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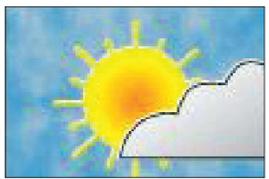
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SUNDAY
MARCH 21, 2010



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Howard College complies with 'budget reduction' plan

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Howard College will pay sooner rather than later. College trustees will hear an update on plans to slice the college's budget by 5 percent when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Tumbleweed Room.

Officials have been trimming the budget in response to a recent mandate from state leadership to help Texas better cope with the downturned economy. The 5 percent cut will be instituted mostly in the area of hiring freezes and reduction in purchases, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A



Staying Alive!

Down 14 points with four minutes left, Howard College rallies to advance to the NJCAA title game.

See Page 1B



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Matthew Monger goes hand over hand at one of the Kids' Zone attractions Thursday afternoon. Sunny skies and warm temperatures attracted hundreds of people to the city park Thursday. The forecast calls for cooler weather Saturday, with temperatures rising into the 70s Monday and Tuesday.

Howard to sign pact with firm from Harris Co.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to approve an inter-local agreement Monday morning that could help simplify design and construction efforts in the government agency's future, according to County Judge Mark Barr.

Barr and the commissioners court are set to approve a contract between Howard County and the Harris County Department of Education, the first step in allowing the government agency to work with Houston-based Basic IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity) Inc.

According to Barr, the inter-local agreement won't cost the county a penny, but could open the door for services that could streamline the construction of new county buildings.



"We found out really quick just how complicated designing and constructing these buildings and facilities can be when we worked on the new jail," said Barr. "You have to work with the architects and the construction managers, and there's a lot you have to figure out. Using this company would take a lot of the burden off the county when it comes to projects like that one." Barr said the group is currently looking at a proposed project to construct a warehouse facility for the county, and while this particular project won't likely call for Basic IDIQ's services, it should give county officials an idea of how helpful they can be in

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

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Famed songwriter to hook up with Big Spring's Symphony Orchestra

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 News Editor

Longtime Big Spring Symphony conductor and music director Dr. Keith Graumann has gotten his wish after years of trying. Now he wants the public to enjoy the results.



"I have been trying to secure an engagement with Paul Williams for several years," Graumann said. "I have admired his songwriting since the early years, when during my high school and college days I was a fan of the Carpenters and Three Dog Night." Williams, a celebrated en-

tertainer and songwriter, will join the symphony orchestra in a "Symphony Pops Extravaganza" scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students and are available at KBST Radio, Western Banks, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Big Spring Herald. There is no reserve seating, but one may expect close-to-stage seating on the floor of the coliseum.

Williams has composed such hits as "Rainy Days and Mondays" and "We've Only Just Begun," made famous by the Carpenters; "Just an Old

Fashioned Love Song," performed by Three Dog Night; and "Evergreen," sung by Barbara Streisand.

In Big Spring, however, Williams will also deliver his debut performance with Symphony Orchestra of "It May Not Be Today," one of his newest songs.

"I am deeply honored that the Big Spring Symphony will be performing the orchestral debut of his new song," said Graumann, who said he still has some of Williams' early albums on LP records.

"Paul Williams has enjoyed a distinguished career spanning several decades," said Graumann.

Early in his career, Williams acted in a number of



Photo by Alan Mercer

Singer, songwriter Paul Williams will perform with the Big Spring Symphony Saturday, March 27.

See **WILLIAMS**, Page 3A

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Eight teams pull off major upsets in tourney

Associated Press

There was nothing wrong with having a big number in front of your name in the NCAA tournament bracket.

Eight teams seeded 10th or higher won a game in the first round, matching last year's total and one off the record set in 2001.

Ohio University, proudly wearing the 14th seed, was the biggest of

Thursday's five double-digit defeats, beating No. 3 Georgetown 97-83.

Joining the opening day of double trouble were No. 13 Murray State, 66-65 winners over Vanderbilt on Danero Thomas' 15-foot jumper at the buzzer; two No. 11s which beat Big East teams — Old Dominion over Notre Dame and Washington over Marquette — and No. 10 Saint Mary's, which

beat Richmond.

Cornell, a No. 12 many thought should have been given a better seeding, started Friday's double, delights, beating Temple 78-65, while two No. 10s moved on: Georgia Tech over Oklahoma State and Missouri over Clemson.

"This is what happens in March Madness," Murray State freshman guard John Jenkins said. "I didn't think it

was going to happen and I had no doubt we were going to win that game."

Cornell, one of the best teams to come out of the Ivy League since the days when Princeton was scaring the top teams in the country year after year, handled Temple, the champions of the Atlantic 10 Conference, pretty easily.

"Everyone was saying we were Cinderella or

it's an upset. Not us," Big Red sophomore Chris Wroblewski said.

Ohio's big win over the Hoyas, who lost to West Virginia in the Big East championship game, was its second stunner of the postseason. The Bobcats won the Mid-American Conference tournament as a No. 9 seed.

"We may not be a better team, just got to be a better team on a given

night," Ohio's Armon Bassett said.

In addition to this year and 2009, there were eight double-digit winners in 2006, 1999, 1998, 1989, 1991.

The low came in 2007 when only two teams seeded 10th or higher advanced.

The breakdown of the record nine in 2001 included No. 15 Hampton

See **NCAA**, Page 2B

MIRACLE FINISH

Hawks clinch berth in finals with amazing comeback win

BY JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — Much of the sizable crowd that gathered for the NJCAA semifinal game Thursday night missed out on an exciting finish.

After all, Eastern Utah was beating Howard 63-49 with four minutes left.

But at that point, the Howard Hawks started a 22-1 run to beat the Eagles 68-64 and earn a spot to play for the NJCAA National Championship.

Jae Crowder scored 22 points for Howard, Carlos Emory scored 17 and Josh Watkins had 16 as Howard will go for its first ever national title in basketball at 8 p.m. Saturday against Three Rivers (Mo.) College.

"We've never been down like that," said head coach Mark Adams. "We do it in practice, but finding ourselves in that situation is something we've never seen before."

Howard led 33-30 at the break, but Eastern Utah came out of the locker room dominant as its zone defense gave the Hawks fits and post Michael Glover began to score at will on Howard in the paint. Glover finished with 21 points in the game, the last of which came with four minutes left. Up to that point, the Eagles had outscored the Hawks 33-14 and seemed on their way to the championship.

The Hawks called a timeout at that point, hoping to end an 8-0 Eagles run with the score 63-47.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Dante Menter and Carlos Emory celebrate the Hawks' 68-64 comeback victory over Eastern Utah in the NJCAA semifinals Friday in Hutchinson, Kan. Howard won the game and a berth in the championship with a 22-1 run in the game's final four minutes.

Howard switched to a five-out offense with all players crashing the offensive glass and a high-pressure defense on the other end.

"It's not over," Adams said in the team huddle as he orchestrated his strategy. Crowder said after the game he believed it.

"The coaches were still coaching," he said. "If they won't quit

coaching, we'll keep playing."

Emory got things going with a 3-pointer from the outside. After the press forced a steal, Emory went up for a rim-rocking jam that made the score 63-52.

Things snowballed from there as the Eagles collapsed under the Hawks' pressure, giving

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Lady Steers fall to FHS in home district opener

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring Lady Steers' district opener against Frenship didn't follow the way the Lady Steers have started the season.

Big Spring fell 5-1 to the Frenship Lady Tigers on Friday at home as Frenship scored four unearned runs to beat senior pitcher Kenzie Hunt.

Four errors in the field cost the Lady Steers in the game. Frenship (13-8) scored runs in the first, third and fourth innings, as well as a two-run sixth.

"I told the girls after the game, we cannot expect to win ball games on simple errors," said head coach John Sparks.

"We have to know we can make the plays to be able to win."

The Lady Steers, meanwhile, were stymied by Frenship starter Kenzie Carnell, who allowed four hits and one run in the game.

Macy Briggs reached second on an Frenship error in the fifth inning and was knocked in on a Linzee Yarbar single.

Big Spring is 0-1 in district with Plainview coming to town Tuesday. Junior varsity starts at 4:30 p.m. followed by the varsity contest at 6:30 p.m.

Frenship 5, Big Spring 1
Frenship 101 102 0 -- 5 9 1
Big Spring 000 010 0 -- 1 4 4
Carnell and McClellan; Hunt and Womack; W-Carnell; L-Hunt.
2B- FHS Johnson, Garza, Carman; BS Li. Yarbar.

Leach expects return to college football

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Mike Leach is far from the world he knew in landlocked Lubbock.

Instead of preparing for spring practice at Texas Tech, the former Red Raiders coach is enjoying fishing, exploring and meeting the people in Key West, Fla., where he and his family moved after he was fired in late December.

And although he sounds contented with the laid-back lifestyle

in the Florida enclave, there is still much unresolved in Leach's life: He has sued Texas Tech over his dismissal, his furniture is in storage and his house in Lubbock is not yet sold.

And he longs to get back into coaching.

"I've never really left football," he said in a phone interview Thursday with The Associated Press. He said he expects someday "to be back in and work

See **LEACH**, Page 2B

Texas Longhorns limp home from NCAA tourney after collapse

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Longhorns' long, frustrating flame-out is over.

Once ranked No. 1, Texas ended the season unranked and hoping the NCAA tournament would give them a fresh start.

That was asking too much.

The same problems that sank the regu-

lar season — bad free throw shooting, suspect defense and a lack of scoring from key starters — doomed the Longhorns again in an 81-80 overtime loss to Wake Forest in the first round. It was the third time in four years Texas (24-10) hasn't gone past the first weekend of the tournament.

When asked to sum up the season and its dismal demise, senior

Damion James said, "No comment."

Now the question is whether Avery Bradley and Texas' other freshmen players will return next season or leave for the NBA. And if they do come back, what will their roles will be?

Two months ago, many thought Texas was on its way to its first Final Four since 2003. With James and Bradley leading the

way, Texas started 17-0 and reached No. 1 for the first time in school history. Bradley scored 29 points in his Big 12 debut.

But cracks were starting to show.

Senior forward Dexter Pittman's production dropped off after Christmas and never really came back. Free throw shooting — Texas ranked last in the Big 12 — was becoming

a problem that would never get fixed.

Against Wake Forest, James missed a free throw that could have won the game with 9.9 seconds left in regulation. In overtime, J'Covan Brown, a 90 percent shooter, missed two and Gary Johnson, a 70 percent shooter, missed two with 10 seconds left before Wake Forest hit the winning shot.

"We lost a lot of games this year because of the free-throw line," coach Rick Barnes said. "We had some nights where we just really struggled."

Wake Forest also dominated Texas in rebounding 59-34, which shocked Barnes. James, the career rebounding leader in the Big 12, didn't have one in the

See **TEXAS**, 2B

Sports in brief

This week's events

TUESDAY

- Big Spring baseball at SA Lake View, 4:30 p.m.
- Big Spring softball at Abilene Cooper, 5:30 p.m.
- Coahoma baseball vs. Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.
- Coahoma softball vs. Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.
- Forsan softball at Menard, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Howard College Rodeo begins at Rodeo Bowl and runs through Saturday.

FRIDAY

- Big Spring baseball at Frenship, 7 p.m.

- Big Spring softball vs. SA Lake View, 6:30 p.m.
 - Big Spring tennis at Abilene tournament.
 - Big Spring track at San Antonio tournament.
 - Forsan softball vs. Miles, 5 p.m.
 - Forsan baseball vs. Hermleigh, 5 p.m.
 - Howard College baseball at El Paso CC.
 - Howard College softball at Midland, 4 p.m.
- SATURDAY
- Howard College baseball at El Paso CC.
 - Howard College softball vs. Midland, 1 p.m.
 - Coahoma baseball at Ballenger, 1 p.m.
 - Coahoma softball at Ballenger, noon.

Big Spring Country Club to hold United Way fund-raiser

Big Spring Country Club and the United Way invite the public to participate in a 3-person scramble March 27-28 at the Country Club.

Entrance fee is \$60 per player plus a cart. Private carts are welcome.

The event will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry includes barbecue on the course Saturday at noon and a 19th hole party on the patio.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Kids on parade

More than 20 children at Irene's Little Angel Daycare took to the streets Friday to participate in the annual Trike-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital



Photos by Thomas Jenkins



Clockwise from top: Young Jyllian Calixto was one of several children pedaling down the 1200 block of Runnels Friday morning; for those too young or small to pedal themselves, daycare staff lent a helping hand; a boy zooms by on his two-wheel scooter; and a little girl seems pleased with her progress as she sits atop her green four-wheeler.

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Obituaries

Gerry Spears



Gerry Spears, 82, of Big Spring, died Thursday, March 18, 2010, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, March 22, 2010, at First Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Calvary Callendar, pastor, and the Rev. Lynn Robertson, chaplain with Compass Hospice, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

She was born April 11, 1927, in Wellington and married Bob Spears on Aug. 15, 1948, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death on May 28, 2005.

Gerry and Bob came to Big Spring in 1952 from Lubbock. They owned and operated a number of restaurants and rental properties in Big Spring until they retired.

She was a member of First Church of the Nazarene

Survivors include three daughters, Teresa Thomas of Big Spring, Karen Fulton of Stanton and Tammy Chaney and husband Joe of Big Spring; and three grandsons, Garrett Fulton, Tyler Fulton and Trent Thomas.

She was also preceded in death by two sons-in-law, Don Fulton and Randy Thomas.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Thomas G. (Tommy) Harvell

BRONTE — Thomas G. (Tommy) Harvell, 82, of Oak Creek Lake, died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at a San Angelo hospital. Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27, 2010, at the Robert Lee Senior Center in Robert Lee. Arrangements are by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Elsie Harvell of Oak Creek Lake; and his sons, Edward Harvell of Canyon and David Harvell of Carlsbad.

Eleanor Garrett

Eleanor Garrett, 94, of Coahoma, died Friday, March 19, 2010, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Edwin Earl Dickson Sr.

Edwin Earl Dickson Sr., 78, of Big Spring, died Friday, March 19, 2010, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Ross R. Roberts



Mr. Ross Roberts of Midland departed life on March 19, 2010, at Midland Memorial Hospital at the age of 72 years. He was born Aug. 17, 1937, in Garden City to R.W. and Ubie (Hewitt) Roberts. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m., Monday, March 22, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel with Dr. Stephen Willis, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, officiating, with a graveside service to follow at 2 p.m. in Garden City Cemetery.

Ross was a loving and devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. He loved playing golf, had a great smile, good dancer and a fantastic sense of humor. Ross had a great personality and he was greatly loved and will be missed by everyone.

Those left to cherish his memory are one daughter, Lisa Atchison of Big Spring; two sisters, Osa Ruth Banks and husband Tom of Arlington, and Myrna Raney and husband Lonnie of Big Spring; three brothers, twin brother, Riss Roberts of Midland, Doss Roberts and wife Sally of Midland, Bowman Roberts and wife Jane of Arlington; four grandsons, Brandon Audas and wife Kristen of Greenwood, Jeremy Audas of Midland, Austin Baker and Andy Baker, both of Plato, Mo.; one great-grandson, Jackson Audas of Greenwood; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ross was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Joel Roberts.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice of Midland at P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

- Diabetes Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. Medical lectures and information for Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetics and caregivers. Call 267-3806 for information.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (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.

Your Local Weather

Sun 3/21	Mon 3/22	Tue 3/23	Wed 3/24	Thu 3/25
58/28	73/41	75/45	74/43	67/40
Mainly sunny. High 58F. Winds NNW at 15 to 25 mph.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.

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Take Note

- The city of Big Spring will close Goliad Street from 11th Place to 12th Street until Monday in order to facilitate roadway repairs. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Todd Darden at 264-2501.

- The Cornerstone Covenant Youth Group will have a fund raiser at 5 p.m. Monday at the Pizza Inn. Proceeds will help our youth ministries attend our annual trip to church camp in the Huntsville area. The youth of our town are future leaders of tomorrow.

Business Before Hours will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford. There will be door prizes, breakfast and tours. The event is sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

- An account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Faye McGee of Big Spring to help defray the cost of medical bills and treatment. She is in ICU at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Contact CFCU at 400 E. Marcy in Big Spring, account 762989 or call Cosden at 264-2600 or toll free 800 725-2673.

- Home Hospice is looking for adult volunteers and junior volunteers. New training time will be at 9 a.m. April 17 at the Hospice office, 111 E. Seventh St. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

Correction

A photo outline describing a \$20,000 donation to Home Hospice in the memory of Odie Thompson, incorrectly identified one of Mrs. Thompson's direct caregivers, Patty Kirkpatrick, who was not pictured in the photograph. She was incorrectly named Patty McKitrick in the information given to the paper.

Police blotter

Because of computer problems, there were no Big Spring Police Department activity reports available Saturday.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the "MEGA Millions" game were: 10-31-45-50-54, Mega Ball: 25

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 2-15-19-28-34.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-6-1-2. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-1-1. Sum It Up: 6.

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Singer and composer of hits such as "We've Only Just Begun" and "Rainy Days & Mondays" (The Carpenters), "Just an Old Fashioned Love Song" (Three Dog Night) and "Evergreen" (Barbara Streisand). He has appeared in numerous television shows and films, including The Muppet Movie for which he wrote "The Rainbow Connection"

Saturday, March 27, 2010
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- Botox




SPORTS IN BRIEF

Baseball to
change rules

NEW YORK (AP) — Tweaking the post-season schedule. Eliminating the link between the All-Star game and World Series. Adding replay for fair-or-foul calls down the lines.

Oh, and a message to the Yankees, Red Sox and Dodgers: Hurry up!

Baseball is looking to make adjustments. Some soon, others later. Some significant, others subtle.

One change already is in effect. Pitchers now can touch their mouths or lips on the mound at any time to get a better grip. No need to step off or ask the umpire's permission, provided they're not standing on the rubber and then wipe their fingers.

The Official Playing Rules Committee made that shift in December, the same month commissioner Bud Selig convened a special, 14-member panel to examine all facets of the game. He repeatedly said "there are no sacred cows."

Announcer
Scully released
from hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully was released from the

hospital after bumping his head, and is looking forward to broadcasting a Dodgers exhibition game this weekend.

The 82-year-old Scully went to the hospital Thursday night as a precaution after he got up from bed too quickly, fell and hit his head, team spokesman Josh Rawitch said.

Scully expressed his thanks to everyone. He plans to work Sunday's Dodgers-Indians game in Arizona, his first spring training game this year.

Mariners P Lee
to miss week
with injury

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Cliff Lee's eventful first spring with the Seattle Mariners continued when the lefty ace was diagnosed with a lower right abdominal strain that will cost him at least a week of spring training.

Lee was examined in Seattle by team physician Dr. Edward Khalafayan. Lee underwent an ultrasound and was given a platelet-rich plasma injection. The team said he would be re-evaluated in seven days.

Lee underwent surgery on Feb. 5 to remove a bone spur on his left foot. That slowed his progress in spring training and he's been

limited to just 5 2-3 innings so far.

He was also ejected from a game against Arizona earlier this week for throwing inside to Diamondbacks catcher Chris Snyder before zipping a fastball over his helmet. That earned Lee a suspension for the first five games of the regular season and a fine by Major League Baseball vice president of discipline Bob Watson.

Harrington leads
at Palm Harbor

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Padraig Harrington picked up a pair of bonus birdies over the last five holes for a 6-under 65, his low score of the year, and built a one-shot lead at 8-under 134 going midway through the Transitions Championships.

Jim Furyk was atop the leaderboard with Harrington until missing a 6-foot par putt on the final hole. It wasn't enough to take away from an otherwise solid round of 68 to put him one shot behind. Also at 7 under were Carl Pettersson (68); Bubba Watson, who missed a 4-foot birdie putt on his final hole and had 65; and defending champion Retief Goosen (68).

Steve Stricker played the final eight holes in even par and still

shot a 66, putting him in the group two shots behind.

Toms playing
through rotator
cuff injury

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Former PGA champion David Toms has been losing length off the tee that he can't afford, and now he knows why. Toms said he has a bone spur in his rotator cuff that will require surgery.

Toms, who shot an 8-under 63 to get into contention at the Transitions Championship, said he plans to take medication to at least get through the Masters.

After that, he might have to have arthroscopic surgery that will keep him out two months.

Woods going
sponsor-less

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods won't replace AT&T with a new corporate sponsor on his golf bag when he returns at the Masters, instead using his Nike brand.

AT&T dropped him as a sponsor on Dec. 31 in the midst of the infidelity scandal.

It will be the first time since he turned pro that Woods has used an existing sponsor's logo on the bag.

The golf bag and hat are the two areas in golf where companies get the most television exposure.

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at IMG, said the golfer will be using the "TW" brand at Nike, his longest corporate sponsor.

LeBron beats
Kobe to 15,000

CHICAGO (AP) — LeBron James became the youngest player to score 15,000 points, breaking Kobe Bryant's mark by more than two years in the first quarter of the Cleveland Cavaliers' 92-85 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

James had 29 points against the Bulls to push his total to 15,026. James reached the milestone at 25 years, 79 days, and he did it in his 540th game. Bryant was 27 years, 136 days and playing his 657th game, according to STATS LLC, when he did it for the Los Angeles Lakers.

LB Porter signs
with Cardinals

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Four-time Pro Bowl linebacker Joey Porter agreed to a three-year contract with the Arizona Cardinals.

Porter, entering his 12th season, spent the past three with the

Miami Dolphins, who released him in March. He played the first eight years of his career with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

With 92 career sacks, Porter trails only Jason Taylor (127½) among active players. Porter has 12 career interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown, 23 forced fumbles and nine fumble recoveries with two returned for TDs.

Jankovic in
finals of BNP
Paribas Open

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Jelena Jankovic defeated Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-4 to reach the women's final of the BNP Paribas Open, where she'll play Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki. Wozniacki beat fifth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 6-3, a win that is projected to raise her world ranking to No. 2 next week.

Andy Roddick advanced to the men's semifinals with a 6-3, 7-5 win over 18th-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain, who lost to the American for the 11th consecutive time. Roddick will play No. 6 seed Robin Soderling in Saturday's semifinals. The Swede defeated No. 4 seed Andy Murray 6-1, 7-6 (4).

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► Anniversary

Corkey and Bobbye Deel

Roy G. (Corkey) and Bobbye Deel of Big Spring celebrated 50 years of marriage March 19, 2010, with a reception hosted by family.

Roy was born in Big Spring and Bobbye Hollingsworth was born in Longview. They met in junior high school in 1957 and got married March 19, 1960 at the First Christian Church in Big Spring.

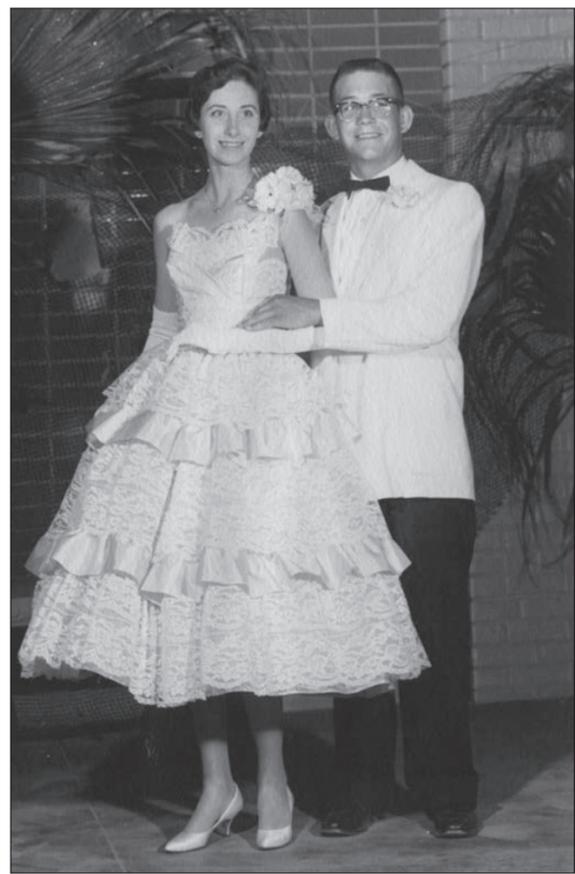
They have two girls, Tere and Kim. Tere and husband SFC Steve Robitaille of Killeen have one daughter Lyndi.

Kim and husband Malcolm Vincent of Midland have two children, Morgan and Miles.

Roy retired from TXU after 32 years. Bobbye is retired from the Russ McEwen Agency after 26 years.

The are Baptists and enjoy hunting and fishing.

Commenting about their marriage, they wrote that it has been a "wonderful short 50 years" They "enjoy bring together with their dog children Scooter and Sassy."



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► Engagements

Battle and Swearingen

Kelsey Lauren Battle and Kyle Alan Swearingen have announced their engagement and

upcoming marriage plans.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Bill and Linda Battle of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of the late Burlon and Katholeen Williams and the late W.H. (Bill) and Gladys Battle.

The prospective bride graduated from Big Spring High School in 2006 and will graduate from Hardin-Simmons University in December with a BS degree in interdisciplinary behavioral science and education.

The future groom is the son of Kenn and Laura Swearingen of Arlington. He is the grandson of Richard and Dolly Berutti of Arlington, Jackie Swearingen of Panama City, Fla., and the late Joe Swearingen.



Kelsey Lauren Battle and Kyle Alan Swearingen

He graduated from Life Insurance Co. in Arlington Martin High School in 2006 and from Abilene.

The couple will exchange vows June 12, 2010, in Logsdon Chapel on the campus of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

He is a web developer with Funeral Directors

Contact the Herald at
newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

February

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Big Spring resident PFC Randy Birgil Yanez, D Company, 46th Infantry Division, is shipping out to Afghanistan.

Colorado topless gardener complaints prompt new rules

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A woman gardening wearing only a yellow thong and pink gloves has brought neighborhood complaints and new rules from a housing authority in Colorado.

Boulder Housing Partners plans to amend its rules so that tenants cover up when they're outside. Several passers-by told Boulder police earlier this week that 52-year-old Catharine Pierce was topless while tending to her yard. Last year, she was threatened with eviction for gardening wearing only pasties and a thong.

Police responding to Wednesday's reports decided Pierce wasn't breaking any laws.

Robert Pierce said he'll fight changes that would keep his wife from gardening outside topless, which is legal under state and city law.

"They're making a big mistake," he said.

Boulder Housing Partners Executive Director Betsey Martens didn't return a phone call Friday seeking details on how covered residents would have to be.

She told the Daily Camera newspaper that people have complained for years about the couple often going outside wearing only thong underwear.

Robert Pierce said the new rules wouldn't discourage the couple. "We'll stay the way we have to stay," he said.

Cops: Man stole kitty litter box cleaner

ANDOVER, Mass. (AP) — An Andover man has been charged with stealing an automatic kitty litter box cleaner.

Steven Beltran was arrested this week after police said he stole the automatic litter box cleaner valued at \$300 from a Petco store in North Andover.

Authorities said a store employee was

able to provide police with a license plate number that was traced back to Beltran.

Police said the 52-year-old was charged Tuesday with resisting arrest and two counts of malicious damage to property under \$250.

UK library receives book overdue by 45 years

LONDON (AP) — It's common to return a library book late — but not by half a century.

Staff at a British library say they were surprised and puzzled when they received a book that was 45 years overdue through their mailbox.

Alison Lawrie, the principal assistant at Dinnington Library, near northern England's Sheffield, says the Penguin first edition copy of "Quartermass and the Pit" by Nigel Kneale was due back on Oct. 15, 1965.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

"Within the last week, we received an e-mail from the state indicating we were to go ahead with the budget reduction plan," Sparks said. "They also said we were to set the money aside

and send it to the state by the end of the fiscal year in August.

"In essence, they approved our plan for the 5 percent cuts and said they would send us instructions later on when to send the money," she added.

The cuts mean a reduction of more than \$600,000 in the budgets

for Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. But the cuts have a more significant impact on the budget than mere numbers, Sparks said.

"Due to the timing of the cuts, it's been difficult to find the monies," Sparks said. "That's because so much of our expenditures occur early

in the budget year. But we've now found the money and we've set it aside as instructed."

Sparks added she is unsure at this point whether the budget cuts will become a permanent fixture.

"I would assume we'll be given direction on how to budget or what to expect for the coming

(fiscal) year in the very near future," she said.

Also Monday, trustees will consider:

- Personnel matters.
- Cancellation of the May 8 trustee election.
- Bond project updates.
- Shared services and joint representation agreements for the planned Howard Coun-

ty Career and Technical Education Consortium.

- Enrollment and contact hour figures.
- Computer bids.
- Handbook and catalog changes.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

the future.

"The warehouse we're looking at building is pretty simple. It's just a metal building," said Barr, "so there's not a lot to it. However, by letting this group look at it we can get a better idea how they work and how cost efficient it will be in the future, especially when we're faced with

a project as daunting as the jail was."

The court met with Tina Boneta, account executive for Basic IDIQ, March 8 to discuss the possibility of working together.

"There are several different ways to contract for construction. However, the government has allowed a new way, which is through job order contracting," Boneta told the court. "The way this works with us, until our firm gives you

a firm, fixed price, there are no charges or fees. This process is growing in popularity and we've done construction for the Texas Tech Health Sciences Division in different parts of Texas, as well as work for Midland ISD.

"There is accountability at every level with this type of contract, and the contractor cannot come back and submit a change order. The only change orders can be submitted by the coun-

ty. It's a process that just hasn't been used much outside of government contracts, but it is available to counties, cities and entities like that."

In addition to helping simplify the process, Barr said working with Basic IDIQ could also help save the county money.

"Is this going to save us money? Probably. Is it going to save us a ton of money? I doubt it," said Barr. "However,

any savings are a good thing at this point, and the burden it will take off the county could be immense. We'll just have to wait and see what comes of it."

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

Contact Staff Writer

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

WILLIAMS

Continued from Page 1A

films and on Broadway. He was seen on many television programs including numerous appearances on the Tonight Show, Fantasy Island and Love Boat, for which he composed the well-known theme song. He composed the music for the Muppet Movie and appeared in the film. "Rainbow Connection" is the most well known song from the film.

"Mr. Williams is currently president of ASCAP, the Association for Composers, Authors and Composers. This is a great honor for him, having been elected by his peers from through-

out North America and beyond," said Graumann. "Williams has a number of Academy Award nominations, is a member of the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, and has won Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe awards."

Other songs Williams is expected to perform Saturday include "Old Fashioned Love Song," "I won't Last a Day Without You," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Evergreen," "You and Me Against the World," "Love Boat," "Rainbow Connection," "Let Me Be the One," "Old Souls

and "Loneliness."

"This will be a huge finale for our 2009-2010 'Moving On' concert season," said Graumann. "We have used several venues this season due to the temporary closure of the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. We have enjoyed excellent audiences at our more classically oriented concerts, and our Symphonic Christmas Concert with the Coahoma Choir Kids at Trinity Baptist Church was standing room only.

"I am grateful to Vice-President Terry Hansen and President Cheryl

Sparks of Howard College for offering the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for this event."

Concert sponsors are Howard College, the Dora Roberts Foundation, Lucy Knox, Area-Wide Phonebook and the Big Spring Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Children under the age of five years are not expected to enjoy the concert. For further information contact any of the ticket outlets or the Big Spring Symphony Office at (432) 264-7223.

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

away turnover after turnover — and points at the other end. The Eagles turned the ball over 22 times and went 8-of-19 from the free-throw line in the game, including several misses down the stretch.

“We wanted to get it down to eight with four minutes left,” Adams said. “We were just trying to take it possession by possession and take some chances.”

Howard climbed within eight at the three-minute mark when Watkins finished in the lane to make it 64-56.

After Eastern Utah’s Jonathan Mills made a free throw, the Hawks hurried up the floor where Crowder drained a three-pointer to pull within five. Then, at the 1:16 mark, Emory threw down a lob slam that pulled Howard within three and got the Hawks believing.

“It’s a huge lift when he throws down a dunk for us,” Watkins said. “Sometimes he plays with his head down, but I pulled him aside and told him he had to be big for us. And he was.”

Joe Bright nailed a pair of free throws with 55 seconds left to pull within



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Josh Watkins is fouled on a layup Friday.

one and after the Eagles missed a free-throw opportunity, Watkins drove the lane and finished with a foul to give the Hawks a 66-64 lead. Eastern Utah had one chance left to tie it, but Isaiah Williams’ 3-point attempt was blocked by Watkins and laid in with three seconds to go to ice it.

“I’ve been on the opposite side of (a comeback). It’s not a good feeling,” Crowder said. “But now we’re playing for the championship, and I’ve

never played for a championship before.”

Howard (68) Jae Crowder 9-17 1-2 22, Carlos Emory 7-10 2-3 17, Josh Watkins 7-13 2-4 16, Lamont Austin 2-11 1-2 7, Joe Bright 0-0 2-2 2, Prince Obasi 1-4 1-2 4, Damien McGee 0-3 0-0 0; Totals 26-58 9-15 68;

Eastern Utah (64) Michael Glover 9-14 3-5 21, Isaiah Williams 4-9 0-0 11, Cliff Colomon 4-5 0-0 9, Nich Thompson 1-4 0-0 3, Vander Joaquim 1-2 0-1 2, Tony Dalton 1-5 0-0 3, Aaron Hawk-Harris 1-3 1-3 3, Fernando Russo DeFavari 2-2 1-2 5, Jonathan Mills 2-4 3-8 7; Totals 25-48 8-19 64; Halftime 33-30 HC; Rebounds 36-29 EU (Mills, Glover 7, Crowder 9); Turnovers EU 22, HC 9, Assists EU 15 (Dalton 5), HC 16 (Watkins 5)

LEACH

Continued from Page 1B

work at a program” that stresses graduation rates and prizes excellence on the field — both of which he said he enjoyed at Texas Tech.

Will he wait until the lawsuit is over to begin checking out coaching jobs?

“I don’t really have a crystal ball on that,” he said. “Take it one day at a time. That’s all I can control.”

The university fired Leach on Dec. 30, two days after it suspended him amid allegations he mistreated a player with a concussion. Leach has denied he mistreated receiver Adam James, who said his coach twice ordered him to stand for hours while confined in a dark place during practice.

Leach, who declined to comment on the lawsuit, which alleged slander, libel and

breach of contract. He was in Lubbock last week for depositions, and was in the same room when James’ father, Craig James, and Tech Chancellor Kent Hance answered questions under oath.

Leach praised Red Raider fans and their enthusiasm for football. He said he believes a few people at Tech weren’t on his side.

“There’s just a few bad characters at the top and bad people do bad things,” he said.

After he was fired, Leach and his family spent some time in Colorado.

They went to Key West after that and now live not far from the ocean in a home he and his wife bought last fall. The home was expected to be investment property, and the couple planned to rent it to vacationers.

“Now we’re here full time,” Leach said. “It’s handy and kind of out the way, so it worked out good.”

His married daughter is doing a her medical school internship in Amarillo. Another is attending Tech. His two younger children, 13 and 11, are enrolled in Key West schools.

He spends his time talking on the phone and exploring the city and its culture. A voracious reader, Leach said he’s doing “less than I thought I would” since he was fired. He has lost some weight in the pedestrian-friendly town.

He says he knows enough people in the area who will take him fishing when the seas are calm, and he loves the mixture of cultures in Key West and being close to the water.

“There’s incredible things to check out, people from everywhere,” Leach said. There are “interesting things that I haven’t been around in the past 10 years, so all that’s pretty fascinating. I can check things out and learn.”

NCAA

Continued from Page 1B

over Iowa State and two No. 13s, Indiana State over Oklahoma and Kent State over Indiana. Two of the teams beaten by

double-digit seeds this year were on the other side of the result in 2001: Temple, a winner over Texas as a No. 11 seed, and Georgetown, which beat Arkansas as a No. 10 seed.

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TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

first half.

“I don’t remember us getting outrebounded ever like this,” Barnes said.

The loss to Wake Forest drove home Texas’ inability to get consistent scoring from starters and Barnes’ own unwillingness at times to showcase his freshmen.

Brown and Jordan Hamilton both came off the bench to combine for 39 points. Hamilton had 16 in the first half to pull Texas back from a big early deficit, then just took three shots in the second. Brown scored all 20 of his points in the second half and overtime.

While those two were pumping in the baskets, senior guard Justin Mason and Pittman combined for seven points in 53 minutes.

Brown and Hamilton struggled to find their roles all season. While Hamilton could get hot from 3-point range, he had games where he completely disappeared.

Brown was the bigger puzzle. A starter at the beginning of the season, turnovers and poor defense knocked down his minutes. His highest-scoring games — Wake Forest and a 28-point effort against Kansas — came in losses.

Against Wake Forest, Barnes wanted Texas’ best free throw shooter to keep the ball in the

final seconds of overtime. Instead, Brown passed to Johnson, which turned out to be crucial mistake.

“We wanted him to keep the ball. I told him that,” Barnes said. “What he should have done is dribbled it and see if they would have (fouled).”

Texas lost starting point guard Dogus Balbay, a defensive stopper who offers little as a scorer, to a knee injury on Feb. 20. Barnes wouldn’t say who he expects to be his starting point guard next season.

“We’ll do what we do every year. We’ll put it up for competition and see who wins it,” Barnes said.

Texas’ eyes will now be on Bradley, one of the top-

rated recruits coming out of high school, who must decide if he wants to turn pro. Bradley had some dazzling moments this season but faded down the stretch. He averaged 7.5 points over Texas final six games, four of

them losses. Barnes said Bradley got worn down. He averaged 30 minutes a game, second only to James’ 31, and played 42 minutes against Wake Forest, most on the team.

“Avery I think has

had a tremendous year,” Barnes said. “He played way too many minutes early. The minutes he played as a freshman were probably in some ways overwhelming, but he tried to fight through it.”



2010 Warrant Round-Up

Law Enforcement officials in Big Spring and Howard County joined forces and conducted the 2010 WARRANT ROUNDUP from February 22nd thru March 15th. Their combined efforts cleared a total of 648 warrants. The City of Big Spring would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those individuals who helped with the roundup.

Municipal Court Staff:

Judge Tim Green, Jeanne Wilson, Michelle Sanchez, Stacy Austin, Officers Wayne Wright, Lanny Swanson, John Haynes, Steve Barker

Howard County Sheriff’s Deputies:

Dean Restelli, Mike Welling, Casey Grigg, Jesse Metcalf, Matt Buske

Lt. John Leubner and the City of Big Spring Police Dispatchers: Pam Vinson, Tricia Boren, Jamie Williams, Lynn Creswell, Matthew Downes, Lesa Coskey, Jana Murphree, and Kim Rubio.

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When: March 27-28
Where: Big Spring Country Club
Description: 3 Person Scramble Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart 1pm Shotgun start both days Entry includes BBQ

Call 267-5201 to purchase.

REMINDER!

Large Item Pickup for District One will take place on March 26th. You MUST call (432) 264-2504 to be put on the list for large item pickup or your items will not be picked up.

- We WILL NOT pick up tree brush/limbs, tires, car batteries or any hazardous material.
- Items must be placed on the curb as close to the street as possible.
- Keep items off of water or gas meters and away from electrical high line wires.
- Separate items as much as possible i.e. metal and lumber.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

THE CITY OF BIG SPRING IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FIREFIGHTER!

Testing Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010 9:00 A.M.

Testing Location: 2000 Rickabaugh Dr. Building 1106 Big Spring

- Up to \$10,000 sign-on!
- City pays for Academy!
- Get paid while training & attending Academy!
- Up to \$1,500 for Academy Reimbursement!
- Additional \$2,400 for Relocation!
- Great health & retirement benefits
- Firefighter Starting Salary: \$29,735 - \$37,245

PICK UP AN APPLICATION AT THE CITY OF BIG SPRING HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT 310 NOLAN. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010.

FREE
FILING OF YOUR
1040
INCOME TAX

2009 combined income of \$49,000 or less.

Call 2-1-1 Texas Permian Basin for more information

Permian Basin Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) COALITION

- Catholic Charities, Odessa
- Casa de Amigos, Midland
- Community National Bank
- Internal Revenue Service
- My Community Credit Union
- Odessa Affordable Housing

2-1-1 Texas Permian Basin
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission

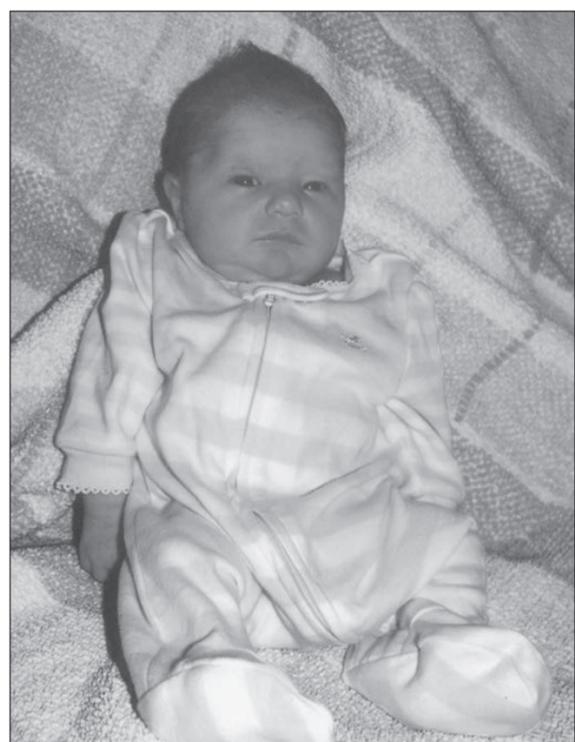
All City of Big Spring offices will be closed on Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday.

CRIME STOPPERS
Crime stoppers anonymous (no caller ID) Tip line 263-8477

FIVE GENERATIONS
— Pictured are Lela Geer, Louise Whitaker, Lori Massingill, Atchley Massingill and Vye Mendoza.



Births



Elexia RaShay Walker

Elexia RaShay Walker, a girl, was born at 10:38 a.m. March 13, 2010, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18-1/2 inches long. Parents are Stephanie Hesson and Sam Walker Jr. of Big Spring. Grandparents are Russ and Laurie Hesson of Big Spring and Sam Walker Sr. of Big Spring.

Menus

Senior Center

Monday — Spaghetti and meatballs, steamed broccoli, tossed salad, garlic bread, Rice Crispy bar, milk.

Tuesday — Chicken fried steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, melon balls, milk.

Wednesday — Baked port tenderloin, corn fies-ta, baby carrots, biscuits, spiced apples, milk.

Thursday — Chicken and dumplings, seasoned mixed greens, cornbread, cobbler, milk, V8 juice.

Friday — Fish sticks, hash brown casserole, California blend vegetables, rolls, lemon pudding, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast: French toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Smothered steak, creamed potatoes, pears, bread, milk; McRib.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Waffles, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken and dumplings, peas, carrots, peach cups, milk; Corn dogs.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Biscuits, gravy, sau-

sage, juice, milk; Lunch: Breaded chicken, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, bread, chocolate pudding; Burritos.

Thursday — Breakfast: Oatmeal, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburgers, chips, salad, tomatoes, grapes, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: Pancakes, sausage on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch: Cheeseburger pockets, potato salad, oranges, milk; Hot Pockets.

Big Spring ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Cereal, cheese, juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dogs, border beans, Orange Smiles, broccoli, milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage roll, juice, milk; Lunch: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, peaches, brownies, rolls, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Tortilla, cheese omelets, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, carrots, pears, rolls, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Ham/cheese biscuits, juice, milk; Lunch: Spa-

ghetti, garden salad, corn, strawberries, rolls, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: French toast sticks, juice, milk; Lunch: Turkey/cheese sandwich, Baked Lays, baby carrots, orange-pineapple Jello, fruit, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Muffin, banana, juice, milk; Lunch: Burrito, Spanish rice, pinto beans, chocolate cake, fruit and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Fish, macaroni and cheese, cooked carrots, hush puppies, sparkly apple, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: French toast, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Grilled chicken sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickle, tater tots, ranch style beans, Orange Smiles, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, seasoned corn, tossed salad, garlic toast, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: Cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll, pineapple orange salad, milk.

Stanton ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Waffles; Lunch: Pizza or pizza cheese sticks, green beans, garden salad, pears, milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast: Oatmeal; Lunch: Hot dog or crispy burrito, chili, corn, vegetable sticks, rosie applesauce, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: Biscuits, sausage, gravy; Lunch: Baked chicken or steak fingers, mashed potatoes, carrot coins, peaches, rolls, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Pizza; Lunch: Beef or chicken fajita, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, pineapple, cornbread, milk.

Friday — Breakfast: Burrito; Lunch: Hamburger or cheeseburger, baked chips, vegetarian beans, hamburger salad, Orange Smiles, milk.

Club News

TOPS Tx 0021

Tops Tx No. 0021 met Monday evening with leader Laura Sickles calling for the TOPS cheer. The members responded with their usual enthusiasm.

Dennis Stapel led the members in the TOPS pledge, followed by Leola Newton leading the KOPS pledge. Linda Stapel then led the group in the TOPS Welcome Song. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Roll call by Hughetta Roberts was a good report of a club loss of 13.5 pounds. There were nine TOPS and two KOPS present. Frank Sickles was the week's best loser with 2.5 pounds. He was awarded a certifi-

cate and \$1.

Business was a discussion on the logo theme for the KOPS Honor Society meeting set for May 15. "KOPS Round-up" was chosen to emphasize the western theme. The discussion then turned to name tags and music for the event. No final decision was made on that matter.

A program was presented by Leola Newton on "Carbohydrates." There are good carbs and bad carbs, complex carbs and simple carbs, plus fiber carbs. We need all three kinds of carbs, but must know them and measure our consumption of them. We need to avoid fiber foods that contain cel-

lulose. Grains high in fiber help us to feel full faster. Cereals are good for fiber, but beware of added sugars and fats. Read all labels.

The closing song was led by Laura Sickles and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

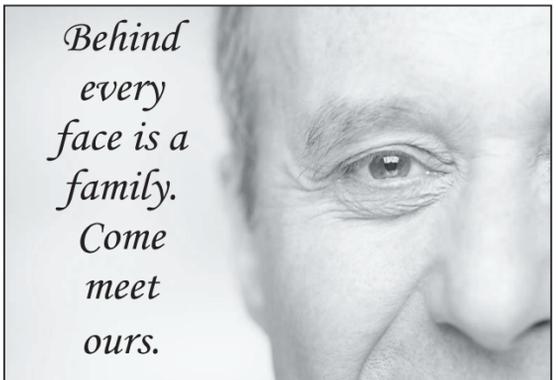
For more information about TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), call Frank Sickles at 432-213-1342 or Olnee Menges at 263-6819.

TOPS really does help us to manage or lose weight. Come meet with us and see for yourself. Monday meeting are at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad Streets.

All visitors are welcome.

Weigh-in is from 5:30

p.m. to 6 p.m. All meetings begin at 6 p.m.



Behind every face is a family. Come meet ours.

Parkplace Retirement Living

501 W. 17th * Big Spring, TX
432-267-1353

SEXUAL ASSAULT

WHEN it happens to your mother, daughter, sister, girlfriend, cousin, niece, aunt, grandmother, wife.



WILL YOU SAY SHE WAS ASKING FOR IT?

Sexual Assault is a crime!!!!

If you have been sexually assaulted you're not alone, we can help. Go to our website: www.vsofbigspring.com

Victim Services 24-7 Confidential
263-3312

Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin, Inc. GO-PROJECT HEAD START 2010-2011

"GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEALTHY HEAD START IN LIFE"

GO-Project Head Start invites you to become an important, *participating parent* of the Head Start Program. If you want your child to enjoy the *highest quality pre-school* and your family to benefit from *special services*, then the Head Start program is for you.

If your family meets any of the following criteria, your child may be eligible

- * Child is **age 3** by September 1, 2010
 - * **Family income** from 2009 is less than 22,050 (for family of 4)
 - * Child is **physically challenged**
 - * Child is **emotionally challenged**
- Enroll your child in a program with benefits for the entire family**
- * **Provides** pre-school children the highest quality **education**
 - * **Provides free** medical screening, two (2) nutritious meals and a snack **each day** for your child
 - * **Connects** your family to the right services
 - * **Encourages-insists** on parent participation
 - * **Focuses** on the **total** well-being of your child

Size of Family Unit	Guidelines
1.....	\$ 10,830
2.....	\$ 14,570
3.....	\$ 18,310
4.....	\$ 22,050
5.....	\$ 25,790
6.....	\$ 29,530
7.....	\$ 33,270
8.....	\$ 37,010

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$ 3,600 for each additional member
Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is here! Tue.-Fri. March, 23-26 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

At the following locations:

Lakeview Head Start Center
1107 N.W. 7th. St., Big Spring, Texas, 432-267-7452

Howard College Satellite Center
1001 Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, Texas, 432-264-5185

TANF/Recipients are also eligible for the Head Start Program
Please bring Birth Certificate, Immunization record (shots)&Proof of Income(LIY 1040A Tax return)
Classes will begin September 7, 2010
FEES- NONE

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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The youth in this area have been selected to qualify for a learning trip to Florida this summer in order to expand their scientific knowledge through hands-on experience. A selection of seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students from the Big Spring Independent School District are looking for the community for their educational support.

This one-in-a-lifetime opportunity can give these select few individuals the chance to visualize future employment and learning opportunities. It is, however, an expense that few families can undertake individually. Therefore, on behalf of the parents of these children, we have grouped together in order to endeavor in raising the funds so that each child is able to attend.

It is through the generosity of local businesses and individuals that we will endeavor to further the education of these deserving students through this exceptional educational program provided by Science in Motion.

Each child must raise \$1,800 before April 1 in order to attend. I know this is short notice and seems a large task, but we are determined to raise enough money so that all who are invited to attend are able. We are requesting any donations the public would be willing to provide us with. Support toward our educational endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

The trip takes place June 21-24. We will get on a chartered bus here at the junior high school at midnight on June 21 and go to Dallas where we will board a plane that will take us to Florida. We will fly back to Dallas on June 24 and get back on the bus that will bring us home, arriving early the next morning.

I personally want to thank the community for giving our students this opportunity.

VICKY BLOODWORTH
SCIENCE IN MOTION
TEAM LEADER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Those who know me know that I have always been concerned about my community and have given many hours and my talents to serve when and where I could.

As such, I feel I have the right to ask the members of the Concerned Citizens Council what have they done for Big Spring?

On which committees have they served? What have they volunteered their service? To what organizations do they belong?

I haven't heard or seen anything that lets the people know anything about their service.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by **K. Rae Anderson**

May we live up to Your promises, Lord.

Amen

They made the best of tragedy

I was thinking quite a bit about my maternal grandparents, the late John H. and Inez Smith, this week. That's nothing really new, though, because hardly a day doesn't go by that I don't find some reason to wish I could spend a little time with or talk to Granny and Dad, that's what my brothers, Mark and Keith, and I called them.

I'm always reminded of them at this time of year, primarily because I usually get a couple of e-mails reminding me that the New London School Explosion occurred Thursday, March 18, 1937. To be exact, the blast took place at 3:17 p.m. that Thursday, just moments before students would have been sent home at the end of the school day.

My mother was 3 years old at the time. She and my grandmother were awaiting for "the girls" to get home.

My grandparents' lives were never the same after that moment. My mother's two older sisters, Iva Joe and Naomi, were among the almost 300 killed by the explosion. Her birthday having been less than three weeks earlier, Iva Joe was 12. Naomi was 10.

New London is located in Rusk County in the East Texas oil patch and wealth from the EasTex field enabled its residents to erect what at the time was one of the most modern school buildings in the state.

Younger grades had been dismissed that afternoon and some youngsters waited on school buses for older students to join them for the ride home at the time of the explosion.

Some students still in the building practiced for Interscholastic League competition while others put away materials. A PTA meeting was being held in the adjacent gymnasium and an industrial arts teacher, Lemmie Butler, turned on a sander in his shop which created a spark that ignited natural gas that

had leaked from pipes under the school and been trapped in rooms throughout the building.

Historical accounts say the building was lifted in the explosion, then crushed into rubble. Residents who lived four miles away heard the explosion, though they were not alarmed at first, because such noises often came from the oil field.

Word of what had happened quickly spread and help came from virtually everywhere. Gov. James Allred sent Texas Rangers and highway patrolmen to assist local law enforcement personnel. If alive, victims were rushed to area hospitals; if not, the Texas Funeral Directors Association sent 25 embalmers to help in the massive task of preparing the dead for burial.

What had happened?

To save a \$300 monthly bill for natural gas usage at the school, the school district had tapped into a gas line coming from the field.

Natural gas is odorless, so teachers and students in the building were unaware that leaks had allowed it to become trapped in the building. The spark from the sander ignited the gas and the explosion destroyed the school.

However unwise, the practice of using such gas was a common one in the area. That ceased following the blast.

The major positive that came from the New London School Explosion — if it's possible to find a silver lining from such an event — was legislation requiring gas companies to add an odor to their product so anyone can determine when natural gas is leaking or not properly utilized.

We never discussed it, but something tells me Granny and Dad never really saw much of anything positive from the event.

Come to think of it, we never really discussed it much. No, our time with them was simply spent in the most wonderful ways we could imagine. And we were lucky, we had years and years to spend with them.

We lost Dad in early January of 1982, just a week before his first grandchild, my daughter, was born. He was the first of my

grandparents to die and I was almost 29. We lost Granny more than a decade later.

My mom and I were talking about it during a phone call the other day and she said that what was most amazing to her was that her mother was never "over protective" of her.

"She let me go and do things like all the other kids got to do," she said. "I know that had to be awfully hard on her, because it (explosion) always haunted her."

As a matter of fact, it wasn't until Dad died and I had a child of my own that I realized just how remarkable it was.

While my mom and I were helping Granny dispose of Dad's things following his death, we ran across a large — at least 11x14 — picture of my aunts that was mounted in a beautiful frame with curved glass. It had obviously been very expensive, particularly for a family trying to make ends meet in the Great Depression.

I honestly don't think I really truly understood how difficult the explosion had been on them.

When we found that picture, and my mom told me it was her older sisters, I asked Granny if she wanted me to hang it on the wall.

"No," she said.

"Why not?" I asked.

"It's a beautiful picture," I added, "and that frame's got to be worth quite a bit."

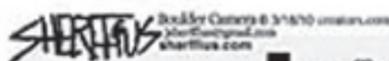
"No, I can't stand it being up. It bothers me," she explained. "The girls... their eyes follow me."

It wasn't until Granny died that my mom took that photograph out of storage and gave it prominent display on the walls of her home.

The New London School explosion was obviously an experience that, even with time, was and still is too painful to recall.

But for me, its anniversary reminds me of just how wonderful my grandparents were and how lucky my brothers and I were to have had so many years with them.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com



Texas Board of Education
History of America

CHAPTER 1

In the beginning God created the United States of America.

Now the nation was formless and empty. And God said, "Let there be a free-enterprise system," and there was. And God said, "Let there also be no restrictions on gun ownership, no burdensome separation of Christian church and state, no theory of evolution taught in the schools and no socialist Obamacare," and it was so.

And God said, "Let there be right," and there was Rush. God saw on Fox News that the right was always good, and He separated the right from the tax-loving darkness. God called the right "conservative," and the darkness He called "the liberal elite." And there was evening, and there was Ronald Reagan's Morning In America — the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be Chief Justice John Roberts to judge

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
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Washington, D.C.
20510

Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
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Phone: (432) 264-0722

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

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
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Austin, 78768

Phone: (432) 213-2897

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

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Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.
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— Home: 268-9692;
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Home: 264-0306; Work

(VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JoAnn STAULCUP —
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GLORIA McDONALD —
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MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE — Home and Office: (432) 517-0707.

EMMA BROWN —
Home: 267-2649.

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

JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

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Molly Rupard named SNB 2009 Employee of the Year

Special to the Herald

Molly Rupard was recently named State National Bank's Employee of the Year for 2009.

Rupard has been with the bank 20 years and worked in bookkeeping before moving to funds and card services, her current position.

"It means a lot," Rupard said following the announcement. "I'm really excited about it because candidates are nominated by the people they work with. They write something about the nominees, then the officers name a winner. It's quite an honor."

A lifelong resident of Big Spring, Rupard joined the bank soon after having a child.

"I was going to be a stay-at-home

mom," she says, "but it wasn't for me. So I applied for a job at the bank and got it."

Her daughter, Lindsay, works at Lamun-Lusk State Veterans' Home and her son, Mykel, is in college in Wyoming. She has a 3-year-old granddaughter, Jalyann.

Rupard grew up building street rods with her dad, Autry Moore. "My favorite car was a 1929 Pink Ford Roadster." Now she does scrapbooking.

Her husband, Robby, works at Alon Refinery and is a hobby musician.

She says she loves being at State National.

"We're lucky to be home-owned," she said. "It's like family."



Courtesy photo

State National Bank President Jim R. Purcell (left) and John Currie, chairman of the bank's board, pose with Molly Rupard, who was named the bank's employee of the year for 2009.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tom Land, left, owner of Hog Heaven Party Barn, shows Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Tito Arencibia around the facility Thursday. The Party Barn, which opened earlier this month, is ideal for receptions, reunions and other events, Land said.

Bullish on Big Spring

Tom Land adds Party Barn to Hog Heaven operation

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Tom Land is bullish on the west end of Big Spring — and he's putting his money where his mouth is.

Land, who co-owns several properties on Big Spring's far west end, recently added another with the opening of the Hog Heaven Party Barn on the 4000 block of W. Highway 80.

The Party Barn, which will be operated in conjunction with Land's Hog Heaven Barbecue restaurant, is the perfect place to hold receptions, reunions or, well, parties, he said.

"It's great for wedding receptions, graduation parties, family reunions ... just about anything," Land said.

Land said the Party Barn, which opened earlier this month, is a natural extension of his

restaurant.

"We were taking our barbecue to different places like the fair barns and the community center and we just thought, 'We need a place over here (on the west end of town),' Land said. "We owned this big building across the street from the restaurant and decided to turn it into an event center."

The large building can comfortably seat more than 100 people and can be rented for either \$300 a day or \$40 per hour Friday through Sunday and \$200 or \$30 an hour Monday through Thursday.

Catering is available at a discount for persons renting the building, Land noted.

The Party Barn is just the latest in a string of enterprises opened on the west end of town by the Land brothers. In addition to the restaurant, they also own an apartment complex and RV

park.

That section of town is primed for growth, Land believes.

"I think that is the future of Big Spring. It's the greatest asset this town has," Land said. "With the airpark and the rail spur, we are a very unique area and we need to capitalize on that."

And he plans to expand his investment even more in the future. One possibility is converting a three-acre tract into a site to hold festivals and other outdoor events.

"We just want to turn it into a really cool place where people can come and have a good time," he said.

For more information on renting the Party Barn, call 264-0905.

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

Nominations sought for Mom of Year Program salutes the vital role of women in the family farm

Special to the Herald

ST. LOUIS — Women play a critical role in agriculture. Many of these women are wives and moms, which is the inspiration behind Monsanto's America's Farmers Mom of the Year, a new nationwide program tied to Mother's Day recognizing the countless contributions that farm moms bring to their families and their communities.

Applications for the America's Farmers Mom of the Year will be accepted at www.AmericasFarmers.com through April 9, 2010. From the nationwide call for entries, five regional winners will

be announced, with each winning a \$5,000 cash prize.

The five winners will be selected based on their contributions to family, farm and community and will be chosen from submissions describing how each nominee embodies the values and hard work that make up the family farm way of life. The American Agri-Women, a national coalition of women's farm, ranch and agribusiness organizations, will partner with Monsanto on this promotion to spearhead the judging process.

One of the five regional winners will then be selected the

week before Mother's Day as the America's Farmers Mom of the Year based on online voting on the America's Farmers Web site and receive an additional \$2,500 prize.

"Today's farm moms are not only passionate about their families, they also share a common passion and commitment to agriculture," says Tami Craig Schilling, Monsanto community relations spokesperson and southern Illinois farm mom. "These women play key roles in agriculture as they manage varied

See MOMS, Page 5C

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.



Making and keeping money in the stock market is not easy. If it were, everybody would be rich, and who would do the work?

Investing in the stock market is a contact sport waged between an investor's perception of fact and fiction. And of course, how one analyzes fact and fiction is based on each individual's mood and personality.

Some folks are in the glass is half full group while other are in the opposite camp. Each group deals with fact and fiction based on their personality. Market action the past two months has created a lot of fact and fiction.

During the first month, the S&P 500 dropped 8 percent. During the second, the market gained back about all of its decline. This raises a big question — has the market worked off the excesses created by the prior 70 percent jump in the S&P 500 that started March 9, 2009, or do we need more correction to restart the bull?

In an attempt to answer that question, let's analyze as best we can the fact and fiction of today's market environment.

First, the facts.

The big fact is that the stock market has acted very well during the past month as it rallied back up to recent highs despite many obstacles and uncertainties. That is a fact that even a bear can't deny.

A negative fact is that complacency is way up and mutual fund cash reserves are way down, according to the Investment Company Institute (ICI). Also, the recent rally has been on very light volume, which reduces the credibility of the rally.

Another not so positive fact is that the market rallied six days in a row, which is often enough for the short term. The big fundamental facts are that the manufacturing sector is expanding while the labor market continues to contract.

Now, what about the fiction we all have to contend with?

By fiction, we don't mean imaginary things but rather things off in the future that no one can be sure of at this time.

In that category, we have the opinion of some that the economy will soon drop back into recession, and it could, but that is not the trend in place. Probably the major concern about the future in the minds of Americans is whether our growing fiscal deficit will bankrupt our country?

The short term trend in this area is scary, but the longer term look back says our nation has always righted itself after serious problems.

It is not fiction that our nation is in a very negative, divisive mood. This may not change soon, but the stock market can still do well as long as the economy does well.

There is no simple key to success in the stock market. However, we believe the best guide is the "fact" of how the market acts and not the "fiction" of what might or might not happen in the future. Based on market action, we advise investors to do some selected buying.

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on March 9, 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 for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy.

Worst U.S. school disaster passes 73rd anniversary

NEW LONDON (AP) — That infamous March 18 was a Thursday, and launched a swift drive to change the way natural gas is processed and dispensed in the United States.

So many with a direct connection to the London, Texas, school explosion of 73 years ago are gone now, no longer here to mourn the 282 students and 14 adults lost in oil-rich east Texas that March.

But history never really dies in a person, place or thing — especially a painful history. And in this modern-day New London (located about 20 miles west of Tyler, then a bit south), pain is a big part of history.

Many people today are aware of the smell of natural gas — that rotten-egg aroma that alerts us to gas escaping from a stove or a furnace. But that odor wasn't there before March 18, 1937.

That Thursday morning, the eldest of the Elrod family's school-aged children was working in the school office and hearing what she'd been hearing for some time: Students were complaining of headaches and watery eyes. Such complaints had been readily chalked up to allergies. It was, after all, almost spring in East Texas. And for several years, the smell of a Texas spring — and every other Texas season, to boot — had been mixed with the scent of the oil boom. The grounds around the London School campus were like forests of derricks rising in

every direction.

So such health complaints to the principal's office were thought to be the result of spring allergies or late-winter colds or that raw, crude smell of crude weighing on the senses.

No one gave any thought to another — an ominous — possibility.

But a military court of inquiry would come to such an ominous conclusion just days later, and would reach its decision on the very site where, in East Texans' parlance, a generation died that day.

Edwin was one of the middle Elrod children. There were seven siblings in 1937 — a sister had not yet been born, and a brother had died years earlier of peritonitis while in his infancy. All were the children of country couple John and Maybelle Elrod.

Edwin was 10 going on grown, a precocious fifth-grader who was a happy handful. He liked dogs and frogs and marbles and cornbread, most likely in that order. What he didn't like were two bossy big sisters telling him what to do.

So when he wanted to play hooky that day, he resented the oldest Elrod girls, Geneva and Juanita, telling him that he most certainly could not ditch school.

"You're going," Juanita ordered.

"You can play hooky tomorrow," Geneva said, and smiled.

"But school's out tomorrow

anyway!" Edwin said.

Geneva winked at her little brother and pushed him onto the bus with his younger brother Alvin, a third-grader.

Edwin Zane Elrod never came home. And neither did his sister Juanita.

And Geneva, once she overcame her own massive injuries, learned how to live with her survivor's guilt. She lived for 60 years beyond the school explosion, dying on May 30, 1997, at age 79. The writer of this article is her youngest child.

Like the raw residue gas piped away from the burgeoning fields nearby, the London School was a byproduct of the East Texas oil boom that began in earnest in 1933.

The oil fields brought oil workers to the region, and the families of the oil workers began to swamp the London school system. Oil boom money fueled what was then one of the most expensive, state-of-the-art school plants in the country. The \$1 million London School, a concrete and steel-reinforced building constructed in the shape of an E, had opened just a year before it was destroyed.

East Texans in northwest Rusk County had considered the discovery of oil to be one of their greatest blessings — until the afternoon of March 18, 1937. On that day, oil field roughnecks deserted their posts at the derricks and pumps to run to the school campus as soon as they heard the explosion.

Some, like Orvan Elrod, even saw it happen.

The oldest Elrod child, barely 20, was working at a site nearby with his father. The two had been out in the field since the sun came up that morning; by 3 p.m., both men were tired and wishing the day away.

Orvan was stretching his back, staring at the sky, when he heard a loud noise from behind him.

"I turned around toward the school," he said in a mid-1970s interview, "and I looked just in time to see that whole building plop back down to the ground."

It was Orvan who managed to finally, late that night, locate his sister Geneva. She had been pulled from the rubble and taken — in the back of a bread truck-cum-ambulance — to the new Mother Frances Hospital in nearby Tyle. The hospital had to jump the gun on its own grand opening to care for the scores of injured children brought in from the London School.

Orvan Elrod found his sister on a gurney in the hallway of the Mother Frances ER — doctors had assessed her many broken bones and massive internal injuries as unsurvivable.

She survived anyway.

According to newlondon-school.org, 293 people perished from the explosion. Some counts go higher than 300. The only place the count is written in stone is on the memorial placed in front of the rebuilt school, now

known as West Rusk County Consolidated Independent School District.

The granite border of the memorial cenotaph, on the median between the school and the London Museum (formerly McConnico's drugstore) across the street, bears the names of those who died. Juanita and Edwin Elrod's names are there, although the fifth-grader's middle name is misspelled as "Zone."

The school explosion Web site gives this breakdown of the victims:

— Fifth grade: 67 (26 male, 41 female).

— Sixth grade: 87 (33 male, 54 female).

— Seventh grade: 34 (17 male, 17 female).

— Eighth grade: 31 (12 male, 19 female).

— Ninth grade: 11 (seven male, four female).

— 10th grade: 16 (nine male, seven female).

— 11th grade: 23 (13 male, 10 female).

— Teachers: 16 (three male, 13 female).

Others (school staff/guests): eight (five male, three female).

There was no 12th grade, and another building housed the first through fourth grades.

The explosion happened at 3:05 p.m., not long before classes would have been dismissed for the day and not long after a PTA meeting dismissed in the auditorium. There was to be no school the next day because of an out-of-town track meet.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

Maybe before the election they will tender this information (if there is any), so we can judge their abilities and qualifications.

To the members of the city council, I wish to express my appreciation for the work they do. When I cast my vote, I gave you permission, no, the right, to make decisions for me.

The Concerned Citizens Council says that all large expenditures should be placed on a ballot for citizens to decide which projects should be funded. By that criteria, we should vote to have streets paved, sewer lines repaired, water mains replaced, and who knows what else. In which case, there would be practically no work accomplished.

If I, or anyone else, disagrees with the decisions of the council, there is a process to remedy that dissatisfaction. It's called the voting process.

That's what democratic government is all about.

MAMIE LEE DODD'S
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to address Mayor McEwen's comment in a recent article regarding the building of a local water park. I am more than a little concerned that the mayor sees little difference between nothing and \$4.2 million. It would certainly be wonderful if the same could be said of my own household budget, but unfortunately, we live in times that require most of us to watch every penny.

It seems as though all politicians, from whatever political party and at all levels, have chosen to ignore the taxpayer. Whether it's Barack Obama's almost-free-for-the-poor healthcare plan or Russ McEwen's almost-free-for-the-poor water park plan, it is the taxpayer who must pay the bill from ever-dwindling resources.

Meanwhile, our infrastructure crumbles and the residents of Big Spring are given excuse after excuse regarding our foul tasting and smelling water supply. It has become a question of questionable

priorities.

It is time that we learn to recognize and eradicate redistribution of wealth schemes, in whatever form they may take. If we cannot make our local political leaders, our supposed friends and neighbors, listen to the voices of their constituents, how can we expect to be heard at state and national levels?

It is time to make your voice heard, whether you are for or against a waterpark. Contact your councilperson and the mayor today.

TONYA SPENCE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The U.N. General Assembly has designated March 22 of each year as World Water Day. Despite the call of U.N. member nations to observe this day and to work toward improvement of water management situations globally, this day has received little attention in the United States and apparently most countries on planet Earth.

Water is vitally essential for sustaining all life and no other substance on Earth carries so profound a spiritual meaning. Looked at globally, the principal difficulty today is fairness of distribution of water and water quality; not alone scarcity of water.

Nearly 1.1 billion people (17 percent of the world's

population) are without access to improve sources of water, and about 2.4 billion (40 percent) have no access to any form of improved sanitation services. The United Nations projects that by 2025, 3.5 billion people, or nearly 50 percent of the world's population, will face water scarcity.

When observed in the background of these frightening figures, World Water Day should take on a new importance for the whole world and especially for us here in West Texas. We know from hard, dry experience of recent droughts how important water is to our farms and ranches, for all of nature — for all of us.

World Water Day is a time to thank God for the wonderful gift of water we have and to renew our appreciation of this most precious life-giving gift. Water, a creative force, is essential for all life. It is the common heritage of all creation, a sacred gift.

Water is essential for maintaining life and it cleanses and washes away impurities. It purifies objects for ritual use as well as for making a person clean — physically and spiritually. Preserving and making available fresh water, as regards a sacred legacy, is a collective responsibility that includes the involvement and participation of all.

THE MOST REV. MICHAEL PFEIFER
CATHOLIC BISHOP
SAN ANGELO



TIMOTHY E. HOPKINS, MD
Board Certified in Neurological Surgery

Dr. Hopkins is available in Big Spring monthly for neurosurgery evaluations and consultations at Family Medical Center, 1501 W. 11th Place.

Next clinic date:
Monday, March 22

Dr. Hopkins is affiliated with Shannon Clinic in San Angelo. He received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson and completed his residency in neurosurgery at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He has lived in West Texas and practiced at Shannon Clinic since 2004.

Dr. Hopkins's specialties include:

- general neurosurgery
- disorders of the spine
- back and neck pain
- minimally-invasive spine surgery
- brain tumors
- trauma
- hydrocephalus
- carpal tunnel syndrome
- chronic pain syndrome

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (800) 530-4143.



Supports Relay For Life

The TexaStone Racers were top fund-raisers in 2009 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay For Life! We are having TWO Scrap & Stone Sales to benefit The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life!

Come see us on
Saturday, March 27, 2010
AND

Saturday, April 24, 2010
both from 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Call for Details!!

432-354-2569



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tom Land, with scissors, is joined by co-workers and Chamber of Commerce officials during ribbon-cutting ceremonies Friday at the Hog's Heaven Barbecue, located on the 4000 block of W. Highway 80.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tom Land, with scissors, is joined by co-workers and Chamber of Commerce representatives during ribbon-cutting ceremonies Friday to mark the grand opening of the Hog Heaven Party Barn on West Highway 80 in Big Spring.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:
 Gregory Aguilar Jr., 1508 Sunset Ave., Big Spring
 Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80, Abilene
 Bryan Layton Allison, 1100 College Circle, Ranger
 Demetrio Alva, 11520 Arrow Rock, El Paso
 Daniel Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa
 Anthony G. Anderson, 3401 Camellia Dr., Temple
 Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa
 Fernando Kyong Arriaga Jr., 606 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
 Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 1, Big Spring
 Christine Avalos Bara, of 1405 N. Sixth, Lamesa
 Amy Barber, 2602 Ent, Big Spring
 Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock
 Christopher Martin Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring
 Daniel B. Barron, 507 N. Ave. F, Lamesa
 Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring
 Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring
 Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
 Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa
 Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada
 Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Ave. L, Lamesa
 Edward Bourland, 229 Edgewood Dr., San Angelo
 Alexis A. Bowie, 2811 Lawton, Amarillo
 Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd St., Lubbock
 Wanda Heron Brown, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 113, Big Spring
 Johnny William Brown, 507 E. Sixth St., Big Spring
 Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
 Melinda Burns, 2218 Carlton Way, San Angelo
 Michelle Ann Bustamante, 1744 Purdue, Big Spring
 Cristal Cabello, 1314 65th Drive Apt. C, Lubbock
 Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka
 Wendell Campbell, 600 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
 Donna J. Abbott Cantwell, 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 101, Big Spring
 Leonard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
 Scott S. Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring
 Krisha Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City
 Antonia Castillo, 206 Fuller St., Hereford
 Donald Cervantes, 1211 Lloyd, Big Spring
 Weldon Montague Cheatham, 4502 Denison, Snyder

Jared Kendero Coby, 901 S. High Street # 802, Longview
 Vanessa Conatser, 3218 Fordham, Big Spring
 Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring
 Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
 Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring
 Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring
 Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa Dr., Big Spring
 Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio
 Julie E. Davis, 5202 Bangor Ave. Apt. K301, Lubbock
 Clarissa Renteria Dean, 2711 Rebecca, Big Spring
 Johnnie Lou Dry, RR11, Box 156, Longview
 Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring
 Constance A. Elledge, 1709 Scotland Ave., Azle
 Kristi L. Elliot, 603 E. 12th St., Big Spring
 Alfredo Flores Jr., PO Box 272, Laredo
 Irene Paredez Flores, 1000 E. 20th St., Big Spring
 Alejandro Franco Jr., 1900 Martin Luthe King Blvd. Apt. 215, Big Spring
 Kenneth L. Freeman, 1401 San Andres, Odessa
 Danny Frias, 207 W. 17th St., Georgetown
 Hilda Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
 Ruby Gaitan, P.O. Box 783, Lamesa
 Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
 Carlos Garcia, 1211 S. Third St., Brownfield
 James Randal Gardner, P.O. Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
 Joseph Garza Jr., 418 Ryon St., Big Spring
 Claudet Garza, 3106 Elm Jno. 10, Laredo
 Esperanza Garza, 601 N.W. Fifth St., Big Spring
 Misty Goldston, 2429 20th St., Lubbock
 Remando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt No. B, Fort Worth
 Raul Gonzales, 2016 Johnson, Big Spring
 James E. Gonzalez, 604 Neff St., Sweetwater
 Melissa Gonzalez, 2317 CR 220, Garden City
 Jeffrey M. Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown
 Gabriel Guerrero, 411 NE 10th Street, Big Spring
 Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
 Steven Joe Guzman, 4172 Lake County Rd. 254, Colorado City
 Edna J. Hale, 510 Milrton Ave., Brownwood
 Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring
 Clifford Arvin Hart Jr., 3234 Drexel,

Big Spring
 Dana L. Holguin Harvink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
 Chris Henry, 3520 28th St., Lubbock
 Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder
 Isaul Hernandez, 523 W. Noble, Falfurrias
 Veronica Cervantes Hernandez, 1005 N. 17th St., Lamesa
 Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Cumberland, Odessa
 Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
 Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 15, Big Spring
 Herman Hokes, 1303 Sycamore, Big Spring
 Danny Holt, 606 Caylor, Big Spring
 Emily Howard, P.O. Box 2224, Big Spring
 Joann Baldwin Hubbard, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
 Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Highway 7, La Grange
 Shauna Danielle Jenkins, 3301 40th Place, Snyder
 Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
 Byron Johnson, 801 Ohio, Big Spring
 Sarah A. Barrow Johnson, 3402 D. State St., Big Spring
 Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
 Steven Daniel Johnson, 1509 142nd St., Lubbock
 Johnny Ray Jones, 501 E. 17th St., Big Spring
 Luz Martinez Juarez, 602 N.W. Seventh St., Big Spring
 Katie Lynn Junkin, 1410 Lancaster, Big Spring
 Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City
 Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring
 Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan
 Lynda Kynman, 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring
 Amanda Lasater, PO Box 30475, Midland
 Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th, Big Spring
 Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th St., Lubbock
 Lindsey Kay Lee, 1405 S. Benton, Big Spring
 Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
 Jenny Marie Hamilton Lyon, 4201 W. Highway 80, No. 6, Big Spring
 Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
 Terry Marquez, 1518 El Camino, Big Spring
 Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder
 Jarrod Martinez, 61 E. Eighth St., San Angelo
 Lorene Martinez, 702 N. Iowa, Lamesa
 Roberto P. Martinez, 3301 Auburn Ave., Big Spring

Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eubanks, Big Spring
 Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
 Thomas M. McKellen, 2010 Sierra, Kenah
 Ebaline Flores Mendoza, P.O. Box 291, Mertzon
 Daniel Mercado Jr., 5611 Lancaster, Houston
 Chad K. Merrill, 3300 Manor Rd. Apt. 174, Austin
 Brandy A. Molina, 1906 S. Alabama, Big Spring
 Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring
 Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
 Robert Wayne Moseley, PO Box 39, Hondo
 Jose Munoz III, 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 7, Big Spring
 Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
 Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring
 William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
 Nancy Ortega, 601 Abrams, Big Spring
 Liza L. Ovalle, 3304 W. Highway 80 Apt. 44, Big Spring
 Alesha Pace, 700 N. Dixie, Odessa
 Pernel Ear Parker, 400 N.E. 12th St., Big Spring
 Benson Nelson Payne, 1117 Toby Lane, San Angelo
 Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
 Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring
 David Lee Powell Jr., 2511 Broadway, Big Spring
 Rickie Dan Pruiett, 979 FM 977, Lamesa
 Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
 Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
 Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Orange Street, Bacliff
 Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City
 Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie
 Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
 Magaly Romero, 1900 MLK Blvd. Apt. 603, Big Spring
 Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
 Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth No. 10, Big Spring
 Kenneth Wayne Ross, 12101 Dessau Rd., Big Spring
 Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland
 Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
 Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring
 Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
 Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lancaster, Big Spring
 Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring

Stephanie Serrato, 1306 Wright, Big Spring
 Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
 Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
 Korina Simron, 608 W. 15th St., Big Spring
 Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
 Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City
 Anthony Solis, 1303 Elm St., Big Spring
 Rosa Soto, 407 E. Vealmoor, Coahoma
 Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
 Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
 Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
 Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX
 Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson Dr. Apt. 5, Big Spring
 James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
 Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
 Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring
 Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa
 Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
 Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring
 Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. M, Snyder
 Alicia Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
 Rene O. Villa, 106 Circle Dr., Big Spring
 Tyler Voss, Fannin Co. rod No 4925, Leonard
 Amy Wagner, PO Box 784, Blanco
 Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City
 Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa
 James M. Ward, PO Box 279, Colorado City
 Jim Bob White, 412 Davis Rd., Big Spring
 Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Rannels, Big Spring
 Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
 Brandi Woodward, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene
 Chad Matthew Wright, 211 E. Robinson, Big Spring
 Jerry Lee Wrightsail Jr., 2816 Ridge Rd., Fort Worth
 Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Channing St., Big Spring
 Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring

\$500 fine, \$274 court costs, 90 days in jail.
 Probated Judgment: Julie Crues, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Robert Valencia Jr., assault causing bodily injury, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
 Judgment and Sentence: Howard Brandon Johnson, evading arrest or detention, \$1,500 fine, \$232 court costs.
 Judgment and Sentence: Allison Edmondson, driving while intoxicated, \$1,890 fine, \$407.10 court costs, three days in jail.
 Probated Judgment: Abel Hernandez Hinojos, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$2,000 fine, \$457.10 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Sabrina Valencia Madrid, criminal trespass, \$250 fine, \$282.10 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Guadalupe Canales, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension without financial responsibility, \$750 fine, \$282.10 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Eric Rangel, driving while license invalid with previous conviction or suspension without financial responsibility, \$500 fine, \$282.10 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Jose Manuel Avina, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension without financial responsibility, \$500 fine, \$282.10 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
 Judgment and Sentence: Mark Anthony Lopez, criminal mischief - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$276 court costs, 45 days in jail.
 Judgment and Sentence: Mark Anthony Lopez, evading arrest or detention, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 45 days in jail.
 Probated Judgment: James Terpening, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
 Probated Judgment: Richard Acuff, failure to identify - giving false information, \$750 fine, \$278

See **PUBLIC**, Page 11C

MOMS

Continued from Page 4C

components of their farm operations, nurture and care for their families, and mentor the next generation of farm leaders. The past, present and future of American farming depends on these women, and we are honored to recognize some special farm moms through America's Farmers Mom of the Year program."

Eligible nominees must be female, at least 18 years old, a mother to one or more natural born or adopted persons or are the legal guardian of one or more persons, and live on a farm that produces at least 250 acres of corn, soybeans, cotton, vegetables and/or specialty crops (canola, sorghum, wheat or alfalfa); and/or at least 40 acres of fruits and vegetables; and/or raise at least 100 head

of cattle or hogs; and/or maintain at least 50 head of dairy cows and/or at least 20,000 poultry (broilers or layers) within the United States.

Complete eligibility requirements and official rules for America's Farmers Mom of the Year can be obtained

online at www.AmericasFarmers.com or by calling 1-866-735-5267 or sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to America's Farmers Mom of the Year promotion, 914 Spruce St., St. Louis, Mo. 63102.

Monsanto's America's Farmers Mom of the

Year is part of the company's America's Farmers campaign, which celebrates the contributions of America's farmers who help provide food, energy and clothing for our growing planet. Monsanto also recently launched a national advertising cam-

paign to build greater consumer awareness about the importance of U.S. agriculture, its economic impact and advances in preserving our vital natural resources.

Monsanto is a leading global provider of technology-based solutions

and agricultural products that improve farm productivity and food quality. It is focused on enabling both small and large-scale farmers to produce more from their land while conserving more of our world's natural resources such as water and energy.

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LHCE . . . Growing Fuel One Field at a Time

Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC is dedicated to adding value to Texas' milo production by turning locally grown grain into clean burning ethanol. Ethanol . . . the clean burning fuel . . . Go Green!

LHCE Offers Direct Producers Contract for Fall 2009/2010

Contact: **Sam Sacco** (806) 897-0911 x224 office
 (806) 559-3114 cell
Celia Reyes (806) 897-0911 x222 office



News in brief

Murder might not have happened if records in order

AUSTIN (AP) — A man sent to death row for the stabbing death of an Austin woman could have been in prison when the crime occurred if officials had revoked his parole after a separate assault conviction.

Parole officials say they didn't know Milton Dwayne Gobert was convicted of punching his ex-girlfriend in 2002 and never considered revoking his parole.

Had Gobert's parole been revoked on a 1994 burglary conviction, he could have been in prison in 2003 when another woman, Kernena Cotton, was stabbed 107 times in her apartment. Gobert was sentenced to death last week for killing Cotton.

The missed opportunity to lock up Gobert happened because the Travis County Sheriff's office didn't notify the Texas Department of Public Safety of the assault arrest. DPS would have notified Gobert's parole officials.

Sheriff's spokesman Roger Wade said the office had computer software problems in the early 2000s that prevented the information from being automatically transferred electronically. Instead, county officials were sending by mail or hand delivering criminal record paperwork to state officials.

For some reason, it didn't happen with Gobert's arrest and conviction on the assault case, Wade said. The computer problems have since been fixed, Wade said.

Sparkle Smith, Cotton's niece, said that if parole officials had known about the assault and sent Gobert back to prison, "it would have made a big difference."

Gobert was sentenced to jail for the assault. While he was incarcerated, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles considered revoking Gobert on a separate disorderly conduct charge. DPS spokesman Jason Clark said the board agreed to continue Gobert's parole but didn't know about the assault on the ex-girlfriend.

But Wade said jail officials send parole officials an offender's jail file and that should have noted he was serving time for assault. A recent review of Gobert's file didn't include that information, Clark said.

Perry gives copy of pardon to man's family

FORT WORTH (AP) — The family of a Texas man who died while imprisoned for a rape he didn't commit cried and hugged at his graveside Friday with a framed copy of the state's first posthumous pardon —

a document that finally proves his innocence.

Gov. Rick Perry granted Timothy Cole's pardon nearly three weeks ago. He gave Cole's relatives the pardon document earlier Friday at a Fort Worth hotel, completing their long-fought ordeal.

"This is a solemn occasion but it's also a joyful occasion," Perry said. "It's solemn because we're very mindful of the loss that was suffered by the Cole family, and we're joyful because we've restored Timothy's good name."

Cole was cleared by DNA testing in 2008, nine years after he died in prison at age 39 of asthma complications. He had spent more than 13 years behind bars, steadfastly maintaining his innocence of the rape of a Texas Tech University student in Lubbock.

Despite urgings for the pardon from Cole's family, Perry had said he lacked the authority to grant a posthumous pardon. But he granted it earlier this month after the state attorney general clarified the law in January. The Innocence Project of Texas then submitted a formal pardon request to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"Our family would like to thank those who worked so diligently to make this day come to pass," said Cole's mother, Ruby Session. She thanked her son, Timothy, too, "for his contributions, even though he's not here, towards affecting change and improvement in the criminal justice system."

Polygamist member sentenced to 75 years

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A fourth convicted member of a polygamist group whose West Texas ranch was raided in 2008 has been sentenced to 75 years in prison.

Merril Leroy Jessop was sentenced Friday by a San Angelo jury after being convicted earlier this week of sexual assault of a child. The victim was a 15-year-old girl who prosecutors say was Jessop's underage bride.

The 35-year-old Jessop was the fourth member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be tried for sexual assault of a child since Texas authorities raided the group's ranch near Eldorado two years ago.

The Texas Attorney General's Office says eight more suspects from the YFZ ranch are awaiting trial.

White releases income tax returns

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill White made almost \$660,000 in adjusted gross income last year.

That's according to his 2009 income tax returns, which his campaign released Friday after days of pressure from Republican Gov. Rick Perry's campaign. White is trying to unseat Perry in the November election.

White says he will release his tax returns for each year he is running for or holding statewide office — just like Perry has. So far, that's just 2009 for White. Perry has been in a statewide office since 1991, and has released his returns since then.

White owed \$178,986 in taxes for last year. He wrote off \$9,125 in charitable contributions.

White also has released personal financial disclosures for each of the six years he served as Houston mayor.

Dozens of bullet holes in church near New Boston

NEW BOSTON (AP) — Changing a lightbulb at a church in the New Boston area led to the discovery of nearly three dozen bullet holes along some eaves.

Liberty Hill Baptist Church co-Pastor James O. Hilton says electrical wiring could have been damaged and the shooter "took a chance on setting the church on fire."

At least 35 holes were discovered March 12.

Investigator Robby McCarver with the Bowie (BOO'-ee) County Sheriff's Office said Friday that it looks like someone was aiming for a nearby street light. McCarver told The Associated Press that nobody has been arrested and the holes are likely from pellets from a shotgun shell.

New Boston is 100 miles northeast of Tyler. McCarver says he does not think the incident is related to a string of church fires in the Tyler area, in which two suspects were arrested last month.

2 hurt in tank explosions in rural Wise County

DECATUR (AP) — An explosion during welding on some tanks at an oil and gas site in rural Wise County has left two workers burned.

Wise County Fire Marshal Marc Dodd says the accident happened Friday during work to install sev-

eral tanks south of Decatur, about 35 miles northwest of Fort Worth.

Four tanks burned or suffered other damage in the explosion reported around midday Friday, in which brightly colored flames rose from the top of one of the tanks. The fire was out within an hour of when it was reported to emergency personnel.

Dodd says the explosion was linked to welding. He says both workers suffered what initially was thought to be minor burns.

Tax preparer in Dallas admits to IRS fraud

DALLAS (AP) — A tax preparer in Dallas has pleaded guilty in a nearly \$5 million IRS fraud in which returns were changed without the approval of filers.

Anthony U. Barber of Plano pleaded guilty Friday to aiding or assisting in the preparation and presentation of a false and fraudulent return, and making a false statement on an income tax return.

Prosecutors have recommended 70 months in prison. Sentencing is June 18 for Barber, whose operated a company called Twin Tax.

The plea agreement says the offenses resulted in a total tax loss of more than \$4.8 million. About \$3.5 million has been recovered for the Internal Revenue Service from affected taxpayers.

Families question 2 jail-related deaths in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — The family of an Iraq war veteran wants to know why he ended up dead after being subdued with pepper spray by guards in a Dallas County jail complex.

Autopsy results are pending on 32-year-old Gregory Kitchen, who died in January.

The Dallas Morning News reported Friday that relatives of another man, who died in June 2008, are also questioning guard restraint methods and have sued. Corey Bailey was 31.

A report indicates Bailey, held on a drunken-driving charge, died while guards were moving him for a mental health evaluation. The autopsy report says Bailey died of toxic effects of the drug PCP.

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• Weigh-in of snakes

Saturday, March 27

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

• Snake Shows,

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• Arts & Crafts Show -

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Sunday, March 28

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

• Weight-in of snakes

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

• Snake Shows,

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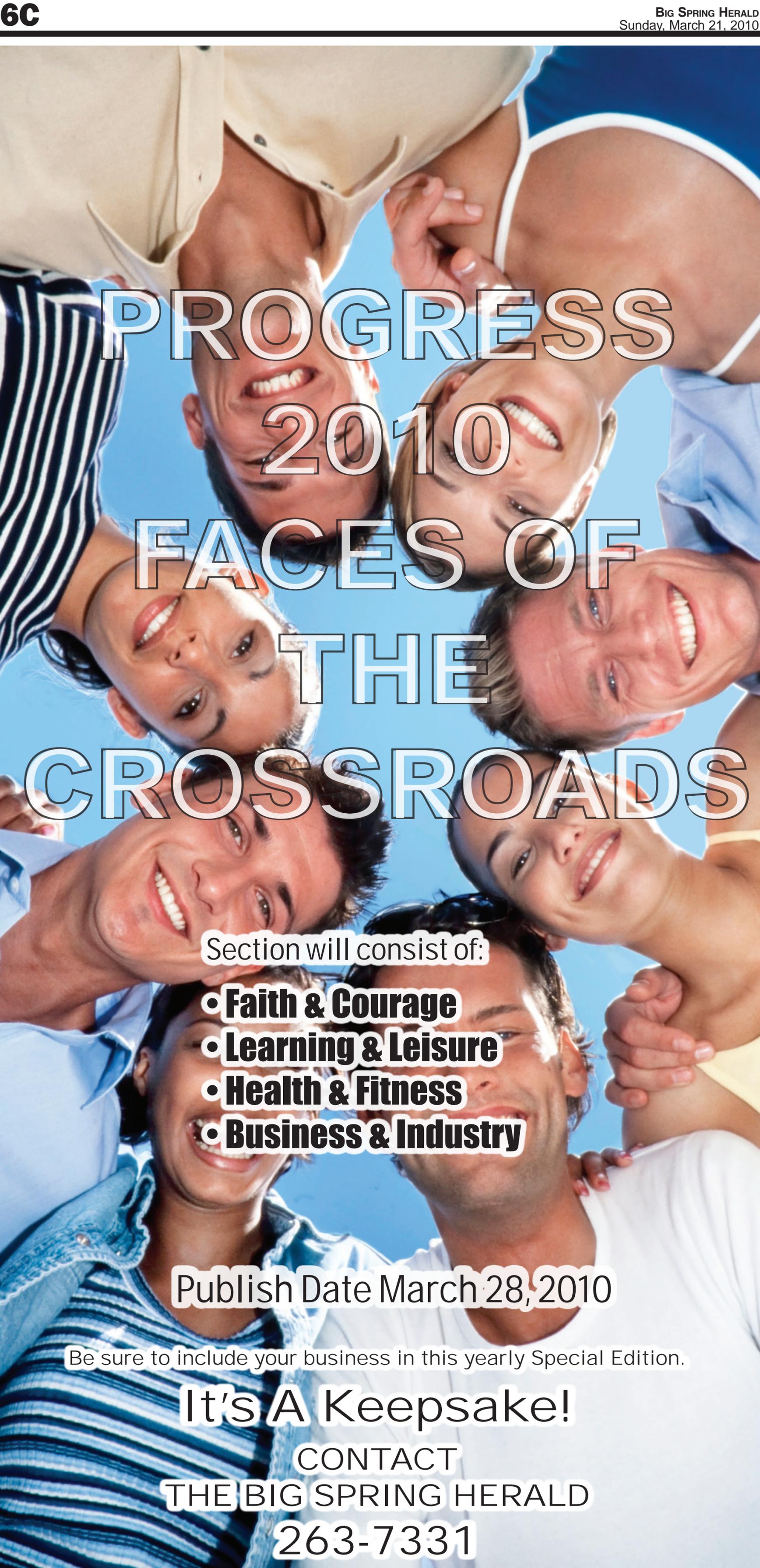
The youth in this area have been selected to qualify for a learning trip to Florida this summer in order to expand their scientific knowledge through hands on experience. A selection of 7th, 8th and 9th grade students from the Big Spring Independent School District are looking to the community for their educational support.

This once in a lifetime opportunity can give these select few individuals the chance to visualize future employment and learning opportunities. It is, however, an expense that few families can undertake individually. Therefore, on behalf of the parents of these children, we have grouped together in order to endeavor in raising the funds so that each child is able to attend. It is through the generosity of local businesses and individuals that we will endeavor to further the education of these deserving students through this exceptional educational program provided by Science in Motion. Each child must raise \$1800.00 before April 1st in order to attend. I know that this is short notice and seems like a large task, but we students are determined to raise enough money so that all who are invited to attend are able. We are requesting any donations that you would be willing to provide us with, your support toward our educational endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

This trip all takes place June 21st to 24th, 2010. We will get on a charter bus here at the Jr. High at midnight of the 21st and go to Dallas where we will board a plane that will take us to Florida. We will then catch the plane on the 24th, fly back to Dallas and get back on the charter bus that will bring us back home, arriving on the 25th, early in the morning.

I personally would like to thank you for giving our students this opportunity.

Vicky Bloodworth
Science in Motion Team Leader



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News in brief

Abortion still a sticking point ahead of Sunday's vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Claiming unstoppable momentum but still short of the goal line, President Barack Obama is heading to Capitol Hill to rally House Democrats for a final push on landmark health care legislation.

The battle tilted in Obama's direction Friday as more Democrats revealed their positions. But with a hardly a vote to spare, the divisive issue of how to keep federal funds from being used to pay for abortions emerged again as a potential last-minute obstacle.

With the showdown vote set for Sunday in the House, Obama decided to make one final, personal appeal to rank-and-file Democrats, arranging a visit to the Capitol Saturday afternoon. Republicans, unanimous in opposition to the bill, complained anew about its cost and reach.

Under a complex — and controversial — procedure the Democrats have devised, a single vote probably will be held to send one bill to Obama for his signature and to ship a second, fix-it measure to the Senate for a vote in the next several days.

Democratic leaders and Obama focused last-minute lobbying efforts on two groups of Democrats, 37 who voted against an earlier bill in the House and 40 who voted for it only after first making sure it would include strict abortion limits that now have been modified.

British Airways crew launches 3-day strike

LONDON (AP) — British Airways canceled more than 1,000 flights after its cabin crew launched a three-day strike Saturday, wreaking havoc on the plans of tens of thousands of passengers just before the busy spring holiday season.

Hoping to keep as many passengers happy as possible, BA scrambled to rebook some on other services, chartered planes from rival airlines and drafted in volunteer crew. But it still had to scrap more than half of its 1,950 scheduled flights over the period.

Chief Executive Willie Walsh issued a direct apology via YouTube for the

walkout, the airline's first in almost 15 years, saying it was a "terrible day for BA."

The strike — backed by some unions in the United States, Germany and Spain — also risked harm to Britain's Labour government before a tough general election expected before June.

BA also warned that the disruption would likely last several days beyond the three-day strike, because of a knock-on effect on flights that would carry through to the end of a second strike planned for March 27-30.

Analysts estimated BA has already lost more than more than \$37 million because of canceled tickets and contingency costs.

The two planned strikes combined could cost the airline more than the \$95 million that Walsh is trying to save through the disputed changes to workers' pay and conditions.

Obama tells Iranians U.S. wants educational, cultural exchanges

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a fresh appeal directly to the Iranian people, President Barack Obama says in an online video that the United States wants more educational and cultural exchanges for their students and better access to the Internet to give them a more hopeful future.

In the video, the second of his presidency directed at Iran, Obama said that the United States' offer of diplomatic dialogue still stands but that the Iranian government has chosen isolation. He said the U.S. believes in the dignity of every human being.

The White House released the video late Friday, timing it, as it did last year, to coincide with Nowruz, a 12-day holiday celebrating the arrival of spring and the beginning of the new year on the Persian calendar. The video comes as the United States has hit a rough patch in its relationships in the region, particularly with Israel.

"The United States believes in the dignity of every human being and an international order that bends the arc of history in the direction of justice — a future where Iranians can exercise their rights, to participate fully in the global economy and enrich the world

through educational and cultural exchanges beyond Iran's borders," Obama said in the video, which had Farsi subtitles.

Even though the United States and Iran continue to have differences, Obama said, "we will sustain our commitment to a more hopeful future for the Iranian people — for instance, by increasing opportunities for educational exchanges so that Iranian students can come to our colleges and universities and through our efforts to ensure that Iranians can have access to the software and Internet technology that will enable them to communicate with each other and with the world without fear of censorship."

Obama has signaled a willingness to speak directly with Iran about its nuclear program and hostility toward Israel, a key U.S. ally.

U.N. chief says building on occupied land must stop

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli settlement building anywhere on occupied land is illegal and must be stopped, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said Saturday, after getting a closer look at some of the Israeli enclaves scattered across Palestinian-claimed territories.

During a high-profile West Bank visit, Ban was escorted to an observation point by Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

From the hill on the outskirts of the Palestinian city of Ramallah, the U.N. secretary-general was able to see the sprawling Israeli West Bank settlement of Givat Zeev, home to 11,000 Israelis who live in rows of red-roofed houses. The panorama also included Jewish neighborhoods in traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, the Israeli-annexed sector of the city that Palestinians claim as a future capital.

The brief geography lesson came a day after Ban, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other

major Mideast mediators — known as the Quartet — met in Moscow to try to find a way to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The mediators urged Israel to halt all settlement construction, which has emerged as a key obstacle to renewing talks. Israel has agreed to curb settlement construction in the West Bank, but not in east Jerusalem, claiming the entire city as Israel's eternal capital.

On Saturday, Ban rejected Israel's distinction between east Jerusalem and the West Bank, noting that both are occupied lands.

Obama says financial reform necessary to protect consumers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Saturday that Congress needs to enact comprehensive financial reforms to protect consumers, keep banks strong and ensure the U.S. economy doesn't sink into another Great Depression.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said "we need commonsense rules that will allow markets to function fairly and freely while reining in the worst practices of the financial industry."

That, he said, is the central lesson of the current financial crisis that has cost millions of Americans their jobs and nearly caused the collapse of the entire financial system.

"And we fail to heed that lesson at our peril," Obama said.

The Senate Banking Committee is set to begin debate on a more than 1,300-page bill authored by its chairman, Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., that would give the government unprecedented powers to split up firms that threaten the economy, force the industry to pay for its most spectacular failures and create an independent consumer watchdog.

Already, Obama said, industry lobbyists are gearing up to spend millions of dollars in an attempt to defeat the legislation.

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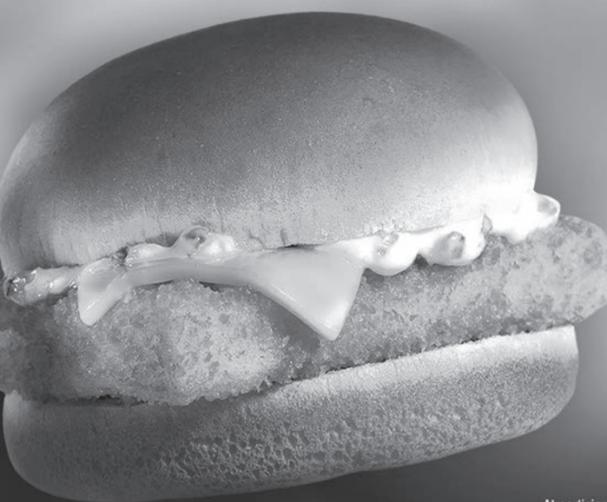
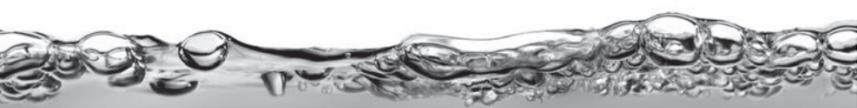


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MR Vocational Support Tech/Residential Support Tech: Providing instruction and directing the performance of trainees in the accomplishment of job duties in the vocational training center. Will also provide residential services to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities in their home. Provide daily supervision, care and training of individuals in their care. Full time regular day shift. \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$655.85-\$699.69 bi weekly) Must be proficient in reading and writing High school diploma or GED.

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Pope slams Irish church for 'grave errors'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI rebuked Irish bishops Saturday for "grave errors of judgment" in handling clerical sex abuse cases and ordered an investigation into the Irish church. But he laid no blame for the problem on the Vatican's policies of keeping such cases secret.

In a letter to the Irish faithful read across Europe amid a growing, multination abuse scandal, the pope apologized to victims but doled out no specific punishments to bishops blamed by Irish government-ordered investigations for having covered up abuse of thousands of Irish children from the 1930s to the 1990s.

Ireland's main group of clerical-abuse victims, One in Four, said it

was deeply disappointed by the letter because it failed to place responsibility with the Vatican for what it called a "deliberate policy of the Catholic Church at the highest levels to protect sex offenders, thereby endangering children."

"If the church cannot acknowledge this fundamental truth, it is still in denial," the group said.

The letter directly addressed only Ireland, but the Vatican said it could be read as applying to other countries. Hundreds of new allegations of abuse have recently come to light across Europe, including in the pope's native Germany, where he served as archbishop in a diocese where several victims have recently come forward.

One priest suspected of molesting boys while the future pope was in charge was transferred to a job where he abused more children.

While a cardinal at the Vatican, Joseph Ratzinger penned a 2001 letter instructing bishops around the world to report all cases of abuse to his office and keep the church investigations secret under threat of excommunication. While the Vatican insists that secrecy rule only applied to the church's investigation and didn't preclude reporting abuse to police, Irish bishops have said the letter was widely understood to mean they shouldn't report the cases to civil authorities.

"You have suffered grievously and I am

truly sorry," Benedict said, addressing himself to Irish Catholics who suffered "sinful and criminal" abuse at the hands of priests, brothers and nuns and a botched response by their superiors.

"It is understandable that you find it hard to forgive or be reconciled with the church," he said. "In her name, I openly express the shame and remorse that we all feel."

Benedict used his harshest words for the abusers themselves, saying they had betrayed the trust of the faithful, brought shame on the church and now must answer before God and civil authorities.

"Conceal nothing," he exhorted them. "Openly acknowledge your guilt, submit yourselves to the

demands of justice, but do not despair of God's mercy."

Benedict faulted their superiors, the Irish bishops, for having failed "sometimes grievously" to apply the church's own law which calls for harsh punishments for child abusers, including defrocking priests.

But he didn't rebuke them for having failed to report cases of abuse to police, saying only that serious mistakes were made and that now they must prevent future abuse and "continue to cooperate with civil authorities."

"I recognize how difficult it was to grasp the extent and complexity of the problem, to obtain reliable information and to make the right decisions in the light of conflicting expert advice," Benedict wrote.

"Nevertheless, it must be admitted that grave errors of judgment were made and failures of leadership occurred. And this has seriously undermined your credibility and effectiveness."

While the letter doled out no punishment for the bishops, the pope did order a Vatican investigation into some dioceses, seminaries and religious orders. Such a move is undertaken only when Rome considers a local church unable to deal with a problem on its own. The Vatican ordered such an "apostolic visitation" into U.S. seminaries after the U.S. clerical sex abuse scandal exploded in 2002.

The results of the Irish investigation could lead

to further action.

Victims have been demanding that bishops resign, and three Irish bishops have offered to step down. Benedict hasn't accepted the resignations.

Asked why there were no punitive provisions in the letter, Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi noted that the letter was pastoral, not administrative or disciplinary in nature, and that any further measures concerning resignations would be taken by the Vatican offices.

Cardinal Sean Brady, the top cardinal in Ireland who himself is under fire for not reporting a notorious abuser to police, welcomed the letter.

But One in Four, the victims' group, said a new church leadership is necessary in Ireland for the church to regain its credibility.

"In relation to the Irish bishops, the pope acknowledges their failings, but situates them in failures to adhere to canon law," the group said. "There is no appreciation that the law of the land supersedes canon law, and that the Catholic bishops, like any other citizens, are obliged to abide by Irish law."

Three Irish government-ordered investigations published from 2005 to 2009 have documented how thousands of Irish children suffered rape, molestation and other abuse by priests in their parishes and by nuns and brothers in boarding schools and orphanages.

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OUTOFF	FAZE	INANE
EAT	HEALED	
RAZETH	EROOF	
OXIDES	OWE	TEAK
METED	FUN	BELLI
ASIN	PET	OUTLET
DAZE	OF	GRACE
QUIVER	RFS	
UNTIL	GABBY	HAZE
IGAVE	ERIE	AVOW
RELIT	RITA	LINE
ERODE	MAST	ODER

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Common-Sense Solution

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 4
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A 8 4
♣ 9 7 6 3
WEST
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ J
♣ Q J 10 3
♠ K J 5 2
EAST
♠ 10 8
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 9 7 6 2
♣ A Q 8
SOUTH
♠ A Q 5 3
♥ A K 8 4 3
♦ K 5
♣ 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
2♣ Pass 4♥

Opening lead—queen of diamonds. Strength-showing bids take many forms. The most usual way to show strength is to jump the bidding, but there are many other means by which extra power can be represented without skipping a level of bidding. South's two-spade bid is an example of a strong bid without a leap. It tells North that South is interested in game in hearts and asks North to take into account any values—honors or shortness—that he may hold in spades. This type of bid is sometimes called a "help-suit" game try. In the given case, North's K-J-4 of

spades and ace of diamonds figure to be just what South needs to make game a reasonable proposition, so he leaps to four hearts at his second turn rather than attempt to discourage South by retreating to three hearts.

The play emphasizes an important principle that is occasionally overlooked. Declarer notes that he has two inescapable club losers, so the outcome depends upon not losing two trump tricks. He therefore focuses all his thoughts on the trump suit.

Declarer wins the diamond opening in dummy and leads a low trump to the ace, on which West produces the jack. The critical point of the play has now been reached. If South makes the mistake of cashing the king of hearts, East scores two trump tricks, and the contract goes down one.

Declarer should instead consider the possibility that West's jack may be a singleton and look for a way to deal with that eventuality if it exists. If he plays a low heart to dummy's ten instead of cashing the king, he makes the contract in the actual deal because he can later take a finesse against East's 9-7. Truc, this costs South an overtrick if West was dealt the doubleton Q-J, but that is a minor consideration.

The safety play of a low heart at trick three assures the contract and is therefore the correct play.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Doug Peterson

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Far-off place
9 Had an urge
15 Montgolfiers' field
16 JFK prep school
17 Some fliers
18 Surname meaning "priest"
19 Go for a run
20 Word in a Wilde title
22 Swell
23 Finished, in a way
26 Took nothing in
29 Broadcaster in 40+ languages: Abbr.
30 Concessions
33 1983 Pritzker Prize winner
34 Small scrap
36 Onomatopoeic sound
37 Fantasy genre
40 Principle of 21 Down
41 This Is Where ___ In (Bee Gees album)
42 Kin of molto, in music
43 Coordination
45 ___ season
46 Add
47 Big name in law and legerdemain
50 Harder to pin down
52 Stage
53 Spring sight
56 Mustache variety
58 Happenings
61 Forms a line quickly
- DOWN
62 Play areas
63 Item in some trunks
64 "That's no surprise"
9 "Take it away!"
10 Credit
11 Knocks off
12 Some bagel orders
13 Georgie, e.g.
14 Withhold
21 Zhou dynasty thinker
24 Howdy Doody's sister
25 Julius Caesar opponent
26 Combination deliverers
27 Procter & Gamble rival
28 Ibis relatives
31 Series tag
32 Bug
34 Fanciful literary creatures
- 35 Loot playwright
38 Band with a lightning bolt in its logo
39 Reference volume
44 Service provider
46 Outline parts
48 Part of Queen Beatrix's realm
49 Canvas construction
50 Plunder
51 Russian auto
54 Japanese soup noodles
55 Open-box buy, perhaps
57 Three-part fig.
59 Sanskrit for "majesty"
60 202.50°

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16				
17									18				
	19					20		21		22			
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61													
63													

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Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY TPDES PERMIT AMENDMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER

TPDES PERMIT NO. WQ0001768000
APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Alon USA, LP, P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Texas 79721, which operates the Big Spring Facility, a petroleum refinery, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a major amendment to TCEQ Permit No. WQ0001768000 to apply the site-specific selenium criteria for Red Draw Reservoir in Appendix E of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) March 25, 2009, at Outfall 002; authorize Outfall 002 to discharge on an intermittent flow variable basis and as the only discharge point to waters in the State; recalculate and apply water quality-based effluent limitations, particularly for cyanide and selenium, at Outfall 002; reroute the effluent via Outfall 101 to either Outfall 001 (for monitoring of flow to I-20 Lake, an asphalt-lined impoundment with a leak detection system) or Outfall 003 (which ultimately routes the effluent to oilfield waterflood operations via Outfall 103 or to Outfall 002); recalculate and apply technology-based effluent limits at Outfall 101; add and clarify the treated wastewaters authorized via Outfall 101 as treated process wastewater, contaminated storm water, cooling tower and boiler blowdown, sour water stripper and desalter wastewater, softener backwash, off-site wastewaters and miscellaneous wastewaters at a daily average flow not to exceed 1,224,000 gallons per day; reroute non-process utility wastewaters (cooling tower blowdown and water treatment wastewaters) to I-20 Lake (formally known as Refinery Lake) via Outfall 001; clarify the flow via Outfalls 001, 003, and 103 to be on an intermittent and flow variable basis; authorize I-20 Lake effluent for use as cooling water make-up, on-site irrigation (regulated under TCEQ Land Application Permit No. WQ0004539000), or routed to the wastewater treatment plant prior to Outfall 101; clarify the discharge route and facility flow routes (for reuse of facility wastewaters) based on current operations; and correct Other Requirement No. 2 to state Outfall 101 flow is equal to the sum of the flows to Outfalls 001 and 003. The current permit authorizes the discharge of treated effluent at a daily average flow not to exceed 1,224,000 gallons per day via Outfalls 001, 101, 002, and 003; and utilize storm water commingled with treated effluent plus brine water from Refinery Lake for oilfield water flood operations via Outfall 103. Issuance of this Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit will replace the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. TX0104515 issued on September 29, 1995 and TCEQ Permit No. WQ0001768000 issued on July 7, 1997. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 21, 2009.

The facility is located adjacent to Interstate Highway 20 (I.H. 20) and approximately 1/2 mile east of the intersection of I.H. 20 and Farm-to-Market Road 700, east of the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. The effluent is routed via internal Outfall 101 to either Outfall 001 prior to I-20 Lake (an asphalt-lined impoundment with a leak detection system) in the watershed of Beals Creek or Outfall 003, via Outfall 003 to either Outfall 103 for oilfield waterflood operations or Outfall 002; via Outfall 002 to either oilfield waterflood operations or discharge to Red Draw Reservoir, thence to Red Draw, thence to Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin. The unclassified receiving waters have no significant aquatic life use for Red Draw Reservoir. The designated uses for Segment No. 1412 are high aquatic life use and contact recreation.

In accordance with 30 TAC §307.5 and the TCEQ implementation procedures (January 2003) for the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, an antidegradation review of the receiving waters was performed. A Tier 1 antidegradation review has preliminarily determined that existing water quality uses will not be impaired by this permit action. Numerical narrative criteria to protect existing uses will be maintained. This review has preliminarily determined that no water bodies with intermediate, high, or exceptional aquatic life uses are present within the stream reach accessed; therefore, no Tier 2 degradation determination is required. No significant degradation of water quality is expected in water bodies with intermediate, high, or exceptional aquatic life uses downstream, and existing uses will be maintained and protected. The preliminary determination can be reexamined and may be modified if new information is received.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all

statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Howard County Public Library, 500 South Main Street, Big Spring, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the executive director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests of the group seek to protect are germane to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The executive director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be added to: (1) the permanent list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/comments.html within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Alon USA, LP, at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jimmy Miller at (432)263-9234. Issued: March 4, 2010 #6463 March 21, 2010

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:
 TO: Dallas Nursing Homes, Inc. Defendant Lienholder and Amerivest Mortgage Services, Inc., Defendant Lienholder
 the unknown heirs of said above named defendant lienholders, and the unknown defendant lienholder of the hereinafter described land, and the executor, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named defendant lienholders, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Three tracts of land comprising approximately 6.05 acres, as follows:

TRACT ONE:
 a 4.140 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "A";

TRACT TWO:
 a 1.28 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "B";

TRACT THREE:
 a 0.63 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "C";

Said parcel sometimes alternatively described as three tracts comprising approximately 6.043 acres, as follow:

TRACT ONE:
 a 3.44 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "D";

TRACT TWO:
 a 1.77 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "E";

TRACT THREE:
 a 0.833 acre tract of land out of Sections Forty-three and Forty-four (43 & 44) Block Thirty-two (32), Township-One-North (T1N) in the City of Big Spring, Howard County Texas more fully described by metes and bounds on the attached Exhibit "F";

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$614,619.80, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein. You are hereby notified that suit

has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against MANAGED CARE, LC DBA BIG SPRING CARE CENTER, ET AL and others, as Defendant(s), by amended petition filed on March 10, 2010, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. MANAGED CARE, LC DBA BIG SPRING CARE CENTER, ET AL, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 03-01-4542 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 21st day of April, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 10th day of March, A.D. 2010. Brandie Martinez Deputy Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District, #6460 March 14 & 21, 2010

Legals

PUBLIC HEARING ON SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM GRANT

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON:
 MARCH 24, 2010 AT 5:30 PM
 MCMAHON-WRINKLE AIRPARK TERMINAL
 3200 RICKABAUGH DRIVE WEST
 The City of Big Spring will hold a public hearing and receive comments from citizens regarding a proposed amendment to the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program Contract with the Texas De-

partment of Rural Affairs. The City intends to amend its contract to provide that approximately \$483,000.00 will be used to demolish approximately 45 blighted structures in the West side area instead of using such funds to acquire, rehabilitate and resell properties in the same area as originally planned in the grant application. Approximately \$282,000.00 will be used to acquire five foreclosed properties, redevelop them and sell them to eligible families within the City. #6465 March 21, 2010

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aries sun is part energy drink, part life coach — providing both the thoughtful and physical motivation to attack life anew. As you bravely go forward, consider picking up one of the goals you abandoned over the past three months, and give it another chance. You'll probably notice that your energy is better now and so is the timing.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). Pick up on the conversational pointers that people lob into your court today. You have the potential to make new

friends by listening to the clues people give you and responding in a way that lets them know they've been heard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Express your feelings on paper. Write about the problem from your point of view. Then write about it from the other person's point of view. Your understanding expands. The exercise will release stuck energy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will influence your family or another group. You quite naturally synchronize your body language, tone of voice and energy level with that of the others in the group, and they feel an instant rapport with you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in the brainstorming stage of a project. There are no wrong answers. Keep the energy flowing. The more ideas and input you can get the better. Ignore the pernicious desire to edit yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's not enough that someone sticks around out of love for you. That's what's called the "status quo," and it's never been enough for you. You need to know you are appreciated in concrete terms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have compassion for the one who is trying to get your attention by pouting, preening, showing off and emanating a generally immature energy. You used to try these antics, too, when you were a child.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Successful people know the simple truth: People are more interested in themselves than they are in anyone else. You deflect all questions by bringing the conversation back to the other person. They love you for it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may have trouble agreeing with what your partner says, but that doesn't mean you have to actively disagree. Be careful not to shut the other person down before he or she has a chance to express an opinion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll come across someone who is starving for a compliment or for another person to take an interest in him. Your kind smile alone may be enough to turn someone's day around for the better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't get in the middle. That's the lesson of the day. In all likelihood, the argument, conflict or struggle at hand has nothing to do with you, and you will

slide through unscathed as long as you keep out of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People want what they can't have. The more aloof you seem the more people want to be involved with you. If you want to get someone off your back, pursue that person, and he or she will run the other way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll connect with someone who is in a position to judge your work or rate your performance. You'll win this person over with your easy charm. And the fact that you really did do a good job will help, too.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 21). Do something daring and a bit naughty to punctuate this moment in your life. Your whims are magical. You'll pocket a bonus in April. A family reunion will bring loved ones together in laughter and fun. A new interest in your romantic life springs from a hobby or area of study that you pursue this summer. Capricorn and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 14, 33, 7 and 12.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Greek mythology, from whence we get the names of many planets and the story of several constellations, doesn't always tell a straight story. Scholars often offer an array of options as to which god did what and why, and even when they do agree on a story line, sometimes it still doesn't make much sense to those of us accustomed to modern plot conventions. Such is the case with the tale of the ram with the Golden Fleece. This story associated with Aries is more befuddling than reading a message board in response to episode 28 of "Lost." Suffice it to know that for whatever reason, this magical, flying Aries creature had what everyone wanted, and the gods, goddesses, monsters and mortals were willing to fight for it. This week, as the sun is just beginning to explore the vitality of Aries, consider what it is that you would be willing to fight the monsters for. What golden goal is exciting enough to stir your passion and motivate your courageous journey? For a good part of the week, the sun and Mars are at an auspicious angle, helping along those heated pursuits.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: In the recent dark comedy "Wonderful World," Matthew Broderick plays a pessimistic children's folk singer. His astrological chart, however, shows that Broderick himself is an incurable optimist, with his sun and Venus in idealistic, enthusiastic Aries. Mercury and Mars in Pisces is a powerful planetary placement for an actor, lending amazing powers of empathy.

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

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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.

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

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PUBLIC

Continued from Page 5C

court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Maribel Rodriguez Luera, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$100 fine, \$232 court costs.
Judgment and Sentence: Rhett D. Dedmon, unlawfully carrying a weapon, \$200 fine, \$232 court costs.
Probated Judgment: Teresa Garcia, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$457.10 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Michael Lee Rawls, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$457.10 court costs, 15 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Carlos Aponte, driving while intoxicated - open container, \$500 fine, \$457.10 court costs, 60 days in jail.

District Court Filings:
In Re Eathen James Garcia, family.
In Re Thalia Salazar, family.
Cach LLC vs. Alma Bowen, accounts, notes or contracts.
Cach LLC vs. Vickey C. Weaver, accounts, notes or contracts.
Capital One Bank vs. Maria V. Padilla, accounts, notes or contracts.
In Re Alisa Garza, family.
In Re Anna Renee King, name change.
Latoshia A. Anderson vs. Marcus J. Anderson, divorce.
Andrea Michelle Perrin vs. Christopher Bryan Perrin, divorce.
Delores Kay Stover vs. Steven Craig Stover, divorce.
Todd Stallings et al vs. Millennium Resources LP, injury or damages.
In Re Love Krystianna Rodriguez, child support.
Kandace Gard Dawson vs. Thomas E. Dawson, divorce.
Carlos Mata Jr. vs. Louise Ramirez Mata, divorce.
Charles B. Harris vs. Serve America Assurance, accounts, notes or contracts.
Alice Marie Pena vs. Luis Adolfo Pena, divorce.
Randal Wayne Johnson vs. Bobbi Jo Johnson, divorce.
In Re Brandyn Ayden Pena, family.
In Re Ameris Mireya Torres, family.
In Re Thalia Corina Garcia, family.
Inez M. Zavala vs. Vicenta R. Zavala, divorce.
Debra Turman vs. Zach Turman, protective order.
Amanda Williams vs. Dustin Glenn Williams, divorce.
In Re Diana M. Unrein, support order.
In Re Scandal Lynn Brewer, support order.
The matter of the Angeline P. Shaw Irrevocable Trust, civil.

Marriage Licenses:
Juan Albert Lopez, 26, and Yvette Catillo, 30, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Costatex Inc. fka Texas Title Company
Grantee: Ronald L. Howell and Patricia Howell
Property: Lot 16, Block 2, Monticello Addition
Date: March 4, 2010

Grantor: Lupe E. Madrid
Grantee: Sergio Salcedo Jr.
Property: The S/40 feet of the W/37.5 feet of Lot 2, Block 13, Amended Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: March 4, 2010

Grantor: Swartz & Brough Inc.
Grantee: Ruel Metcalf
Property: Lot 8, Block 10, Hall Addition
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Pamela Richards
Grantee: Frances Mathie
Property: Lot 16, Block 4, Cedar Crest Addition
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Perry Joe Kirklen
Grantee: Glenda Kennedy
Property: A tract out of Section 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Elmer Lee Wilson IV and Patricia Smith
Grantee: Rose Marie Guthrie
Property: Lot 6, Block 9, Suburban Heights
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Thomas M. Lucio
Grantee: Edna Luxedy Pedraza
Property: Lots 1 and 2, Block 26, Fairview Heights
Date: March 8, 2010

Grantor: Adelaido G. Martinez and Paul Martinez
Grantee: Yolanda M. Bryant

Property: A tract out of Block 37, College Heights Addition
Date: March 9, 2010

Grantor: Vianey Larrage-De-Ortiz
Grantee: Hugo Perez-Martinez and Martha Zubiadeperez
Property: The E/2 of Lot 4, Block 2, Reynolds Addition
Date: March 11, 2010

Grantor: Vernon D. Permenter
Grantee: Natasha Parrish and Edward Spivey Jr.
Property: Lot 9, Block 13, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: March 11, 2010

Grantor: Eduardo Galvan and Lourdes Galvan
Grantee: Maria Martinez
Property: Lot 9, Block E, Moore Addition
Date: March 15, 2010

Grantor: Gaylon Beevers
Grantee: Sherman Powers and Ida Fisher
Property: Lots 25-26, Block 3, Lamar Terrace Addition, Brown County
Date: March 15, 2010

Grantor: Everett M. McDaniel and Cathy McDaniel
Grantee: Terry McDonald and Glenda McDonald
Property: A tract out of Section 13, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 15, 2010

Grantor: Juan Jose Martinez
Grantee: Graciano Rogers
Property: A tract out of Section 19, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 17, 2010

Grantor: Lana Greenhill
Grantee: Lanoy Curtis Hurst
Property: Lot 13, Block 27, Monticello Addition
Date: March 17, 2010

Grantor: Patricia A. Aleman
Grantee: Ezekiel Munoz
Property: A tract out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 17, 2010

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Steven Dean Stanley and Vicky L. Stanley
Grantee: Armando Rodriguez Jr.
Property: Lot 8, Block 4, Belvue Addition
Date: March 4, 2010

Grantor: Esther Ramirez
Grantee: Jose Antonio De La Torre Juache and Francisco Javier Salas
Property: Lot 7, Block 4, Indianola Addition
Date: March 4, 2010

Grantor: Shirley J. Matthews
Grantee: Tyler Ray Phillips and Katherine Phillips
Property: Lot 4, Block 7, Douglas Addition
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Connie Plagens
Grantee: Rickie Lee Liles and Debra Liles
Property: Lot 12, Block 8, Highland South No. 6
Date: March 5, 2010

Grantor: Douglas L. Crumrine
Grantee: Clinton Doyle Hobbs and Caroline Hobbs
Property: Two tracts out of Section 41, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 9, 2010

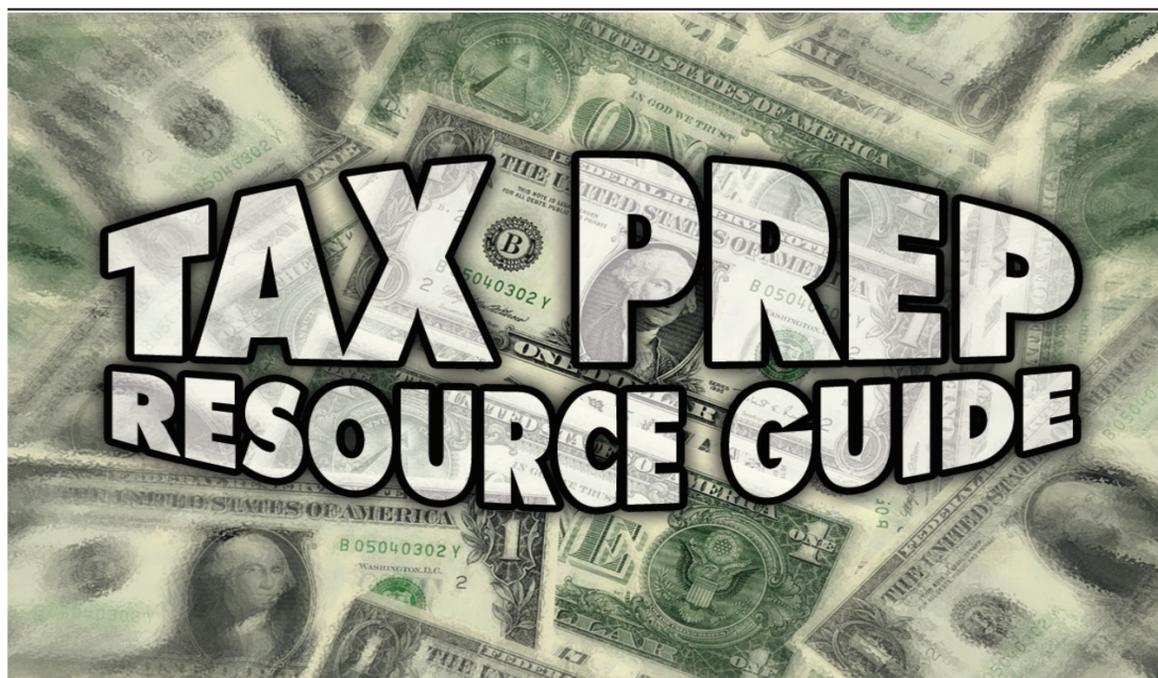
Grantor: Cara A. Gill
Grantee: Lora Spivey and Edward Spivey
Property: Lot 1, Block 34, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: March 9, 2010

Grantor: Waymon W. Lepard and Betty Lepard
Grantee: Charlie Shane Clark and Kym DeAnn Clark
Property: A tract out of Section 20, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: March 9, 2010

Grantor: Michael R. Chase and Samantha Chase
Grantee: Brian Johnson
Property: Lot 7, Block 1, Edgemere Addition
Date: March 11, 2010

Grantor: Lisa Franco and Henry Franco
Grantee: Rusty Lee Laswell and Amy Hill
Property: Lot 5, Block 2, Capehart Addition
Date: March 12, 2010

Grantor: David H. Summers
Grantee: Jimmy O. Leal and Rhonda Leal
Property: Lot 29, Block 4, Central park Addition
Date: March 12, 2010



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Oil prices settle near \$80 a barrel

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices slumped at the end of the week, tumbling Friday close to \$80 a barrel as continued uncertainty about Greece's economy helped lift the dollar higher.

Benchmark crude for April delivery dropped \$1.52 to settle at \$80.68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil is traded in U.S. currency, and its price tends to fall as the dollar rises and makes contracts tougher to buy with foreign currency. Investors also will move money out of commodities and into the green-back as the dollar rises. Crude prices rallied earlier this week after

the Fed promised to hold interest rates at record lows in a move that was expected to help the economic recovery. Prices crested Wednesday, and they've been falling since then as worries about Greece's debts forced the euro lower.

Greece, which has struggled to manage its budget, has been looking for help from its European neighbors. But Germany is reluctant to give financial aid, and Greece said this week it may be forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund.

The uncertainty about the country's finances helped push the euro lower by 0.7 percent to \$1.3513 on Friday.

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EU leaders tussle over IMF aid to Greece

BERLIN (AP) — Germany and the European Union were at loggerheads Friday after government officials said Berlin can't rule out financial aid for Greece from the International Monetary Fund, a solution Brussels is keen to avoid.

EU leaders will meet next week to find a deal to help Greece, but Germany, which has the 16-nation eurozone's biggest economy, has been reluctant to pledge any direct financial aid.

On Thursday, Greece warned it would be forced to turn to the IMF for help, which would be an embarrassment for the single currency bloc, if the EU fails to extend any concrete support package to help reduce its market borrowing rates.

A European or IMF backstop would be aimed at reassuring markets and bringing down the high rates demanded from Greece as it seeks to borrow some \$54 billion this year to plug its budget gap.

"We haven't ruled out IMF financial assistance," Ulrich Wilhelm, a spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel, told reporters. "This question is open."

However, he stressed that "decisions have not been taken and decisions are not pending."

Greece hasn't asked for financial support, and "we trust and believe that Greece can resolve its problems itself with its consolidation efforts," Wilhelm said.

A Greek default would be a serious blow to the euro, but Germany in particular has resisted putting up money to bail Greece out of years of overspending.

Other European countries, however, seem more willing to extend aid, possibly in the form of bilateral loans, if needed.

"What we believe we should have now is as soon as possible some kind of mechanism prepared just in case," EU Commission President Jose

Manuel Barroso told France 24 TV.

In Brussels, the Commission was at pains to point out that Merkel committed to a "European" solution to the Greek financial crisis only last month.

It noted that she and the other 26 EU leaders agreed in a Feb. 11 statement to "take determined and coordinated action, if needed, to safeguard financial stability in the euro area as a whole."

"This is a statement of the European leaders," Commission spokesman Amadeu Altafaj Tardio said. "This is not a minor matter. We are an economic and monetary union, so it is quite logical we address (a possible bailout) with our mechanism."

EU officials said privately the Commission fears that Germany's talk of a possible IMF bailout could encourage Austria, Finland and the Netherlands, which already lean toward an IMF solution.

Merkel's finance minister, Wolfgang Schaeuble, has argued that the eurozone should be able to resolve its own problems without calling in outside help and — with Merkel's backing — has advocated the creation of a European Monetary Fund that could provide aid in future crises.

"From this fundamental conviction you can certainly conclude that, in the case of Greece, he would be very reticent toward financial aid from the IMF," said Schaeuble's spokesman, Michael Offer.

Wilhelm said the government would agree on a formal position if and when decisions are needed.

Any IMF member "can decide itself whether it seeks IMF aid or not — that is not a move that is subject to others' involvement in the decision," Wilhelm noted.

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou has said he expects EU leaders to decide at the March 25-26

summit on a blueprint of aid from the 16 eurozone countries.

He says he isn't asking for money but a clear mechanism for financial help in case Greece can't afford to borrow from markets.

"We hope that until the summit ... we will have a decision from the EU, whereupon Greece in turn will make its own decisions," Greek government spokesman George Petalotis said.

Therefore, the dilemma today of IMF or EU is a dilemma that cannot be answered, in the sense that our clear priority is for Greece's problems to be solved within the framework of the eurozone," he added.

Papandreou has said that going to the IMF, which imposes austerity measures on governments in return for financial aid, wouldn't hurt Greece because it has already followed IMF advice and made painful spending cuts.

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