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Chamber honors Knocke, Mouton





Pair receive Woman, Man of Year awards at annual banquet

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce shined its spotlight squarely on Drew Mouton and Jeanie Knocke Thursday evening.

been known to miss her own plane home, she never forgets anyone in need and is always there when they need her."

Hansen went on to list many of Knocke's contributions to the community, including working with the local Relay For Life for the past nine years, volunteering at Big Spring State Hospital, Isaiah 58, Humane Society and the Salvation Army. "(She) is not the type of person who gravitates to leadership roles, but she is the type of person who gets things done for those who are most in need in our community," Hansen said. "If she was not working tirelessly in our community, it would certainly be diminished." A thunderstruck Knocke was nearly caught speechless by the award. "I really can't believe this," she said. "Thank you all so



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan Clockwise from top left: Jeanie Knocke, right, receives the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Woman of the Year Award from Jan Hansen during the chamber's annual banquet at Dorothy **Garrett Coliseum Thursday** evening; Terry Hansen, left, presents the 2009 Man of the Year award to Drew Mouton; and David Justice, the new

Mouton and Knocke were named the chamber's Man and Woman of the Year for 2009 during the organization's annual banquet in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Knocke, a Big Spring native and long-time employee at Wells Fargo Bank, was saluted as a "real angel" by Jan Hansen, who presented the award.

"Our Woman of the Year is a real angel, devoting herself to serving the needs of others," Hansen said. "She respects, values and motivates everyone she comes in contact with. While she cannot keep up with her own phone or documents and has

much

Mouton, a long-time local attorney, was described as a "Renaissance man" by presenter Terry Hansen.

"Few individuals have been as involved and made as many contributions as our Man of the Year," Hansen said. "The list of organizations that have benefited from his involvement is lengthy, including

United Way, the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement and Boy Scouts of America."

In addition, Mouton has been active with Big Spring Main Street, the area Community Foundation, Howard County Industrial Development Corporations, the local Civil Service Commission, the Greater Big Spring Ropresident of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, discusses the chamber's accomplishments and goals after formally assuming his duties.

tary Club, Shattered Dreams and the Trial Lawyers Care Program, Hansen noted.

"Although he is not a native of Big Spring, his love and dedication to this community are unparalleled," Hansen said.

Accepting the award, Mouton challenged the audience

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South getting rare snow

MELISSA NELSON

Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. — It took backto-back blizzards to paralyze the nation's capital, but in the Deep South it only takes a couple inches of snow.

Flakes were falling—orthreatened Friday from Texas to the Florida Panhandle and then up along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina, bringing a rare white landscape

to spots that haven't seen snow in a decade or longer. The storm was crawling east out of Texas, where it left the Dallas area with more than a foot of snow, nearly 200 traffic accidents, thousands without power and hundreds of canceled flights.

Far less snow was falling in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But it was still have a crippling effect. Snow, ice and sleet closed parts of Interstate 49 in central Louisi-

ana.

Just the anticipation of an inch of snow was enough to close schools in the Florida Panhandle, while classes also were canceled in parts of Alabama.

In Pensacola, only heavy rain was falling early Friday as the area braced for possible snow.

Even a Starbucks in nearby Gulf

See SOUTH, Page 3A



Sports

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

BIG HERALD

Page 7 Friday, February 12, 2010

Lady Steers ready for Lake View rematch



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Cerbi Ritchey and the Lady Steers are looking for their second straight postseason berth tonight in Trent.

Herald Staff Report

TRENT — The Big Spring Lady Steers are ready to take on Lake View again after a thrilling double-overtime victory over the Maidens on Tuesday.

The two will meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Trent for a date with Canyon High School in the bi-district round of the state playoffs.

The win forced the rematch for the last spot in District 4-4A between the Lady Steers (8-16, 1-7) and the Maidens (6-21, 1-7).

Lake View beat Big Spring at its home gym Jan. 15, but the Lady Steers

went to San Angelo on Tuesday and pulled out their first distrcit win of the season.

"We have to know that we can go out there and win," senior Linzee Yarbar said Tuesday. "We'll just play our best against them and we can go to the playoffs."

The Lady Steers will try to play this game with more minutes for post Cerbi Ritchey, who fouled out in the fourth quarter. Ritchey scored 10 points in the first half of the game but had to sit for much of the second half in foul trouble.

The Lady Steers will also try to avoid a third-quarter meltdown, which has been their problem all season. Against Lake View on Tuesday, they were outscored 16-3 in the third quarter but rallied in the fourth to send the game into overtime.

The Big Spring boys will tipoff at 7:30 p.m. tonight still looking for an undefeated district season. The Steers clinched the district title Tuesday with a win over Lake View but said an unblemished district record was their season goal.

"(Finishing undefated) would kind of validate what we've been doing," Morris said Tuesday. "It's going to take a lot of mental toughness from these kids to find a way to win."

Howard coasts to win over NMMI

Herald Staff Report

ROSWELL, N.M. -Bring on Midland.

The Howard Hawks easily dispatched New Mexico Military Institute 67-50 Thursday on the road and can now turn their focus to the most important game left on their schedule Monday's titanic matchup with the No. 1, undefeated Midland Chaps.

But the Hawks may be playing without one of their best players as Carlos Emory left Thursday's game early with a hip injury and Moses Sundufu did not play the second half. Their statuses are uncertain for Monday.

Jae Crowder and Josh Watkins each scored 17 points as Howard never trailed NMMI in the game. Dante Mentor was 4-of-8 from behind the arc for 15 points off the bench.

The Hawks' defense held the Broncos to 24 percent shooting in the first half and 32 percent overall. NMMI outrebounded the Hawks 35-29 for the game, but Howard took advantage of 16 Bronco turnovers and a poor shooting performance. Stephen McCray was the only NMMI player in double figures with 10 as the Broncos shot 1-for-12 from the 3-point line. Howard (23-2, 9-1) notched its sixth straight win. But a seventh would be even sweeter. Howard will host Midland at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for a share of the WJCAC con-



The Hawks' Jae Crowder goes to the basket against Midland in a game at the Chaparral Center in january. Crowder and Josh Watkins each scored 17 points Thursday night to beat NMMI on the road.

Snowboarding's 'Old Man' gets last shot

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canadian snowboarder Jasey-Jay Anderson has given his adult life to his sport. The question, as he embarks on his fourth Olympics, is whether it's been worth it.

Anderson, known by the nickname "Old Man," is conflicted.

"Being on a team like this is like living with your parents. At 34 you just don't do that," he said. "It's still a nice environment when times are good, but you know as well as I do that living with your parents has its disadvantages."

But first, Canada calls. Anderson is the 2009 world champion in the parallel giant slalom and is ranked second in the world standings. Although he tried to retire four times before, the lure of an Olympics on his home soil and the See **OLYMPICS**, 2B

promise of new equipment lured him back.

Canada has a program called "Top Secret" which has developed new bindings for the Alpine team that the athletes believe will give them an edge. Anderson, stung by equipment malfunctions many times, helped develop the mechanical plates that bind the athlete's boots to the board.

The bindings are said to give riders cleaner curves. They've paid off for Anderson, who has won two of three World Cup events this season, in Telluride, Colo., in December and last month in Kreischberg, Austria.

"It allows a boarder's feet to stay on a level plane, rather than working independently," he said.

Vancouver caps a long and decorated career for

ference title Monday. Midland has remained undefeated through conference play despite close scares from New Mexico JC and South Plains, which fell to the Chaps 63-61 in Levelland Monday. Midland beat New Mexico JC 73-61 at home Thursday.

The Hawks had a chance to upset Midland on Jan. 21 in Midland, but missed free throws and turnovers in the last minute cost the Hawks a 74-64 victory. Howard was outrebounded 41-26 in that game.

"They're so big and athletic," Howard coach Mark Adams said after theMidlandgame."Most of the time when you bring down an offensive rebound you're going to get fouled going back up or you're going to get a layup, and that just hurt us over and over again."

Admission is free to Monday's game to all patrons wearing red or black. A spaghetti dinner hosted by Great Western Dining will be catered in the foyer before the women's

game at 5 p.m. Cost is \$5 per plate.

The Coahoma area Players in Progress will perform a basketball skills routine at halftime during both games.

Howard (67) Austin 0-6 3-4 3, Watkins 6-11 5-6 17, Crowder 6-17 2-3 17, Bright 0-1 6-6 6, Mentor 4-8 3-4 15, O'Garro 2-4 1-1 5, McGee 2-5 0-0 4; NMMI (50)

McCray 4-10 2-2 10, Martin 2-7 2-2 6, DeJourdan 3-9 2-3 8, Gilliland 2-14 3-3 7, Evans 1-3 1-1 3, Smith-Obasayui 3-3 1-4 8, Smith 3-5 2-3 8; Halftime 30-17 HC; Rebounds

35-29 NMMI (Bright 8, DeJourdan, Martin 8); Assists HC 12 (Watkins 6), NMMI 10; Turnovers NMMi 16, HC 10;

UConn's Calhoun rejoins struggling Huskies

Associated Press

UConn coach Jim Calhoun appears on the mend. The Hall of Famer has to hope his return can salvage an NCAA tournament bid

for the ailing Huskies. Calhoun returned to his coaching duties Thursday after a medical leave of more than three weeks forced him to miss seven games. He has no restrictions on what he can do and will be on the bench for Saturday's game against Cincinnati.

"I both felt that the time away was important for my personal and professional well-being

and that I am ready to move ahead from this point at full speed," Calhoun said.

Calhoun returns to a team that needs a siz-

See CALHOUN, 2B

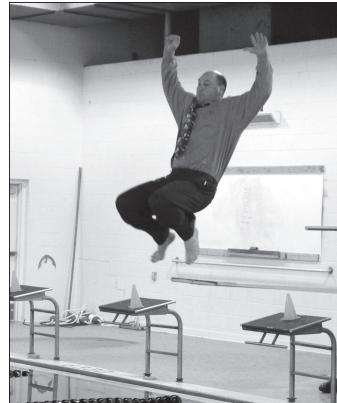


PHOTO COURTESY BSHS JOURNALISM/Skyler Moore BSHS Principal Mike Ritchey took a dive off the board at the YMCA swimming pool Thursday afternoon after a pep talk to the BSHS swim team as it prepares for the regional swim meet in Andrews this weekend. The team did not know about **Ritchey's stunt beforehand.**

Sports in brief

Forsan girls bi-district game scheduled

The Forsan Lady Buffs will begin their playoff run Monday against the Van Horn Lady Eagles in Fort Stockton.

The Lady Buffs lost a coin flip for the second seed in District 7-A, Division I after sharing the district title with Stanton. Stanton earned a bye with the first seed.

Van Horn is 12-14 on the season and was the third seed in District 8-A, Division I

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 4-6.

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.

Youth baseball league signups to start

The Big Spring Youth Baseball League has scheduled signups for the upcoming summer season for Saturdays in Feburary beginning this Saturday.

Children 5-15 can sign up for the league at Big Spring Mall. Registration fee is \$65 and \$60 for additional siblings. Birth certificate required. Weekday signups are at Gartman Refrigeration, 3206 E. FM 700, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages 8-12 must attend one of three tryout sessions scheduled March 8-10.

LOCAL

Obituaries

Consuelo 'Connie' Pool

Consuelo "Connie" Pool. 81 of Odessa went to be with her heavenly father Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, at the Hospice House.

She was born July 20, 1928, in Big Spring. She was



2A

a member of St Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. She spent many years helping others to read, write and speak English. She also was a member of the Flatlanders Ski Club. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family. She married the love of her life, Tommy Lewis Pool Sr. on March 30, 1950, and the two spent 60 long, loving years together. She was loved by many, touched many hearts and instilled

that love in all of us.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Sarafina Saracho; father, Luis Gonzalez; sister, Carmen Riggs; sister, Socorro Saracho; brother, Manuel Gonzalez; and sister, Mary Pitts.

She is survived by her husband, Tommy Lewis Pool Sr. of Odessa; son, Gerald Pool and wife Marcia of Monrovia, Calif.; daughter, Cassandra Ellison and husband Mike Morris of Odessa; son, Tommy Pool Jr. and Misty Locknane of Odessa and Thomas Martin Pool of Denver, Colo.; and brothers Luis Gonzalez of Laguna Beach and Antonio Saracho of Huntsville. She is survived by nine grandchildren, Ginger Pool of Fort Myers, Fla., Brandi Pool of Odessa, Jott Pool of Odessa, Serenity Stringer of San Antonio, Ashleigh Stewart of Lampasas, April Barnhart of Odessa, Tommy Lee Pool of Denver, Colo., Whitney Baird of Odessa and Allison Kitchens of Fort Worth. She is survived by 13 great-grandchildren, Jonathan, Ashton, Kournti, Autumn, Hannah, Aaron and Skyler.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Butler and Nurse Jodi, Dr. Kodi, Dr. Newsome, Dr. Miller, St Joseph's Home Health and Chantel Conner with Home Hospice for taking such wonderful care of our mother and grandmother.

Visitation will be held Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, at Frank W. Wilson Chapel from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. with a Rosary taking place at 6 p.m. at the funeral Luciano Arzate and Mary Franco Arzate. She was a home.

Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 a.m. at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Midland with Father Bridges officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

Condolences may be made at www.frankwwilson. com

Arrangements are by Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Paid obituary

Voy W. Eason Jr.

Voy W. Eason Jr., 62, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

Eva Jane Thompson

Eva Jane Thompson, 88, of College Station, died Feb. 6, 2010, at her home. Visitation is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Memorial Funeral Chapel in College Station. Services will be

held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, at the funeral home. Interment will follow at College Station Cemetery.

Eva was born May 16, 1921, in Troy, Ohio, to Samuel and Mary Shepard. Eva graduated from Ohio State University's College of Medicine School of Nursing in 1945. Eva married Louis Jean Thompson on Feb. 23, 1946. Since 1948 she has been a member of the

Church of Christ. Eva was a registered nurse in Ohio and Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Mary Shepard; a daughter, Cynthia Pinion; a brother, Ira Treavor Shepard; and a sister, Letisha Florio.

Survivors include her husband of 64 years, Louis Jean Thompson of College Station; her three sons, Louis Burk Thompson of Goodrich, Mich., Jonathan Mark Thompson of Bryan, Craig Kent Thompson of Marietta, Ga.; a brother, Samuel Eugene Shepard of Blessville, Ohio; a brother-in-law, Kenny Thompson of Big Spring; six grandsons; two great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter;

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Angelita A. Barrera

Ms. Angelita A. Barrera, 89, died Wednesday, Kaitlyn, Ahlana, Kaden, Aiden, Tanner, Hudson, Feb. 10, 2010, at Mitchell County Hospital in Colorado City. The family will receive friends Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, at 1 p.m. at Oak Street Baptist Church in Colorado City with Gene Self and the Rev. Jackie Brem officiating and burial will be in the Loraine Cemetery.

Angelita was born Oct. 18, 1920, in Davis, Okla., to longtime resident of Mitchell County and a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons, Ben Barrera and wife Adelina and Simon Barrera and wife Christina, all of Big Spring and Abel Barrera of Charlotte, N.C.; two daughters, Amelia Gray and Nena Self and huband Gene, all of Colorado City; 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one greatgreat grandchild; brother, Luicano Arzate of Orange County, Calif.; and sisters, Luisa Little of Honey Grove and Flora Jones and Esther Rainer, both of California.

She is preceded by her husband, Allen Barrera, parents, five brothers and two sisters

Obituary can be viewed at www.kiker-seale.com

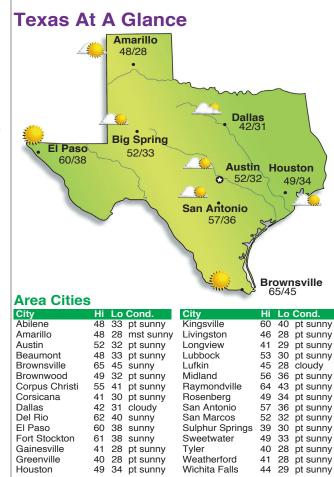
Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day	y Forecast	
Sat 2/13	Sun 2/14	Mon 2/15
	2444 M	
52/33 Mainly sunny. High 63F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.	62/33 Sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	53/28 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:31 AM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM
Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunset: 6:31 PM



Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 12-13-15-32. Bonus Ball: 18.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-17-20-28-33. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-6-2-5. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-8-6. Sum It Up: 21.



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

• ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO, 23, of 1301 Mesquite, was arrested Friday on a local warrant.

• POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.

reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.

• ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• JACKIE RAYMOND MOORE, 22, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on municipal court warrants for no driver's license, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and unrestrained child passenger under 18 years of age.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling. One person was transported to SMMC.





CALHOUN Continued from 1B

zling, upset-heavy winning streak to sniff the NCAA tournament. The Huskies (14-10, 4-7 Big East) have sunk to the bottom half of the conference standings a year after a No. 1 seed and a Final Four berth.

UConn's top moment came Jan. 23 when associate head coach George Blaney led the Huskies to an upset of then-No. 1 Texas. But the Huskies threw away their momentum like one of their 352 turnovers this season when they lost the next game

at Providence — and that started the second of their three-game losing streaks this season. UConn ended the skid by eking out a seven-point win Saturday against lowly DePaul (1 win in the Big East) and lost at No. 2 Syracuse 72-67 on Wednesday night.

"We still think we're pretty good," Blaney said. "We still think we can be a factor in every game we play in."

UConn has gone 3-4 in Calhoun's absence. School officials have not said what was ailing Calhoun, but said it had nothing to do with his three bouts with cancer and was not related to

sudoku

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.

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



By Steve Becker **Bidding Quiz**

his heart.

The losing wasn't the only thing that took some getting used to in Storrs, a bucolic college town, located amid the dairy farms of northeastern Connecticut. UConn games without Calhoun, as New England as a bowl of clam chowder, have been way too quiet. Gone has been the stomping, the cussing, the barking at officials.

Longtime followers of the program described the 67-year-old Calhoun as more down than angry after recent losses. He never knew what kind of performance he'd get out of the erratic Huskies and almost seemed resigned to that fate.

Asked recently what UConn basketball is like without Calhoun, forward Stanley Robinson cracked, "(Blaney) doesn't scream."

Added freshman center Alex Oriakhi: "The yelling. That's the biggest difference."

Blaney, a former head coach at four schools including Holy Cross, is more laid back. He has calmly watched games with his arms folded — never any hint he was about to blow a gasket over a blown call. The Syracuse game was the 14th time since

2003 he has coached in Calhoun's place, including the NCAA opener last season.

SPORTS

"I think initially it was easy because they know me and I've been around a while, especially with the older guys," Blaney said. "But I think as the time goes on, it's a little more difficult for them because they're used to his style and the way he runs practices. I would say it might be a little confusing to them at this stage."

The two gym rats forged a relationship when Blaney coached at Stonehill and Calhoun was in the high school ranks. They crossed paths again when Blaney moved on to Holy Cross and Calhoun went to Northeastern.

Calhoun is making \$1.6 million the final year of a six-year deal and was on the brink of signing a multi-year extension in December, though the contract was never completed.

"This has no bearing on the contract whatsoever," athletic director Jeffrey Hathaway said.

The deal is still there for Calhoun – if he wants it. Calhoun, the gruff Irishman, spoke last season about retiring if the Huskies won the national champion-

ship. Now he's in his 38th year as a college head coach.

Calhoun has been treated for cancer three times during his UConn career, including last summer when he successfully battled skin cancer. In June, he had to be hospitalized after breaking several ribs during a charity bike ride.

"It's going to take a lot to keep coach Calhoun out. A lot," Oriakhi said. "If you break ribs and keep going on your bike, this is nothing for him."

There's also an ongoing NCAA investigation into a report by Yahoo! Sports that former team manager Josh Nochimson helped guide basketball recruit Nate Miles to Connecticut, giving him lodging, transportation, meals and representation. Calhoun has acknowledged that he or his staff may have made mistakes in recruiting Miles.

Hathaway said the NCAA and school are in the middle of the review and had no other comment.

Calhoun has not talked to the press since the start of his sabbatical and repeated attempts to reach him by The Associated Press have been unsuccessful. He'll

address the media at the end of Friday's practice.

If Calhoun does retire at the end of the season, this is no immediate successor in place. Blaney is 70 and, while he's filled in when needed, is certainly not a longterm solution.

"Whoever takes over, that's going to be the hot seat," former UConn star and Celtics guard Ray Allen said. It's hard to imagine anyone having more impact on the team than Calhoun. UConn had played in the NCAA tournament just twice in 20 years before Calhoun led them to nine trips in the 1990s.

The Huskies need some turning around again, starting with signature victories to leap back into NCAA consideration. Their grueling schedule features games this month at No. 4 Villanova and No. 5 West Virginia. UConn is 1-5 vs. the Top 25 and the win against Texas looks less impressive as the Longhorns have sputtered.

UConn might have to win out and reach the Big East tournament final to be considered for an at-large NCAA bid.

That's quite a heady mission for this team with or without its legendary coach.

OLYMPICS Continued from 1B

Anderson. He has a list of world championships: 2001 giant slalom in Italy, 2005 parallel slalom and parallel giant slalom in Whistler and 2009 parallel giant slalom in South Korea. He's had overall World Cup snowboarding titles from 2001-04.

Where he hasn't fared well is the Olympics.

In 1998 he was 16th in the giant slalom in Nagano. In Salt Lake City he came in last in the parallel giant slalom. In Turin he was 20th in the parallel giant slalom and fifth in snowboardcross.

The Vancouver Games will likely be his last competitive event. It's for sure his last Olympics.

"I'm still sitting 50-50 on whether I'm going to finish off the season. I mean, this is what I've prepared for my whole life and it's in front of a home crowd," he said. "There's no better way to sum up a career than with this event."

In recent years he led a double life, shifting

between being a husband and a father and being an athlete. He has his wife and two daughters — and a blueberry farm — waiting for him

in retirement. "To be a loving father you have to be patient and you have to listen, and as an athlete you have to do what's best for you and it's a very selfish world," he said. "You always have to demand, ask, beg. It's hard to do that, especially at 34."

The one thing about such a long career besides the semi-embarrassing nickname — is the habits and superstitions that develop along the way. Anderson has purple socks.

Teammate Michael Lambert said Anderson is so protective of his purple socks, he once falsely accused someone of stealing them. "Yeah, Jasey cherishes those socks," Lambert laughed.

Anderson knows better than to mess with ritual. The socks have been with him since Nagano and they'll be with him again on Feb. 27, when he takes on Whistler.

You are South, both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone: East South West North What would you bid with each of the following four hands? 1. ♠ AKJ9 ♥ J8 ♦ KJ873 ♣ J5 **♦** KQJ9852 ♥ 7 **♦** A964 **♣** 10 ♠ 8763 ♥ 62 ♦ AK7 ♣ K1084 **♦** QJ974 ♥ 943 ♦ AJ8 **♣** 76

1. Two diamonds. Once partner opens the bidding, this is a gamegoing hand, but the correct final contract is not yet clear. The best you can do at this point is to start describing your hand as accurately as possible. planning to let partner eventually choose the proper contract.

You therefore bid two diamonds, intending to bid your spades next. Partner will then know that your spades are only four cards in length and that your diamonds are probably longer, since you bid them first. Having thus laid the proper groundwork. it should not be difficult for you and partner to decide whether the best game contract lies in spades, hearts.

diamonds or notrump. 2. Four spades. You can't very well stop under game, and you obviously don't want to play at any con-

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tract except spades. The direct leap to game indicates seven or eight playing tricks if spades are trumps even if partner has no support for the suit.

3. Double. With four probable defensive tricks added to the three your partner is likely to have for his opening bid, it seems best at this point to double for penalties, expecting to exact at least a two-trick set. There is no good reason to assume your side has a game, since partner can easily have only a minimum opening bid.

To bid two notrump at this juncture would allow the opponents to get off the hook in a situation where your side might not be able to make more than a partscore.

4. Two hearts. Your trump support is not robust, but there is no better bid than two hearts. You can't really pass with eight high-card points, holding a mild trump fit and a doubleton club besides. Nor can you afford to say two spades, a forcing bid that might drive you to a higher level than your side's combined values justify.

Two hearts says that you have six to 10 points, including distributional values, and it has the merit of allowing you to stop at a low level if partner has a minimum opening bid.

Tomorrow: The pressure principle.

No. 11 Gonzaga beats rival St. Mary's 80-61 SPOKANE,

Wash. (AP) — Matt Bouldin said Gonzaga wanted to make a statement during its showdown with Saint Mary's.

Well, the No. 16 Zags are still in first place the West Coast in Conference after a surprisingly easy 80-61 win Thursday night that put them in the driver's seat for a 10th consecutive regular-season title.

"They've only got four losses, and two of them are to us," Bouldin said. "This was a really big deal to come out and get this W."

Elias Harris scored 19 points and Bouldin had 18 as the Bulldogs (20-4, 8-1 WCC) shut down the Gaels in the second half to reach 20 wins for the 13th consecutive season.

After leading by three at halftime, the Zags held Saint Mary's to 29 percent shooting in the second half and outscored them 41-25 to beat perhaps their closest league foes for the sixth consecutive time.

"Those guys are always the challenger," said Robert Sacre, who added 13 points and six rebounds while helping hold Saint Mary's star Omar Samhan to seven points in the decisive second half. "We got fired up."

Samhan led all scorers with 21 points and 11 rebounds as Saint Mary's (21-4, 8-2) saw a six-game winning streak snapped.

"You can't turn the ball over against these guys and expect to win," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said of his team's 17 turnovers that led to 22 Gonzaga points. The Zags had only 11 turnovers, and only two in the second half.

The game was close for the first 23 minutes, with seven lead changes and eight ties, the last on Samhan's basket that knotted the score at 43 with just over 16 minutes left.

After that, it was all Gonzaga. Demetri Goodson scored to start

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Noon Wednesday, February 17

a 16-3 run over the next three minutes that put Gonzaga ahead 59-46.

Consecutive baskets by Harris gave Gonzaga a 70-54 lead with nine minutes left and the Gaels were done.

"We played harder on defense," Bouldin said of the decisive run.

Gonzaga held the Gaels to 37 percent shooting in the game. Matthew Dellavedova scored 11 points, the only other player in double figures for a team that averages 81 points per game. McConnell, Mickey who averages nearly 14 points, did not score. The Gaels had only seven field goals in the second half.

Name: Phone #: Number of cupids Feb. 1 to Feb. 14 Win A \$25 Gift Card by submitting the number of correct cupids between Feb. 1 to Feb. 14.

News in brief

Bill Clinton returns home after heart procedure

CHAPPAQUA, New York (AP) — Former Presi dent Bill Clinton was recovering at his suburban home Friday after leaving a Manhattan hospital where he underwent a heart procedure.

Three black SUVs with tinted windows arrived around 7:45 a.m. (1245 GMT) Friday and pulled through the high gates at the house. The hamlet of Chappaqua is about 35 miles (55 kilometers) north of New York City.

Clinton adviser Douglas Band said in a statement that Clinton left New York Presbyterian Hospital 'in excellent health."

"He looks forward in the days ahead to getting back to the work of his Foundation, and to Haiti relief and recovery efforts," it said.

Terry McAuliffe, the former Democratic National Committee chairman and a close friend of the Clintons, told CBS television that he expects Clinton will get back to work quickly.

"If I know President Clinton, he'll be on the phone ... calling people asking for more help for Haiti and where he can get pickup trucks so they can deliver food or generators. If I know Bill Clinton, he'll be raring to go in about 35 minutes," McAuliffe said.

Clinton, 63, could be back at work as soon as Monday, cardiologist Allan Schwartz said previously.

Clinton had quadruple bypass surgery at the same hospital more than five years ago.

Toyota to expand disclosure as pressure mounts for company chief to testify in Washington

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota said Friday it's planning a new level of disclosure about car problems beyond what the automaker is legally required to reveal as it seeks to rebuild consumer trust.

The move comes amid intensifying pressure for the automaker's president Akio Toyoda to testify before the U.S. Congress about safety lapses at hearings scheduled later this month. Presently, the highest-ranking company executive slated to attend the hearing is Toyota's North American head. Yoshimi Inaba.

Experts say it's vital that Toyoda appear at the Washington hearings to reverse the perception that the company has been slow to recognize and tackle the safety problems that have led it to recall 8.5 million vehicles.

"The final authority needs to be there and explain the situation and say what the company is doing to resolve the problems," said Yoshinobu Yamamoto, professor of international relations at Aoyama University.

If the hearing in Washington goes poorly - if Toyota executives come across as aloof or U.S. politicians come down in a way perceived in Japan as excessively harsh — it could even hurt diplomatic ties between the two nations. Relations are already strained over a dispute about plans to relocate a U.S. Marine base on Okinawa.

Iran's supreme leader praises mass turnout at state-backed rally on revolution day, warns West

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader praised the mass turnout at the governmentbacked rally marking the 1979 Islamic Revolution and warned the West to stop putting obstacles in his country's path, state Press TV reported Friday.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei thanked the "tens of millions" across the country who celebrated Thursday's anniversary, saying the turnout at rallies reflected the nation's strength.

During Thursday's anniversary celebration, security forces clamped down hard on scattered antigovernment demonstrations in the Iranian capital.

Police clashed with opposition activists, firing tear gas to disperse them and paintballs to mark them for arrest. Groups of hard-liners also attacked senior opposition figures — including the wife of the head of the reform movement.

The massive government rally in central Tehran dwarfed the opposition gatherings, which were far smaller than other outpourings of dissent in recent months. Still, Thursday's events showed authorities must rely on full-scale pressures to keep a lid on demonstrations.

Democrats wary of Obama's health care summit but event could clarify fate of overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) - First he called congressional Democrats' yearlong march toward health care overhaul an ugly process. Now President Barack Obama wants to talk directly with Republicans, the very people his Capitol Hill allies call obstinate and uncooperative.

It's no wonder Democratic lawmakers are less than enthusiastic about Obama's overture to the GOP.

The president has blamed special deals cut on Capitol Hill for the public's skepticism about health care legislation, distancing himself from what he's called "this Congress," even though his White House was closely involved in the process. For their part, some congressional Democrats clamored for stronger leadership from Obama after an upset loss in a special election last month denied Democrats their filibuster-proof Senate majority, plunging the health overhaul into disarray.

But with the legislation languishing, the bipartisan health care summit Obama has set for later this month almost has to break the logjam, even if neither Democrats nor Republicans are particularly excited about it. Either the two parties come together against all odds or the event demonstrates that no bipartisan outcome is possible, spurring Democrats to act alone. Or, the summit is a bust and the entire health care overhaul falls apart.

"I think this is sort of his last-ditch effort" at a bipartisan deal, said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

U.S. missionaries may spend weekend in Haiti jail

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Ten U.S. missionaries arrested trying to leave earthquakecrippled Haiti with a busload of children may be spending the weekend in jail despite a judge recommending their provisional release.

The prosecutor who got the case Thursday afternoon told The Associated Press he would respond to the judge by next week. All public offices are closed Friday, the quake's one-month anniversary that is a national day of mourning.

The recommendation by Judge Bernard Saint-Vil was the best news the Americans have had in the two weeks they've been held in a stuffy, grimy jail since being arrested.

Saint-Vil has the final word on whether to free them, but Prosecutor-General Josephe Mannes Louis first has a chance to raise objections. The judge told the AP on Thursday that he was accepting a request from defense attorneys to let the Americans go free while the investigation continues.

It is unclear when the missionaries, most from an Idaho Baptist church group, might be released. It is also not clear whether they would be allowed to leave the country if the judge grants a provisional release.

Patrick Kennedy 'taking a new direction,' won't seek 9th term

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Patrick Kennedy's decision not to seek re-election will leave Washington without a Kennedy in political office for the first time in more than 60 years.

The Rhode Island Democrat's term ends early next year but he says in a television message viewed by The Associated Press on Thursday that his life is "taking a new direction" and he will not seek a ninth term.

The 42-year-old son of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy does not give a reason for the decision but says it has been a difficult few years for many people and he mentions the death in August of his father.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

to nurture the community's young people and prepare them for future leadership duties.

ones up here accepting these awards and we'll be the ones in the audience applauding."

Also during Thursday's banquet, the gavel was ceremoniously passed from outgoing Chamber President Steve Herrin to new President David Justice. Justice told the audience that the chamber has accomplished much in the past year,

but has much to do in the next 12 months. Among the goals he set are increased chamber involvement in the Business Before Hours and Business After Hours events. Business Power Lunch program. chambersponsored seminars, Leadership Big Spring and recruiting more members to the organization's Ambassador program. "We currently have 380 members in the chamber, but there are many more businesses who could be members," Justice said. "I would like to set a goal of 400 members before the end of this year."

Contact Staff Writer Steve



'I want to challenge the young people in Big Spring to stay involved," he said. "Because in the years to come, you'll be the

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

Affordable pre-need plans

SOUTH

Continued from Page 1A

Breeze, Fla., delayed opening. Jim Pavelic, a retiree from Chicago who relocated to Florida, made his way to the door of the store around 6:20 a.m. and read the sign noting the store would open late "due to the unprecedented weather patterns."

Pavelic couldn't believe it.

"You cannot even get a cup of coffee and it's raining," he said, laughing. "At least I don't need a snow shovel."

Several oceanside communities in South Carolina including Charleston — which hasn't seen recorded snowfall since January 2000 could see between 2 and 4 inches of snow, said

Jonathan Lamb, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Charleston.

And as much as 3 inches could hit Savannah, Ga., where snow was last traced in February 1996 - "and that was only 0.2 inches," Lamb said. It's been two decades since Georgia's oldest city had any notable accumulation, with 3.6 inches falling in December 1989. Normally, temperatures in February don't dip below 41 degrees.

"There's no doubt this is a significant event for us," Lamb said.

Highway patrol troopers in Texas, Alabama and several other states warned of treacherous morning commutes. Dallas police responded to 41 major traffic accidents and 132 minor ones Thursday, though

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no serious injuries were reported. The roof of a tire warehouse in west Dallas collapsed under the heavy snow overnight, leaving a gaping hole in the roof but causing no injuries.

American Airlines about canceled 240flights Friday, mainly at its hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, airline spokesman Steve Schlachter said.

The snowfall made this the snowiest winter in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 32 seasons.

In Atlanta, Delta Air Lines canceled 400flights for Friday in anticipation of as much as 2 inches of snow expected in the region AirTran also thinne its schedule, annound ing Thursday plans t cut 32 of its flights of Friday because of the threat of snow. That included flights in an out of Atlanta.

The snow hitting th Deep South comes jus a week after the first o back-to-back blizzard hit Washington, D.C. which ended u with about 28 inches of snow — and along th Eastern Seaboard. Res idents are still diggin out from those storms which forced the fed eral government t shut down for about week.

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OPINION

BIG SPRING HERALD Friday, February 12, 2010

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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

· Coahoma Junior High Choir members Richie Ewing, Coley Rinard, Beth Warnick, Shayla Martin, Alex Gibbs and Caleb Daniel, all of whom received first division or superior ratings at Region 6 Solo & Ensemble Contest held Jan 30. in Midland.

• Danielle Freeman, Andrew Lewis, Jessica Rubio and Shermila Kher, members of the Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team, who took part in the District 4-4a Cross-Examination Meet on Tuesday. Freeman and Lewis took first place and qualified for the UIL State Tournament in March, while Rubio and Shermila placed third.

• Kim Nichols, Coahoma High School's head basketball coach and athletic director, who was honored by the Coahoma Masonic Lodge with its annual Community Building Award.

• Lane Bond of Big Spring, who was honored with a special reception Tuesday, kicking off an exhibit of his photography currently on display in the Gallery Hallway of Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts. The display is available until Saturday.

How about 'Let's get 'er done'

love Mel Gipson movies. Braveheart, The Patriot and We Were Soldiers are three on my top 20 list of all time favorites. I know I'm a boy and run from chick flicks like O.J. with a white Bronco but a prop-

erly spun tale of a victorious warrior makes my baby leap.

There is this scene is the amazing movie "We Were Soldiers" where Sam Elliot steps out of Tombstone and into the Vietnamese jungle long enough to yell "Gentlemen, prepare to defend yourselves!" Everybody starts

fixing their bayonets because

hear the approaching enemy in full advance, ready to slaughter.

The few seconds before the

enemy comes into view seems

like an eternity as the young

Americans prepare to take ac-

scene and sometimes I need to

tion against an unseen and hos-

tile enemy force. It's my favorite

hear the gravely voice of Sam El-

liot scream at me to take the mo-

ment I am in very seriously and

prepare to take extreme action.

As Christians we are not just

the bride of Christ but in fact we

are a warrior bride. We are wor-

A CALL TO ARMS

out there in the fog they can



BREWER

shipping warriors and warrior poets like that guy in the Bible who removed that nasty 10-gallon head from the neck of a very unclean philistine giant with serious hygiene issues.

We are ambassadors instructed to engage the arenas of this world without taking citizenship with the foreign land we are visiting. Yes we are disciples but discipleship is not a free expedition. You and I are going to have to accomplish something. We need to really make a difference while we are still able to do something.

As a guy that serves as senior leader in several ministries here at home and on a few other continents, I have noticed something about most of the arm chair quarterbacks who constantly criticize how people like me are moving forward — they don't. Armchair quarterbacks live couch potato lifestyles and sit on their blessed assurance.

But that is not you. This is a year for you to accomplish great vision but you get when so many others simply forget. Accomplishing vision is all about fulfilling God's heart.

PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION American Christians are full of great revelation and insight of the scriptures and sadly tend to be content with a head full of thoughts. Revelation by itself has little value but, in fact, should lead to an amazing experience. With revelation comes responsibility to live out what you got a glimpse of.

About 1,500 years before Jesus, God would trust a guy named Moses with a critical part of an amazing plan.

To me, the thing that made Moses special is not just that he was willing to go back to Egypt and come home with a million former slaves but something much, much more amazing. Moses went to the mountain and had an amazing encounter with God, but unlike most, actually took action and carried out the plan to build the tabernacle ... even after he was surrounded by knuckleheads.

Leaders accomplish vision. Jesus was always about carrying out Vision. In fact, the last words He spoke while on the cross were "It is finished!"

So let's be Christ-like this year and actually accomplish what is in our hearts to do. God is just asking you to take charge of things, He is asking you to take action and responsibility.

Luke 12:50

But I have a baptism to be baptized with: and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

The Rev. Troy Brewer pastors Open Door Ministries near Joshua and contacted through his websites troybrewer.com, Freshfromthebrewer.com and Opendoorministries.org



Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinons.

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.

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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Sign your letter.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

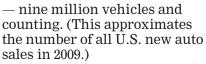
With You, Lord, we can take our personal life and career to a whole new level.

Trouble at the top seems rampant

id you hear about the identical greeting cards that crossed in the mail? Toyota executives and NBC television brass sent them to each other. They were, uh, "get well cards," bearing this message: "Stop if

you can, or at least slow down."

Both brain trusts wish they could. The TV bosses can't rein in night talk show prima donnas and the auto people are having trouble reining in certain Toyota models. This world-wide headache is now in recall mode



Dr.

Don

NEWBURY

In Toyota showrooms, certain models are in sales lockdown until accelerator corrections are made.

Prospective automobile buyers are skeptical. Forget kicking tires; they're contorted in the floorboard, checking out the "foot feed."

Repairs will be made "around the clock" when the "cure" is determined. And ad people will likewise burn oil at midnight, purging "pedal to the metal" lyrics.

I can't "feel the pain" of the NBC wheels. They have a "pie in the face" posture, taking the broadsides of employees' nightly rants that brand the bosses as buffoons.

The execs are like punching bags, moving only enough to get Amen their noses into position for the

next blow from the verbal fist of Conan O'Brien, who, on a good night, is about as funny as an ironing board.

Despite his nightly placement of dunce caps on the bosses, Conan and his crew are walking away with a \$45 million "settlement." I thought such could happen only in government or pro sports.

Speaking of sports, we might 'puddle up" with oceans of tears for another corporate giant, Nike.

Unlike Toyota and NBC, whose respective traumas are singular, Nike must dig out from the fallout of a "double whammy."

The "long and the short of it:" The road back will be long and uphill, with nothing short about it.

Nike moguls face endless groans. So far, they're sticking with besmirched golfer Tiger Woods, an admitted philanderer generally shunned and shamed by the masses. The Nike honchos are squirming, not knowing what to do with him.

Now, they must push the issue to the side, because they've got another front-burner fire raging.

There's a new study about runners' feet. It promotes the merits of running barefoot. It was conducted by a Harvard professor, no less. "We started running millions of years ago," Dr. Daniel Lieberman said, noting that during most of history, runners have run barefoot, "landing" toward the middle or front of the foot. For the past few decades, however, cushioned shoes have been designed to absorb heel impact.

This, sports fans, is a bombshell. Nike has spent billions of dollars convincing runners that periodic "improvements" justify steady price escalation for stateof-the-art running shoes.

Throw in the big bucks paid to celebrities like Woods for product endorsement, and the picture clears as to why "fancyschmancy" running shoes are priced in three figures.

If Nike investors move to Dr. Scholl's footpads, it's a good bet that runners are switching to shoeless.

I know. Maybe I'm jumping the gun. But remember, I am my 97-year-old Uncle Mort's nephew. Maybe I've inherited his tendency to view life through squinted eyes.

He showed up the other day devoid of shoes, obviously aware of the shoe study. I made the mistake of asking what brought him to town.

"Had to see the dermatologist," he grinned. "The doc said I had more skin tags than skin, and he removed enough of 'em for store-wide price markdowns at Wal-Mart."

Groan.

Continuing his ramble, he asked if I'd heard that Glen Bell, 86-year-old founder of Taco Bell, had died. Stats followed about this fast-food pioneer — 60-plus years in the business, 5,600 franchisees serving 37 million Americans weekly and a founder of Der Wienerschnitzel, the big hot dog chain. "If I'd had to learn to spell 'Wienerschnitzel,' I'd have started thinking outside the bun, too," Mort joked.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author living in the Dallas-Fort Worth. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc. com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

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Instructional

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DON'T PAY to find work before you get the job. For

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for: * Crew Tech

Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test & background check.

CERTIFIED PHARMACY Tech. Competitive salary with benefits. Apply in person at 1002 South Main. EOE.

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High School Diploma/GED
At least 5 years experience as a Floor Tech
Experience with floor buffer, burnisher, and
stripper/scrubber
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Experience in a healthcare environment preferred;
experience in other industries will be considered
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No phone calls please. Only candidates who meet the above requirements will be considered. 209433

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NEWLY RENOVATED 4004 Parkway, 3 Bdrm, 2 bath. Call for info. 432-212-3646.

NICE ESTABLISHED neighborhood- 1312 Sycamore, 3/2, fenced backyard w/garage. Nicely Landscaped. \$59,500.00. Owner Financing or Cash. Call (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

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PALM BEACH County's MOST affordable Luxury in Florida! Royal Manor Estates-Age Restricted Community. Go to our web site for video presentation www.royalmanorestates.com 561-732-1050.

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ATTENTION THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

RELIGION

Church News

St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy communion is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. We have Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

St. Mary's needlepoint class is 6:30 p.m Monday in the library. Our noon Holy Eucharist service is each Wednesday in the chapel.

St. Mary's will have a Shrove Tuesday party at 6 p.m. Feb. 16 in the parish hall. A cajun country boil is being prepared. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. You may purchase a ticket in the church office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Ash Wednesday services for Feb. 17 will be at noon and 6 p.m. in the church.

The new Inquirers' Class begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18 in the church. The CnC class is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 in the parish hall.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Chapel of Faith church, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad streets, as we learn more about God's Word and His love for each of us.

Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. each week. Pastor Scott Willis will be preaching this Sunday. His message will be "The Shining Face of Moses," based on scripture from Isaiah Exodus 34:29-35.

Consider this: "Accept life daily not as a cup to be drained, but as a chalice to be filled with whatsoever things are honest, pure, lovely and of good report." — Sidney Lovett

We encourage you to attend the church of your choice. However, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit the Chapel of Faith. You will be warmly welcomed.

Remember, God loves each of us with a love so great He sent His son to die for our sins that we might live for Him now and with Him eternally.

First United Methodist

Sunday, Valentine's Day, you have an opportunity to give the gift of life. There will be a blood drive on behalf of Kevan Schooler beginning at 9 a.m. in Garrett Hall. They will be holding this drive until 1 p.m. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating toward this cause as Kevan continues his Episcopal Church with the Rev. Ken McIntosh of First Christian Church speaking. March 11, First Methodist will play host to the meetings with the Rev. Craig Holsted of First Presbyterian speaking. March 18, the Rev. Wiese will be the speaker as the group meets at First Presbyterian Church, and, March 25, the meeting will be held at First Christian with Father Gulley as speaker. Everyone is urged to take part in these Thursday luncheon meetings. It's a wonderful time of fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Dates to remember: Beginning Friday evening and continuing through Saturday, our youth will be attending Planet Wisdom at First Methodist in Midland to take part in "A Walk With Christ to the Cross," highlighting the last 14 hours in Jesus' life. On that same Saturday, SAM, our senior adult ministry, is sponsoring a trip to Lubbock to see "My Fair Lady," produced by the music department of First Methodist, at the civic center. Sunday night, Feb. 21, Mark Barr will begin a four-week study on "What You Want To Know About Being A Methodist." And Pastor Sharon will begin a special Lenten study on Wednesday nights beginning at 6 on Feb. 24.

There are even more spirit-filled events and activities going on at Fourth and Scurry, and you are cordially invited to any and all. We're First Methodist, where families grow in Christ, located in the very heart of downtown Big Spring.

Baptist Temple

This Sunday morning's message will be "Agape and Phileo" from John 21:15-19. These are two types of love found in the Bible and we will talk about the meaning of these and what they should look like given the Valentine's weekend. Sunday evening we will be having our "Everybody Birthday Party" at 6 p.m. in our fellowship hall. We will celebrate everybody's birthday with one big party. Don and Judy Earley of Fort Worth will be our entertainment for the evening.

We will be restarting our Financial Peace University class with Dave Ramsey on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. starting Feb. 15. We will be offering our first session at no charge and no obligation. If you or someone you know is interested, you can come check it out. If the course piques your interest, then you can sign-up and pay your \$100 fee (includes all course materials and the cost of shipping and handling) and take the remaining 12 weeks of the course.

Presidents of integrity

n just a few days, we will be celebrating the birthdays of two great American presidents. Banks and government build-

ings will be closed. Some businesses will bar their doors. Others will lure customers into their stores with promises of greatly reduced prices advertised as Presidents' Day specials.

Depending on their adopted school calendar's, students either will be sleeping late Feb. 15 or filing into classrooms to hear

about the merits and accomplishments of George Washington, who was born Feb. 22, 1732, and Abraham Lincoln, who was born Feb. 12, 1809.

Although the most popular story about George Washington may be only a myth, many children will be hearing how George Washington, the first president, chopped down his father's cherry tree with his new hatchet when he was a little boy and later confessed his misconduct with the words "I cannot tell a lie."

At the same time, students will be learning about the sixteenth president, who lived in a log cabin and had to read by lamplight. They will

meet at 11 a.m. Sundays to share the scriptures, sing, pray, and worship led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Tom, along with Big Spring's pastor Craig Holstedt, continues to have a Bible study on the week's lectionary in the library of First Presbyterian, Big Spring, on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. Everyone from both churches, and anyone else who is interested, is invited to this informal study.

We express our appreciation to Mike Robinson who preached last Sunday. Tom reports that the presbytery Youth Connection Retreat at Prude Ranch, which was attended by 153, was a success.

The Women's Bible Study group will meet Wednesday, February 17, at 6 p.m. This month they will meet at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Our congregation is invited to join with First Presbyterian, Big Spring,

be singing the praises of "Old Abe Lincoln" who "came out of the wilderness many long years ago."

What do these two great presidents have in common besides their February birthdays and being destined to share a holiday? Both men exhibited incredible leadership during critical times in our nation's history. But they have another commonality — both were men of integrity. At Washington's funeral, he was eulogized as "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Likewise, Lincoln carried the moniker of "Honest Abe" because of his reputation as a man who could be trusted.

The Bible speaks of another great leader who valued integrity. King David asked the Lord to judge him according to his integrity: "Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High" (Psalm 7:8 NIV).

When this generation of parents, teachers, public figures, and even presidents has passed, who will the great role models for our children have been? Whom will history record as men and women of integrity?

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.

for Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Tom will assist the Rev. Holstedt in that service.

The 87th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios will be held Friday, Feb. 19, at First Presbyterian Church, Midland. That meeting will be followed on Friday afternoon and Saturday with a "Living Letters for a New World," a conference on living the gospel. The Rev. Dr. Darrell Guder from Princeton Theological Seminary will be the keynote speaker.

Please stand by for information on the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which will be received at Easter, April 4.

The lectionary for the Transfiguration of the Lord is Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship.

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 7A



Bonnie

WHEAT

cancer treatment.

Sunday services of worship at both 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. will be led by our pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese. Her sermon topic this week is "Looking More Like Jesus; Intentional Faith Formation," with scripture reading from Philippians 3:12, pressing toward the goal. Sunday school classes for all ages are held at 9:45 a.m.

Ash Wednesday will be observed at the noon Bible study and luncheon Feb. 17. During the Lenten season there will be meetings each Thursday until Easter at several different churches. You may want to save today's article in order to keep up with the schedule. Beginning Feb. 25 you are invited to worship and have a light lunch at the Catholic Church with the Rev. Barbara Norris, pastor at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, as speaker. March 4, the meeting will be at the

Our weight-loss support-group SPEED (Shedding Pounds Eagerly Every Day) has resumed and is meeting Tuesdays at the church at 6 p.m.

Our 12-Step Recovery group, led by Dean Thomas, has also resumed and meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

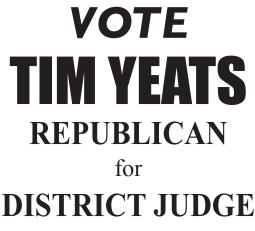
You are always welcome here. Sundays, we have classes for all ages starting at 9:45 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesdays, we have groups for all ages starting at 7 p.m.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at btcbigspring.org.

First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We





As your District Judge, I will decide each and every case based on its merits, by interpreting and applying the law fairly and equally to everyone who appears before the court.

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You deserve a factual look at . . .

Myths About Israel and the Middle East (2)

Should we re-examine endlessly repeated clichés?

In a previous installment in this series of clarifying messages about Israel and the Middle East, we examined certain myths which, by dint of constant repetition, had acquired currency and acceptance. We looked at the myth of "Palestinian nationhood," the myth of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") being "occupied territory," the myth that Jewish settlements in these territories are "the greatest obstacle to peace," and the myth that Israel is unwilling to "yield land for peace." And we cleared up the greatest myth of all, namely that Israel's administration of the territories, and not the unrelenting hatred of the Arabs against the Jews, is the root cause of the conflict between the Arabs and Israel. But those are not all the myths; there are more.

"It is in our national interest that

What are more of these myths?

■ Myth: The Arabs of Israel are a persecuted minority.

Reality: The over one million non-Jews (mostly Arabs) who are citizens of Israel have the same civil rights that Jews have. They vote, are members of the Knesset (parliament), and are part of Israel's civil and diplomatic service, just as their Jewish fellow citizens. Arabs have complete religious freedom and full access to the Israeli legal, health and educational systems including Arabic and Muslim universities. The only difference between the "rights" of Arabs and Jews is that Jewish young

a democratic state could be created in the territories. There is not a single democratic Arab state - all of them are tyrannies of varying degrees. Even today, under partial Israeli administration, Hamas and other factions fight for supremacy and ruthlessly murder each other. Another Lebanon, with its incessant civil wars, is much more likely. The lawlessness and chaos that prevail in Gaza since Israel's withdrawal is a good prospect of what would happen if Israel - foolishly and under the pressure of "world opinion" - were to abandon this territory. As for demilitarization, that is totally unlikely.

men must serve three years in the military and at least one month a year until age 50. Young Jewish women serve for two years. The

Arabs have no such civic obligation. For them, military service is voluntary. Not too surprisingly,

except for the Druze, very few avail themselves of the privilege. Myth: Having (ill-advisedly) already given up control of the Gaza Strip, Israel should also give up the administration of Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") because strategic depth is meaningless in this age of missiles.

Reality: Israel is a mini-state – about half the size of San Bernardino county in California. If another, even smaller ministate were carved out of it, Israel would be totally indefensible. That is the professional opinion of 100 retired U.S. generals and admirals. If the Arabs were to occupy whatever little strategic depth Israel has between the Jordan River and its populated coast, they would not need any missiles. Artillery and mortars would suffice, since Israel would be only nine miles wide at its waist. Those who urge such a course either do not understand the situation or have a death wish for Israel.

Myth: If Israel would allow a Palestinian state to arise in Judea and Samaria it would be a democratic state and would be totally demilitarized.

Reality: There is no prospect at all that anything resembling

Countless "peace conferences" to settle this festering conflict have taken place. All have ended in failure because of the intransigence of the Arabs. President Clinton, toward the end of his presidency, convened a conference with the late unlamented Yasser Arafat and Ehud Barak, the prime minister of Israel at that time. Mr. Barak offered virtually everything that Arafat had requested, except the partition of Jerusalem and the acceptance of the so-called refugees, their descendants having swollen from the 650,000 who fled the nascent state of Israel during the War of Liberation, to an incredible 5 million. Arafat left in a huff and started his infamous intifada instead, a bloody war that has cost thousands of Palestinian and Israeli lives. Israel is America's staunchest ally and certainly its only true friend in that area of the world. It is in our national interest that reality, not myths, govern our policy

This message has been published and paid for by



Facts and Logic About the Middle East P.O. Box 590359 San Francisco, CA 94159 Gerardo Joffe. President

Because - with Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, most of which are reality, not myths, govern our policy." in a declared state of war with Israel, at its borders – an irresistible

power vacuum would be created. Despite pious promises, the arms merchants of the world would find a great new market and the neighboring hostile Arab countries would be happy to supply anything else that might be needed

■ Myth:: Israel should make "confidence-building gestures" for the sake of peace.

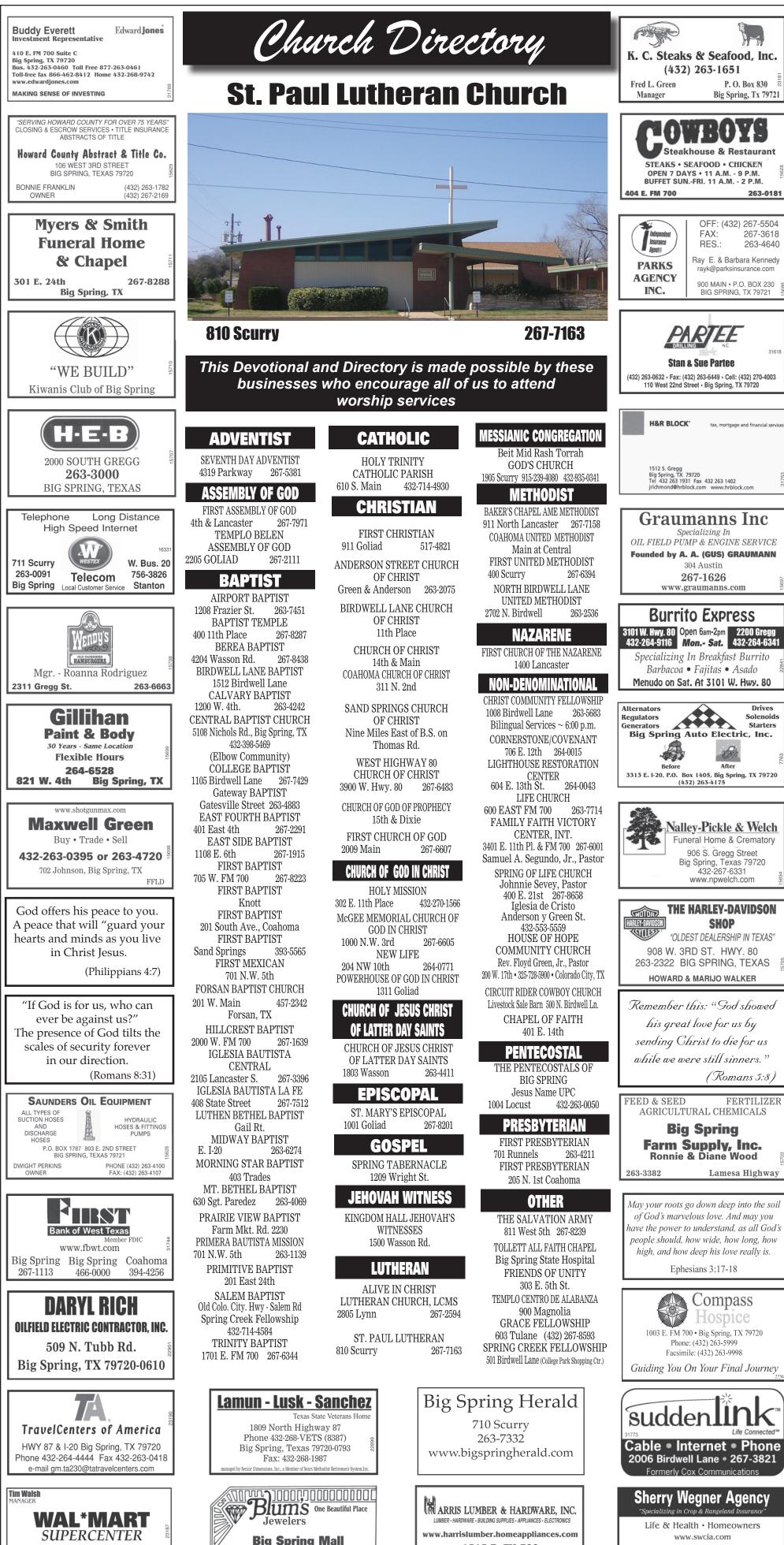
Reality: What really is it that the world expects Israel to do for the sake of peace? Most of the 22 Arab countries consider themselves in a state of war with Israel and don't even recognize its "existence." That has been going on for over sixty years. Isn't it about time that the Arabs made some kind of a "gesture?" Could they not for instance terminate the constant state of war? Could they not stop launching rockets into Israel from areas that Israel has abandoned for the sake of peace? Could they not stop the suicide bombings, which have killed hundreds of Israelis and which have made extreme security measures - such as the defensive fence and convoluted bypass roads - necessary? Any of these would create a climate of peace and would indeed be the "confidence-building gestures" that the world hopes for.

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To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: www.factsandlogic.org



6A

















267-2555

1902 N. Hwy. 87 • Big Spring

Though Venus has taken leave of the party in Aquarius, the heavens still remain soaked in Aquarian energy. The sun, moon, Mercury and Neptune are all dancing through the altruistic realm of the water bearer, and people are looking out for

each other. Babies born today will be inventive, forwardthinking and highly creative. ARIES

(March

21-April

19). You're



HOLIDAY MATHIS

the one who can take initiative and get a show on the road. And you'll do it, too. You start with no support and wind up with a whole gang of people ready to help you in any way you need.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You used to think that dollars were hard to come by, but you're starting to see that it's not true for everyone. Work on changing your belief system around money. Repeat to yourself: "I always have more than enough."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If it's not on the schedule or on your list of things to do, it's not likely to happen. So write things down not only the mundane things but the dreamy ones, too. The magic of pen and paper will amaze you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your vehicle is in perfect working order — the chassis is solid, the chrome trim impeccable and shiny, and that last coat of wax was a coat of dreamy dazzle. Someone needs to take you out and show you off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a set of tools for dealing with adversity. There probably won't be any obvious conflict today, except your own resistance to work or a sense of boredom. Use your tools anyway and you'll keep them sharp.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want people to like you, but perhaps not everyone, and perhaps not this much. Guard against unwanted attention. Know where you're going and what you're doing at all times, and stay on pur-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

pose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. Usually, when 23). you're not sure, you decide to think the best. But don't go against vour instincts for the sake of being positive. Sometimes there's a good reason for why you don't feel good about a situation. Honor your gut.

SCORPIO (Oct.24-Nov. 21). Satisfying yourself may seem like a bigger challenge than it usually is. That's because your taste is changing. What used to interest you has less appeal. You will soon connect with a new passion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's an assignment you have been given or a deadline you have made for yourself that looms in the distant future. Do not wait until your time is short. Get busy now. This will greatly reduce your stress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You like some of the changes around you, but there have also been developments that aren't working for you at all. Instead of pining away for the past, get busy finding

solutions that will brighten your future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be a natural crowd pleaser. What you do is so enjoyable to everyone around you that you'll please people you don't even like. And hopefully that fact won't ruin your wonderful mood.

(Feb. PISCES 19-March 20). You are so lucky to have the gift of fanciful thinking. You'll be in another one of daydreaming your moods, and yet you'll also get just the right amount of reality to keep you productive.

TODAY' S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12). Follow your whims this year, as they will lead vou to magical meetings and great insights. Also, in March, one such tangent will be lucrative. April brings the end of a struggle and the beginning of an adventure. May is the chance to reconnect with old ties and heal family bonds. Invest in yourself in September. Sagittarius and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 14, 39, 1 and 17.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Your attention to detail makes you a thoughtful and romantic sweetheart. TAURUS: Though you like learning from different types of people, you feel the best around someone who is very much like you. GEMINI: Your courteous, professional demeanor makes you attractive to one who appreciates class. CANCER: You'll be smart about who you let into your world, and you'll sense when the timing is not right, too. LEO: You do things without being asked, and this means a lot to a loved one. VIRGO: Be open to meeting new people and a friend will make a fascinating introduction for you. LIBRA: You like to keep things fresh. You'll take initiative to show someone you care, especially if the relationship is well established. SCORPIO: You'll like how you feel about yourself when you're around Capricorn. а SAGITTARIUS: You'll work hard to look and feel your very best. **CAPRICORN:** Romance is catching. A friend in love will influence you. AQUARIUS: You are likely to underestimate

your own attractiveness. Someone is very "into" you. PISCES: You'll get what you want easily because you don't demand it. People feel generous and unpressured around you.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Aquarius and Pisces share a common ideology. They both sense that life has more dimensions than we can humanly understand. They both think about their existence and what it means. And they both prefer to remain open to magical possibilities. One such possibility is that these two could fall very deeply in love this weekend as they share their thoughts about the nature of the universe.

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, the Creators visit Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I am a happily married woman. I am also close to "Tom," whom I have known for 15 years. My husband is friendly with Tom, as well.

The problem is Tom's girlfriend. There has never been anything sexual about my relationship with Tom.

He is four years younger, and I think of him as a little brother. I have done everything I can think of to welcome his girlfriend.

I've called her. I've e-mailed so she can get to know me better. I've invited her for dinner. I've offered to invite

Tom over only when my husband is home. None of it seems to matter. She still thinks heis cheating on her with me. Tom has been there during the toughest times of my life. He doesn't drive due to a physical disability, so I'm lucky to see him a few times a month. His girlfriend sees him almost every night, but even when she's with him at my house, she gets jealous and picks a fight. Tom does not condone her behavior, but I'm beginning to feel angry that she is accusing me of things I would never do — like cheat on my husband. Tom is like family to me. How can I make this woman understand that we are friends and nothing more? I'd love to hang out and have fun with both of them, but she is unwilling. Any suggestions? — At Wits' End

Sorry.

Dear Annie: I have a large extended family, with many aunts, uncles and cousins.

We try to get together once or twice a year. My aunts and uncles usually attend these gatherings, but few of the cousins show up.

I have first cousins I haven't seen in years, and we all live within 30 miles of each other.

The children of these cousins are now graduating from high school, getting married and having babies.



rocate for gifts they have sent to you.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Guilford, Conn.," who discovered she had been taking her thyroid medincorrectly, ication which was why she wasnít feeling any better.

She was supposed to take it 30 minutes before breakfast.

Her doctor had not given her this information.

I am an RN and have been taking thyroid replacement since 1962.

In addition to the timing of the pill, you are supposed to take it with a full glass of water.



Dear AWE: Tomís girlfriend is very insecure.

She is unreasonably jealous because she cannot control the relationship Tom has with you except by eliminating it altogether.

That is her ultimate goal and the reason why your friendly overtures are not working.

If Tom cannot reassure her sufficiently, he will continue to distance himself until he breaks it off with her — or you.

KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

My mailbox is overflowing with wedding and shower invitations and graduation announcements.

I send gifts to those cousins whose families I am in contact with, but I resent receiving all these announcements from cousins I never see and who make no attempt to have a relationship with me.

When I receive these invitations, I ignore them.

I know other family members agree with me but still feel obligated to send gifts.

How do people have the nerve to send invitations to people they never see?

Do I tell them how I feel or just continue to ignore their mail? -*Related in Name Only*

Dear Related: If you have no connection to these cousins, never see them and don't particularly care about them, there is no reason to attend their functions or send gifts — unless, of course, it is to recip-

You also should not take vitamin-mineral supplements within four hours of taking the thyroid medication.

"Guilford" is right. If you take the drug properly, it can make you function at a much higher level.

Thank you for your column. You do a world of good. -J.G.

Dear J.G.: We appreciate the kind words and your expert suggestions. Anyone on medication should doublecheck with the pharmacist to find out precisely how to take it.

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.

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RELIGION

Miracles can happen for you

n today's world, we need miracles as never before. One of the most wonder-_ful principles known to man is "The Miracle Prin-

ciple". This principle has revolutionized the lives of all who have learned how to put it into practice. Eight simple words characterize it: "Expect a miracle; you can make it happen."



Jerrie **S**тоскя

If you keep your eyes open expectantly every day for great and wonderful things to happen, great and wonderful things will tend to happen to you. It's true! Ordinary people experience miracles every day. If you always think the best, look for the best, and expect the best, you will see miracles in your life. A positive outlook overrides the negative. If your consciousness is invaded with negative thoughts, turn them around and think constructively. What you habitually

think about will eventually happen.

The naturalist, John Burroughs, once said, "My own shall come to me. What we send out mentally and spiritually will return to us." We become who we are in our thoughts.

A friend recently asked me if I believed in miracles. "Indeed I do, and very much so," I replied." Later she asked, "How do you receive a miracle?" I told her, "It has to do with the way you program your mind." When you think about miracles everyday, miracles follow.

The dictionary defines miracles as "remarkable or marvelous events." Miracles do not always happen immediately, though some do. Psalm 62 says, "Wait thou upon the Lord: for my expectation is from Him." God is a miracle-worker. When we force our faith into action and expect great things, we receive great things.

Habakkuk 2:2 says, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time: but at the end it will speak,s

and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, and it will not tarry."

Great people of the world have a faith so positively strong, it rises above doubt. If you train yourself to have in-depth faith, it will release an astonishing power that produces miracles.

There are people in this world known as "believers." They take hold of life with profound authority. They are winners, not quitters, and they stay the course until it is done.

In 1999, I spent a year in Kentucky with my husband as he finished a work assignment just prior to retirement. We had a small apartment on Paradise Lake. After he left for the office each morning, I enjoyed walking around the lake. One morning I decided to take a different route and that's when I met Sassy.

Sassy was sitting on the shore with her fishing line, reading a book. As I approached her, she offered me a folding chair and a cup of coffee from her thermos. We hit it off immediately. She

was a retired college professor in her early 60's; a black lady, beautiful inside and out, with a class about her that captured my attention.

She wore her thick white hair pulled back with a black velvet bow. Her large gold hoop earrings and white rimmed designer glasses told me that she was a refined, elegant lady. One day she invited me to her home for lunch. I was thrilled as we climbed into her old pickup for the two-mile ride to her immaculate home.

I knew from the onset that Sassy was indeed a special person. Nothing about her was ordinary. I imagined it to be her impeccable manners, her excellent grammar, and her vast knowledge of the places she had traveled in the world. She had met the Pope, visited with Mother Theresa, and had taken tea with the Queen of England. She had also attended the largest church in the world in Seoul, Korea, and the list went on. But the things that really got my attention were her strong faith in God, her positive attitude about everything, and the many miracles

she had seen and continued to see in her life. No one ever told Sassy that something could not be done because she knew it could. She never gave up on a project until it was complete.

7A

One day Sassy told me, "Never stop learning. What you learn here on earth goes into heaven with you when you die, where its wisdom is defined and refined by the Master Himself." Chills ran up my back as she talked about the beauty of learning.

My husband's work year ended far too soon for me. I knew I would miss Sassy. The brilliance in her face and voice caused me to wonder at times if she might have been an angel. Her last departing words to me were, "Never stop believing in miracles."

You can experience miracles in your life. The only ingredients necessary are expectancy and a believing faith. Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

God bless.

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community meets at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Babe Chick meeting is at 6:30.

Next meeting is March 11.

At this month's meeting we will honor the 2001 Walks; Women's Walk 23 LD Kim McAnally, Men's Walk 24 LD Rory Worthan, Women's Walk 25 LD Angie Brown, Women's Walk 26 LD Terry McDaniel. Plan to attend. Bring a dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a potluck fellowship.

For more information, see our Web site: www.signal-emmaus.org

St. Paul Lutheran

We are located at 810 Scurry and begin Sunday worship at 9 a.m. with Sunday school for all following at 10:15. Our office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We can be reached by calling 267-7163. Our worship service is led by Pastor

Wayne K. Frost.

Bible study opportunities are available to anyone wishing to come. You do not need to be a member of St. Paul in order to attend the classes. Wednesday at noon, Pastor Frost is teaching a ladies class, "Seeking the Face of God," in the parish hall. Friday at 6 a.m., the topic is "Seduction of Extremes," and is held at Greg's Grill in the Big Spring Mall. And Sunday at 6 p.m., "Experiencing God" is being studied at 2712 Ann.

For ore information concerning any of these Bible study classes, please call the church office.

Let us know your concerns and prayer requests by calling the office or e-mailing stpaullc@sbcglobal.net

We are reminded to include in our daily prayers our military men and women, especially those involved in combat situations.

First Presbyterian, **Big Spring**

The Lectionary Bible study met on Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. Choir practice was at 6 p.m.

The service committee will meet at the church on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 5:30 p.m.

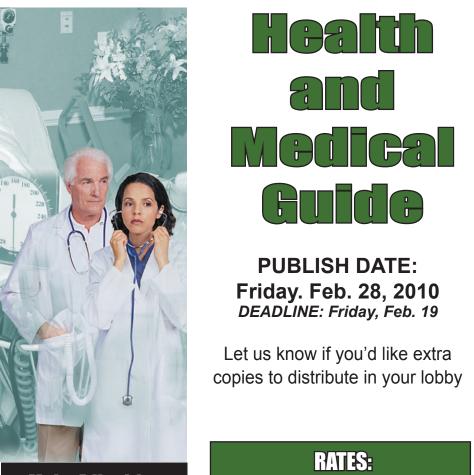
The next meeting of Tres Rios Presbytery will be at First Presbyterian, Midland on Friday, Feb. 19. That evening and Saturday, Feb. 20, there will be a conference on living the gospel "Living Letters for a New World" at the same location. The keynote speaker is Dr. Darrell Guder, with workshop and worship leaders from around the presbytery.

Christine Boling will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday morning. Mark Morgan is liturgist. For the children in the nursery.

ages up to 5 years, there will be a Valentine Party from 11 to 12 a.m. We'd like for them to wear red.

The lectionary for the Transfiguration of the Lord is Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43). The chancel choir will present "At the Name of Jesus" by R. Vaughn Williams. "Fanfare" by Joseph M. Martin is the offertory anthem.

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 8A





The Working Women Bible Study was at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the church parlor.



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 HINI swine

8

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.



Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 • 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Limited Seating, so please RSVP by calling Pastor Hernandez @ 432-935-0341

VIC (Vaccine Information Coalition)

"Please learn from our mistake and educate BEFORE you vaccine!" Autism is 1 in 67 children today and it's impossible to have a genetic epidemic. For more information visit www.vacinfo.org, email VIC@vacinfo.org or call 800-939-8227

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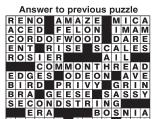
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57. Actor-former talk show host Arsenio Hall is 55. Actor John Michael Higgins is 47. Actress

Christine Elise is 45. [®] 2010, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.



after he was knocked off his horse, Bulie Valentine tried to be more saintly. He flossed and tried to pick up after himself. one day, he was being mocked by men who mock saintly men, and God smote the mockers dead as a door nail.

12

this is called the Valentine's daymassacre because they were smote in the daytime.

SMOTE HOLY.

THERE'S HAIR

FLOATING IN MY

GLASS.

PARKER

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who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James, who was the only student on campus for two weeks.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny — with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side ,Äî went into circulation.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice; Clinton told Americans he



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THE OTHER COAST



TASTING A BIT GAMY LATELY.

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IT'S ALSO

SNUFFY SMITH



renouncing Spanish rule. In 1908, the first round-the-

was "profoundly sorry" for what he'd said and done in the Monica Lewinsky affair that



Newsday Crossword

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8A

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 7A

There will be a Church Life Committee meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Anyone who missed the presentation of the program "Reading the Bible in 90 Days" may call the church office or contact any member for more information. The Adult Video Class is planning to begin the Bible reading program Sunday, Feb. 21. Some study groups will meetThursday evenings.

The Lenten season will begin with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Febr. 17. The congregation from First Presbyterian, Coahoma, has been invited to join us, and Tom Koger will assist the Rev. Holstedt.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM., at 11 a.m. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our Web site: www.fpcbs.org

East Side Baptist

Join us for a day for celebration and praise this Sunday. It's "Friend Day" at East Side and we wold love to make some new friends. If you are without a Church home, in need of a friend or just love God's people, come by and see us. Also on this special day we are excited to have as our honored guests Early Praises. These folks have been presenting the Good News in song for many years and they will bless your heart.

Don and Judy Earley will be singing at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and at 1:45 p.m. Sunday. We would love for you to come and enjoy the day of song, a message from God's Word, testimony and praise with us. We will do all we can to help you feel a part of our worship.

We provide a nursery for the little ones, 4 years and younger.

East Fourth Street Baptist

We welcome you to come join us in worship and fellowship in Sunday school starting at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and our Sunday evening service at 6 p.m.

On Wednesday we have adult prayer meeting and Bible study (in the fellowship hall) at 7 p.m.

Our Winter Bible Study is on the Stories for Life from the Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew.

Also the youth and children have Bible study at 7 p.m. Saturday morning, men's Bible study (in ythe conference room) is at 7 a.m. Our church is located at 401 E. Fourth St.; phone is 267-2291.

We are in need of a full-time nursery worker. For more information, call the church office at the number above.

Alive in Christ Lutheran LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn St. in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. Our phone number is (432) 264-7818. Our Web site is www. lutheransonline.com/aliveinchristbstx. We would love to have you join us for church Sundays at 9 a.m. Sunday school is at 10:15. Pastor Bob Boyce will be preaching this Sunday. Acolyte will be Abby Saucedo. Elders for this week are Richard Knocke and Richard von Hassell. The liturgy will be read by Kent Ivey. The reading are Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 99, Hebrews 3:1-6, and Luke 9:28-36. Join us at 6 p.m. Wednesdays and learn how to make banners for our church. We hope to make several banners for the upcoming seasons of the church year. Mark your calendars for the Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. They will be held Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 17. Pastor Carroll Kohl will be preaching.

March 8, the LWML will serve refreshments t the VA. The Board of Education will meet March 9 at 7 n m, at the church The LWML

March 8, the LWML will serve refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet March 9 at 7 p.m. at the church. The LWML will also meet at 7 p.m. March 11. The Elders meet March 18 at 7.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

We are a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching, Bible-preaching, missionary-minded, independent Baptist church which would love for you to come visit. We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane between E. 15th and E. 16th streets. We have been in the community for 67 years meeting spiritual needs in and around the community.

The church is a bridge over troubled waters. In these days of erosion of morality, shifting changes and uncertainty, God has given us a solid foundation in His Son and stability for our life. Our church is a place of spiritual growth and the opportunity to develope new and lasting friendships.

Come and enjoy the Spirit-filled preaching, teaching and singing. If you enjoy old-fashioned worship of the Lord, this is the place for you. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Children's church is during the morning worship for ages 4-12.

A nursery is provided for you little ones. Midweek service is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

There will be a ladies meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. They have been selling our church cookbook. If you would like a cookbook, contact Sue Riddle or Pat Steen. A church food pantry and clothes closet will be starting in the near future.

The church is in need of an organ player. If you play the organ and would like to be of service to the Lord please call and talk to Pastor Steve King at 267-7157.

We wish everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day this coming Sunday. For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

Spring Creek Fellowship

Spring Creek Fellowship is a body of believers who know how important it is to connect to one another, and more important, to connect to our loving God. So, this Sunday is the kick-off of our Connection groups that will meet Sunday afternoons.

Our pastor, Dennis Teeters, will be leading a group for men called The Sampson Syndrome. Carol Hanes will be leading a study for women titied Rebuilding the Real You. Chris Tucker will be teaching a study called You May All Prophesy. Ed Fleen will be leading a study for our youth on Becoming: Finding My Identity in Christ and Revealed: Discovering the Truth of God's Story. Dorothy Nichols will be teaching a study for children titled Lead the Way, Jesus.

All of these Connection groups will meet at 5 p.m. All of these groups will help those participating to grow in their relationship with Christ because they are Christ-centered. These groups will be a great time of fellowship and we would be glad to welcome you!

A special group will meet at 4:30 p.m. Marie Mejia-Justice will be facilitating a grief recovery support group called GriefShare. This will be a time of support and help for those who have suffered loss. If you have lost a child, spouse or parent, or any loved one, this is a group for you. Our church is ready to welcome you and your family. We have Sunday school classes for all ages and our worship time is a wonderful time of praise for our wonderful Savior. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:45.



Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association will meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room on Monday, Feb. 15. A dutch treat lunch will be served at 11:30. Shann Smith will present a program on Victim's Services available in the Big Spring area. Updated information of interest to all retired school personal will also be presented.

We welcome all retired school personal to join us. For more information, call (432) 399-4510.

Take note

• The Forsan Independent School District trustee meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday has been moved to the same time Tuesday. For more information, call 263-6571.

• The federal government, through the No Child Left Behind Act, requires each school district across the country that receives Federal Title I funds to report the status of the district and each campus through an NCLB Report Card. The Report Card for Big Spring ISD can be found on the school district website: bsisd.esc18.net. A hard copy of the report can be viewed in the BSISD Central Office. Copies of the Campus Report can be found on the school district website under the individual campuses. Look for NCLB Report. The report covers the following areas: Part I - Student Achievement; Part II - Student Achievement and Academic Expectations (AYP); Part III - AYP and Schools Identified for Improvement, Corrective Action, and Restructuring and Part IV - Teacher Quality.

• The Salvation Army Sweetheart Banquet will be held Feb. 12. Menue will consist of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and peach cobbler. Cost is \$10 per person. Call the Salvation Army for reservations at 267-8239.

• 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.

• A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock.

He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys. The medical bills and family travel expenses are adding up. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

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

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass

Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey.

Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin

Ash Wednesday, Feb, 17, the sermon text will be The Pardoning Word, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" Luke 23:34. This is the first in a series titled "Words from the Cross."

David Carlisle will be reading the Ash Wednesday liturgy from Joel 2:12-19, Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19), 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, and Matthew 6:1-6,16-21.

Wednesdays, we have a light meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mid Week School classes and confirmation classes at 6 p.m.

The LWML had their Prayer Pal salad supper on the 11th. Everyone enjoyed the wide selection of favorite salads or desserts. Gifts were exchanged and Prayer Pals for 2009-2010 were identified. Prayer Pals for 2010-2011 were drawn.

Next month's LWML will be held at church March 11 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Kim Parker, the special education director at Big Spring ISD.

The Board of Elders is scheduled to meet Thursday, the 18th, at church at 7 p.m. Come and experience the love of Christ through the loving family at Spring Creek Fellowship. We are located in the College Park Shopping Center on Birdwell Lane. We'll be looking for you.

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish

Schedule for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 7 a.m., St. Thomas, Holy Mass with imposition of ashes.

9:30 a.m., Parkview Manor.

9:30 a.m., County jail.

11 a.m., Veteran's hospital, imposition of ashes.

12:15 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, imposition of ashes.

1:30 p.m., State hospital, imposition of ashes.

2:30 p.m., Lamun/Lusk/Sanchez, imposition of ashes.

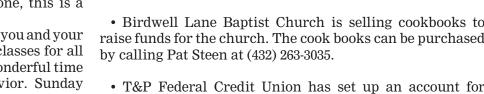
5:15 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Holy Mass and imposition of ashes.

7 p.m., Imposition of ashes at St. Thomas, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays: Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 6 p.m.

Fish Fry: Immaculate Heart of Mary, 6 p.m., following the Stations of the Cross.



your journey.

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

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.







SPORTS IN BRIEF

Skiier Vonn tests shin, likes result

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP) Aided by painkillers and numbing cream, Lindsey Vonn tested her badly bruised right shin by skiing for the first time since getting injured last week — and she came away encouraged about her Olympic prospects.

The opening women's Olympic downhill training session was called off after only two racers because of thick fog and low visibility, but Vonn did get in a free run on the mountain – although not on the official course.

Herhusband, Thomas, called the cancellation 'fantastic."

He said his wife still aims to race in all five events at these Olympics, which certainly would be a relief to the U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Olympic Committee.

Zenyatta, Rachel Alexandra to race for \$5 mil.

NEW YORK (AP) -The owner of Oaklawn Park in Arkansas says the race is on between Rachel Alexandra and

Zenyatta.

Charles Cella says the owners of both champions agreed to run their horses in the Apple Blossom Invitational Handicap on a new date of April 9, for a \$5 million purse.

The stunning announcement comes a day after the Rachel Alexandra owner Jess Jackson said his filly would not run in the race because the original date of April 3 was too early.

Cella decided to move the race back six days to give the 4-year-old filly more time to be in top form. Zenyatta's owner Jerry Moss has said his unbeaten mare will run next month in California and then in the Apple Blossom.

The first ladies of racing have not met on the racetrack.

Bryant, Iverson won't play in All-Star game

DALLAS (AP) Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers won't play in the All-Star game this weekend.

Both former NBA MVPs were voted into

the starting lineups by fans.

The NBA announced that Bryant will be replaced by Dallas point guard Jason Kidd on the Western Conference roster. Iverson's spot in the Eastern Conference will be filled by New York forward David Lee.

Bryant missed his third straight game for the Lakers Wednesday night with a sore left ankle.

Iverson missed his fifth straight game for the 76ers Wednesday night to be with his sick daughter.

Racers set for Daytona

DAYTÓNA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson nipped Kevin Harvick by .005 seconds in the first qualifying race, then Kasey Kahne edged Tony Stewart by .014 seconds in the second to set the stage for what should be an exciting season-opening Daytona 500.

Michael Waltrip, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, had planned to make his final start at Daytona in Sunday's race. Only he wrecked out of the first race, and was at the mercy of the finishing order of the second race to claim a spot in the field.

He needed either Bobby Labonte or Scott Speed to grab one of the "transfer" spots into the race, and Waltrip settled into a television studio to watch the second race on a slew of monitors.

Waltrip was riveted as he cheered on as Speed used a late-race pass that helped him make the 500.

Johnson leads at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Dustin Johnson wanted to make sure he got off to a good start as the defending champion of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. He succeeded because of a phenomenal finish.

Johnson overpowered the par 5s on a pristine day at Pebble Beach and closed with five consecutive birdies to tie the tournament record with a 30 on the back nine. He finished with an 8-under 64 and was atop the leaderboard.

Charley Hoffman had a 6-under 64 on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula, the newcomer to a three-course

rotation that opened to rave reviews and scenery to match.

Phil Mickelson also played Monterey Peninsula, shooting a 68.

India's Avantha Masters kicks off GURGAON, India(AP)

 Germany's Marcel Siem shot an 8-under 64 to take a one-stroke lead over Taiwan's Chan Yih-shin in the Avantha Masters.

Northern Ireland's opened with a 71, and Indian star Jeev Milkha Singh had a 72 on the ArnoldPalmer-designed DLF Golf and Country Club course. The tournament is sanctioned by the European and Asian tours and the Professional Golf Tour of India.

Glavine back with Braves as special assistant

ATLANTA (AP)Tom Glavine has rejoined the Atlanta Braves as special assistant to team president John Schuerholz.

The 43-year-old former pitcher will work with Schuerholz on baseball and business

projects and will occasionally assist general manager Frank Wren and manager Bobby Cox. Glavine also will be on the Braves radio pregame show at times and be a guest analyst on game broadcasts.

Roddick first pick in Team Tennis draft

NEW YORK (AP) -Andy Roddick is the top pick by the Philadelphia Freedoms in the World Team Tennis marquee draft.

In the draft announcement, the Albany-based New York Buzz chose Martina Hingis with the second pick and the St. Louis Aces took Lindsay Davenport with the third selection.

Kim Clijsters was acquired by the New York Sportimes from St. Louis, and will team up with John McEnroe for the summer league, which runs July 5-25.

Venus Williams will join her sister Serena on the Washington Kastles.

Maria Sharapova (Newport Beach, Calif.), Anna Kournikova (St. Louis) and James Blake (Boston) also will play in the coed professional league, co-founded by Billie Jean King.

NCAA rule changes aim to ease concussions, taunts

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) The NCAA wants to get tough on taunting and make it more difficult for football players with concussions to try to tough it out.

Both proposals were announced Thursday by the Football Rules Committee and must now be approved by the Playing Rules

Oversight Panel.

If passed, players who draw flags for taunting gestures on their way to a touchdown would have the penalty assessed from the spot of the foul, taking away the score. Penalties that occur in the end zone would continue to be assessed on the extra-point attempt,

2-point conversion try or ensuing kickoff.

The change would take effect in 2011 and on the NCAA's web site, a release said the proposal received nearunanimous support.

"Taunting and prolonged individual acts have no place in our game, and our officials have generally han-

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dled these rules well," said former Oregon coach Mike Bellotti, the committee chair. "This is just another step in maintaining our game's image and reflecting the ideals of the NCAA overall."

The taunting rules seem to become a topic of debate among college football players, coaches and fans every season. Last season's big controversy stemmed from Georgia receiver A.J. Green receiving a 15-year personal foul penalty after he caught a go-ahead touchdown pass late in a game against LSU. The yardage from the penalty was assessed on the ensuing kick-

off and helped LSU get rules panel instructed into position to drive for the winning score.

The Southeastern Conference would later say there was no video evidence to support the flag on Green.

Concussion prevention and treatment has also been a hot topic in recent years.

With that in mind, committee members also supported more stringent standards to keep players healthy. If approved, injured players — including those with concussion symptoms — would have to be cleared by a doctor before returning to competition. The action comes a month after the playing

the rules committee to review policies about stopping play for injuries and consider new rules to help prevent head injuries.

In previous seasons, there have been rules changes created to reduce "dangerous contact" during games.

Other topics discussed at the meeting include:

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH 9:45 AM, 10:45 AM & 1:45 PM





 Television monitors will be allowed in the press box coaches' booths beginning in 2011. The home team has responsibility for insuring that coaches' booths for both teams have identical television capability.

 Requiring players who wear "eye black" to use solid black with no words, logos, numbers or other symbols. That will be effective next season.

- Ending the requirement that players' pants always cover the knees.

Eliminating the intentional "wedge" on kickoffs and punts, a rule the NFL adopted last season.

Recommending conferences that do not have a pregame warmup policy use a 10-yard, no-player zone between the 45-yard lines beginning 60 minutes before kickoff.

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Jeanie Knocke ~ Drew Mouton



State briefs

Texas adding nursing home

inspectors

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas will hire 35 new investigators to speed up the state's response to complaints about care and incidents in nursing homes.

The Department of Aging and Disability Services on Friday announced the additional staffing.

The agency says it responds to 99 percent of the most serious complaints within 24 hours. About a third of lower-level complaints don't get a response within 14 days as required.

The agency says it will complete about 1,550 nursing home investigations during a two-week statewide blitz this month. The new investigators will be hired in March.

The agency regulates 1,196 Texas nursing homes and investigated 16,200 complaints and incidents in fiscal year 2009.

Rarely seen Texas otter may be making a comeback

DALLAS (AP) - River otters are popping up in

Texas waterways where they haven't been seen in decades, giving wildlife officials hope that the rarely seen critter is making a comeback.

The wider range was announced this week by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The animals were believed to have been restricted to the Piney Woods of east Texas because of habitat loss and trapping for its thick brown fur, in high

demand as recently as the 1970s.

But this year people have spotted river otters outside Austin and as far away as Wichita Falls, near the Oklahoma border.

The river otter, a famously playful animal and member of the weasel family, is a slim carnivore with webbed feet and is typically about 2 feet long. The otter is not endangered, but Texas considers it a "species of concern."

Sheriff: El Paso commissioner did nothing wrong

EL PASO (AP) — Allegations that an El Paso County commissioner traded votes for favors are 'unfounded."

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office announced Friday it found no evidence that Commissioner Veronica Escobar did anything wrong.

El Paso County Judge Anthony Cobos had publicly accused Escobar of conspiring to trade votes for favors, including one that allegedly was intended to help her campaign treasurer land a job with the county attorney's office.

Escobar has denied any wrongdoing.

Record snow, tens of thousands lose power in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — More than a foot of snow in the Dallas area led to thousands of electrical out-





ages and gave about 500,000 children a day off from school.

Oncor reported about 180,000 homes and businesses without power at midmorning Friday. Spokeswoman Jeamy (JAY'-mee) Molina says about 2,500 Oncor personnel worked to restore electricity, with the biggest issue being trees falling into power lines.

About 240 flights were canceled Friday by American Airlines, mainly at its hub at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Dozens of school districts in north Texas were closed, including Dallas, with more than 160,000 students, plus Fort Worth, Denton and Arlington.

The National Weather Service, as of Friday morning, said a record 12.5 inches of snow fell within 24 hours in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The previous single-day record was 12.1 inches of snow in 1962.

1 dead after tugboat sinks in Houston Ship Channel

HOUSTON (AP) — The body of a crewman has been recovered after a 56-foot tugboat sank in the Houston Ship Channel and spilled hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel.

Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Prentice Danner says a stretch of channel near the Sims Bayou turning basin remained closed Friday during operations to recover the tug.

Danner says the J.R. Nichols sank Wednesday night with five men on board. Four were rescued from the water and treated for hypothermia.

The body of the fifth crewmember was recovered Thursday. His name was not immediately released.

Danner says the investigation continues into what caused the sinking of the tug operated by Kinder Morgan.

Danner says as much as 1,000 gallons spilled, but the Coast Guard will not know the total until crews are "able to get the boat righted." Barriers contained the spill.

Houston trustees OK plan to fire failing teachers

HOUSTON (AP) - Some teachers booed as Houston Independent School District trustees discussed and approved a plan to allow the firing of educators whose students consistently fail to improve on standardized tests.

The HISD board voted Thursday night to turn next year to a value-added system of measuring student progress. More than 700 teachers were part of the overflow crowd at the meeting.

The Houston Federation of Teachers and the Congress of Houston Teachers oppose the review plan for the largest public school system in Texas, which has more than 200,000 students and 295 schools.

Superintendent Terry Grier says training and mentoring will be available to teachers in danger of losing their jobs.

More than 400 teachers, or about 3 percent of the HISD teaching staff, could be at risk under the system using a statistical method to judge their effectiveness.

