a police

 Coakley may not have been the warmest, most energetic of candidates, but neither was she Lizzie Borden. She was, in fact, a fairly popular attorney general (winning the election in 2007 with 73 percent of the vote) with a long record of accomplishment as a public figure in her state.

So why did this upset (which must have sent Ted Kennedy whirling like a dervish in his grave) happen?

The Democratic Party, starting with the political wizards in the White House on down, simply blew it. It wasn't just Coakley who took a vacation in the middle of the campaign, the entire party did.

Think of the stakes. Congress had arrived at the very cusp of passing health-care reform. Every vote, particularly in the Senate, was not merely important, but crucial.

Why would you allow a candidate of limited experience to conduct his or her own campaign in those circumstances? Why would you let her go on vacation?

The Democratic hierarchy should have kidnapped her, if need be, tied her to the back of a flatbed truck and driven her around the state to meet the folks. It should have engulfed her campaign with money. In other words, it should have practiced politics. It didn't. I'm not sure the party knows how to anymore.

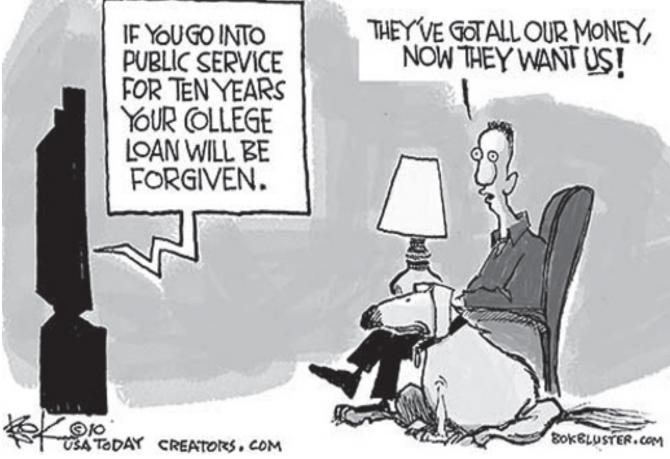
Now they're whining about it, calling the unfortunate Coakley

The only sound worse than a Democrat whining about a loss is a Republican crowing about victory. Conservatives are famously sore winners, and their taunts and smug observations are hard for us poor liberals to

But take them we must; we have no choice. Obama and a few others are trying to make the best of things, saying that they'll try harder to cobble together legislation on which a bipartisan coalition can agree. Lots of luck, Prez.

Republicans want Obama to fail, and they just took a step toward fulfilling that wish.

Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor,



On't Ask, Don't Tell' foolish

'don't get it. Since 1993, more than 13,000 soldiers have been discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. Countless others are effectively denied access to mental health and other services because they can't tell.

In 2006, a blue ribbon commission concluded that the policy — at that point — had cost the military some \$360 million because of the loss of qualified and trained soldiers and the need to replace them. How much it has cost the men and



Susan **ESTRICH**

women who love this country and want to serve and protect it is just incalculable. At a time when our military is strained fighting two wars, why would anyone exclude a person simply because of who they are? The president's call to repeal

this dated and cruel compromise was met with cheers in the hall, but within hours, the old men were lining up to oppose it. I have the greatest respect for John McCain and his service to this country, but what made sense for the military 40 years ago is not necessarily what makes sense today. Military leaders from Colin Powell to Mike Mullen to John Sha-

likashvili — current and former

Amen chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff — have all spoken against the policy. As Gen. Shalikashvili wrote in 2007: "Our military has been stretched thin by our deployments in the Middle East, and we must welcome the service of any American who is willing and able to do the job."

DADT punishes soldiers if they so much as reveal their sexual orientation. Under the policy, as explained by the Pentagon, "the military will discharge members who engage in homosexual conduct, which is defined as a homosexual act, a statement that the member is homosexual or bisexual, or a marriage or attempted marriage to someone of the same gender." A gay soldier who says he is gay is subject to discharge for that statement. Morale? That was the excuse

I kept hearing from members of Congress — Republican and Democrat — who were all over the airwaves this morning attacking the president. But in 2008, responding to a

soldier's question at West Point, Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made clear that "Congress, and not the military, is responsible for (DADT)." This isn't about the military. The Pentagon has made clear that they are willing to work with the president to repeal the policy. It is about

Every argument being made today to exclude gays from the military was made in the past to exclude blacks. And yet, once

the military was integrated, it

became a model of real integration for our nation — one of the few places where minorities are indeed fully integrated, equal if not more successful in attaining leadership roles. Freed from the requirement of discrimination, the military has shown that it can judge merit without regard to race or gender. Freed from the requirement of discrimination, the military could lead the way to an equal society.

When President Clinton first proposed eliminating the ban on gays in the military, he pointed to the extensive evidence of harassment suffered by soldiers who were thought to be gay. That harassment has not ended. Why would it? The policy embraces the unacceptable and unfair premise that being openly gay is inconsistent with being qualified to serve your country. That premise is a cancer that is not limited to the military. It needs to be fought, not appeared

Some 20,000 active and former service members belong to an organization of gay soldiers. The issue is not whether gays serve in the military; they do. The issue is whether they get the respect and protection they deserve when they put their lives on the line to serve this country. Shame on us. Someday, gays will be equal citizens in this country. The trend of history is clear. There will be a day when every American will be equal. Why not

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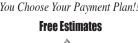
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High Gold & Silver Prices Puts Money In The Hands Of Locals At This Week's Antiquities Gold & Silver Road Show In Big Spring.

By William Gardner

One by one, local residents are coming in with small amounts of gold and silver items and leaving with smiles and money.

"Just as we were expecting - folks are coming in with zip lock bags full of silver and gold jewelry – necklaces, bracelets, class rings and earnings. We're seeing a lot of Silver dollars, silver half dollars, silver quarters and dimes too."

'On average, we're seeing our customers walk away from the show with checks in excess of \$200.00 each. Again, that folks walking in with a little bit of gold and silver they bring in - and we've been authorized to spend \$50,000 just at this show alone."

With gold trading at over \$1000.00 an ounce and silver trading at over \$16.00 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 Antiquities Gold and Silver Exchange has come here - to Big Spring, Texas! This is really a great opportunity for everyone.

The event is being held at the Holiday Inn Express in Big Spring, right off I-20 at exit 177. Buyers will be there for five days starting today, Tuesday, February 2nd at 9:00 a.m. and going through Saturday, February 6th closing at 6:00 p.m. daily and Saturday till 4:00 p.m..

The road show has seen a lot of interesting things at this event and past events. Items including herringbone necklaces, class rings, broken gold chains, and even a rare British Sovereign gold coin.



Above: Recent show draws local residents.

"Customers have brought in Mexican Once the items have been silver coins, Canada silver coins, sorted through - customers will Mexican gold Pesos as well as all other be presented with a purchase types of U.S. minted silver coins dating before 1964 – it's really something to offer, payment is made on the

We even see dental gold brought in as pressure. It's really that simple. well as U.S. gold coins", a buyer said.

"We'll see customers walk in with the exchange is also paying 20% Hamilton, Illinois & Elgin Pocket more for gold items bought at the Watches and walked away very happy with money in their hands."

hundreds even thousands of dollars to give local residents a little more spending money and what perfect time help the good folks of Big Spring as we move into the holiday season.

The exchange has been asked if the You!" items should be cleaned or polished and the answer is - No. Simply bring in your items just as they are and the buyers will sort through and carefully look at each item.

offer. If the customer likes the spot – no waiting, no hassel, no

As a special bonus this week -

"We can do this because of the Some of these items tally up to volume of people we well see this week. It's good for us as a business and in turn we want to for making the event a success. It's our way of saying Thank

> The event is free and open to the public daily from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m Sat till 4:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and they look forward to seeing you.

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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

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 Tuesday, February 2nd running through Saturday, February 6th the & Silver Antiquities Gold 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 grade and then a price will be determined.

Just like with any unique item, the better the grade 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 In 1834 and 1837 Congress changed 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

What about Gold Coins?

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 is here thru Saturday, February 6th.

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.



Groups offer temporary homes to military pets

MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON

For The Associated Press

When Maj. Randall Baucom received word that the Army was sending him to Iraq in 2006, he immediately began to worry about what he would do with his two mixed-breed dogs.

Buster and Little Girl, a 70-pound male and a 40-pound female, were about a year old and a bit rambunctious, said Baucom, who was stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen.

"I didn't want to put them in a kennel for 15 months," he said. "I don't know what kind of dogs I would have gotten back if they would have been in a kennel for 15 months."

He was relieved when he found Guardian Angels for Soldiers' Pet, a volunteer organization that helps men and women in any branch of the armed forces find temporary homes for pets. It is one of several pet foster programs that offer such free help to military personnel.

The organizations help reduce the

stress on troops preparing for overseas deployment, said Specialist Stephanie Dortch, who works in the soldier readiness processing center at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh, Ind. Dortch called the volunteers "awesome. They're sacrificing a lot to have these pets and eventually give them back to their owners." One volunteer, Gary Marshall, con-

siders it a chance to give back to the troops defending the country.

"We thought it would be really nice to help out somebody in the military — to provide a nice home for their dog," said the Santa Paula, Calif., resident.

Marshall and his wife, Angie, recently opened their home to Kelli, a 2-year-old German shepherd owned by Matthew Snyder, who is stationed with the Army in South Korea. Only their 8-year-old yellow Labrador retriever was apprehensive, Marshall

"He didn't know quite what to do with this dog," Marshall said. Now, the two have fun playing together, he Initially, Snyder's mother, Kristie

Bruce, was taking care of Kelli and Snyder's other dog, but Bruce had to give them up when she was laid off from her job. She is grateful to the foster families for stepping up.

"It was a blessing for both of us," said Bruce, who lives in Simi Valley, Calif. "You know how moms are they don't want to disappoint their kids."

The Marshalls have sent photos and messages about Kelli to Snyder.

"(Gary is) much better at it than I was," Bruce said. "Matthew is loving it."

Many volunteers send regular reports to the pets' owners, said Steve Albin, founder of NetPets in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"It boosts their morale to see their pets doing well," he said.

Albin started arranging pet fosters after Sept. 11 when many milimembers tary quickly were deployed being overseas. Before that, it was not uncommon for military personnel to be forced to leave their animals at Humane Society shelters if they were unable to find people to care for them, he

His organization has provided homes for more than 12,000 pets, he said.

"We've fostered horses, rabbits, tortoises, small exotics down to hermit crabs," Albin said. Although foster

families do not receive payment for caring for the

animals, the pet owners typically pay for food, veterinary care and other day-to-day expenses, he said. A typical fostering with Guardian

Angels lasts three to six months but can extend to a year or longer, said Jessica Semon, spokeswoman for the organization, headquartered in Hot Springs, Ariz. Often, military personnel will

remain in touch with the foster families after they've retrieved their animals, Albin said, and some rely on the same families during subsequent deployments.

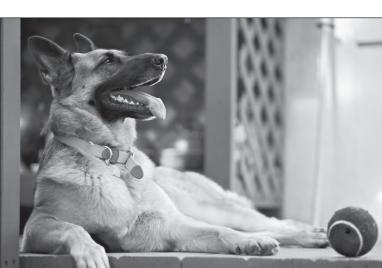
Although Susan Hagrelius is willing to foster anyone's cat through the Operation Noble Foster program,



AP Photos/Courtesy Randall Baucom & **Damian Dovarganes**

Maj. Baucom and his two dogs, little Girl and

At Right is "Kelli," a twoyear-dog German Shepard, belonging to US Army member Matthew Snider, not seen, who is currently stationed in Korea.



Aeyne Dizicksa has "first dibs," she said. Hagrelius is currently caring for Dizicksa's cat, Sweet Magnolia, for the second time. The women, who met in 2002, have

exchanged Christmas cards and notes over the years. Dizicksa sent Hagrelius, who refuses to take money for food and litter, a cuckoo clock from Germany and a prayer rug from

Hagrelius enjoys the cat's company, but looks forward to the day that Sweet Magnolia is reunited with her owner — because that will mean that Dizicksa is out of harm's way.

"I'm relieved when she comes home," said Hagrelius of Cary, Ill.

In the meantime, she hopes Dizicksa, an Army reservist, is comforted knowing that her beloved pet is in good hands.

For Baucom, knowing that Buster and Little Girl were being cared for in a private home gave him peace of mind during his overseas duty, he said. And when he came home in 2008, the return of his pets made a huge difference. "They helped me integrate faster," he said. "They were my support system. I never felt alone.'

On the Net:

http://www.guardianangelsforsol-

http://www.operationnoblefoster.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Scorpio moon cuts to the quick, getting through the insignificant bits and into somesubstantial. thing Scorpio rules surgery, which is a good image what

will happen today — not literally, but figuratively, with the efficient extraction of problems. Keep w h a t ' s working, and make a

clean break from the rest. That's what the Scorpio moon is about.

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Sometimes gossip seems like good naughty fun. But it's not really as harmless as it seems today — at least not to the person at the heart of the rumors. Steer clear of the gossip mill, or someone could get hurt.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like a marble pulled by gravity along the course laid out for it, your next few moves will have a feeling of inevitability about them. Trust that

interests in mind. It

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Working yourself into a lather over trivial details was something you were once good at but aren't anymore. Another tired habit is about to run its course. It will just fall away effortlessly, like an autumn leaf dropping from the tree.

CANCER 22-July 22). It won't be enough to saunter casually into a room. Strut. There is a time for cool, quiet confidence and a time to demand that people notice you. Put on your war paint, and go take whatís yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you wonder why you're tired, think back: You've been working overtime attending to the endless responsibilities of family engagements. Now is your chance to take a welldeserved breather.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A white lie might be the kindest way to handle a difficult social situation. Don't feel too bad if you come up with the perfect "out," except for the fact that it is not altogether true. Quick something a lot of peo-

destiny has your best thinking has its merits,

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In order for things to go as planned, you'll have to make some zany adjustments this afternoon. Your willingness to go with the flow and to do so with a smile on your face, no less will win you fans.

SCORPIO 24-Nov. 21). Your imagination is so keen, how can you be blamed for straying beyond the lines of reality now and then? As long as the bills are paid and thereis food on the table, indulge your little inventor. The world will be better for

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't think of yourself as an overachiever, so when someone refers to you that way, your surprise is genuine. Working hard is second nature to you. You're not in it for the reward, but one is coming anyway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The new idea you're cooking up may not be completely fleshed out, but the heart of it is solid. Once you sort out the details, you're going to have ple will want to be part

AQUARIUS 20-Feb. 18). Checking out the competition is one thing, but donit let appearances rattle your confidence. Your experience, natural instinct and tenacity make you a dangerous opponent. Keep cool and wait for the right moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People sometimes get on you daydreaming. They're just jealous of how you can escape to your own little world. An insight you get while letting your mind wander will soon have a significant impact on your

T O D A Y 'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 4). This year, you find new, self-esteem enhancing ways to think and work. Instead of focusing on improving yourself, put your energy into knowing your strengths and using them. This month, a good job gets even better. Someone commits to you in May and sticks with it. June shows growth. financial Sagittarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 15, 33, 1 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL **QUESTIONS:** "I have fallen out of favor with my husband's family. I didn't cheat on my husband, borrow money or make some thoughtless social mistake. Here's what I did: I gained weight. In his family, you can commit a lot of sins — be a thief, a drug addict or an adulterer even — as long as you donit do something as unthinkably evil as getting fat. Did I say they are vain and shallow? I can't stand the fact that they are burning up the phone lines talking about how despicably huge I've become. What advice do you have for a Sagittarius who wants

to lose weight?" His family does sound awful. But forget about them, and do this for you. Chances are, the reason you gained weight in the first place is because you are more focused on caring for those around you than you are on caring for yourself. Furthermore, Sagittarius, the sign of expansion, doesn't like making cutbacks. Your best bet is to think in terms of what you're adding to your life by getting healthy. Add

exercise that's fun and that you can look forward to. Add healthy new recipes and a commitment to making yourself happy in ways that don't involve food.

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** "Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya has won 10 world titles and a gold medal, and has generated more money than any other boxer in the history of the sport. But for this busy Aquarius with Venus and Jupiter in competitive savvy, Capricorn, that's simply not enough. So he added pop musician, author, clothing designer and great philanthropist to the list, which grows longer by the year.

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FPS went to Texas home day before slaying

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A child welfare caseworker visited the home of two young brothers the day before police say their mother stabbed them to death, officials said Wednesday.

There was no indication that Elyse Marsyl Colon, 22, might harm her children when the caseworker visited the home Monday, said Mary Walker, a Texas Department of Family and Protective Services spokeswoman.

Authorities say Colon calmly surrendered to police officers outside her home Tuesday evening and told them "I killed my babies." The officers found the bodies of 3-year-old Jose Luis Garcia and 1-year-old Guillermo Garcia laying next to each other in a bed in the home.

"Words can't describe the scene," San Antonio police Chief William McManus said.

"It was unspeakably sad."

After Colon was placed in the patrol car, she allegedly told police, "Their father was in jail, I want him to know."

Colon was being held Wednesday on two counts of capital murder. Her bond was set at \$2 million, and she had no attorney listed in court records. She cursed at reporters while being taken to court for arraignment late Tuesday.

Caseworkers had visited the family from time to time since 2006, when Colon was accused of using drugs while pregnant with Jose Luis, Walker said. The drug tests were negative. The agency had been help-

ing Colon search for a job and for housing since the boys' father, Luis Alonso Garcia-Pacheco, was jailed last year on domestic abuse charges, Walker said. He has not

entered a plea, and remains in Bexar County jail awaiting trial this month.

Garcia-Pacheco's attorney, Rudy Vasquez, said his client is innocent. Vasquez said he is trying to arrange for Garcia-Pacheco — who also has a federal immigration hold against him — to attend his children's funeral.

"He's pretty numb and he's kind of devastated," Vasquez

Walker said a caseworker dropped off a check with Colon's landlord on Monday before visiting the family. The caseworker talked to Colon about finding a job, and gave her a list of temporary positions that did not require experience.

Walker said she didn't know how long the caseworker stayed at the home. There were never any grounds to remove the children from the

mother's care, she said.

"It appears the mother was receptive, responsive and cooperative," Walker said.

According to records, Garcia-Pacheco was arrested in May 2009 for illegal entry and family assault. That month, Walker said welfare officials investigated a domestic abuse complaint at the home.

Colon allegedly told investigators there had been violence, but that her sons were not harmed.

"She had been battered," Walker said. "The children were not."

Colon also had been accused of wrongdoing. In June 2008, there was an indication that Colon's second son tested positive at birth for methamphetamines, but that test results were ultimately negative, Walker said.

A complaint that Colon had

allegedly fallen while holding her child was later recanted, Walker said.

The attack occurred less than three miles from the home where prosecutors say a woman decapitated and butchered her 3-week-old boy last summer. The woman, Otty Sanchez, is charged with capital murder. She has not entered a plea, but her attorney has said she was not mentally stable at the time of the attack.

On Colon's street, neighbor Angelica Puentes, 34, said she had talked to the woman a couple of times and said she seemed like she was in a daze.

"They can't speak for themselves, they can't defend themselves," Puentes said. "They're very vulnerable right now. She just took advantage of that for whatever reason, I don't know."

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Jury get case in drug hitman trial deliberating the charges

LAREDO(AP) - Amida hail of gunfire, the Gulf Cartel and its enforcers moved huge bundles of cocaine, marijuana and cash while working their way through a list of men drug bosses wanted dead, a federal prosecutor said during closing arguments at an alleged hit man's trial Wednesday.

"What this defendant and his associates did was rain hell down on Laredo for nearly a year, kidnapping and murdering people," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jose Angel Moreno said before jurors began

against Gerardo Castillo Chavez. "He's so proud of what he did he likes to brag about it."

Castillo — indicted in 2008 under the assumed name "Armando Garcia" and known as "Cachetes," or "cheeks" in Spanish — faces up to life in prison if convicted in U.S. District Court on conspiracy, drug and weapons charges. Jurors deliberated for about five hours Wednesday and were scheduled to resume discussions Thursday morning.

Castillo's attorney, Roberto Balli, argued that prosecutors failed to show that Castillo did anything more than get caught with a few grams of cocaine when he was arrested at a Houston house.

He noted the lack of physical evidence placing Castillo in the getaway cars or stash houses confiscated from the cartels' assassins, Los Zetas, following investigations of drug trafficking, kidnapping and murders in 2005 and 2006.

"If he's Gulf Cartel, Zeta, why wasn't he with the others?" said Balli.

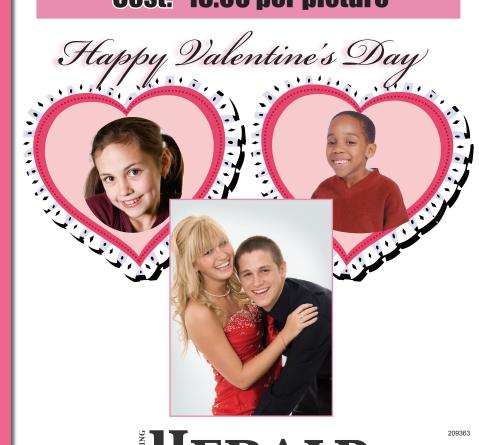
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		Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
	:PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	the Dragon,	CSI: Crime	Law & Order		Phineas	NASCAR	SportsCenter
5	:30	ABC	ABC	Notic.	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Office	Brad	Business	Cash Cab	Jim Kelly	Scn		BET's Top 10	Deck	Interrupt	1
	:PM	News	Jeopardy!	Nombre-	Two Men	News	12 Cora-	News	Seinfeld	Sanchez	PBS News-	I Shouldn't	1	UFC Fight	Bones	Live	Wizards	College	College
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8	:30	Anatomy	Anatomy			Scene		30 Rock		Southwest	Roadshow		De Niio	PACT!	Cavaliers.	Deep, Larenz	Phineas	Basketball:	Basketball:
	:PM	(:01) Private	(:01) Private	Mujeres	Simpsons	The Mental-	Victorinos	The Jay	Fam. Guy		Soundstage	Pig Bomb				Tate	Phineas	Teams TBA.	Teams TBA.
9	:30	Practice	Practice	Asesinas 2	Friends	ist		Leno Show	Fam. Guy				Movie: The		NBA Basket-		Montana		
40	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Upd	Charlie Rose		Crew, Dan		ball: Spurs at		Wizards	College	SportsCenter
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Notici.	TMZ	Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show	Tonight	Van Impe		Be Alive	Hedaya	Countdown	Trail Blazers	Mo'Nique	Deck	Basketball:	
4.4	:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-	Gancho	Law & Order:		Decisiones		Name	Bill Cloud	BBC	Impaled!]	MAN		Wendy Wil-	Suite Life	Portland at Gonzaga.	NFL Live
	:30	Jimmy Kim-	mel Live		SVU	Late Late]	Late Night	Name	Swallow	T. Smiley]	Movie: K-9,	Trailers]	liams	So Raven	Gorizaga.	Sports.
40	:AM	mel Live	Paid	Torrente, un	Paid				Sex &	Upd	(Off Air)	Pig Bomb	Kevin Tighe	MAN	Inside the	Movie: Waist		Final	SportsCenter
12	:30	News	Paid	Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex &	World				MAN	NBA	Deep, Larenz	Kim	Sup. Bowl	
4	:AM	Paid	Paid	Mujer	Paid	Ent	Pagado	Poker After	Lopez	Light of the		Overhaulin'		Unsolved	Saving	Tate	Replace	NASCAR	SportsCenter
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"SOMEDAY HE'LL HAVE KIDS OF HIS OWN... THEN I'LL GET MY REVENGE.'

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Sorry, Daddy. I'm all out of smiles for today."

HAGAR





BLONDIE

WHAT'S

WRONG

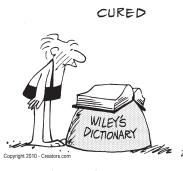


HE FIRED YOU FIVE DIFFERENT THE ONLY ONES WERE TWITTER AND CARRIER PIGEON!

IF MY FATHER HAD GIVEN ME THAT ADVICE, IT WOULD HAVE SAVED ME A LOT OF

TROUBLE!

BC





WIZARD OF ID



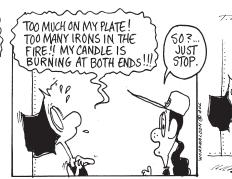






AGNES







HI AND LOIS



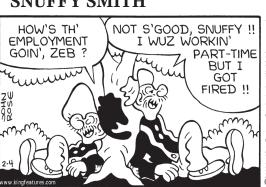




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SNUFFY SMITH





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This Date In History

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

On this date:

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six Southern states met in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at

In 1948, the island nation of Ceylon — now Sri Lanka ,Äî became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

WHEN THEY ASK YOUR HONEST OPINION ON SOMETHING THEY

BOUGHT, ALWAYS SAY

YOU LOVE IT!

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1999, Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, was shot and killed in front of his Bronx home by four plainclothes New York City police officers. (The officers were acquitted at trial.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Phipps is 88. Actor Conrad Bain is 87. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 79. Actor Gary Conway is 74. Movie director George A. Romero is 70. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 69. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 66. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 63. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 62. Actor Michael Beck is 61. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 58. Football Hall-of-Famer

Lawrence Taylor is 51. Rock singer Tim Booth is 50. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 49. Country singer Clint Black is 48. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 47. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 44. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 40. Actor Rob Corddry is 39. Singer David (dah-VEED') Garza is 39. Actor Michael Goorjian is 39. Boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 37. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 35. Singer Natalie Imbruglia (em-BROO'-lee-ah) is 35. Rapper Cam'ron is 34. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 33. Olympic gold medal gymnastturned-singer Carly Patterson is 22.

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Answer to previous puzzle

AMBI

EMBER

SOUNDADVIC CHANNELS

Newsday Crossword

- 1 Extreme
- 10 Speak like Daffy
- 14 Put up with
- 15 Spreadable
- 17 Translator,
- necessarily
- 20 Values
- 23 Event proceeds
- 26 "Stranger in
- musical
- 33 Oscar, e.g.
- 34 Show
- contempt for
- ending
- 39 Voted for
- 41 HS class
- 43 Serves, as
- 44 Endangered cat
- 46 Finn's pal
- 47 Mushroom
- 49 Work-order
- **51** Security
- 54 Like convenient
- 59 Island east of
- 60 In general
- votes 63 Give a little

(doing well)

65 Alder or elder

speedsters

67 Name on a

check

DOWN

bird

1 Hurlyburly

playwright

3 Gold-plated

character

4 Garfield

5 Broke a

promise

7 Boxing Hall

of Famer

8 Fit snugly

9 Mall bag

14

17

20

6 Awaken rudely

2 Hieroglyphics

66 Retired

ACROSS

- hardship
- 6 Raise the roof

- edible **16** Prefix for potent
- 19 Full extent
- 21 Feel of a fabric
- 25 Odometer units
- Paradise"
- **30** Some linens
- 35 University e-mail
- 38 Playpen pile
- 40 Wharton degs.
- 42 III-bred ones
- syrup

- seed
- detail
- warning
- shopping
- Corsica
- **62** Some Senate

- SOUNDALIKES by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman **64** On 10 Went ape
 - 11 Checkout-line
 - purchase. perhaps
 - 12 Part of a
 - drum kit
 - 18 Coll. senior's exam
 - 22 Marvel Comics group
 - 24 Accompanies 26 Oscar winner
 - Winslet
 - **27** Victor's outburst
 - 28 End a phone call 53 Textile-mill
 - 29 Bride's new title
 - **31** Bonanza brother **55** FDR's mother
 - **32** Bard's "before"

 - 34 Chase away **36** Have the nerve
 - 37 Cold War foe, briefly

15

18

- www.stanxwords.com 39 USAF rank
 - 40 Shorten, in a wav
 - 42 Keg contents 43 Race car's
- warmup 13 Kinds of conifers 45 Pants-leg
 - feature 46 Dispatch
 - 47 Potpourri emanation 48 Like the
 - Antarctic
 - 50 Fishing areas 52 Tails off
 - deliveries

 - 56 Iliad setting 57 Gape at
 - 58 Soccer great
 - **61** Aardvark morsel

16

11 | 12

2/4/10

19 25 31 | 32 36 | 37 35 43

26 | 27 | 28 | 29 33 34 38 41 42 44 45 47 48 49 50 51 55 | 56 | 57 52 53 59 60 62 63 64 66 65

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News in brief

San Antonio rain adds

to soil sliding woes

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Additional rain in San Antonio has led to closer monitoring of a neighborhood where sliding soil left more than two dozen houses still evacuated.

The National Weather Service says drizzle continued Thursday in San Antonio, where a Jan. 24 retaining wall failed at The Hills of Rivermist. More than 90 homeowners initially evacuated.

Centex Homes on Wednesday updated residents

of the 27 still-evacuated homes, deemed unsafe by the city, about their living situation beyond staying in hotels. Centex has installed silt fencing and foundation

piers. Spokeswoman Valerie Dolenga says the builder

expects "that some of the slope will continue to erode" and additional cracking is expected, but the retaining wall is stable.

An aide to City Councilman Reed Williams says a meeting will be held Saturday at a nearby school to discuss the situation.

Church fire in Wills Point

WILLS POINT (AP) — The seventh church fire this year in east Texas destroyed the sanctuary of Russell Memorial United Methodist Church in

Van Zandt County Fire Marshal Chuck Allen told The Associated Press that no injuries were reported in Thursday morning's blaze.

Allen says the cause of the fire is sought. He says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has been summoned to Wills Point, about 50 miles east of Dallas.

ATF has said six church fires since Jan. 1 in east Texas are blamed on arson.

The 37-year-old Allen, who was baptized in the Wills Point church, said the fire continued burning nearly three hours after it was reported and "this building's a total loss."

A Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office dispatcher told AP that the fire was reported at 5:23 a.m. Thursday.

Penalty eased for Austin lawyer over lewd gesture

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin defense attorney serving 90 days for making a lewd gesture in court will not spend the entire time in jail. Adam Reposa will be released Feb. 12 and allowed

to serve the remainder of his sentence at home and as part of a work release program. Senior State District Judge Paul Davis on

Wednesday also ordered Reposa to attend all medical appointments with his pregnant girlfriend. Several judges testified as character witnesses for Reposa, condemning his March 2008 gesture

simulating masturbation before County Court-at-Law Judge Jan Breland while representing a client. Breland found Reposa in contempt of court, a finding that Davis affirmed. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected

appeals for Reposa. Reposa, who said the gesture was meant toward a

prosecutor, reported to iail Tuesday

2 arrested in phone-card scam

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP) — Alexandria Police have arrested two men who they say scammed a Texas man out of \$19,000.

Police tell The Alexandria Daily Town Talk that 26-year-old Abdel J. Yousef of Metairie and 31-yearold Saed Mousa Yousef of Bossier City have been charged with theft of more than \$500.

Police say the Katy, Texas, man arranged to meet with both men in Alexandria in August. When they met, investigators say the Texas man gave the Yousefs \$19,000 in international phone cards which he sells — in exchange for two cashier's checks.

were fake when he called to verify their authentic-

Police say the Texas man found out the checks

Federal agents raid

Houston bus companies HOUSTON (AP) — Federal agents raided more

than a dozen Houston bus companies Wednesday that they suspected of transporting dozens of illegal immigrants across the country. The raids were part of a three-mont investigation

of immigrant smugglers' alleged use of Houston transportation companies to disperse the immigrants they bring into the country. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant

Secretary John Morton said Wedneday in Houston that 22 people have been charged with conspiracy to transport illegal immigrants. Conviction on each count carries a maximum term of 10 eyars in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Agents targeted 14 businesses, one of them where

armed guards and pit bulls held immigrants in a stash house until they could be shipped out. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents detained 81 undocumented immigrants. "Houston, unfortunately, has become a hub for

these illegal transportation companies," Morton Morton said the companies charge up to \$650 for a

one-way bus ticket and paid \$200 to \$300 in commis-

sions on each immigrant to smugglers.

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Glitches, delays plague border fence

ambitious, \$6.7 billion government project to secure nearly the entire Mexican border with a "virtual fence" of cameras, ground sensors and radar is in jeopardy after a string of technical glitches and delays.

Having spent \$672 million so far with little to show for it, Washington has ordered a reassessment of the whole idea. The outlook became gloomier this week when President Barack Obama proposed cutting \$189 million from the venture.

Ultimately, the project could be scaled back dramatically, with the government installing a few segments of the nation's 2,000-mile southern boundary but dropping plans for any further expansion, officials said.

"The worst that happens is that we have a system which gives us some value but we conclude that it's not worth buying any more of it," said Mark Borkowski, the government's director of the project at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The first permanent segment of virtual fence — a 23-mile stretch near Sasabe, Ariz. — was supposed to be turned over to the Border Patrol by the main contractor,

2005 Toyota Tundra SR5

Crew Cab, 62K

2000 Mercedes \$500

38K Actual Miles, "Mint."

2003 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT

PHOENIX (AP) — An virtual fences along Boeing Co., for testing in January, but the handover has been delayed by problems involving the video recording equipment.

The Bush administration launched the project in 2005 to help secure the border against illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and other intruders. It was conceived as another layer of protection, in addition to thousands of Border Patrol agents and 650 miles of real fences.

The system was supposed to let a small number of dispatchers watch the border on a computer monitor, zoom in with cameras to see people crossing, and decide whether to send Border Patrol agents to the scene.

Although there are sensors, cameras and radar at many points along the border, they are not connected to cover large expanses.

Originally, the virtual fence was supposed to be completed by 2011; that date has slipped to 2014, largely because of technical problems.

Among other things, the radar system had distinguishing between vegetation and people when it was windy.

Also, the satellite communication system took too long to relay information in the field to a command center. By the time an operator moved a camera to take a closer look at a spot, whatever had raised suspicion was gone.

87 Auto Sales



2005 Chevy Avalanche 2WD 75K, "Very Nice"

2004 Mercury Mountaineer AWD

2006 F250 Powerstroke 6 Speed

30K Actual Miles. "Full Factory Warranty"

2003 Chevy Suburban LT

"6 To Choose From



2003 F150 Supercrew '3 To Choose From

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111 Gregg • 267-8787

203 Gregg • 714-4787

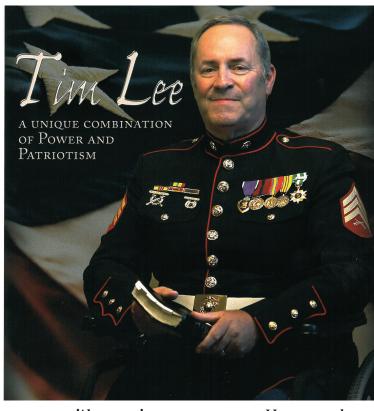
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