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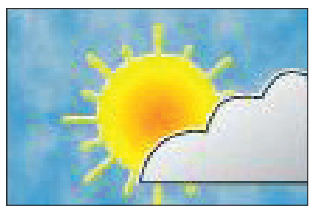
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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 59

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President's Day prompts tax-aid change

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 Volunteers with the annual AARP Tax Aide program will shift gears next week and

offer services Tuesday instead of the group's regularly scheduled Monday morning in observance of President's Day.
 Gloria Hopkins, program

coordinator for AARP, said the team will be helping residents file their tax returns from 8 a.m. until noon Tuesday at the Big Spring Senior Center to make way for the

holiday.
 "It seems a bit strange to us because we're all pretty accustomed to working Monday mornings during the tax season," said Hopkins with

a laugh. "However, we'll be switching it over to Tuesday this week. Next week, we'll be back to our normal
 See **TAX**, Page 3A

BE MINE, VALENTINE



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Heather Schafer, left, and Luci Gabehart of Faye's flowers put the finishing touches on a flower bouquet that's set to go out for Valentine's Day. The holiday, the busiest of the year for florists, kept Faye's personnel busy all week.

Professor charged in 3 fatal shootings

KRISTIN M. HALL
 Associated Press Writer

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A biology professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville who authorities say opened fire at a faculty meeting is facing a murder charge after the shooting spree that left three dead and three wounded.
 Amy Bishop, 42, was charged Friday night with one count of capital murder, which means she could face the death penalty if convicted. Three of Bishop's fellow biology professors were killed and three other university employees were wounded. No students were harmed in the shooting, which happened in a community known for its space and technology industries.

The husband of one of the victims said he was told those at the meeting were discuss-
 See **SHOOTINGS**, Page 9A

Symphony soon to be 'In Motion' Well-known pieces to highlight Feb. 20 concert

By BILL McCLELLAN
 News Editor
 Big Spring Symphony will be moving on Feb. 20, headed back to the high school auditorium for the aptly named third concert of the 2009-2010 series — "Symphony in Motion."
 "I have chosen pieces that I know our Big Spring audience will enjoy," said Dr. Keith Graumann, music director

and conductor. "Much of the music will be recognizable to a general audience."
 Much of the music follows the "Symphony in Motion" theme, including the opening piece, R. Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries." Audience members will recognize it from a key scene in the movie "Apocalypse Now." Also to be played during the first portion of the concert will be L.V. Beethoven's

"Symphony No. 5 in C minor."
 "Beethoven's 5th Symphony is the most recognizable of any piece in western music, and rightly so. It is a magnificent, yet difficult work to play, and I always feel privileged to perform it," said Graumann.
 Featured soloists will be Big Spring Symphony members Michael San-
 See **SYMPHONY**, Page 3A



Dr. Keith Graumann conducts the Big Spring Symphony.

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U.S., Afghan troops sweep into Taliban stronghold

ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
 Associated Press Writers
 MARJAH, Afghanistan — Thousands of U.S. Marines and Afghan soldiers stormed the Taliban stronghold of Marjah by air and ground Saturday, meeting only scattered resistance but facing a daunting thicket of bombs and booby traps that slowed the allied advance through the town.

The massive offensive was aimed at establishing Afghan government authority over the biggest southern town under militant control and breaking the Taliban grip over a wide area of their southern heartland.
 Maj. Gen. Nick Carter, NATO commander of forces in southern Afghanistan, said Afghan and coalition troops, aided by 60 helicopters, made a "successful insertion" into Marjah in southern Helmand prov-

ince. He said the operation was going "without a hitch."
 Thousands of British, U.S. and Canadian troops also swept into Taliban areas to the north of Marjah, seeking to clear a wide swath of villages that had been under Taliban control for several years.
 No coalition casualties had been reported more than 12 hours after the initial airborne assault, but NATO
 See **TROOPS**, Page 3A

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Around the World

in Three Meals

VEGGIES WITH INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

FAMILY FEATURES

Although an exotic international vacation may not be in your family's plans, you don't need a passport to experience some of the best flavors from around the world! A few key ingredients and a bit of experimentation in the kitchen can add intercontinental flair to your next meal. Here are some suggestions for taking your taste buds on a tour of the world in three easy meals. The secret ingredient in all three recipes? Veggie burgers — an under-utilized yet better-for-you alternative to meat.

- Bring some south-of-the-border flavor to your table with this Chile Relleno recipe. Made with Black Bean Chipotle veggie burgers, poblano chile peppers, black beans and queso fresco — a staple in many Mexican dishes — the Chile Rellenos are sure to have your family saying, "Olé."
- The Veggie Wontons will allow you and your family to experience the Orient without leaving the house! They combine veggies such as carrots and crimini mushrooms with authentic Asian ingredients like ginger root, rice wine vinegar and soy sauce.
- Although stroganoff is a traditional Russian dish, East meets West on one plate in this Miso Stroganoff recipe. The signature noodles remain, but this dish contains portabella veggie burgers and miso paste for a bit of Asian flair.

To learn more about the delicious variety of veggie products available, visit www.gardenburger.com.



Veggie Wontons

Miso Stroganoff

Created by chef Justin Street of Natural Planet Grille in Austin, Texas

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Time to Table: 20 minutes
Yield: 2 cups sauce with burger pieces; 2 servings

- 1/4 cup water, divided
- 2 tablespoons golden or tan colored miso (bean paste)
- 1/4 cup sour cream or reduced-fat sour cream
- 2 Gardenburger Portabella veggie burgers
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped onions
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 2 cups hot cooked noodles
- Chopped fresh chives or chopped fresh parsley (optional)

1. In small bowl whisk together 2 tablespoons water and miso. Stir in sour cream and remaining 2 tablespoons water. Set aside.
2. Cook veggie burgers according to package directions. Cut into 3/4-inch pieces. Set aside.
3. In large nonstick skillet cook mushrooms, onions and garlic in hot oil until mushrooms are tender. Stir in burger pieces. Heat through. Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream mixture. Serve over noodles. Sprinkle with chives (if desired).

Chile Relleno

Created by chef Alex Eusebio, executive chef and partner at Restaurant 15 in Los Angeles

Prep Time: 45 minutes
Time to Table: 55 minutes
Yield: 3 cups; 6 peppers, 6 servings

- 6 medium poblano chile peppers
- 4 Gardenburger Black Bean Chipotle veggie burgers
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onions
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tablespoon water
- 3/4 cup cooked rice
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 3/4 cup crumbled queso fresco or shredded Monterey Jack cheese

1. Cut a lengthwise slit in each pepper. Place on foil-lined baking sheet. Bake at 425°F for 25 to 30 minutes or until peppers blacken. Remove from oven. Wrap hot peppers in foil. Let stand for 10 minutes at room temperature. Using spoon, remove seeds from insides of peppers. Gently pull skin off outsides of peppers in strips, leaving peppers in one piece. Set aside.
2. Meanwhile, remove veggie burgers from package. Place on microwave-safe plate. Loosely cover and cook on medium-high (70 percent power) for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes or until partially thawed, rearranging veggie burgers and turning over after 1 minute.
3. In large nonstick skillet cook onions in hot oil over medium heat about 1 minute or until translucent. Crumble veggie burgers into onion mixture. Cook, uncovered, for 3 to 4 minutes more or until heated through. Stir in beans and water. Reduce heat to low. Cook, uncovered, for 1 to 2 minutes more. Stir in rice and cilantro. Remove from heat.
4. Stuff peppers with burger mixture. Place in shallow baking pan, slit side up. Top with queso fresco. Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until heated through and cheese melts.



Miso Stroganoff



Chile Relleno

Veggie Wontons

Created by chef Ashlie Crouch, owner and chef of Thyme Personal Chef Services in Seattle

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Time to Table: 35 minutes
Yield: 1 1/2 cups; 36 wontons; 18 servings

- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger root
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 Gardenburger Veggie Medley veggie burgers
- 1/2 cup fresh bean sprouts, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red or green bell pepper
- 2 to 3 crimini mushrooms, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon grated ginger root
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 36 wonton wrappers
- Peanut oil for deep fat frying

1. In small bowl stir together 1/2 cup soy sauce, vinegar, 1 teaspoon ginger root, ground red pepper and garlic. Set aside.
2. Remove veggie burgers from package. Place on microwave-safe plate. Loosely cover and cook on medium-high (70 percent power) for 1 to 1 1/4 minutes or until partially thawed, rearranging burgers and turning over after 45 seconds.
3. In medium bowl crumble veggie burgers. Stir in sprouts, carrot, bell pepper, mushrooms, 3 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon ginger root and crushed red pepper. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes.
4. Position 1 wonton skin with one point toward you. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of the veggie burger mixture just off center of skin. Fold bottom point of wonton skin over filling, tucking point under filling. Roll over from bottom, covering filling and leaving about 1 inch of skin unrolled at top. Moisten bottom right corner with water. Fold bottom corners together below the filling, pressing to secure. Repeat with remaining filling and wonton wrappers. Place in single layer on wax-paper-lined baking sheet.
5. In wok or heavy Dutch oven, heat 2 inches of oil to 375°F. Add wontons to hot oil, a few at a time. Fry for 2 to 4 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve with soy sauce mixture.

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NEW LISTINGS

Obituaries

Voy W. Eason Jr.

Voy W. Eason, Jr., 62, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, at the First Baptist Church Chapel with Paige Baize and Larry Miles officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

He was born Aug. 20, 1947, in Childress and married Jane Smith on June 8, 1966, in Spur. She preceded him in death Feb. 20, 2006.

Voy served in the United States Army. He was a member of the NRA, Western Sportsman's Gun Club and the Working Ranch Horse Association.

Survivors include two sons, Wayne Eason and Thomas "Skeet" Eason, both of Big Spring; two grandsons; one granddaughter; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Ronnie and Jo Lynn Eason of Corpus Christi, Mike and Barbara Eason of Childress, Danny and Sandy Eason of Cleburne, and James "Jim Bo" Eason of Childress; one sister and brother-in-law, Debra and Danny Soto of Childress; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Voy was also preceded in death by his parents and one son, Timothy Lee Eason.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

H.L. Eason

H.L. Eason, 61, of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, in a local hospital. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, at the Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

He was born March 21, 1948, in Big Spring to Hershel Eason Sr. and Claudia (Rowe).

Survivors include his wife Judy Gardner of Big Spring; one son, Shawn Eason and wife Mara of Plano; one daughter, Summer Martin and husband Gary of Big Spring; four sisters, Doris Jean Stephens and husband Lonnie of Houston, Barbara Stone and husband Ricky of Big Spring, Patsy Peterson and husband Kim of Mesquite, Carolyn DuPriest and husband Milton of Tyler; and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Eason was preceded in death by his parents; mother Estelle Suttles; two nieces; and one great niece.

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

Annie Elaine Potter

Annie Elaine Potter, 91, of Big Spring, died Friday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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 Web site: 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 Web site 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.

- A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel to help pay expenses in the death of Marcela "Marcy" Rivera, who died Wednesday following a one-vehicle traffic accident. Donations can be delivered to the funeral home at 301 E. 24th or mailed to P.O. Box 2760, Big Spring, 79721.

- 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.

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

- Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

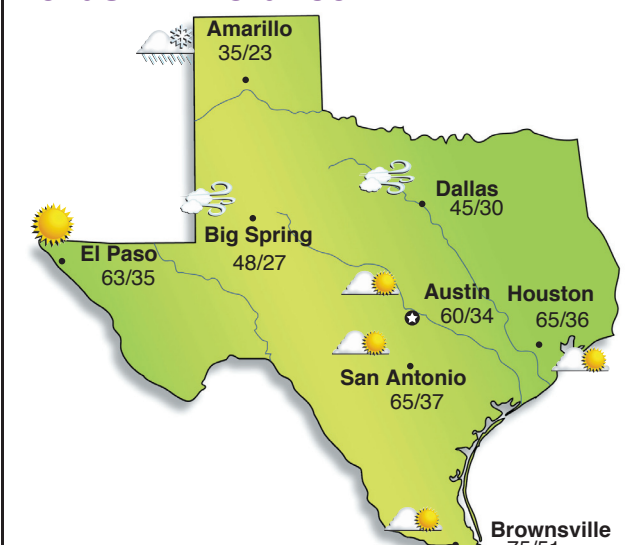
- T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in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

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sun 2/14	Mon 2/15	Tue 2/16
48/27	51/29	57/34
Sunshine in the morning followed by partly cloudy skies and gusty winds during the afternoon. High 48F.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 6:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 6:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	46	27	windy	Kingsville	73	43	mst sunny
Amarillo	35	23	sn shower	Livingston	61	29	pt sunny
Austin	60	34	pt sunny	Longview	49	29	pt sunny
Beaumont	63	34	pt sunny	Lubbock	42	26	pt sunny
Brownsville	75	51	pt sunny	Lufkin	59	30	pt sunny
Brownwood	51	29	windy	Midland	48	31	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	68	42	mst sunny	Raymondville	74	46	pt sunny
Corsicana	46	29	pt sunny	Rosenberg	65	35	pt sunny
Dallas	45	30	windy	San Antonio	65	37	pt sunny
Del Rio	66	38	pt sunny	San Marcos	62	35	pt sunny
El Paso	63	35	sunny	Sulphur Springs	44	29	rain
Fort Stockton	57	31	mst sunny	Sweetwater	46	28	windy
Gainesville	41	25	pt sunny	Tyler	48	28	pt sunny
Greenville	43	27	pt sunny	Weatherford	43	26	windy
Houston	65	36	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	39	25	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	47	36	rain	Minneapolis	25	15	sn shower
Boston	39	24	cloudy	New York	37	22	pt sunny
Chicago	26	17	cloudy	Phoenix	72	46	sunny
Dallas	45	30	windy	San Francisco	62	47	cloudy
Denver	30	13	sn shower	Seattle	51	40	rain
Houston	65	36	pt sunny	St. Louis	32	19	sn shower
Los Angeles	75	51	mst sunny	Washington, DC	37	25	mst sunny
Miami	64	50	pt sunny				

Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 14-16-17-33-47, Mega Ball: 23

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 10-20-21-28-33.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-8-6-8. Sum It Up: 30.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-5-6. Sum It Up: 12.

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Symphony in Motion

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For NBA All-Star game, everything is bigger in Texas

DALLAS(AP)—When it comes to the NBA All-Star game, everything is bigger in Texas.

Take it from one of the hosts of this year's spectacle in Dallas, which will draw the largest crowd ever for a basketball game.

"It's going to be such an amazing, huge event. I mean this will be the biggest All-Star ever," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said recently. "There's going to be so much going on, it literally could be for North Texas the largest party weekend in the history of the United States. That's how big this thing has gotten."

LeBron James and the rest of the NBA's best — minus Kobe Bryant, who was scratched Thursday with a sore left ankle — will play Sunday at the new Cowboys Stadium, with more than 90,000 fans expected. Cuban and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had been hoping the league would push

for more than 100,000, and the building could accommodate it, but that's unlikely with the way the venue will be reconfigured for basketball.

Still, it will easily topple the record for largest crowd to watch a basketball game of 78,129, set for a college game between Kentucky and Michigan State at Detroit's Ford Field on Dec. 13, 2003.

"You guys have been to All-Star weekend in other places," Cuban told a group of reporters. "I mean, we shut down cities. I mean, literally, you go to any city and it basically shuts it down. So imagine having 100,000 people and all the people come for the parties. I mean, literally, it'll be the largest party weekend in the history of this country. I don't think there's going to be any question about it."

Cuban added the attendance and party scene would "make the

Super Bowl look like a bar mitzvah."

"That sounds like something Mark Cuban would say," said Toronto All-Star forward Chris Bosh, a Dallas native. "It's good that the city of Dallas is excited to have it. Everybody's getting excited and it's going to be good."

Cuban once seemed like the last person who would be excited to have All-Star weekend in Dallas. Unwilling to displace his season-ticket holders, he had no interest in hosting the game at American Airlines Center, a stance commissioner David Stern said he understood.

Then Cuban suggested to the league the idea of staging this year's weekend at two venues. The Mavs will host the Friday night rookie challenge and the All-Star Saturday night events at their arena, and the game goes to Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

Stern praised the collaboration between Cuban and Jones, saying it will produce a "combination of celebration, family reunion and making North Texas the basketball capital of the world for several days."

It means the NBA takes a smaller cut, with some of its normal profits going to Jones, but Stern said it's worth it with all the interest and attention the game is drawing in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"They never want me to tell me about the specifics of the economics because they're never good," Stern joked. "But we find it just really good for our sport ... a very worthwhile event for us and the opportunity to do good things in the community and really to watch the way our players get involved both in the community outreach, but also in making sure that the fans have a good time."

The players are look-

ing forward to playing in the \$1.2 billion stadium, with its high-definition video boards that stand roughly 60 yards wide and 25 yards high. "It's going to be fun," said James, a Cowboys fan who attended the first regular-season game there in September. "The home of the Cowboys makes it a lot more special to me because of how much I love and watch those guys every year. It's going to be fun."

It may not be pretty, however, with nine first-timers — the most since there were a record-tying 10 in 2002 — possibly battling nerves on the biggest All-Star stage ever. And players largely prefer shooting in smaller venues as opposed to domes, and playing in something as enormous as Cowboys Stadium could mess with their accuracy.

"I think that in those big venues it's tougher on shooters getting

their scope, I think your depth perception is just off a little bit just because of the background," said Kevin McHale, an All-Star for the Celtics now working as an NBA TV analyst. "But it's going to be so much fun to be in there with that crowd and that environment."

The festive atmosphere could be dampened Friday after negotiators from the league and the players' association meet to discuss a collective bargaining agreement to replace the one that expires in July 2011. The proposal the NBA sent the union last week calls for dramatic financial changes, so the meeting could be short and the chances of an eventual lockout seem high.

Otherwise, not too much should ruin the party — even the winter storm that hit Dallas on Thursday or the fact that Allen Iverson, like Bryant, was a late scratch.

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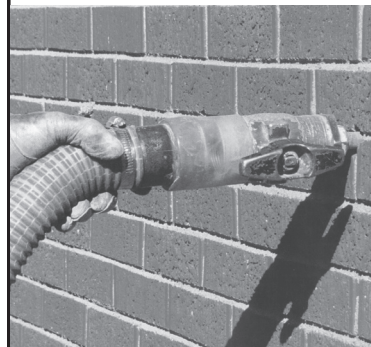
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▶ Marriage



Lacey & David D'Angelo

Married Feb. 5, 2010

Lacey J. Lyons of Big Spring and David N. D'Angelo of San Antonio were married in a private ceremony Feb. 5, 2010 in San Angelo.

Lacey is the daughter of Cyndi and Rosalio Longoria Jr. of Ozona and the granddaughter of Jane H. Moore, the late Miles E. Moore and the late Bill G. Morris, all of Big Spring, Mr. and Mrs Rosalio D. Longoria of Ozona and the late Ed and Victoria Lyons of Big Spring.

The bride graduated from Big Spring High School in 1999 and attended Howard College and Angelo State University.

The groom is the son of Ted and Mary D'Angelo of San Antonio and grandson of Wallace Wilson and the late Catherine Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Delores D'Angelo and the late John D'Angelo of Rockford, Ill.

He graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. He is currently in technical school to become a geospatial analyst in the U.S. Air Force.

The bride and groom plan to have a reception and honeymoon in the near future. David and Lacey will reside in San Angelo until David's graduation and will move to Virginia with the U.S. Air Force.

▶ Anniversary



Linda and Burel Wolf

Burel & Linda Wolf 50th anniversary

Burel and Linda Wolf will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 18. The family is asking friends and family to honor them with a card shower. Cards may be sent c/o Martha Salas, P.O. Box 161, Lancaster TX 75146.

Burel and Linda were married at the Key Baptist Church near Lamesa. Their parents, John and Esther Wolf and Claude and Hattie Jeter, along with numerous other friends and family, were in attendance.

Eventually the Wolfs made their home in Lancaster with Burel retiring from the post office and Linda retiring from the school district. Their children, Glen and Martha, grandson and wife Richard and Teresa, and great-granddaughter Carissa, all live nearby. Also residing in Lancaster is Linda's mother or as Burel would say, "The best mother in law in the world," Hattie Jeter.

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Engagements



Crystal Michell Bridges and Derek William Wash

Andrew James Maskell and Sarah Suzanne Haney

Marshall and Elder

Dr. and Mrs. John Marshall of Big Spring are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Noelle of Alexandria, Va., to Richard Phillip Elder of Scotland.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Harland Birdwell of Big Spring.

Kristen earned her bachelor's degree in Russian and Russian area studies from Texas Tech University and her master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics. She is employed by the Department of Defense.

Richard is a Wing Commander in the Royal Air Force and will be posted to the British Embassy in the Washington D.C. area in June. He earned a master's degree while attending Advance War College.

We will be celebrating their marriage on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Big Spring.

Bridges and Wash

Crystal Michell Bridges and Derek William Wash of Big Spring have announced their intentions to wed in April.

Crystal is the daughter of Larry and Kim Bridges of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Norma Woods of Fritch, Chuck Woods and Jim and Belma Bridges, deceased.

The groom-to-be is the son of David and Lisa Hobbs of Big Spring and the late Billy Wash. He is the grandson of JoAnn Loudamy of Big Spring, Bob Wash of Forsan and Doyle and Caroline Hobbs of Roswell, N.M.

The future bride has received an associate's degree in business and is employed by Dwain Fox, PC, in Big Spring.

Derek holds a bachelor of business administration degree and is employed by Farm Bureau Insurance of Big Spring.

They plan to be married during a 6 p.m. service April 17, 2010, at the Courtyard in downtown Big Spring.

Haney and Maskell

Sarah Suzanne Haney and Andrew James Maskell will be married June 11 in Big Spring.

The bride elect is the daughter of Robert and Suzanne Haney of Big Spring and the granddaughter of the late R.E. and Edith Haney of Big Spring and the late Louis and Zita Bernhardt of Olney.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mark and Kim Maskell of Spearfish, S.D., and the grandson of Lloyd and JaNahn Maskell of Evans, Colo., and Jim and Sally Seward of Spearfish, S.D.

Sarah is a 2006 homeschool graduate and attended Blinn College in Bryan. She is employed by Llano Estacado Winery in Lubbock.

Andrew is a 2006 graduate of Spearfish High School and is pursuing a degree in graphic design.



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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

This is a very special holiday for loved ones

It's Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this holiday devoted to romance conjures up certain images — roses, chocolate, intimate dinners by candlelight, a quiet evening alone letting the one person we love the most know just how special they are to us.

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. It becomes as individual as each of us.

For some, it's a time to go full bore. To spend freely and literally shower the one we love with one lavish gift after another.

Others adopt a more reserved tone. A whispered sentiment or maybe just a simple card.

All those varied methods mean the same thing, however.

The message is simple: I love you.

No three words are more warming to the human soul.

Perhaps nothing is more desperately sought by each of us. And certainly, nothing is more difficult to find.

That's because love isn't something you can purchase, regardless of how much you spend.

Love can't be summoned on demand. That's because it's something given freely from the heart.

Love is shared and should be nurtured — not just today, but every day.

Better yet, it should be cherished and cultured every moment.

So, on this Valentine's Day, we hope each of you takes the time to do just that.

Regardless of the manner you choose, let those you love the most know they fill a special place in your heart and your life.

And one more thing this Sunday, be sure to thank God for putting those you love in your life. That's something we should do every day, but make sure to do it today.

Their lives will be enriched, as will yours.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

If we keep our path on Your path, Lord, we will finish just fine.

Amen

Singing the Valentine's blues

At least it's on a Sunday. Friday and Saturday are the worst. Second only to New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day is a surefire downer for those of us who find ourselves alone on a day when it seems that everyone else is happily in love.

Of course, it's all silliness. Compared to cancer and earthquakes, compared to not having a job or a place to live, who cares about silly red hearts full of chocolates, or frilly cards and bouquets? Let Hallmark have its day. Let the florists' registers ring. Why should the rest of us care?

I wish I could have back every moment of my life that I lost bemoaning my loneliness — not because everything turned out right, but because it did no good and never does. Cursing the rain does not make it stop. An umbrella is better.

At a time when more and more Americans are living alone — some very happily, and some not so much — Valentine's Day is almost an anachronism. Half of all marriages end in divorce. Many that don't are miserable. Couples that seem so perfect — remem-

ber when John and Elizabeth Edwards seemed so well-matched, so much in love with each other — often are anything but.

I remember sitting at a luncheon with all these fancy ladies, some of them married to Hollywood's leading celebrities and powerhouses, and me the only single woman in the group. I joked that I slept with a dog every night. A real dog, I mean — my Labrador, Judy J. Estrich. "You're so lucky," said one, whose husband was and is a big movie star. I thought she was kidding. The rest of the women nodded in agreement. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. You don't have to be alone to be lonely.

My son was born on Feb. 12. We went home from the hospital on Feb. 14. It was the happiest Valentine's Day of my life. Sometimes it seems like yesterday, but it wasn't. It was 17 years ago. In one more year, my son, like my daughter, will go off to college, God willing. If I am lonely now, it will only get lonelier. That is the way of life.

So I didn't live happily ever after. So fairy tales don't come true. I know I am lucky and blessed. We are the luckiest people on the face of the globe, we who live in this great country, the home of the free and the brave. The task is to remember that amid all those lacy hearts.



SUSAN ESTRICH



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to voice my support and excitement for the proposed family aquatic center. I have heard some negativity about the new center that is being proposed for the city park to replace the old city pool. I believe Big Spring needs facilities with the amenities the family aquatic center will provide, to take pride in and that can be used by the citizens.

I was raised in Big Spring, moved away for a period and my family and I moved back in September of 2008. I am a homeowner and city taxpayer. My wife and I have three children and use Kid's Zone and other facilities at the city park on a regular basis.

When I first saw the picture of the proposed family aquatic center, I went through many emotions. I was surprised, excited and proud, all at the same time. First, I was surprised at how big, how nice and how modern the new center would be. Next, I was excited to see the city of Big Spring was not only trying to replace the old city pool, but had come up with a family-oriented and modern facility that could serve a wide diversity of people and age groups.

Lastly, I felt proud to be a citizen of Big Spring and Howard County and, that as a community, we have this opportunity to build a facility of this size and quality for the citizens of Big Spring.

I am confident the citizens of surrounding communities will also come to use this facility, paying entrance fees and spending

their dollars in Big Spring businesses.

There has been some negativity about the family aquatic center and everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. I just want to voice my support and ask others to do the same if they too support this great family-oriented facility and are concerned about the future of our city.

I believe we need to strive to improve our city and this is one opportunity and step that we can take to vastly improve the facilities Big Spring can offer its families and citizens.

My family plans to stay in Big Spring and I hope the city continues to take on projects similar to this, to improve the facilities, schools and other vital projects that will make our community something we can take pride in and future generations can enjoy.

ERIC HANSEN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am starting to feel the same way about our city council as I am about our government. We aren't allowed to vote on what amount we think should be spent on a new pool, apparently because the council thinks for us. The same way the government thinks of us, the U.S. citizen — too dumb to take care of ourselves and our own. Either that or they just don't care what the working class thinks of what they do.

I agree our kids need a pool. But why not one we can afford? If

I recently read a wonderful book called "Devotion" by Dani Shapiro. It is about one woman's search for meaning at midlife, a personal story, but also a universal one. She, too, is lucky and blessed — blessed with a husband she loves, a healthy son, a beautiful home and a fulfilling career. But no one gets everything.

Her father died when she was in her early 20s. Her mother was beyond difficult, and their relationship was never good. Her son suffered a terrible illness at birth. She couldn't have the second child she wanted. No one gets everything, but unless they write a memoir, who's to know?

Early in the book, Shapiro finds a teacher, a Buddhist, who teaches her a simple mantra: "May I be safe. May I be happy. May I be strong. May I live with ease."

Not may I find my true love, and may he be tall, dark and handsome, and rich and loving. Not may I find myself on the receiving end of endless love. Safe. Happy. Strong. Live with ease. A Valentine you can give to yourself.

May you be safe. May you be happy. May you be strong. May you live with ease.

Happy Valentine's Day.

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the council has that much extra money made from selling us water we can't even drink, then I think it should rethink this \$4 million price tag on the pool, spend an appropriate amount on just another pool and send that excess cash to the Big Spring Independent School District to help build the new school buildings so desperately needed.

I also think we should vote out all those that think they are the power in this town just because they can rub shoulders with the elite here and the rest of us are so dumb we won't notice or care.

I believe it is time for the people to whom the council and mayor are supposed to be answering to, (but don't), to vote out the ones who insist they are the powers that be here, but won't give its citizens a right to vote on issues of importance.

This leaves the normal working person without representation, because we know no one on the council respects our wishes enough to do the "right" thing for our town.

J.L. MORPHIS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We here at your local community YMCA would first like to thank Mark McMahon for his kind words, but we would also like to add some facts that he was unaware of during the swim meet crisis.

Now, we are going to give you

See LETTERS, Page 5A

OLYMPICS

Continued from 1B

was late coming out of the next-to-last turn and failed to compensate. "This resulted in a late entrance into curve 16 and although the athlete worked to correct the problem, he eventually lost control of the sled, resulting in the tragic accident."

Men lugers, who were scheduled to finish training Friday morning, will get two extra practice runs Saturday. Women will train four hours later than scheduled. Men's competition will be held later in the day as planned.

Kumaritashvili's death cast a pall over the Winter Games before they even started.

"I have no words to say what we feel," said International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge, visibly shaken by the day's events.

"It is a nervous situation," Latvian luge federation president Atis Strenga said. "It's a big tragedy for all (of) luge. I hope, we all hope, it's the first accident and the last accident in this race."

Problems at the track date back to World Cup events and international training weeks held last year, when several of the world's top bobsled driv-

ers were upended trying to make their way down the track with its tricky labyrinth of curves and unprecedented speed.

American pilot Steven Holcomb christened one of the course's toughest sections — the 13th curve — as "50-50" to reflect the odds of steering a sled through it cleanly. Kumaritashvili, who had crashed during training on Wednesday, was nearing the bottom of his sixth practice run in a turn nicknamed "Thunderbird." His last recorded speed was 89.4 mph, measured near the last curve. He was on a higher path — line, they call it in luge — down the final bends than most sliders prefer, and the combination of speed and gravitational pull was too much for his 176-pound body to control.

Sliding diagonally, Kumaritashvili smashed into a corner entering the final straightaway feet-first. He was knocked off his sled and sailed in the other direction, apparently hitting his head before coming to

rest on a metal walkway. His sled stayed on the track and skidded to a stop near the finish line.

The first rescue worker just happened to be nearby and was at his side within three seconds.

At the finish line, there was a loud gasp as onlookers watched in horror as he was catapulted helplessly through the air. Officials quickly switched off a giant TV screen showing the action on the track and did not show a replay of the incident. Soon after, the track was closed as local and Royal Canadian Mounted Police kept media members at a distance as the investigation began.

Kumaritashvili's inexperience may have played a factor in the crash, but he had qualified to compete. This would have been his first Olympics. He competed in five World Cup races this season, finishing 44th in the world standings.

"When you are going that fast it just takes one slip and you can have that big mistake," U.S.

doubles luger Christian Niccum said Thursday, when asked about track safety. "All of us are very calm going down, but if you start jerking at 90 mph or making quick reactions, that sled will steer. That's the difference between luge and bobsled and skeleton, we're riding on a very sharp edge and that sled will go exactly where we tell it to so you better be telling it the right things on the way down."

Earlier in the day, two-time Olympic champion Armin Zoeggeler of Italy crashed, losing control of his sled on Curve 11. Zoeggeler came off his sled and held it with his left arm to keep it from smashing atop his body. He slid on his back down several curves before coming to a stop and walking away.

Training days in Whistler have been crash-filled. A Romanian woman was knocked unconscious and at least four Americans — Chris Mazdzer on Wednesday, Megan Sweeney on Thursday and both Benshoof and Bengt Walden on Friday in the same training session where Zoeggeler wrecked — have had serious trouble just getting down the track.

Rogge said he was in contact with Kumaritashvili's family — the slider's father is president of the Georgian luge federation and his cousin is the team's coach, VANOC officials said — and the Georgian government. The remaining seven members of the

Georgian Olympic delegation decided to stay in the games and dedicated their performances to their fallen teammate.

They marched into BC Place Stadium wearing black armbands and their nation's red-and-white flag was trimmed with a black ribbon. Later, a full minute of silence was observed in honor of Kumaritashvili, the fourth competitor to die at the Winter Games, all in training, and the first since 1992.

"It's really unfortunate to have something like that happen," U.S. snowboarding star Shaun White said. "We're all in different sports and from different countries but when we get here, we're all part of the same family. It's definitely affected everyone here."

Under giant Olympic rings near the medals plaza in downtown Whistler, mourners placed candles and flowers around a photograph of Kumaritashvili, on his sled and barreling down the track. Around the photo, an inscription read: "In Memory of Nodar Kumaritashvili, May he rest in peace."

Crashes happen often in luge — at least 12 sliders have wrecked just this week on the daunting Whistler surface. Still, some who have been around tracks their entire lives couldn't remember someone actually being thrown over the wall.

"It's a very rare situation," three-time Olympic champion and German coach Georg Hackl said.

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.

9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled: Row 1: [][][8][][][1][][5]; Row 2: [8][][][5][][9][][3]; Row 3: [5][][][7][][][2]; Row 4: [][6][3][][][][]; Row 5: [9][4][1][2][][6]; Row 6: [][][][6][7][][]; Row 7: [3][][][6][][][9]; Row 8: [9][1][][2][][][8]; Row 9: [8][6][][][5][][][]

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Engagements



Courtney Jo Rodriguez and Dustin Zane Todd

Rodriguez & Todd

Freddy and Kerry Rodriguez would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Jo Rodriguez to Dustin Zane Todd of Coleman.

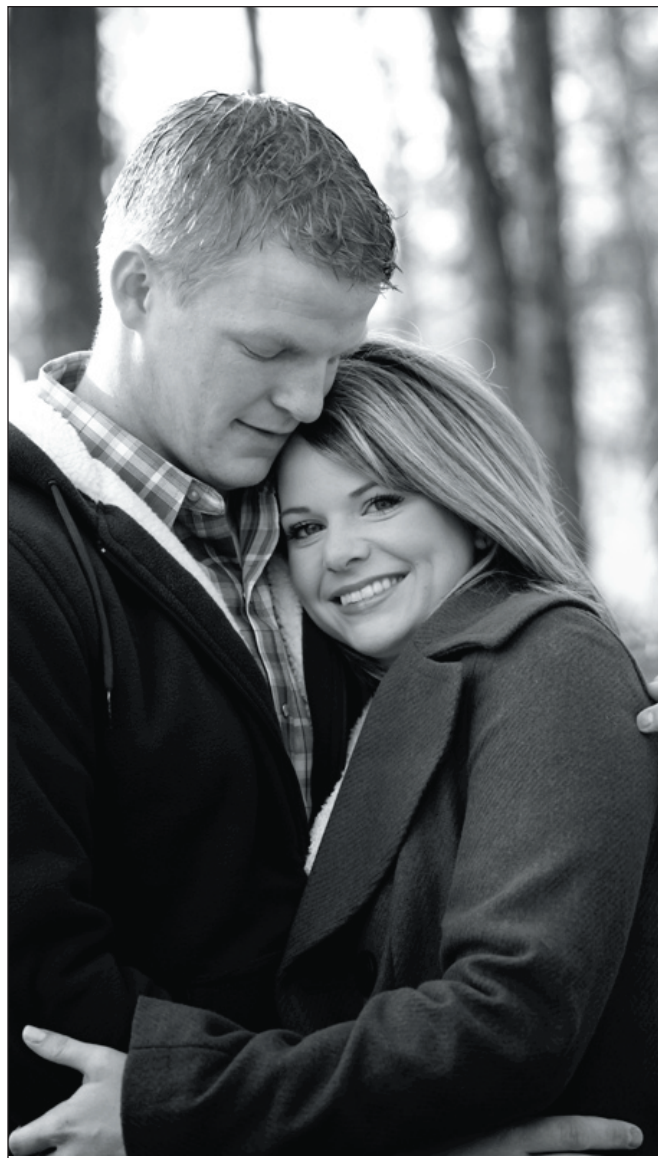
Courtney is the granddaughter of Deanie Burdette, Mary and the late Freddie Rodriguez, all of Big Spring and Charlie and Vickie Burdette of Midland.

Courtney is a graduate of Big Spring High School and is currently pursuing her degree in business management and is employed by Maurice's

Dustin is the son of Lynn and Trisha Owens and Johnny and Jan Todd, all of Coleman. Dustin is the grandson of Paul and the late Billie Puckett and Helen and the late Jerry Todd, all of Coleman.

Dustin is a graduate of Coleman High School and a graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science. Dustin is currently employed by Big Spring Independent School District.

Courtney and Dustin will exchange wedding vows April 17, 2010, in Abilene at Erin Shire gardens.



Brynne Catherine Herring and Caleb Marshall Choate

Herring & Choate

Brynne Catherine Herring and Caleb Marshall Choate of Red Oak have announced their intention to be wed in June.

The prospective bride is the daughter of Glen and Melissa Herring of Palestine and the granddaughter of Charles and Joann Herring of Elkhart and Warren and Jean Driver of Tomball.

She is a 2007 graduate of Palestine High School and is pursuing a degree in early childhood education at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is employed as a nanny in Red Oak.

The groom-to-be is the son of Mark and Shelley Choate of Artesia, N.M., and the grandson of James and Nancy Wood and Sonny and Eunice Choate of Big Spring.

He is a 2007 graduate of Artesia High School and is pursuing a degree in construction management at North Lake College in Irving. He is employed by RKM Utility in Carrollton.

They plan to exchange vows at Elmwood Gardens in Palestine on Saturday, June 6, 2010.



Larry Steen Jr. and Amber Richardson Bailey

Bailey & Steen

Amber Richardson Bailey and Larry Steen Jr. of Big Spring have announced they plan to exchange wedding vows in May.

Amber is the daughter of Kaye and Daryl Richardson of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of the late Herb and the late Ruby Stoecker of Abilene, Ken and the late Joyce Sherwood of Big Spring and the late Cecil Richardson of Big Spring.

Larry is the son of Larry Steen Sr. and the step son of Tammy Steen of Big Spring. He is the grandson of the late Marjorie and the late Paul Payne of Big Spring and the late Ellard and the late Edith Steen of Rowland, N.C.

Amber is an LVN at the Family Medical Surgery Office in Big Spring. Larry works in maintenance for Big Spring Independent School District.

They plan to be married May 8, 2010.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call 398-5239.

• TOPS No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

More Support Groups, Page 5C

SUPPORTERS OF CAMPAIGN TO ELECT TIMOTHY D. YEATS 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

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Woody and Carol Jumper
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Kenny and Tami Davis
Nati Rodriguez
Bennie and Ruelene Porter
Carrie and David Fox
Eve Nieto
Bill and Vanessa Burchett
Craig and Lisa Ingram
Mark and Veronda Vassar
Nancy Gunselman
Marc Marcesseault
Tommy Churchwell
Mrs. Milton Kirby
Gene and Lana Piercefield
Jana Long
Molly Rupard
Debbie Durham
Dionne Fletcher
Casey Pledger
Tim and Terri Blackshear
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VOTE YEATS FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

Political Advertisement paid for by Tammy Yeats, Treasurer, in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Fairness Campaign Act.

Something special's happening in the Circle.

February 2010 Activities

Feb. 15 – Games, 1-4 p.m.

Feb. 16 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club, "Brenda's BBQ", 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 17 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie 1:00 p.m. "Slumdog Millionaire"

Feb. 18 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
LUNCH-N-LEARN
Go Red For Women, 11:30 a.m.
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 22 – Games, 1-4 p.m.

Feb. 23 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 24 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.
Movie 1 p.m., "Hotel for Dogs"

Feb. 25 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy's Cafe, 10 a.m.

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

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Senior Circle



Come Sail Away With Senior Circle
May 9th-May 16 Call 268-4721
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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

a day-by-day account of what happened during the swim meet crisis.

The pool problem started Wednesday at 5:25 p.m. We were notified that there was a smell of gas coming from the pool area. We quickly picked up the phone and called Atmos Gas Company to have them come inspect the reported leak. Atmos arrived around 6 p.m.. They began running tests and they found we had more than one leak somewhere in the building.

Atmos employees searched the building for about four hours trying to find the leaks. At that point, they rendered the decision that they had to leave the gas off because Atmos regulations state that if there is a big enough leak in a residence or business they must turn off service until the leak is found.

Around 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Atmos informed us we had to call a plumber and have them find the leak. So, we began our search for a plumber and could not get anyone to come in Wednesday night. However, we found a company to start on it first thing Thursday.

The plumbing company worked from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday searching for leaks and started to repair all the little leaks in this more than 50-year-old building. After much work Thursday, they still could not find the big leak in the building, so Atmos still could not restore gas service to the YMCA.

At 8 a.m. Friday the plumbers returned with great urgency to find the leak, knowing that the Big Spring Swim Meet started at noon. They worked all day Friday and were still unable to locate the massive leak. Meanwhile, we were desperately trying to restore heat to the building and the pool, because we knew we had an obligation to host the district swim meet. We were in constant communication with the swim coach, parents, swimmers, visitors and even our dedicated YMCA members.

Around 8:30 p.m. Friday, the swim coaches informed us it would be best to move the swim meet to Monahans because the gas leak still had not been found and we were still unable to restore heat to the entire building and pool area. Even though the swim meet

had been moved, we had the plumbers continue searching for the gas leak on Saturday morning. Around noon Saturday the plumbers finally found a huge gas leak in the pool mezzanine area.

We thank God and Atmos for turning off the gas when they did on Wednesday, because if it had not been done, we could have had a lot of sick people in the pool area or even worse, a massive explosion.

To Mr. McMahon, the YMCA Board of directors and staff apologize for the inconvenience that we put you and your family through, but if we had to do it all over again, we would not hesitate for a split second. This measure was taken to ensure the safety of the coaches, swimmers, parents, children, visitors, our members and everyone who comes through the doors of the YMCA.

As far as the parking lot is concerned, the facts are that we started the sewer line project at the end of December because of the problems that we've had for the past 10 years. Due to the cold, rainy weather, the plumbers were not able to get to the project until Jan. 21. Due to the weather, they could not finish the much-needed project and when they were almost finished the week of the meet, the plumbers discovered that we had additional problems that nobody could have foreseen.

We at the YMCA do not conspire to sabotage any event brought to the YMCA. To begin with, YMCA stands for Young Men's Christian Association, and our mission is to build the mind, body and spirit through quality programs and services to all brothers and sisters that enter through our doors.

We would like to add that we at the YMCA will continue to support and house the Big Spring swim team which we have supported for more than 20 years.

RON SHAFER,
YMCA BOARD PRESIDENT;
RAUL MARQUEZ,
YMCA BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT;
AND
DATHAN JONES,
YMCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO THE EDITOR:

My wife and I bought a small ranch (less than 2,000 acres) along NCR 57 in eastern Howard County about four

years ago. Since then, not one ounce of road material has been applied to the dirt on CR 57 or the dirt on the Old Colorado City Highway.

When the roads are wet they are impassible unless you are driving a four-wheel drive vehicle. Even with a 4x4 it is a dangerous drive because of the steep grades.

We have learned that the state has given Howard County many tons of crushed road material this year. Not one ounce has been applied to the county roads mentioned above.

My wife and I are in our 70s. If we get sick and the roads are too dangerous to drive, what are we to do? Call a helicopter? A road grader has operated on CR 57 only once since Thanksgiving.

If you drive to the adjoining county lines in Mitchell and Borden counties, you immediately hit either rock or pavement, not red dirt like it is in Howard County.

There are three or four families living out here. They say that the county commissioner will do nothing about this ongoing problem. At least road material could be applied to the slippery road grades before someone gets hurt or killed.

The taxes here have more than doubled in two years and tripled in five.

We are only asking the something be done so that we can drive on these roads in bad weather, without fear of ending up in a ditch.

FORREST WEST
COAHOMA

TO THE EDITOR:

On April 25, 1953, the structural complexity of DNA was explained by a team of scientists — Watson and Crick. They initially thought they had discovered the secret of life.

Life form is made to resemble the parent donors. DNA genes are passed on the the next generation. DNA molecules are arranged in a pattern to form the building blocks of a human body.

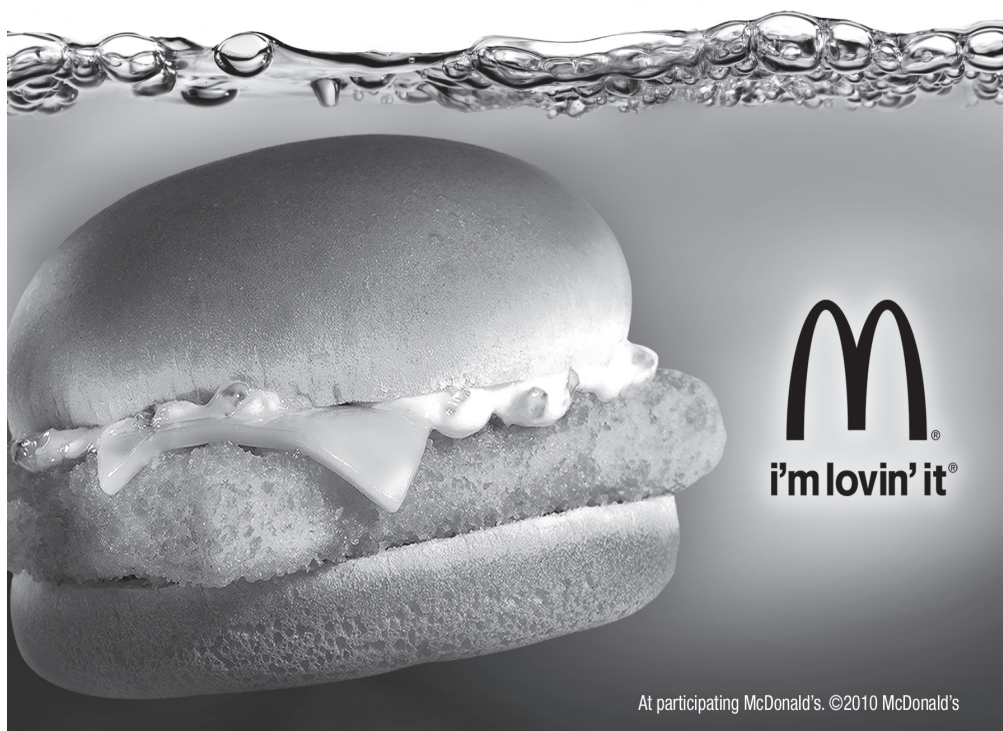
Evolutionists are advocates of chance hypothesis.

Every time an embryo is formed, a new set of molecules and genes would form by chance to create a specific pattern for DNA. The odds of creating the same DNA through countless generations by chance is astronomical.

A reason for doubting the chance hypothesis as an explanation for the origin of biological information is that it would create a combinatorial

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

Hook, Line and Tasty



VOTE

C.E. (MIKE) THOMAS REPUBLICAN I 18TH DISTRICT JUDGE



The Docket of the I18th District Court includes some of the most serious cases in Howard, Martin and Glasscock Counties. These include felonies, child custody disputes, and business civil suits to name a few. The facts in each case vary widely. I am firmly committed to the Texas Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution. I will consider each case fairly, without prejudice, and rule according to the law. It would be a great honor, privilege and responsibility to be elected Judge of the I18th District Court.

“I HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE WITH OVER 25 YEARS **OVERALL EXPERIENCE PRACTICING CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FAMILY LAW. I ALSO HAVE NUMEROUS HOURS OF COURTROOM EXPERIENCE FROM NOT ONLY MY PRIVATE PRACTICE BUT AS BIG SPRING CITY ATTORNEY AND HOWARD COUNTY ATTORNEY. THIS EXPERIENCE INCLUDES JURY TRIALS AND TRIALS BEFORE THE JUDGE.”**

C.E. (Mike) Thomas

Please consider what a great privilege it is to vote. It is very important for the people of Howard, Glasscock and Martin Counties to select their office holders.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE AND REMEMBER EVERY VOTE IS IMPORTANT

**EARLY VOTING BEGINS FEBRUARY 16, 2010
PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 2, 2010**

www.mikethomaslaw.com

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Pol. Adv. paid by Sandra Thomas, Treasurer in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.

Menus

Senior Center

Monday — Closed for President's Day.
 Tuesday — Beef stew, tossed salad, cornbread, brownie, milk, V8 juice.
 Wednesday — Crispy baked chicken, garden rice blend, mixed spinach salad, bread pudding with vanilla sauce, milk.
 Thursday — Cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onion, baked beans, tater tots, ambrosia, milk.
 Friday — Crab cakes, black-eyed peas, yellow squash, cornbread, apple crisp, milk.

Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast - Pancakes. Lunch - Chicken sticks, potato puffs, mixed vegetables, peaches, bread sticks, milk, catsup, tarter sauce.
 Tuesday: Breakfast - Oatmeal. Lunch - Spaghetti or Salisbury steak, green beans, garden salad, applesauce gelatin, bread sticks, milk.
 Wednesday: Breakfast - Biscuit, sausage and gravy. Lunch - Pizza or Pizza cheese sticks, green beans, garden salad, pears, milk, ranch dressing.
 Thursday: Breakfast - French toast sticks. Lunch - Chicken fajita or chicken casserole, pinto beans, lettuce and tomato salad, pineapple, cornbread, milk, salsa.
 Friday: Breakfast - Burrito. Lunch - Hamburger or cheeseburger, baked chips, western beans, hamburger salad, orange smiles, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, corn, bread, pear cups, milk; barbecue beef on a bun, pickle spears.
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Waffles, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Nacho grande, pinto beans, pineapple, milk.
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Donuts, sausage, fruit, milk; Lunch: Chicken fajitas, peppers and onions, cheese, salad, refried beans, milk; burritos.
 Thursday — Breakfast: Oatmeal, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, chips, peach cup, milk.
 Friday — Breakfast: Pancake sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Pig in a blanket, baby carrots, peaches, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Cereal, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Corndogs, potato rounds, Orange Smiles, broccoli, milk.
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Biscuits, chicken nuggets, juice, milk; Lunch: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes and gravy, peaches, brownies, rolls, milk.
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Baked cheese sticks, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, carrots, pears, milk, rolls.
 Thursday — Breakfast: Pancake sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, garden salad, corn, strawberries, rolls, milk.
 Friday — Breakfast: UBR cookie, juice, milk; Lunch: Turkey/cheese sandwich, Baked Lays, baby carrots, orange-pineapple Jell-o, fruit, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, chicken and noodle soup, pickle spears, saltine crackers, cinnamon apple-sauce cup, milk.
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, Sun Chips, baby carrots, fruit, milk.
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Pizza, seasoned corn, tossed salad, Orange Smiles, chocolate chip cookie, milk.
 Thursday — Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, ruit mix, juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, tater tots, pinto beans, fruit mix, milk.
 Friday — Breakfast: Cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, sliced peaches, milk.

Support Groups continued

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Storm Troupers Belly Dance

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Friday, February 19, 2010

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Courtesy photo

Five generations, each a first-born. Great-great grandmother Lela Geer holding baby Gracie MaRae Childers, great grandmother Louise Whitaker, grandmother Stacey Childers and father Joshua Childers

Births



Kellan Mae Fishpaw

Kellan Mae Fishpaw, a girl, was born Dec. 12, 2009, at 2:41 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

She is the daughter of Jim and Kim Middleton-Fishpaw of Keller. Grandparents are John and Cindy Middleton of Big Spring and Gloria Fishpaw of Bucyrus, Ohio. Great-grandparents are Harry and Janet Middleton of Big Spring and Eldon Carroll of Lubbock.

She was welcomed home by her sisters, Victoria and Raegan.

Jules Hadley Nichols, a girl, was born Jan. 5, 2010, at 8:05 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Kyle and Kayla Jo Nichols of Big Spring. Grandparents are Allen and Cara Nichols of Big Spring, Keith and Debi Smith of



Jules Hadley Nichols

Greenwood and Teresa Combs of Lubbock. She was welcomed home by a big brother, Jack.

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Helen Hernandez
Kathryn Bryand

PUBLIC INPUT & INFORMATION MEETING

Education for Children with Disabilities

February 25, 2010

Region 18 Education Service Center
 2811 LaForce Blvd., Midland (by Air Terminal)

We want your feedback on Special Education questions regarding the following. The comments and suggestions given at the meeting will be sent to the Texas Education Agency.

- (1) parent involvement to improve student outcomes
- (2) positive behavior supports to keep students in classrooms; and
- (3) improve performance in reading and math

FREE REGISTRATION

Call: (432) 563-2380 or Register online www.esc18.net

Descriptive flyer and RSVP form also online

Registration time: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**REFRESHMENTS – DEAF & SPANISH INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE
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REUNIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN Y PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA

Educación para Niños con Discapacidades

25 de Febrero, 2010

Region 18 Centro de Servicio Educación
 2811 LaForce Blvd., Midland (cerca del Aeropuerto)

Queremos su opinión sobre preguntas de la Educación Especial con respecto a: Los comentarios y sugerencias dadas en la junta, serán enviados a la Agencia de Educación de Texas.

- (1) participación de padres en mejorar los resultados de los estudiantes
- (2) comportamiento estimulante de apoyo para ayudar a mantener los estudiantes en sus clases, y
- (3) mejoramiento de ejecución en matemáticas y lectura

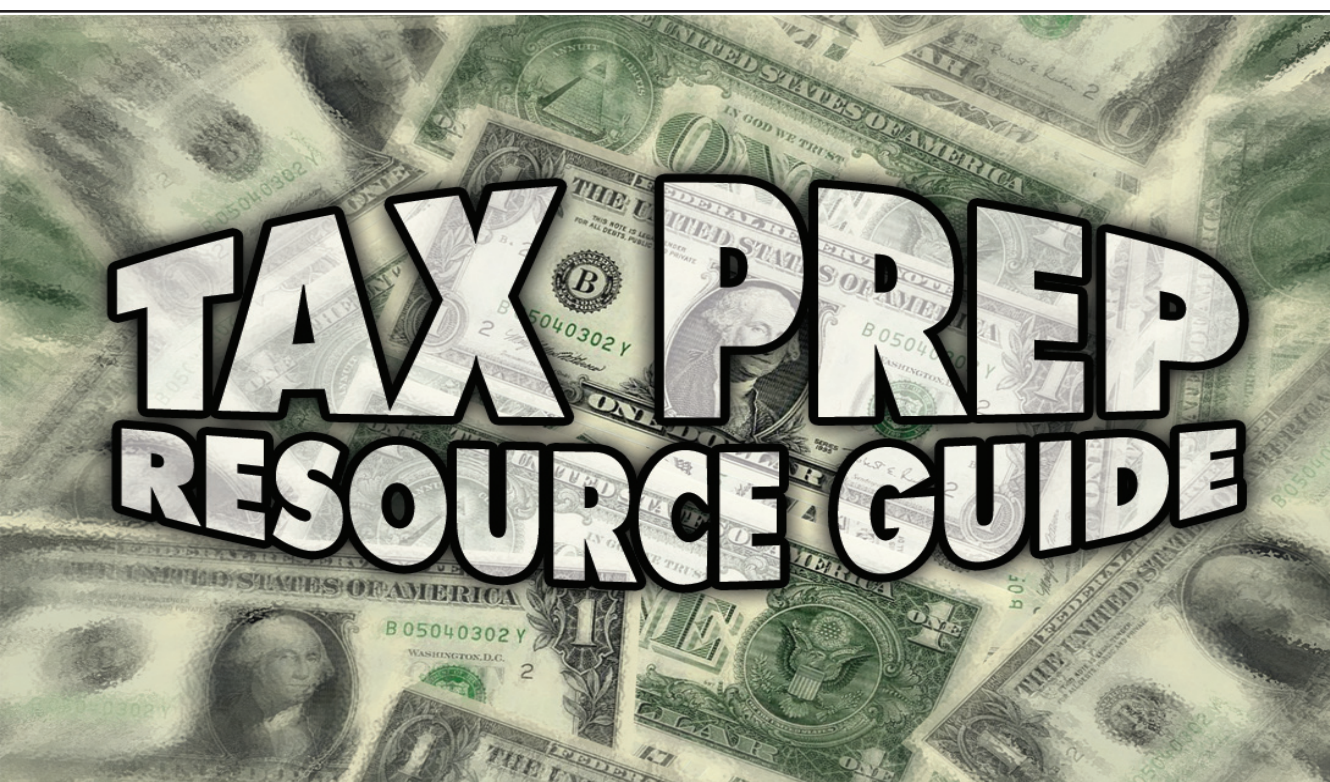
REGISTRO GRATIS

Para registración: Llamen (432) 563-2380 - o - www.esc18.net

Registro: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Reunión: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 medio día

REFRESCOS – INTEPRETES DE ESPAÑOL Y SORDOS DISPONIBLES – EL CUIDADO DE NIÑOS NO ESTÁ DISPONIBLE



TAX PREP RESOURCE GUIDE

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

problem.

Building a living cell requires a vast amount of specified data. How much is required nobody knows.

The thought process to create a specific hypothesis of arranging DNA for a specific design would require a designer.

I will leave the processing of thought to you to determine as to whom that designer would have to be.

CHARLES ARCHER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Texas has a rich heritage and enjoys traditions. We are proud of our history, but we don't celebrate it as widely as we should.

The inhabitants of this great state should be reminded of Texas Independence Day. Every March 2, wherever two or more are gathered in public, they should celebrate Texas Independence Day.

I propose the following: The restaurateur, the school principal, the store manager, the bank president, even the governor make this announcement at noon, "It's high noon on Texas Independence Day!"

Celebrants should raise their glasses, doff their hats, Red Raiders get their guns up and Bears show their claws. It can be a time when native Texans and transplants, young and old, Spurs and Mavericks, Aggies and Longhorns, even Republicans and Democrats can be united and respond: "Here's to Texas!"

This should be a Texas tradition celebrated far and wide. Three cheers for Texas!

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President
The White House
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• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

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

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

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
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Extension to offer food manager certification course

Special to the Herald

Statistics indicate that foodborne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, one in four Americans will become sick, one in 1,000 will become hospitalized and 5,000 will die due to a foodborne illness.

During a past legislative session, a statute was amended that allowed the Texas

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to require each food establishment to have one certified food manager.

Recently, the Texas Board of Health adopted rules to implement this statute. Many of you have already received a letter from the Texas Department of State Health Services regarding this. Under these new rules, each

food establishment permitted by the Texas Department of State Health Services must have one certified food manager. New food manager certificates will be valid for five years.

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Howard County is offering a food manager certification training course. This program will be offered for \$110 on March 17-18 at the

Howard County Library. Cost includes training, materials and the state food manager certification examination. The registration deadline is March 2.

This program is designed to not only prepare food service managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of

every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of

See **COURSE**, Page 7C



Courtesy photo

A Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District employee is seen taking an observation in the district's depth-to-water level measurements effort.

PBUWCD monitors aquifers with annual measurements

Special to the Herald

Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) personnel have been making annual depth-to-water level measurements since early January.

The data collected helps the PBUWCD determine the effect of the 2009 pumpage on groundwater levels in the aquifers, the Ogallala aquifer being the within Howard and Martin counties. Water level measurements are made in a network of 117 wells, most privately owned.

"We will be taking these measurements until the project is complete," said PBUWCD Manager Leatrice Adams. "It is important for producers to know that district personnel will be visiting observation well sites from early January until completion of this work effort. The staff of the PBUWCD appreciates the

cooperation of the landowners as we continue to provide this service for the residents of Howard and Martin counties."

The depth-to-water level measurement is made by lowering a steel tape to a pre-determined depth in the well. The first few feet of the tape lowered into each well is coated with carpenters' chalk, which turns a darker shade of blue when it comes into contact with water.

The distance from land surface to the static water level is determined by subtracting the amount of tape with the darker blue chalk from the total feet of tape extended into the well.

After the measurement is made, a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or other appropriate

surface near the well site.

Water district personnel measure the same wells in the observation well network each year, as long as the individual wells provide satisfactory data. The current depth-to-water measurements in individual wells are compared to that of the previous years to determine the annual change in water levels of the aquifers within the district.

The data collected is then put into a spreadsheet, listing observation wells in each county within the district and this years water levels. The file can be viewed at the PBUWCD Web site at www.pbuwcd.com

Additional information about the observation well program and annual depth-to-water level measurements is available by contacting the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation at 432-756-2136.

PA student chooses Big Spring to complete training

Special to the Herald

Kristen Fletcher, a physician assistant student enrolled at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in Midland, is in the process of completing a six-week rotation of 240 hours of clinical training in Big Spring.

Under the supervision of Dr. Ba Han at Big Spring State Hospital, her training began in January. Dr. Han is board certified in psychiatry with a secondary specialty in neurology and has actively practiced medicine for 28 years and has been in Texas for seven years.

Presently, the emphasis for treatment at Big Spring State Hospital is placed on quality treatment to shorten the period of illness, to rehabilitate and to return the patient to the community as quickly as possible. In order to do this, treatment modalities have expanded to include a full range of rehabilitation therapies, education, indi-

vidual and group psychotherapy and family intervention as an adjunct to medication. Patients who come to the hospital are treated not only for their psychiatric problems, but also for any problem needing medical attention.

Fletcher currently resides in Midland and is a third-year physician assistant graduate student at TTUHSC in Midland. She grew up in Merkel and received her degree in biology from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

"I have really enjoyed all of my rotations, but specifically I liked the ER, as well as psychiatry rotation the most," she said.

Meeting the health needs of rural communities continues to be a focus of Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs in Texas.

"While each student who completes clinical training in a rural community

See **STUDENT**, Page 7C



Courtesy photo

Physician assistant student Kristen Fletcher is finishing her rural clinical training under Dr. Ba Han at the Big Spring State Hospital.

Energy Watch



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

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



The expression, "it's the economy, stupid" was widely used during Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential campaign against George H.W. Bush. Basically, it means that most Americans vote with their wallet. The phrase, coined by James Carville, was meant to indicate that then President Bush hadn't done enough about the economic recession.

In politics, the current economic condition is critical to elections. In the stock market, it is and it isn't critical, depending upon the condition of the stock market at that moment.

Right now, the data show an economy that is recovering. Fourth quarter inflation adjusted gross domestic product increased 5.7 percent annual rate, the largest in six years. The Conference Board reported that its January consumer confidence reading increased to 55.9 from 53.6 in December. Consumers are feeling a bit better about the economy because the labor situation shows early signs of recovery.

However, all is not rosy for the economy. December existing home sales fell 16.7 percent after a previous surge in sales. And the big jump in GDP was heavily influenced by less inventory reduction. Without that, GDP would have increased only 2.2 percent. All in all, the economy is improving, albeit slowly.

Back in early March 2009, when the S&P 500 hit bottom, the economic news was still grim. It was the anticipation of a better economy that sparked the big rally.

Now the economic news is supporting all that bullishness and stock buying from March through early January. So what has the stock market done lately? The past eight days, the S&P 500 dropped 6.8 percent and is down three weeks in a row. January was the worst market month since last February.

The old expression, "Be careful what you wish for because it might come true" fits the current stock market correction. For 10 months, investors bought stocks in anticipation of better economic news. The news came, and it was "the economy, stupid" at work, but investor's state of mind and investable cash had changed.

Today, it is not the economy that is the problem. It is the 70 percent bull run by the S&P 500.

Basically, the market needs a time out; it needs stock prices to drop some more; it needs bullishness to come down, which has already started; it needs a reason for stock buyers to again become aggressive.

We have previously advised investors not to get too concerned about a possible normal correction, and that remains our advice. Last week President Obama met with Republicans to, in his words, "end the sour climate in Washington." We would love to see it, as bipartisanship can get things done, but we are not optimistic.

Instead, we will rely on the current market correction to again ignite the stock buyer so "it's the economy, stupid" can again be a positive market stimulant.

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Feb. 2, 2010, by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors, member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director-investments for Wells Fargo Advisors Midland office.

Bill Franks is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Medina in hot water after Sept. 11 remarks

HOUSTON (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina, reeling from her remarks that questioned whether the U.S. government was involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, on Friday blamed the ensuing firestorm on a “coordinated attack” that she speculated came from the campaigns of her better-known GOP rivals.

“more of this” in her race against Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. She said there are no “high-profile kinds of scandals in my life that really are going to get people something to chew on. So they’re going to have to make some things up.”

“The political games we saw beginning to be played yesterday serve nothing but a diversion,” she said,

In response to a question Thursday from nationally syndicated radio talk show host Glenn Beck, Medina said there were “some very good arguments” that the U.S. was involved in the 2001 attacks that took down the World Trade Center and killed some 3,000 people.

denying that her news conference in Houston — during which some questions were posed by

Medina campaign staff seated among reporters — was an effort at damage control. “No. This is continuing doing what we’ve been doing, campaigning hard for months.”

In response to a question Thursday from nationally syndicated radio talk show host Glenn Beck, Medina said there were “some very good arguments” that the U.S. was involved in the 2001 attacks that took down the World Trade Center and killed some 3,000 people.

“I think the American people have not seen all of the evidence there, so I have not taken a position on that,” she said.

She danced around the several other attempts from Beck to get an answer, prompting him to finally ask: “Is that a ‘yes’?”

She replied: “I’m not going to take a position where questions have been raised and not answered.”

Medina later in the day released a statement saying she didn’t believe the government played a role in the

attacks, but the damage had been done. Perry called her remarks “an insult to the thousands of Americans who lost loved ones.” Hutchison said to suggest anyone other than al-Qaida terrorists were involved “is an affront to the men and women who are sacrificing their lives to root out the terrorists in Afghanistan and around the globe.”

Hutchison campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Baker said Medina’s allegation that Beck’s question was somehow part of a coordinated effort from her political rivals is “simply not true,” a comment echoed by Perry campaign spokesman Mark Miner.

“It appears she’s trying to spread blame,” Miner said. “All our campaign did was release a statement. Her comments speak for themselves. We had nothing to do with her unfortunate comments.”

Medina said Friday the question from Beck caught her “unaware” and caused her to “over guess.”

“I could have done that better and I’ll endeavor to be a little more articulate in the future,” she said.

On the Democratic side, gubernatorial candidate Farouk Shami said Friday he also had questions about the involvement of the federal government in the terrorist attacks, saying “maybe there is no smoke without fire.”

“We still don’t know who killed John F.

Kennedy, who’s behind it,” Shami said during an interview with Dallas television station WFAA. “Will we ever find the truth about 9/11?”

“It’s hard to make judgments. I’m not saying yes or no, because I don’t know the truth.”

The profile of Medina — the Libertarian-leaning nurse from Wharton, about 50 miles southwest of Houston — has risen in recent weeks after her appearance in two televised debates where she assumed the role of a voice of reason while her two better-known rivals squabbled.

“I’m doing some damage,” Medina said. “I’m over the target. They know I’m over the target. And we’re heading up pretty quick and this a concerted damage control effort maybe on their part to make sure we get her out of the way.”

Gary Halter, a Texas A&M University political science professor who focuses on Texas government, said Medina’s comments weren’t likely to dent her support from “anti-Washington” people who don’t believe the findings of the federal government’s investigation of the Sept. 11 attacks. But for more mainstream voters considering whether she’s an attractive alternative, “It doesn’t look good,” he said.

“That’ll hurt her a lot,” Halter said. “This is such a strange world right now.”



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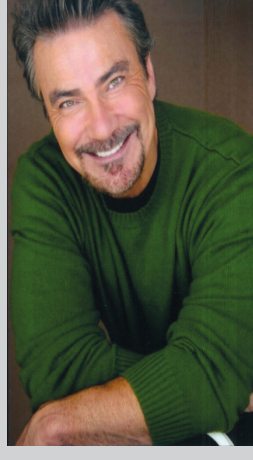
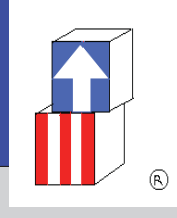
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On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 7 p.m. we have the great honor of having Victor Rivas Rivers to speak at our Opening General Session.

He is a child advocate, author, and actor. Mr. Rivers became involved in preventing violence against women and children in 1999 and became the leading activist for this cause.

Focus: Father Power Graduation
Topic: Domestic Violence: “It’s Everyone’s Issue”

Place: MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome, 6201 E. Hwy. 80, Odessa, TX
Tickets: Individual Tickets—\$50 each person
(Includes dinner and dance)

Event Sponsor Tables for 8 people—Red—\$1,000
White—\$750
Blue—\$500

Please be seated ten minutes before 7 p.m.

Victor Rivas Rivers
Child Advocate/
Author/Actor

17th Annual Staff Recognition/Training Conference **March 9-12, 2010**

On Friday, March 12, 2010, at 1 p.m. we have the distinguished privilege of having Judge Glenda Hatchett to speak at our Community Partners Luncheon and Staff Service Awards.

Judge Glenda Hatchett, is a Reality TV star, author and 2 time Emmy nominee. She wrote the national bestseller, Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say, which is about her professional experiences as a jurist and her experiences as a mother of two boys.

Topic: “A Promise To Keep”

Place: MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome, 6201 E. Hwy. 80, Odessa, TX
Tickets: Individual Tickets—\$35 each person
Event Sponsor Tables for 8 people— Red—\$1,000

White—\$750
Blue—\$500

Please be seated ten minutes before 1 p.m.



Judge Glenda Hatchett
Former Juvenile Court
Judge/Authority on Youth
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For tickets or information please contact :
Velma Hinojos 337-1352 Ext. 223
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Four-day oil rally falters as China tightens lending

(AP) — A four-day rally in oil prices ended Friday as China announced steps to cool its credit boom, raising worries that demand for crude from one of the world’s biggest consumers of energy will weaken.

Oil prices followed the stock market lower, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average off over 100 points in afternoon trading.

Average nationwide retail gasoline prices continued their month-long slide as well, hitting a new low for the year on Friday.

Benchmark crude for March delivery fell \$1.15 to settle at \$74.13 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

China ordered banks Friday to increase reserves for a second time in a month as leaders worried that a stimulus-driven torrent of lending is fueling a dangerous bubble in stock

and real estate prices. They also are concerned that the flood of money surging through the economy is adding to inflation.

Investors are counting on developing countries such as China and India to push demand — and prices — for oil higher, especially given the weak levels of consumption in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

If China, expected to be the main driver for increasing oil consumption, slows its economy, that could further depress global demand and help keep oil and gasoline prices down.

“This is significant when it comes to commodity prices and future demand,” said Phil Flynn of PFGBest.

Supplies of all petroleum products continue to be abundant even with the colder-than-normal temperatures across much of the country, officials said.

NOTICE OF AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Those eligible to apply for a Sid Richardson Memorial Fund scholarship are direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons who qualified for Early Retirement, Normal Retirement, Disability Retirement, or Death Benefits from The Bass Retirement Plan (formerly The Retirement Plan For Employees of Bass Enterprises Production Co.), Retirement Plan for Employees of Barbnest/San Jose Cattle, Retirement Plan for Employees of City Center Development Co., City Club Retirement Plan, Retirement Plan for Employees of Richardson Aviation, G.P., Retirement Plan for Employees of Sid W. Richardson Foundation, or Retirement Plan for Employees of Sundance Square. Those eligible also include direct descendants (children or grandchildren) of persons presently employed with a minimum of three years’ full-time service with any of the following employers: Barbnest Investment Co. (tax ID #75-2033355), BEPCO, L.P. (tax ID #75-1076930), BOPCO, L.P. (tax ID #37-1483123), City Club of Ft. Worth (tax ID #75-2035506), Richardson Aviation (tax ID #75-2125310), San Jose Cattle Co. (tax ID #75-1018369), Sid Richardson Carbon Co. (SRCE, L.P.) (tax ID #75-2468081), Sid W. Richardson Foundation (tax ID #75-6015828), and Sundance Square Management, L.P. (tax ID #20-1942332).

Limited funds are available to assist in defraying the cost of college education or of vocational training. These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis according to academic achievement and financial need. Eligible candidates for the 2010-2011 academic year must return completed applications postmarked no later than **March 31, 2010.**

Direct a written request for an application to Peggy Laskoski, Sid Richardson Memorial Fund, 309 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or plaskoski@sidrichardson.org. The request may also be faxed to 817-332-2176. Include student name and address, qualifying employee name, Social Security number of employee, qualifying company name, and dates of employment.

News in brief

Man with hurricane record convicted in Texas

GALVESTON (AP) — A contractor with a history of repair wrongdoing after storms in Florida has been convicted of theft in a Hurricane Ike case.

Prosecutors in Galveston say 43-year-old Matthew Kandl was sentenced to seven years in prison for felony theft. A Galveston couple who paid Kandl \$1,800 to repair the roof of their Ike-damaged home said no work was done.

Prosecutor Lester Blizzard told a judge, who sentenced Kandl on Thursday, that “people who work the storm and kick you when you’re down, it’s something you ought not do in Galveston County.”

Blizzard says Kandl has six convictions of contracting without a license in Brevard County, Fla., after hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne, plus was convicted of grand theft.

Defense attorney Michael Palmer says Kandl is eligible for parole after serving 25 percent of his sentence.

Roof collapses at Fort Worth brewing company

FORT WORTH (AP) — Storm damage is helping keep the beer cold after part of the roof at a Fort Worth brewery collapsed under heavy snow.

The owner of Rahr & Sons Brewing Co. says the frigid weather should keep the beer sufficiently chilled until repairs are made.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Saturday that the collapse tore coolant lines that kept 13 storage tanks at the right temperature in the warehouse.

The chilly weather is linked to a storm that dumped more than a foot of snow in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Owner Fritz Rahr says he’s working to get the lines fixed or secure enough refrigerated tanker trucks to move out some 22,000 gallons of craft ales and lagers.

No beer was damaged. A tasting party scheduled for Saturday has been postponed.

Loftin officially new A&M president

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The lone finalist to become president of the flagship campus of the Texas A&M system has assumed his duties.

A&M System regents on Friday formally named interim president R. Bowen Loftin to lead A&M in College Station.

Loftin in January was named the lone finalist, but could not start the job until after a 21-day waiting period. Loftin takes over for Elsa Murano, the first Hispanic president of Texas A&M, who

resigned in June under pressure.

Loftin previously was a Texas A&M vice president and CEO of its branch campus in Galveston when Hurricane Ike slammed the island in September 2008.

The 60-year-old administrator holds a bachelor’s degree in physics from A&M. He has advanced degrees in physics from Rice University in Houston. His wife is an associate biosafety officer at A&M.

Teen convicted in San Antonio body under bridge

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A teenager has been convicted in the 2008 shooting death of a San Antonio woman whose body was found dumped under a bridge.

The penalty phase begins Tuesday in San Antonio for 18-year-old Quinton Quantrell Cox, who faces up to life in prison.

Cox was convicted Friday of murder in the October 2008 killing of 26-year-old April Phillips.

Investigators say Cox apparently wanted the woman’s vehicle, after she approached some young men to say she earlier had been robbed and asked for help.

Prosecutor Lorina Rummel says drugs played a role in the slaying.

Cox did not testify.

Thousands still without electricity in DFW

DALLAS (AP) — Foggy conditions added to snow in the Dallas area as tens of thousands of homes and businesses remained without electricity during the long holiday weekend.

Oncor (AHN’-kor) Electric Delivery early Saturday reported about 150,000 homes and businesses in north Texas without power.

The utility says crews were working throughout the weekend to restore electricity. The federal President’s Day holiday is Monday.

Oncor says crews by Saturday morning had restored power to about 50,000 customers since a powerful winter storm, which rolled in Thursday, dumped a record 12.5 inches of snow.

The National Weather Service on Saturday morning issued a freezing fog advisory for parts of north Texas. But the forecast showed improvement, with temperatures expected in the 40s by Saturday afternoon.

Sheriff: Commissioner did nothing wrong

EL PASO (AP) — Allegations that an El Paso County commissioner traded votes for favors are unfounded, Sheriff Richard Wiles said Friday.

Wiles said at a news conference that an investi-

gation found no evidence Commissioner Veronica Escobar did anything wrong.

Escobar said she was pleased with the outcome and the speed of the investigation that cleared her name.

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

“I am very surprised the sheriff has rushed to issue a statement regarding alleged wrongdoing by Commissioner Veronica Escobar, without reviewing all of the evidence,” Cobos said in a statement Friday.

Cobos, himself the target of an ongoing federal probe of public corruption, filed a criminal complaint with the sheriff’s department Jan. 27, two days after making the vote-for-job allegation during a regular meeting of the county commission.

The complaint alleged deprivation of honest services over a 2007 county commission vote by Escobar.

Shami: Whites unwilling to work in factories

AUSTIN (AP) — Farouk Shami, the Democratic hair-care magnate running for Texas governor, says most of his factory employees are Hispanic because white people are not willing to work.

Shami, running against former Houston mayor Bill White, made the comments Friday in an interview with Dallas television station WFAA.

Shami said white people who look for work at his factories “either want to be supervisors or they want to be paid more than the average person and unfortunately, they exit.”

Shami was being asked to follow up on a comment he made at a televised debate between him and White in which he said, in an effort to advocate the benefits of immigrant labor that “without Mexicans, it would be like a day without sunshine in our state.”

3 persons of interest sought in Texas church fires

TYLER (AP) — Arson investigators said Friday they are seeking three men in connection with a series of church fires in east and central Texas.

Sketches of the three “persons of interest” were provided at a news conference by officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Tom Crowley, an ATF spokesman in Dallas, told The Associated Press that “we want to interview” the men as a result of tip line information and work by investigators.



JUSTICE REBECCA SIMMONS

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- ▶ 20 years in private practice specializing in complex litigation
- ▶ Republican District Judge, Bexar County
- ▶ Republican Justice, 4th Court of Appeals
- ▶ Adjunct professor, St. Mary’s School of Law, ‘94-2010
- ▶ Recipient, State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation

JUSTICE REBECCA SIMMONS

Respect for the law.

- ▶ Raised in Mexia, Texas where her father served as Republican County Chairman for over fifteen years
- ▶ Fifth generation Texan; third generation attorney
- ▶ Religious education teacher, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
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SHOOTINGS

Continued from Page 1A

ing tenure for Bishop, who had been an assistant professor since 2003. Authorities have not discussed a motive.

UAH student Andrew Cole was in Bishop's anatomy class Friday morning and said she seemed perfectly normal.

"She's understanding, and was concerned about students," he said. "I would have never thought it was her."

Bishop, a neurobiologist who studied at Harvard University, was taken Friday night in handcuffs from a police precinct to the county jail and could be heard saying, "It didn't happen. There's no way. ... They are still alive."

Police said they were also interviewing a man as "a person of interest."

University spokesman Ray Garner said the three killed were Gopi K. Podila, the chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences, and two other faculty members, Maria Ragland Davis and Adriel Johnson.

Three others were wounded, two critically, in the gunfire, which Davis' husband, Sammie Lee Davis, said occurred at a meeting over a tenure issue. The wounded were identified as department members Luis Cruz-Vera, who was listed in fair condition, and Joseph Leahy, in critical condition in intensive care, and staffer Stephanie Monticello, also in critical condition in intensive care.

Sammie Lee Davis said his wife was a researcher who had tenure at the university.

In a brief phone interview, he said he was told his wife was at a meeting to discuss the tenure status of another faculty member who got angry and started shooting. He said his wife had mentioned the suspect before, describing the woman as "not being able to deal with reality" and "not as good as she thought she was."

Bishop and her husband placed third in a statewide university business plan competition in July 2007, presenting a portable cell incubator they had invented. They won \$25,000 to help start a company to market the device.

Biology major Julia Hollis was

among the students who gathered to support each other and try to make sense of the news.

"When someone told me it was a staff person and it was faculty I was in complete denial," said Hollis, 23, who had taken classes with two of the instructors who were killed. "It took me a bit for it to sink in."

Students offered varying assessments of Bishop.

Andrea Bennett, a sophomore majoring in nursing, described Bishop as being "very weird" and "a really big nerd."

"She's well-known on campus, but I wouldn't say she's a good teacher. I've heard a lot of complaints," Bennett said. "She's a genius, but she really just can't explain things."

Bennett, an athlete at UAH, said her coach told her team Bishop had been denied tenure and that may have led to the shooting.

Amanda Tucker, a junior nursing

major from Alabaster, Ala., had Bishop for anatomy class about a year ago. Tucker said a group of students complained to a dean about Bishop's performance in the classroom.

"When it came down to tests, and people asked her what was the best way to study, she'd just tell you, 'Read the book.' When the test came, there were just ridiculous questions. No one even knew what she was asking," said Tucker.

But Nick Lawton, 25, described Bishop as funny and accommodating with students.

"She lectured from the textbook, mostly stuck to the subject matter at hand," Nick Lawton said. "She seemed like a nice enough professor."

Sophomore Erin Johnson told The Huntsville Times a biology faculty meeting was under way when she heard screams coming from a conference room.

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KBST Radio
Keep Big Spring Beautiful
Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veteran's Home
Life Church/Bean's World Café
Metcalf Copiers
Moss Creek Ranch
Relay for Life
Representative Joe Heflin
Rob's Hog Heaven BBQ
Scenic Mountain Medical Center
Serenity Spa
State National Bank
Surety Title
T. Blackshear Interiors
United Way
Wal-Mart Supercenter
Wells Fargo Bank
Wes-Tex Telecom
West Texas Centers for MHMR
Western Bank
Western Container
Yeats, Tim

Auction Items Donated by:
ALON USA
Big Spring Country Club

Cornell Companies
Don Knight – BSHS Graduate of 1978
Moss Creek Ranch / Bob & Jessica Price
Serenity Spa
Capital Flags – State Representative Joe Heflin

Auctioneer & "Helpers"
State Representative Joe Heflin
Mark Barr
Kurt Coor
Jan Foresyth
Jan Hansen
Richard Steel

Color Guard
Big Spring Police Department

Entertainment:
Donny Green

MC
Jay Hendricks/CBS 7 News

A Special Thanks to:
Klassic Kleaners; Howard College Diplomats and Student Government Association; Great Western Dining, SWCID Diplomats; Jonathan Smith; Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Staff, Stan, Calvin, Tommy & Clinton.

Banquet Committee:
Verna Davis, Jan Foresyth, Jan Hansen, Gloria McDonald, Debbie Wegman, Debbye ValVerde, Nancy Davenport, Vicki Stewart

And to everyone that attended, Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber, Big Spring and Howard County.

News in brief

Concerns about adviser for Americans jailed in Haiti could delay their release

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Preparations for the provisional release of 10 Americans detained in Haiti on child kidnapping charges may be on hold after questions arose about a Dominican man who served as their legal adviser.

Officials in the Dominican Republic said Jorge Puello did not have a license to practice law in his native country, and The New York Times reported the Haitian judge might delay the group's release because of questions about the adviser's possible links to a human-trafficking case.

Puello has been a high-profile advocate for the jailed Baptists as they navigate the Haitian justice system. He also now is in apparent violation of Dominican law for failing to register with the local bar association or obtain a license, said Jose Parra, vice president of the Dominican Lawyers Association.

Parra said his organization was investigating the situation and might file a complaint with the Justice Department, which could pursue criminal charges.

Puello declined to comment in a brief telephone interview, saying he would be busy in court representing a U.S. firm seeking to establish a business in the Dominican Republic. He could not be located in court and did not return later phone calls.

Family: No reason for torture, death of trusting, childlike Pa. woman

GREENSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Jennifer Daugherty's mom and stepdad didn't press for details when she mentioned she had made some new friends. The 30-year-old had the mental abilities of an adolescent but wasn't the kind to get in trouble, and she was even thinking about getting her own place soon.

Police found her body Thursday stuffed into a garbage can in a school parking lot; they say she had been forced to consume detergent and urine — and to write a fake suicide note — before she was fatally stabbed by attackers who also shaved her head and painted her face with nail polish. Six suspects have been charged, including her new "friends."

"She was exploited, and her kindness and her handicap made her very vulnerable," Daugherty's sister, Joy Burkholder, said. "She trusted everybody; she believed everyone was good, and no one would hurt her."

Daugherty's stepfather said she often traveled on

her own by bus from her home in Mount Pleasant to Greensburg, about 10 miles away, for dental or counseling appointments. After she hopped onto a bus Monday, she called her folks later in the day seeking permission to spend the night at "Peggy's" house.

Republican response mixed on invitation to President Obama's health care summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans sent mixed signals after President Barack Obama challenged them to participate in a one-of-a-kind televised summit with Democrats to come up with legislation on overhauling the nation's health care.

House Republicans derided the Feb. 25 event, casting doubt on whether it would yield any bipartisan agreement to extend coverage to millions of Americans and rein in medical costs. "Are they willing to start over with a blank sheet of paper?" said Kevin Smith, a spokesman for GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio. "We need answers before we know if the White House is more interested in partisan theater than in facilitating a productive dialogue about solutions."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., was more receptive, saying he would work with the White House "to maximize the effectiveness of the meeting."

The summit is considered a last, best attempt to revive Obama's yearlong health overhaul quest, now stalled after Democrats lost their filibuster-proof Senate majority. Yet, since Obama proposed the summit last weekend, Republicans and Democrats have voiced skepticism. Some in the GOP wondered if it would be nothing but a spectacle that could benefit the president at their expense. Democrats viewed Republicans' insistence that Obama trash existing bills and start over as evidence they weren't sincere about bipartisanship.

By presiding over a meeting with three dozen lawmakers trying to get a word in edgewise, Obama may be able to dominate the conversation and the visual images. That's what many Democrats say he did at a Jan. 29 session when he faced a roomful of GOP House members in Baltimore.

Obama to announce loan guarantee for nuclear power plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration's planned loan guarantee to build the first nuclear power plant in the United States in almost

three decades is part of a broad shift in energy strategy to lessen dependence on foreign oil and reduce the use of other fossil fuels blamed for global warming.

President Barack Obama called for "a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants" in his Jan. 27 State of the Union speech and followed that by proposing to triple loan guarantees for new nuclear plants. He wants to use nuclear power and other alternative sources of energy in his effort to shift energy policy.

Obama next week will announce the loan guarantee to build the nuclear power plant, an administration official said Friday. The two new Southern Co. reactors to be built in Burke, Ga., are part of a White House energy plan that administration officials hope will draw Republican support.

Loan guarantees for other sites are expected to be announced in the coming months, the official said, who would speak only on condition of anonymity ahead of Obama's announcement. The federal guarantees are seen as essential for construction of any new reactor because of the expense involved. Critics call the guarantees a form of subsidy and say taxpayers will assume a huge risk, given the industry's record of cost overruns and loan defaults.

Even with next week's announcement, actual construction of the first reactor is still years away. The Southern Co. has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a construction and operating license for the plant, one of 13 such applications the agency is considering. NRC spokesman Elliott Brenner said the earliest any of those could be approved would be late 2011 or early 2012.

3-legged, baseball-catching dog wins 1st place in NYC shelter's 'Best In Show' talent contest

NEW YORK (AP) — A three-legged pitbull mix that played in a game of doggie baseball has won "Best in Show" at a talent competition held by one of New York City's largest animal shelters.

Nine dogs competed in Friday's contest at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. But it was Prince who impressed the judging panel the most with his feat of catching three baseballs.

The nearly 2-year-old dog lost one of his legs and had a pin inserted in another after being struck by a car.

The ASPCA's senior vice president of the adoption center says Prince's disability doesn't hold him back.

Gail Buchwald says he "struts his stuff like a winner."

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MEET Commissioner Victor Carrillo

EDUCATION

- University of Houston Law School, J.D.
- Baylor University, M.S. - Geology
- Hardin-Simmons University, B.S. - Geology

PERSONAL

- Married to wife, Joy, for over 25 years
- Three daughters: Laura, Christina, & Grace
- Family attends Redeemer Presbyterian Church
- Pro-life, pro-liberty, homeschooling family

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prior work as petroleum geophysicist, college professor, attorney and judge
- Texas licensed geoscientist and attorney
- Elected as Abilene City Councilman
- Elected Republican County Judge
- Chairman, Texas Energy Planning Council
- Member, Texas Bioenergy Policy Council
- Chairman, Outer Continental Shelf advisory board to U.S. Secretary of the Interior
- Former Vice Chairman, Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission
- Gas Committee, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- Advisory Board, *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas & Energy Law*, Univ. of Texas Law School
- Named to 100 Most Influential Hispanics in Nation by *Hispanic Business Magazine*

New uncertainty surrounds 9/11 trials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration appears increasingly unsure what to do with professed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed after officials indicated they are reconsidering not just where he should go on trial, but whether he should face civilian or military justice.

Both Attorney General Eric Holder and White House spokesman Robert Gibbs did not rule out a military trial when asked Friday about the Obama administration's options.

Trying Mohammed in military court would mark a further political retreat from Holder's announcement last year that Mohammed and the four other Sept. 11 suspects now held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, would be tried in federal court in New York.

The Obama administration is trying to head off a possible vote in the Senate that could stop any terror suspects currently held at Guantanamo from being brought to the United States to face a civilian trial. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is offering such legislation, after losing a vote last year on the issue.

"These al-Qaida terrorists are not common criminals," Graham said Saturday in the Republicans' weekly radio and Internet address. "A civilian trial of hard-core terrorists is unnecessarily dangerous and creates more problems than it solves."

At stake is the public perception of the administration's handling of national security, already shaken last year by strong congressional opposition to transferring any Guantanamo detainees to American soil. A Hill defeat over the trial issue could embolden the GOP minority to raise national security

concerns in the mid-term elections later this year.

"Military tribunals are the best way to render justice, win this war and protect our nation from a vicious enemy," said Graham.

The prospect of such a vote could test of how many moderate Democrats have abandoned Obama on the issue.

White House officials said Friday that Obama and his top advisers will play a direct role in ultimately deciding how to prosecute Mohammed. The administration initially decided to try the five terror defendants in New York but have since appeared to back-track.

"Obviously there are efforts on Capitol Hill through legislation to restrict either the type of or the venue of a trial for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his co-conspirators," Gibbs said. "That, by definition, involves the White House and ultimately the president."

"So, since this effort has moved from strictly a Justice Department decision to something that's in the legislative arena, the White House — and by definition the president — are involved."

As a result of Holder's decision to seek a civilian prosecution, Bush-era military charges that had been pending against the five suspects were dismissed last month. Those military charges could now be revived.

The administration is reconsidering Holder's plan to put the five men on trial in a federal court in Manhattan, after local officials there balked at security and logistics complications.

The White House insisted it is sensitive to their concerns.

"We're going to take into account security and logistical concerns that those individu-

"These al-Qaida terrorists are not common criminals. A civilian trial of hard-core terrorists is unnecessarily dangerous and creates more problems than it solves."

Sen. Lindsey Graham,
R-South Carolina

als now have," Gibbs said. "The cost of the trial, obviously, is one thing."

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., who has repeatedly criticized Holder's decision to try Mohammed in New

York, said the White House has bungled the issue from the start.

"What it shows is there was no preparation, no advance work done by the administration. It's one of the most irresponsible decisions

anyone has ever made," said King.

For his part, Holder said he still expects Mohammed to be tried in a federal civilian court, but he conceded it's possible that won't happen.

"At the end of the day, wherever this case is tried, in whatever forum, what we have to ensure is that it's done as transparently as possible and with adherence to all the rules," Holder told The Washington Post. "If we do that, I'm not sure the location or even the forum is as important as what the world sees

in that proceeding."

The administration has been on the defensive about its record on terrorism since a Nigerian man allegedly tried to blow up an airliner landing in Detroit on Christmas. The suspect faces charges in federal court, but Republicans say the Democratic administration should treat such suspects not as criminals but war criminals.

Administration officials counter that the Christmas case was handled no differently than the Bush administration had handled similar earlier cases.

Advertorial

THIS IS THE OTHER SIDE

By

Manuel R. Carrasco, M.D.



Several months ago, the Big Spring Herald published the news of a reprimand of the Texas Medical Board (TMB) against us. At that time, we were on a family vacation and we saw the news afterwards. We contacted our lawyer who advised not to say anything that the issue would pass. With regret for our patients, fellow physician and the general public we have felt the pain of not telling our side of the story. We believe it is time for you to be better informed and know exactly what happened.

Some time ago, we were involved in a case of a patient who lived out of town. He underwent orthopedic surgery and did very well until the third day when he got complications and sustained a heart attack. The patient was stabilized and transferred to Lubbock and did not survive. He had been seen by myself, his surgeon, and anesthesiologist and we all concurred that this gentleman was ready for his knee surgery and so was the patient.

The widow filed a complaint to the Board against me, although there were other physicians involved. I was the only one in review with the board. I have always sustained all along that we did the right thing. I presented the data to a University of Texas, Austin Professor of Medicine, Dr. James Wright, who concurred with me, however the Board still insisted in penalizing me. After much debate we realized that no matter what the Board would never dismiss our case and we opted for a mediation and complied with a small fine and continue education.

We reviewed a lot of medical literature and we still feel strongly that we did the right thing. Interestingly, this case has been reviewed by other entities: One of the insurance companies medical group, the Medical Board of Florida and lately by the Board of New York, and they have found nothing wrong with our performance in the case.

The people, the physicians of Big Spring and our hospital are aware of our quality of work for over 15 years. We never had quality issues and we are committed to our community.

This is our pledge. This is the other side of the story that you did not know. You decide for yourselves and not somebody from outside our community.

Manuel R. CARRASCO, MD
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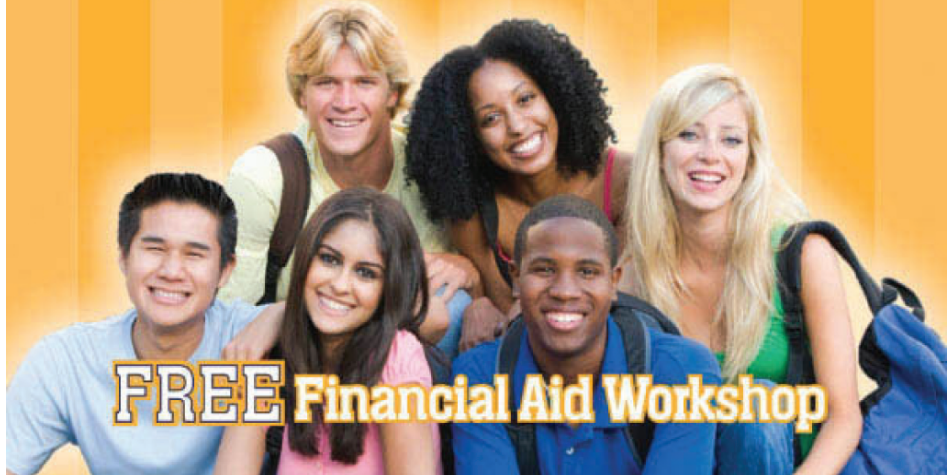
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Howard College College Goal Sunday



**NEED MONEY
FOR COLLEGE?**



FREE Financial Aid Workshop

FEBRUARY 21

12 - 4 PM

STEPS LAB - PRACTICAL ARTS BUILDING

Howard College Financial Aid Department is hosting College Goal Sunday on February 21 from 12:00-4:00pm in the STEPS Lab of the Practical Arts Building on the campus of Howard College.

College Goal Sunday is a non-profit program that provides FREE assistance to families and students who are applying for financial aid for higher education.

Students and parents attending should bring their 2009 income tax returns, W2's, and driver's license in order to have needed information for the forms. If a family has not yet completed their 2009 tax returns, they can still attend and get assistance – they just need to bring their W2's and driver's license.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the federally required form for students seeking financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study throughout the nation.

Howard College is one of the few colleges in the area where College Goal Sunday is hosted and College Goal Sunday is open to anyone in the surrounding area, not just Howard County residents. For more information about College Goal Sunday, visit www.howardcollege.edu or collegegoalsundayusa.org or contact Rebecca Villanueva at 264-5085.



Come to Children's Dental Fair

Presented by:
Howard College Dental Hygiene Dept.

Dental Hygiene Clinic - Horace Garrett Building

**Saturday-February 20
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Kids bring your old toothbrush and receive a new one

Lots of Fun - games, popcorn, treats, stickers, door prizes and more!

Howard College and Sue Bagwell invite you to view the process of creativity that pushes all artists to new and undiscovered territories.



Same but Different- An Artist Approach by Sue Bagwell



Solo Art Exhibition of Sue Bagwell, watercolor
February 15, 2010 - April 1, 2010

Opening Reception
Monday, February 15
5:30 - 6:30pm

Gallery Hallway
Hall Center for the Arts
Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane

HAWK BASKETBALL

Home games

Monday February 15

Hawk Women vs. Midland College 5:45 pm
Hawk Men vs. Midland College 7:45 pm

Monday February 22

Hawk Women vs. Odessa College 5:45 pm
Hawk Men vs. Odessa College 7:45 pm

HAWK BASEBALL

Home games

Sat & Sun February 27 & 28

Texarkana College 12:00 pm

Sat March 6

Odessa College 12:00 pm

HAWK SOFTBALL

Home games

Wed February 17

Ranger College 1:00 pm

Fri March 5

Odessa College 1:00 pm



February 20, 2010 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Howard County Youth Horseman Arena

Clinic Fee \$25 per student

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Diana Hofacker - 432-267-0041 • Greg Krazink - 432-816-9477 • Lester Jordan - 432-816-9530

**Be a part of Howard College's Department of Community Education's non-credit programs and classes.
For more information - Call 264-5131**

Texas Alcohol Education Program for Minors

This class is designed to help participants increase their knowledge about alcohol and drugs among young people. The curriculum contains information on the following topics: Societal values related to alcohol consumption by minors, the influence of alcohol advertising on young people, the relationship between motor vehicle and other accidents and alcohol use; relevant laws relating to the purchase possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, drinking patterns, and problems of young people including abuse, addiction and decision making skills. TCADA approved.

Instructor: Fabian Serrano Location: Annex A8

6pm-9pm Tuesday through Thursday

March 2-4, 2010

Cost: \$50.00

Anger Management

Anger Management is presented in two sessions 3.5 hours in duration. The course discusses the definition of Anger and investigates when it becomes a problem. It also reviews the potential payoffs, consequences, and triggers of anger. Physical, emotional, and behavioral cues are also discussed. Finally, anger styles and positive anger management strategies are reviewed.

Instructor: Gary Tidwell

March 9 and 11, 2010

April 13 and 15, 2010

6pm - 9:30 pm Tuesday - Thursday

Location: Annex Building

Cost: \$50.00

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is designed for persons determined to be batterers with the aim of breaking the chain and cycle of violence. The course is presented in one six hour session. The course identifies general information about domestic violence, the cycle of violence and the effects of abuse, on the individual, family, community and society as a whole. The characteristics of an abuser are reviewed thoroughly. Finally, techniques for breaking the cycle of violence including positive anger management strategies and appropriate conflict resolution are also discussed.

Instructor: Gary Tidwell

Location: Annex Building

9am-3pm - Saturday

February 27, 2010

March 27, 2010

Cost: \$50.00

CPR for Healthcare Providers

Course covers the American Heart Association ECC guidelines and is designed for health care providers and professional rescuers. Lifesaving skills of respiratory (choking and near-drowning) and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and infants. Topics include:

- Adult One-Rescuer and Two-Rescuer CPR and Foreign Body Airway Obstruction (FBAO)
- Pediatric One-Rescuer CPR and FBAO
- Infant One-Rescuer CPR and FBAO
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Instructor: Lynn Toman

Location: College at the Mall

8am-5pm - Saturday

March 6

April 10

May 22

Cost: \$30.00



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8:00am-5:30pm

Mon-Thur

8:00am-3:00pm

Friday

Annie's Mailbox®



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

with her daughter that they never will. Here's another resource for adoptive families: the North American Council on Adoptable Children (nacac.org).

California: Ten years ago, my daughter was contacted by a daytime talk show, saying someone from her past wanted to meet her. She was reunited with her birth family on national TV. I was totally stunned, but when called up on stage, I said, "I want to give the birth mother a hug and thank her for giving me the opportunity to become a mother." Neither my daughter nor I has much contact with the birth mother now, and my daughter told me she is thankful we chose her.

Louisiana: I am the birth mother of a 45-year-old man. His adoptive parents loved and nurtured him. When he was an adult, he found me. For the first year or so, it was like a honeymoon. When I met his mom, we were polar opposites except in one area: We both wanted the best for her son. At 45, my birth son still calls his real mother first, and I am privileged to hear from him from time to time.

Chicago: My son was not interested in contacting his birth mother until he married and wanted his medical history. She was so happy to have the contact. I told my son, "You can never have too many people who love you."

Texas: As a birth mother, I can tell you that birth parents feel just as uncomfortable. When "Still" complains that she has to share her daughter with strangers, she is being shortsighted. The birth mother shared her daughter with strangers and didn't get to know her. Instead of being jealous, she might be thankful someone gave her the opportunity to be a mother.

Dear Annie: I've been married for 29 years to a man I adore. We have had our ups and downs, but have weathered the storms because we both believe we are meant to be together. But we have a problem I don't know how to solve.

"Joe" plays an online role-playing game that I have never been comfortable with. And he always gets involved with someone online, and it is always a woman. They can't advance in their game unless they work together.

Several years ago, Joe became emotionally attached to another woman and left me for a while. When he came back, I thought those things were behind us, but I keep discovering lies. I know he meets up with this woman online every day while I am at work. My kids can hear the sound of her voice. My son was so upset, he wanted to move out of the house.

This torments me so much that I can barely function at work. I love my job, but I cry in the bathroom, and people are starting to ask questions. I have finally realized that Joe is going to do this type of thing forever, and it breaks my heart. Joe treats me beautifully when we are together, but I don't want to share him with other women.

I have asked his family for help, but they say Joe has a right to his relaxation and it shouldn't bother me. I am planning to start counseling before I have a nervous breakdown. I don't want to lose this man, but I have to save myself. Don't you think these women should consider the time they are spending online with someone who is married? Is there any hope for me? — Crying Every Day

Dear Crying: Don't blame "these women" for Joe's behavior. The world of online gaming has plenty of men he could team up with, but he obviously makes the effort to find females. Joe's history indicates he becomes attached to his online friends, which is unhealthy for your marriage. If he cannot see (or doesn't care about) the damage

he is causing, things don't look good. We are glad you will be getting counseling. It will help.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have five children together, and he has an older child from a previous relationship.

My question is about the firstborn of our five children. Our son passed away at the age of 9 months, but we still consider him part of our lives in so many ways. When asked how many children we have, what is the proper response? We don't want to leave out our firstborn, but we also don't want to give the wrong impression. — Elkhart, Ind.

Dear Elkhart: The answer is up to you and depends on how much personal information you wish to divulge. If you prefer, it is OK to

say you have six children. You are not obligated to give anyone the details. However, if you are willing to talk about your firstborn to those who ask this question, it might be comforting for you to say you have six children, but one died as an infant.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "At a Loss," the 16-year-old who wets the bed. I wet the bed until I was 17. So did my sister, my grandson and my nephew. Somewhere down the line, we inherited this from a relative. For me, it was my father.

The good news? We all outgrew it by the time we were in our 20s. I recommend she get some adult diapers from a medical supply store and just put them in the trash in the morning. They worked

wonderfully for my grandson. I wish her luck and hope it's almost over with. — Mem

Dear Mem: A certain percentage of bed-wetters outgrow it eventually. We're glad that worked for you.

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



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Valentine's Day



Sweetness,
You are my Heart
You are my Soul
I Love You!



Forever,
Robert

BE MINE

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY SON!



LOVE, MOM & DAD

To My Beautiful Valentines!



Love,
Dad

Happy Valentine Day Everyone!

From Your Love Bug Brian

Thanks for always supporting me and for 3 great years of marriage.



Love,
Mrs. Valadez

You're My Special Valentine!

Wera Nachaiz Love Gilbert

Thank You For Being Part Of My Life



Love You So Much Happy Valentine's Day

Your Husband,
Jesse Soliz

Hey Grandpa Green Happy Valentine's Day!!!!



Come play with me!!
Love,
Your Grandson Jayden



Happy 1st Valentine's Day! Amayah



Love You,
Granna & Grandpa

Happy Valentine's Day to my husband Jesse Soliz "for taking care of me & showing unconditional love"

Always Your Wife,
Kris Soliz

L O V E

Happy Valentines Ben

I love you so much
Love, Heather

Happy Valentine's Days, Atanacio, Christopher & Christian

Love, Mommy

Dippity Do, Babe, Honey, Onny, Mr. Franco



Love,
Your Woman

My Girls



I love you all deeper than the ocean, higher than the sky and farther than my hands can reach!


Love,
Tia Bambi

Happy Valentine's Day!



"Kitty" 's you!

Happy Valentine's Day Tina




Love,
Ron



You're still my hero!
Happy Valentines Day
Hayley Jenkins
From your dad

Jimmy,



My life, My love My happiness... Today Tomorrow n Forever my heart will be yours!!

ILY H.

Dillon,



MY MOST AWESOME SON TY FOR BEING MY ROCK!

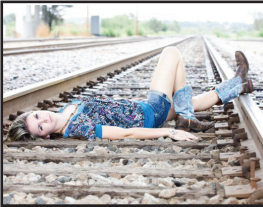
ILY Mojo

To My Valentine!



Love You,
Rick

Brooke Ann,



my daughter, my best friend you complete me!!

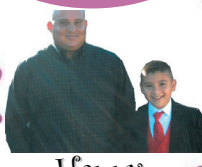
ILY Mojo




Devon,
my baby girl ty for all the joy and fun you bring to my life!!

ILY Mojo

hugs & kisses To The Two SPECIAL Guys In My Life



Happy Valentine's Day
Frank & Jeremy
Love, Rachell



Happy Valentine's Day to my husband **Victor Castillo**


I Love You and miss you so much

Love Your Wife,
Kimberly Castillo

Happy Valentine's Day **Dixie**



Love,
Bill



Happy Valentine's Day to my husband **Victor Castillo**

I Love You and miss you so much

Love Your Wife,
Kimberly Castillo

To My Little Cutie Happy Valentine's Day!



Love,
Papa

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO OWEN & OLIVIA



Love You

Carolyn Will You Be My Valentine?

Your Secret Admirer