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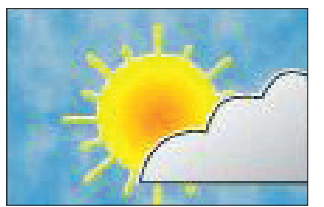
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 21, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 116

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Voters courted by hopeful candidates

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Voters were wooed with impassioned pleas, jokes and a even a bit of "Fear Factor" during Tuesday evening's meet the candidate forum sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. A sizeable crowd — albeit many were relatives and friends of candidates, but voters nonetheless — filled the Ballroom at Dora Roberts Community Center to learn more about candidates running for mayor, city council and school board, and a school bond issue. Voters will sort it all out at the ballot box May 8.

Tuesday's forum was not a question and answer session, but simply an opportunity for everyone to get to know the candidates — or bond proposal — better.

First up was Big Spring Independent School District's \$60 million bond to construct three new elementary schools, add a wing on to a fourth and upgrade infrastructure in another.

"A good education opens doors for kids and that's what we're about," Steven Saldivar, BSISD superintendent, told the crowd. He urged them to "keep an open mind"



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan
Dr. Michael Stevens, special assistant to the superintendent of Big Spring public schools, addresses the crowd Tuesday night at Dora Roberts Community Center.

and encouraged anyone with questions to visit with him at his office.

Special Assistant Dr. Michael Stevens reasoned

"Building costs will never be cheaper than they are right now. Interest rates will never be less ... We have needs and the needs are for our little kids."

Stevens said the district's plan will "carry us for 15 to 20 years," after which the high school will need to be addressed.

"All of my professional life I have never been involved in anything that was more important than this," he said. "The future of our community — not just our town but our community — is at stake here."

Because of space limitations, here are capsule versions of what else potential voters heard Tuesday night:

BSISD Board of Trustees, District 5

One person staunchly behind the BISD bond bandwagon is District 5 trustee candidate Chad Wash, one of three people vying for the seat.

"Nobody likes to raise taxes. No one likes to pay taxes," said Wash, a lifelong resident of Big Spring and owner of CWOC Inc. "But for our children to have what they need and what they are entitled to, we do have to pay taxes... Some of those schools my kids go to, they looked the

Everything a 'go' for mayoral debate

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Coordinators for Thursday night's mayoral debate say they have the questions submitted by area residents ready and are looking forward to hearing how the candidates in the race will answer Thursday evening.

Set for 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, the debate will feature all four mayoral candidates, incumbent Russ McEwen and challengers Tommy Duncan, Shannon Thomason and Oscar Velasco.

Local resident Dana Baker, who is coordinating the event, said she's received letters and messages from more than two-dozen sources dur-

ing the past several weeks, as area residents were given the chance to mail or e-mail debate questions and concerns for consideration in the event.

"We really wish we'd gotten more than that, but we're pretty happy with the participation we've received so far from the community," said Baker. "I imagine many of the submissions will be multi-part, so we should have a good range of questions

What: Mayoral debate.
Where: Howard College Cactus Room.
When: 5 p.m. Thursday.

See **DEBATE**, Page 8A

exceed the financial demand we are going to ask of everybody?"

Michelle Hamby, registered nurse and mother of two, told those in attendance "com-

See **FORUM**, Page 3A

Commissioners to begin work on next budget

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local officials say the fiscal future of the county is looking good, as Howard County commissioners prepare to begin their budgetary process Thursday afternoon with a special-called workshop.

County Judge Mark Barr said the county appears to be in good shape at this time, with reserve funds slowly replenishing themselves.

"Most people will tell you that you need to have at least half or one-third of your budget in the reserve fund," said Barr. "We currently have between \$3 million and \$4 million in reserve, and we're working with a \$16 million budget. We'd like to see that reserve grow to between \$5

million and \$6 million, but looking at things going into the budgetary process, we're in good shape."

Barr said the reserve funds are very important to the operation of the county, especially in the time between when tax bills go out and their February due date.

"You basically have a time between October and Feb. 1 that you have to plan for," said Barr. "You need to have a few months in reserve so the county can operate during that time period. However, with the reserves what they are right now, I feel pretty good going into the 2010-2011 budget."

One fiscal uncertainty the county will be monitoring closely during the budgeting process is the cost of operating the new county jail, which opened its doors for the first time last year.

"We'll be looking very closely at the operating costs of the jail. Once we get through this

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, left, presents the President's Award to Marshall Van Pelt during the college's annual awards convocation Tuesday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. A complete list of recipients will be published in a future edition of the Herald.

Wrongful death suit filed here

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The wife of a Big Spring man killed in a trucking accident in December 2008 has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in 118th District Court against Odessa-based Toro Operating Company Inc.

Jacob Burcham, 31, was pronounced dead by Howard County Justice of the Peace Benny Green at a remote location on Moore School Road, near County Road 17, after the oil tanker he was driving rolled, collapsing the cab of the truck around him.

According to the lawsuit — filed on behalf of Burcham's widow, Cherrie Burcham, by the Malhotra Law Firm, located in both Midland and Odessa — Toro Operating Company, which was responsible for the truck Burcham was driving, was aware of problems with the anti-locking brake system at the time of the accident.

"This (the accident) occurred because the brakes of the vehicle in question locked," reads the lawsuit.

See **SUIT**, Page 3A



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Hunt, Yarbar pace Lady Steers to win

Herald Staff Report

SAN ANGELO — Paced by Kenzie Hunt and Linzee Yarbar, the Big Spring Lady Steers cemented a spot in the Class 4A playoffs with a 4-1 victory over San Angelo Lake View in District 4-4A softball action Tuesday.

Yarbar got the Lady Steers rolling in the top of the first with a triple, then scored on a bunt by Logan Yarbar.

In the third inning, Linzee tripled again, this time driving in Carson Reibe, who had

singled. Then, in the fifth, Linzee struck again, scoring Haley Dimidjian with another hit. Yarbar scored Big Spring's final run on a hit by Jillian Valle.

For the evening, Yarbar was 3-for-4 with two triples, two RBI and two runs scored.

On the mound, Hunt was dominant, striking out 12 Lake View batters.

"Kenzie was a lock for us," Big Spring Coach John Sparks said. "She's at the top of her game every time she steps into the pitching circle

for us. You can always count of her to give a very competitive effort every time out."

With the win, Big Spring secured a playoff berth, although the Lady Steers' exact seeding remains to be determined. Plainview and Abilene Cooper are currently tied for second place in district, a game ahead of Big Spring. Those two teams play tonight, with the loser facing Big Spring to determine the third and fourth seeds from District 4-4A.

Sparks said the Lady Steers

will face either Canyon High School, Canyon Randall or Pampa in the first round of the playoffs later this month.

Steers blanked by Cooper

ABILENE — Little went right for the Big Spring Steers Tuesday as they dropped a 12-0 decision to Abilene Cooper in District 4-4A baseball action Tuesday.

The loss dropped the Steers to 8-16 overall and 1-6 in district play.

"We didn't play terrible,"

BSHS Coach Burt Otto said. "(Cooper) just hit the ball and scored runs and we couldn't hit the ball when we had some scoring opportunities."

Max Poppajohn took the loss on the mound for Big Spring.

Despite the loss, the Steers still hold their playoff destiny in their hands. They face San Angelo Lake View at 7 p.m. Friday in Steer Park, with the winner advancing to the Class 4A playoffs.

"Win and we're in, lose and we're out. It's that simple," Otto said.

Bulldogettes drop marathon decision to Wall

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Count on a pitcher to ruin a pitchers' duel.

Shannon Carrico broke up a scoreless tie with a RBI double in the top of the 13th inning to lead the Wall Lady Hawks to a 2-0 victory over Coahoma in District 5-2A softball action here Tuesday night.

The victory clinched the district title for Wall (9-0 in 5-2A play) and marks the first time in 16 years that Coahoma (7-2 in district) won't be hoisting the league trophy — but it took overtime to turn the trick.

Carrico and Coahoma's Heather Newton matched goose eggs for 12 innings before Wall finally broke the deadlock in the 13th. After leadoff hitter Shanna Daniel reached on a single, Carrico — who was hitless in five previous trips to the plate — blasted a double over the head of Coahoma left fielder Jordan Martin to bring in the go-ahead run. Consecutive passed balls brought in Carrico's pinch-runner with the insurance run.

"I had our fastest girl (Daniel) at first, so I told myself that if we got a hit in the gap, I was going to send her all the way around," said Wall Coach Ken Peel. "Shannon got a good pitch to hit and drove it."

In the pitcher's circle, Carrico was even more impressive, striking out 14 batters while walking three and surrendering four hits over 13 innings. She didn't allow a Coahoma baserunner past second during the game.

Her evening spoiled a sterling effort from Coahoma's Heather Newton, who struck out 18 and walked only two while scattering nine hits.

The Bulldogettes' best chance to win came in the bottom of the 12th. With Lauren Ruiz on first, Hayley McCullough hit a scorching drive to right-center, but Wall center fielder Kelsey Johnson was able to make the play for the out.

"That was our best shot right there," Coahoma Coach Tracy Tadlock said. "If she hits it four or five feet either way, the ball rolls to the fence and Lauren comes in to score ... We had a chance to win but we didn't come through and they did."



HERALD file photo

Coahoma pitcher Heather Newton, shown in earlier action, struck out 18 batters in a losing effort as the Bulldogettes dropped a 2-0 decision to Wall in District 5-2A softball action Tuesday night.

Despite Coahoma vacating the district throne for the first time in recent memory, Tadlock says the team's goal — success in the playoffs — remains intact.

"Our goal is to win state and this doesn't keep

us from doing that," he said. "We're just going to keep coming out and working hard. If we do that, we'll put ourselves in position to win."

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Forsan blanks Hermleigh; Lady Buffs bounce Miles

Burton paces Forsan to 15-0 victory

Herald staff report

SNYDER — So much for

rust. Despite missing practice and game action with the recent rains, the Forsan Buffaloes showed no ill effects from the layoff, plating 11 runs in the first inning en route to a 15-0 pasting of Hermleigh in

baseball action Tuesday evening.

The game was called after four innings because of the rain.

Senior Evan Burton was effective at the plate and on the mound for the Buffs, who improved to 19-0 overall and 10-0 in district play with the victory. Burton picked up his sixth victory of the year, throwing three innings of no-hit ball while striking out six batters and walking only one.

"He did a really good job with all three pitches," Forsan Coach Jason Phillips said of Burton's performance on

the mound. "He had pretty good command of the strike zone and when he does that, he's effective for us."

At the plate, Burton collected two hits — a double and triple — while driving in two runs.

Other offensive standouts for Forsan included Zane Herrin (two hits and two RBI), Foster Burchett (two hits, a home run and two RBI) and Elgen Suazo (two hits with three RBI).

Phillips sounded more relieved than anything else when talking of his team's effort.

"We had lost a lot of time with all the rain we've had lately, so I was nervous about rust being a factor," Phillips said. "But the guys came out hitting the ball really hard (Tuesday)."

"The guys played really well," Phillips added. "We just need to stay focused and keep taking it one game at a time."

The Buffaloes conclude the regular season Friday at home vs. Hamlin. Game time is 5 p.m.

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Hermleigh | 000 0 — 0 |
| Forsan | (11)41 x — 15 |

Lady Buffs keep rolling with win

MILES — The Forsan Lady Buffaloes remained perfect in district play with a 15-0 white-wash of Miles in softball action Tuesday night.

The Lady Buffs improved to 18-3 overall and 13-0 in district play with the victory, Coach Shannon Roberts said.

Ashley Busbee pitched four perfect innings to pick up the victory.

The Lady Buffaloes return to action tonight when they travel to Junction.

Game time is 5 p.m.

Sports in brief

Seven former Bulldogettes up for UIL All-Century team

The UIL is forming a softball all-century team on its Web site.

On the softball ballot are former Coahoma players Tara Sterling, pitcher; Shana Earnest, first base; Tori Elmore, third base; Brandi Hart and Cassie Tindol, outfield; and Kortney Kemper and Ruby Garcia, designated hitters. Vote until April 27.

The ballot is at: <http://uil100.org/vote-softball.php>

Coahoma baseball to play C-City today

In a game rescheduled from Saturday due to rain, the Coahoma Bulldogs will be on the baseball diamond today at 4 p.m. against Colorado City on the road.

The Bulldogs are fresh off a 2-1 victory over Wall Tuesday night that clinched a spot in the Class 2A playoffs.

Coahoma plays Grape Creek Friday.

Howard softball reschedules games

The Howard Hawks will be back on the softball diamond today to make up games postponed this weekend.

The Hawks will travel to Borger to play Frank Phillips today at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. They will remain on the road next Monday when they take on Clarendon.

Howard is off this weekend.

Obituaries

Ted O. Groebl Jr.

Ted O. Groebl Jr., 68, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, April 19, 2010, in an Odessa hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 22, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Groebl of Midland; three daughters, Natalie Permenter of Big Spring, Kristian Gilbert and Deborah Costilla, both of Midland; one son, Kevin Gordon of Midland; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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

Pauline Stinson

Pauline Stinson, 77, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 20, 2010, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Edwin Cox

Edwin Cox, 90, of Abilene, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 21, 2010, in an Abilene hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• Aggie Muster will be held at 6:30 p.m. today in the Lake Room at Dora Roberts Community Center. Cost is \$20. RSVP djgaskins@hotmail or 268-3493.

• Coahoma Choir Kids' spring concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. Admission is free.

• Ackerly Lunch Bunch will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday at Crispy's Cafe in Big Spring. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. from the menu. The restaurant, 1904 Birdwell, is wheelchair accessible. Everyone is invited. RSVP Bett Pitts at (432) 267-1449.

• A Relay For Life benefit will be held Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third. Hamburger plates will be available for \$5 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A dance featuring New Company will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

• So many veterans feel confused about benefits and services they've earned. There's much to know and many changes from year to year. That's why the DAV offers help. The DAV Mobile Service Office will be at the Big Spring VA Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 26, to provide the best counseling and claim filing assistance available.

• The Big Spring High School Class of 2012 will hold a play day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at Blankenship Stadium to raise money for the prom. There will be Air Extreme sports games and a dunking booth. Cost is \$10 per person. For tickets, call Valerie at 213-8315 or Shannon at 264-3641, ext. 1416.

• On May 22, the Howard County Road Kill Running Club (HCRK) will host the first Bob Fishback 5K fun run/walk in Comanche Trail Park. The event will start at the Alice Hayes Pavilion which is located by the Kids' Zone play area. All proceeds will be donated to the Fishback family to help pay for medical expenses. Entry fee is \$20 and there will be awards for first through third place female and male participants. You can either pre-register, or register the morning of the event. Registration will open at 6:30 a.m. You can download the flyer at <http://pages.suddenlink.net/hcrk/docs/Annual%20Bob%20Fishback.pdf>

Police blotter

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

- LISA ANN CHAVARRIA, 43, of 602 E. 16th St., was arrested Tuesday on two warrants from another agency.
- ALLANCHANCE GANNA, 23, of 4200 Centerpoint Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 900 block of E. 15th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of Yale.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.
- JUAN VILLASENOR-VASQUEZ, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a fugitive warrant.
 - ANNA MARIE CUELLAR, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
 - ALLEN CHANCE GANA, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
 - BRYSON O'NEIL VANDERBILT, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of injury to a child/elderly/disabled reckless causing serious bodily injury.
 - MONICA NICHOLE ORELLANA, 23, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a Midland County warrant for failure to appear — theft.
 - TINA MARIE BUTLER, 46, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
 - JARREL LAMONTE WILLIAMS, 22, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of failure to identify — giving false information and no driver's license.
 - ABEL H. HINOJOS, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated — second offense and a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Avion. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2800 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Thu 4/22 | Fri 4/23 | Sat 4/24 | Sun 4/25 | Mon 4/26 |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| 84/56 Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. High 84F. | 77/51 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s. | 77/51 Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s. | 79/54 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s. | 84/50 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s. |
| Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:20 PM | Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:21 PM | Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:22 PM | Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM | Sunrise: 7:05 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM |

Texas At A Glance



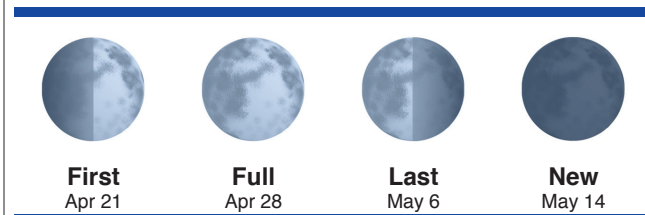
Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|----------|
| Abilene | 79 | 63 | t-storm | Kingsville | 84 | 72 | cloudy |
| Amarillo | 76 | 46 | t-storm | Livingston | 82 | 64 | cloudy |
| Austin | 77 | 67 | t-storm | Longview | 83 | 64 | pt sunny |
| Beaumont | 82 | 66 | pt sunny | Lubbock | 80 | 50 | t-storm |
| Brownsville | 85 | 73 | cloudy | Lufkin | 86 | 65 | cloudy |
| Brownwood | 80 | 65 | t-storm | Midland | 83 | 56 | pt sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 79 | 72 | cloudy | Raymondville | 85 | 71 | cloudy |
| Corsicana | 80 | 65 | cloudy | Rosenberg | 81 | 68 | cloudy |
| Dallas | 82 | 66 | cloudy | San Antonio | 80 | 70 | cloudy |
| Del Rio | 84 | 65 | cloudy | San Marcos | 78 | 67 | cloudy |
| El Paso | 71 | 48 | windy | Sulphur Springs | 83 | 65 | pt sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 85 | 54 | mst sunny | Sweetwater | 82 | 59 | pt sunny |
| Gainesville | 78 | 63 | cloudy | Tyler | 83 | 64 | pt sunny |
| Greenville | 81 | 63 | pt sunny | Weatherford | 77 | 63 | cloudy |
| Houston | 81 | 69 | cloudy | Wichita Falls | 78 | 61 | t-storm |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|----------|
| Atlanta | 78 | 55 | mst sunny | Minneapolis | 70 | 49 | sunny |
| Boston | 65 | 44 | rain | New York | 68 | 46 | pt sunny |
| Chicago | 58 | 42 | mst sunny | Phoenix | 61 | 48 | t-storm |
| Dallas | 82 | 66 | cloudy | San Francisco | 66 | 49 | pt sunny |
| Denver | 62 | 41 | t-storm | Seattle | 61 | 42 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 81 | 69 | cloudy | St. Louis | 74 | 60 | rain |
| Los Angeles | 62 | 49 | rain | Washington, DC | 73 | 47 | pt sunny |
| Miami | 84 | 69 | mst sunny | | | | |

Moon Phases



UV Index

| Thu 4/22 | Fri 4/23 | Sat 4/24 | Sun 4/25 | Mon 4/26 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High | Very High |

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-20-21-35-37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-4-1-1. Sum It Up: 8

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

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Megaplier" game were: 4

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NBA playoffs: Kobe pace Lakers past OKC

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant had been waiting for a breakout game, the kind of high-scoring effort he's made his reputation on. He got it just in time.

Playing with a broken finger, sore knee and bum ankle, Bryant scored 39 points, carrying the Lakers in the fourth quarter when they lost the lead three times, and Los Angeles beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 95-92 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

"What did Mark Twain say? Rumors of my demise or whatever," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, who predicted before the game that Bryant would strongly return to form.

Bryant was 13 of 15 from the free throw line, but just 12 of 28 from the floor in front of his dad Joe, who sat next to the Lakers' bench.

"My free throws felt good," Bryant said. "I put in a lot, a lot of work over the last month fine-tuning my stroke and trying to get it back to being consistent."

Beforehand, Jackson said he wanted Bryant to shoot better or take fewer shots. The NBA finals MVP made just 30 percent of his shots over his previous five games, having missed four of the final five of the regular season and hearing all the doubters.

"After 13 years, you'd think they'd know better," Bryant said.

Bryant ran off eight straight points the first time the Lakers fell behind by one, with

the referees turning a 3-pointer into a 2-pointer that put them back in front by three.

"He made the tough shots. He got to the free throw line and that's what great players do," said Kevin Durant, who led the Thunder with 32 points but had eight turnovers.

Russell Westbrook added 19, making all eight of his free throws.

The Thunder packed the paint and disrupted Lakers' big men Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum, who had combined for 32 points and 25 rebounds in Game 1.

This time, Gasol had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Bynum six points and 10 boards for the defending champions, who failed to sustain their strong start for the second straight game.

"That was about as well as we can play and we came up a little short," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "Two games in a row we gave the effort defensively. We're still trying to figure out how to win these close games."

Game 3 is Thursday in Oklahoma City. The Lakers are 39-1 all-time when winning the first two games of a best-of-seven series.

"That place is going to be rocking and rolling," Bryant said. "The last time we were there they did a number on us."

The Thunder's defense kept them in the game, with 17 blocked shots. Serge Ibaka had seven, with six other players getting at least one.

"Our effort was phenom-

enal, how hard we played on the defensive end," Durant said. "A lot of people didn't even think we could play with these guys."

Boston 106 Miami 77

BOSTON (AP) — Even without Kevin Garnett, the Boston Celtics beat the Miami Heat.

Easily. With the good-humored but hard-playing Glen Davis filling in while the Celtics' emotional leader served a one-game suspension, Boston rolled to a 106-77 victory Tuesday night that Miami coach Erik Spoelstra called "embarrassing."

It gave the Celtics a 2-0 lead in their playoff series and Davis a chance to reprise the nickname he hung on himself last year when he replaced the injured Garnett — known as the "Big Ticket" — in all 14 playoff games.

"The 'Ticket Stub' came," Davis said. "Whenever they need the 'Ticket Stub,' he'll be there."

Davis had 23 points and eight rebounds, and Ray Allen heated up in the third quarter and scored 25 points. Dwyane Wade led the Heat with 29.

With Garnett serving a suspension for elbowing Quentin Richardson in Game 1, Davis started and went aggressively to the basket to grab missed shots and draw fouls.

"That's a case of one man impacting the game simply with his effort. I don't think they ran one play for him,"

Spoelstra said. "You cannot let a man's effort exceed yours. It's as simple as that."

The Heat took a 29-25 lead on a dunk by Jermaine O'Neal. But the Celtics used a 44-8 surge over the next 16½ minutes to go ahead 69-37 with 5:38 left in the third quarter, capped by one of Allen's five 3-pointers in the period.

"Once the ball started moving and we started getting multiple stops, we were off and running," Boston coach Doc Rivers said.

The Celtics led by 25 to 33 points the rest of the way. "Once we opened up Glen Davis (offensively), I thought they started to sink in a little bit more and it opened up Ray," Paul Pierce said.

Game 3 is Friday night in Miami.

"This is an embarrassing loss," Spoelstra said. "It is one loss. It is not four losses and what we can control right now is getting our minds right and taking care of the most important game on Friday."

Tempers stayed under control throughout the game, just three days after a skirmish with 40 seconds left in Boston's 85-76 victory led to Garnett's suspension without pay and Richardson's \$25,000 fine. Garnett was hovering over Pierce, who had fallen near the Miami bench after hurting his shoulder.

Garnett held off Richardson as he came up from behind. They then exchanged words before the elbow hit the Heat forward in the face.

Garnett wasn't allowed in

TD Garden, but made a pre-recorded appearance on the scoreboard above midcourt during a timeout after the Celtics scored 19 straight points to take a 44-29 lead with 2:56 left in the first half.

Phoenix 119 Portland 90

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns finally broke away from the methodical style of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Boy, did they break away. Jason Richardson scored 29 points, Grant Hill made 10-of-11 shots for 20, and the Suns routed the Blazers 119-90 Tuesday night to emphatically tie the first-round playoff series 1-1.

"The game just went by fast," Portland's Andre Miller said.

"They hit us with the transition game. That's what they've been doing all year."

When the mercurial Richardson has a night like this, his team almost always wins. Phoenix is 27-4 this season when he scores at least 20.

Richardson could concentrate on scoring after being freed from the chore of guarding Miller. Coach Alvin Gentry turned to the 37-year-old Hill, and Miller managed just 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting after getting 31 in Portland's 105-100 victory in Game 1.

"I just tried to make him work," Hill said. "He's a great player and I have a lot of respect for him. We're close in age. He just had an off night tonight and I expect him to play better in Game 3."

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

That's all we can do." The Bulldogettes return to action Friday at Grape Creek. Game

time is 4 p.m.

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| Coahoma | 000 000 000 |
| 000 0-0 4 2 | |
| W — Carrico; L — Newton; 2B — Carrico; Johnson; SB — Daniel, Par-tusch; CS — Johnson, Neff. | |

Bulldogs clinch playoffs with win

COAHOMA — It wasn't exactly a walk-off home run, but it was just as dramatic.

Keaton Martin hit a triple in the bottom of the seventh inning, then came home on a throwing error to give the Coahoma Bulldogs a 2-1 victory over Wall

in District 5-2A baseball action here Tuesday night.

Martin's blast glanced off a fielder's glove, which allowed him to stretch his hit into a triple. When the throw to third was wild, however, Martin was able to race home to end the game.

Lane Douglas provided the Bulldogs' other

run with a home run in the second inning.

The victory clinches a spot in the Class 2A playoffs for Coahoma, which improved its district record to 6-2 and is tied for second place in league play.

"Obviously, making the playoffs is a good deal for us," Coahoma Coach Shane Fuller said. "But we have high expectations here, so we expect to make the playoffs."

Pitcher Ray Gutierrez had a sterling effort on the mound for Coahoma, striking out 14 and walking two while allowing five hits to notch

the complete-game victory.

"He pitched really well once he started relying on his fastball," Fuller said of Gutierrez. "He got in trouble early with his off-speed stuff. He needs to throw his fastball to be really effective. He's got good stuff and can beat anybody when he's on."

The Bulldogs return to action today at 4 p.m. when they play a makeup game at Colorado City, then travel to Grape Creek Friday for a 4 p.m. game.

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| Wall | 000 100 0-1 |
| Coahoma | 010 000 1-2 |

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



American Profile
Bargains await at multistate yard sales

Bargains by the mile

Yard sales, garage sales and flea markets are an American phenomenon rooted in the economic downturn of the 1930s. These days, bargain hunting these sales can often lead you across state lines. Plus mind over matter and grilled chicken.

AmericanProfile

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Handy Defensive Device

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ J 9 5
 ♥ 10 9 3
 ♦ K Q J 5 3
 ♣ A K

WEST
 ♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ J 8 7 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ J 8 6 5 3

EAST
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ K 6 4
 ♦ A 8 7 2
 ♣ 9 7 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 10 8 4
 ♥ A Q 5
 ♦ 10 9 6
 ♣ Q 10

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

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Through the years, many conventions have been devised to help the defenders learn about each other's hands. One of these conventions, perhaps not as well known as some of the others, is the trump echo.

Today's hand illustrates the value of this convention. South is in four spades, and West leads his singleton diamond. East wins the trick with the ace and, diagnosing the situation correctly, returns the eight of diamonds, trumped by West with the three of spades.

West shifts to a heart, and South takes East's king with the ace. Declarer crosses to dummy with a club and leads the jack of spades. East puts up the ace, West following with the deuce. East then returns another diamond, which West ruffs with the six, and the contract is defeated.

Simple enough, but without the guiding light furnished by the trump echo, East might not have found the winning defense. The echo — West's play of the three of spades followed later by the deuce — indicated that he started with three trumps. East therefore knew that West could ruff another diamond, so he had nothing to think about.

But what if there were no such convention as the trump echo? In that case, East would have had a difficult problem to solve, and he might easily have gone wrong. He would have had to guess whether declarer started with five or six spades.

If South did have six spades originally, a diamond return would be futile, since West would have no more trumps. Then only a heart return, in the hope that West had the queen, would offer any chance of defeating the contract.

Problems of this sort are solved very nicely by the trump echo.

Tomorrow: You don't need a slide rule.
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FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

munities are known for their schools” and that she has “a vested interest in the community.” She said it is “time for Big Spring to be known for its schools.”

Hamby said she believes changes confronting Big Spring schools are “exciting” as “the leading edge gets created” and she would like to be directly involved with the budget, policies, plans and goals of the school district.

District 5’s third candidate, Jeremy Blount, was brief, simply introducing himself as a lifelong resident, married with two children. Retired from the military, he said he has seen the need for new schools.

“I just want to serve our community like I served our country,” he said, adding that he wanted the opportunity to be a part of the future of Big Spring and the school system.

Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees, At-Large

There are five candidates for two at-large seats up for election on the Coahoma ISD board but only one person made an appearance Tuesday night.

Ashley Niblett, Wilson Systems employee, said he believes his work history and civic background make him a good choice to serve on the board of trustees.

“I’d like to help out with the education of our children,” said Niblett, whose daughter is a student in the Coahoma school system.

Big Spring City Council, District 5

Incumbent Troy Tompkins, like several others, was relatively brief — candidates were limited to just five minutes anyway — despite listing an extensive, 12-year involvement in the community, to include Rotary, Boy Scouts of America, the Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Permian Basin Honor Scholarship Foundation Board and more, as well as past member of various other organizations.

He said he was born and raised in Big Spring and has lived in the Kentwood addition all his life.

“I was responsible for bringing the Settles Hotel project to Big Spring,” he told the group and he said he works “tirelessly” in the effort to see it completed.

“One of the things that I think helps qualify me and has prepared me to serve on the council is my extensive work on boards of directors working with other people to get things done, working with executive directors ...” he said.

Tompkins’ opponent, former Department of Public Safety Trooper Craig Olson, said he is running for office because Big Spring needs new direction.

“This city is in much need of dramatic infrastructure action. It is my firm belief that the actions should be done immediately... It will not be any less expensive a year, five years or 10 years from now.”

He said he was in agreement with Mayor Russ McEwen that “65 percent of our citizens are considered underprivileged; however, I would submit to you the remaining 35 percent cannot be tending to the support the 100 percent without addressing the spending habits of the city. My election to the council will begin that process.”

Big Spring Mayor

Candidate Tommy Duncan at first opened with platitudes for Mayor McEwen, then drew a chuckle with a brief joke. “The Mayor and I have had several conversations and neither of us has ever seen Shannon’s birth certificate,” he said, in jest toward fellow candidate Shannon Thomason.

But despite saying the city had progressed under McEwen, Duncan charged the current council with being fiscally irresponsible.

“We have to get on a responsible path for fiscal management,” he told the crowd. As an example, he pointed to the council’s desire to consider a water park to replace the aging city pool, which has been closed for a number of reasons.

Duncan said he advocated diverting

money to build a water park toward repairing or replacing the pool at “a lesser cost and utilizing the remainder of those funds to begin paying off our bond debt.”

He said it is time to “live within our means” and allow citizens to continue their standard of living and businesses an opportunity for growth “and we can’t do that with ever-increasing tax rates.”

The retired CEO for the detentional services branch of the South Central Region of the Bureau of Prisons said people coming to Big Spring ask three questions. “Your property taxes are what? Your water tastes like what? And how far is it to Midland?”

Shannon Thomason directed his attention to Big Spring’s well-known reputation of poor quality drinking water....

“Sixty-five percent of our population is below the poverty level,” he said. “I dare say most of the people in this room are in the other 35 percent. It is incredulous we are thinking about building a water park when the people who can’t afford it are having to drink the current water.”

Thomason asked attorney Josh Hamby to come out of the crowd to help him with a demonstration and though Hamby was obviously reluctant, he did. Thomason presented him with a bottle of water, saying that in the television show “Fear Factor” people are offered money to drink “unsavory” water and foods. Identifying the bottle as containing Big Spring tap water, Thomason said he would donate \$20 to Hamby’s favorite charity if he would drink it. Hamby replied “Well yeah, I’ll do it” but then asked “What is it?”

“Tap water,” said Thomason. “Straight out of the tap.”

“At your house?” Hamby asked. “Yes,” said Thomason, who told him it came from the shower head.

Thomason then asked if he would take \$50, then \$100, and finally declared Hamby would drink it, “but it took \$100 to get him to do it,” said Thomason.

The candidate told the crowd he had heard of people developing serious

illness because of the water and that doctors had said people should not drink or bathe in the water.

Thomason, a pilot for a private company, also said he is in favor of “freezing municipal taxes for seniors and disabled, anybody on a fixed income.”

McEwen, the incumbent, stressed the city’s accomplishments while he has been mayor (since 2000), citing the city’s no-smoking ordinance, narcotics division with the police department, the recently completed youth sports facility, 21 miles of water line replacement, improvements at the municipal golf course and noted the city fund balance has grown from \$400,000 to \$8.5 million.

He said the city is considering a water park instead of repairing or building a new pool because other communities with water parks have been able to operate the facility in the black. “We have never been able to operate our pool in the black,” he told the group. He said the reason the council was planning to build the water park using certificates of obligation instead of taking it to the voters through a bond issue was “We would be able to provide a water park for our kids one year earlier.”

He cited his lobbying when the CARES commission was holding hearings on closing the Big Spring Veterans Association Hospital — he advocated not only keeping it open but expanding services — as well as his efforts to revitalize downtown Big Spring as positives for the future.

“If I have a fault as your mayor it is optimism and a proactive agenda,” he said. “All my life I have heard if we had been more aggressive way back when, we would be the largest community in West Texas. We missed that opportunity. We can’t make that mistake again.”

The fourth candidate for mayor of the city of Big Spring, Oscar Velasco, was not present at the forum, which was moderated by David Justice, president of the Chamber of Commerce board.

SUIT

Continued from Page 1A

“As a result, Jacob Burcham sustained fatal injuries resulting in his death.

“In allowing the decedent to operate the vehicle in question with actual awareness that the anti-locking braking system was not functioning in a safe manner as

set forth herein, and the extreme risk of harm or death associated therewith.”

Burcham’s body was discovered by a motorist during the early morning hours, according to Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Matt Munsel, who handled the investigation at the scene of the accident.

“A witness came upon the accident this morn-

ing and called for help, but no one actually saw the accident happen,” said Munsel the morning of the accident. “It appears the driver failed to negotiate the curve in the road. He was traveling at a high rate of speed when the truck left the roadway and rolled. It’s unclear how many times the truck rolled, but as you can see, the damage was catastrophic.”

Munsel said there were no indications weather conditions played a role in the wreck.

“With no witnesses to what happened, it’s really hard to say what caused the wreck,” Munsel said at the time. “In the course of my investigation I found no evidence weather conditions played any roll in the accident.”

The truck was carrying crude oil, according

to law enforcement officials at the scene. Vacuum trucks out of Pecos were called in to clean up the spill caused by the accident.

The lawsuit, which requests a trial by jury, asks for “exemplary damages in an amount the jury deems reasonable under the circumstances.”

Toro Operating Company is being represented by Shafer, Davis,

O’Leary and Stoker, a law firm based out of Odessa.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

process, I feel like we’ll have a very accurate idea what running the jail is going to cost,” said Barr. “We’ll be looking at staffing costs, utilities, pretty much everything that goes into keeping the facility running.

“I feel like we’ve done a really good job of projecting the costs of the

jail. Maintenance has run quite a bit less than we had expected, but we haven’t run into any big surprises as far as costs are concerned with the jail.”

Barr said County Auditor Jackie Olson is expected to present a report on the current status of county coffers, after which the commissioners will meet with the justices of the peace.

“It’s basically the same

process we go through each year,” said Barr. “We’ll meet with the JPs Thursday to see what they need in the coming year, and each workshop we’ll meet with various department heads to see what their needs are. We’ll keep working that way until the 2010-2011

budget is ready.”

The meeting is set to get under way at 1 p.m. Thursday in the commissioner’s court room, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, call 264-2202.

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

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Red Sox earn 7-6 comeback win vs. Texas

BOSTON (AP) — Darnell McDonald spent the day in Boston, hanging out just in case he was needed. A few hours later, he saved the Red Sox from another embarrassing loss.

McDonald, called up from the minors earlier in the day, hit a pinch-hit two-run homer in the eighth inning to tie the game and won it with an RBI single in the ninth to lift the struggling Red Sox to a 7-6 comeback win over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

"I don't care how we did it. We desperately needed to win a game," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

"We hung in there and won a game that we definitely needed to win," he added.

The Red Sox snapped a five-game losing streak despite allowing the Rangers to steal a club record nine bases. Texas has dropped five straight.

McDonald, 31, signed as a minor league free agent on Nov. 24, finished last season with Cincinnati and was a non-roster invitee to the Red Sox camp.

"I couldn't write a script any better than this," he said.

"A lot happened. A dream come true. That's why I signed over here to be able to play in this type of atmosphere," he added.

He was the first Red Sox player to homer in his initial plate appearance since Orlando Cabrera did it on Aug. 1, 2004, at Minnesota.

Kevin Youkilis opened the ninth with an infield hit off the body of Frank Francisco (2-3), advanced on a passed ball and was sacrificed to third by Bill Hall.

After Mike Lowell was intentionally walked and Adrian Beltre popped to first, Jason Varitek then walked on four pitches before McDonald lifted a fly ball that scrapped the Green Monster just over the leap of Josh Hamilton.

He was mobbed in short left field as the Rangers trotted off.

"They got me pretty good out there," he said, still beaming.

Nelson Cruz and Elvis Andrus each had three of Texas' club record nine stolen bases as the Rangers opened a 6-1 lead after five innings.

"We didn't figure out a way to shut the game down," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

Jonathan Papelbon (1-1) pitched a hitless ninth for the win.

The Rangers swiped all nine against knuckleballer Tim Wakefield and catcher Victor Martinez.

"I was just concentrating on throwing strikes and wasn't keeping an eye on the running game, which showed, they stole nine bases off me," Wakefield said. "I know it'll get better."

Texas stole one in the first, five in the third and two in the fourth. Cruz set the club record with his third of the game, swiping third in the fifth.

"If we got one base, of course, we were going

to run — a knuckleball, tough to handle," Washington said.

Josh Reddick, recalled earlier in the day from Triple-A, had a two-run double for Boston, cutting the deficit to 6-4 in the sixth.

The Rangers were 18 for 18 in stolen-base attempts against the Red Sox last season.

The previous club record was eight, set against Boston in Arlington, Tx. last August 15.

Cruz started the Rangers' running game in the first when he had an RBI single to make it 1-0 and followed by stealing second.

Martinez's RBI single in the first tied the game. Boston had gone 0 for its last 32 with runners in scoring position.

Texas set a club record for steals in an inning with five in the third. Hamilton's grounder scored Andrus to make it 2-1. Andrus walked leading off, then stole second and third. Vlad-

mir Guerrero had a pair of stolen bases and Cruz the other in the inning.

Julio Barbon's RBI single triggered a three-run fourth. Joaquin Arios scored on a wild pitch and Michael Young added a run-scoring single, making it 5-1.

Before the inning, Martinez threw the ball into center field while warming up Wakefield. He also threw it past the pitcher in the fifth inning.

Boston's catchers have thrown out just one of 31 runners this season.

The nine steals allowed matched the most by Boston since Oct. 3, 1913.

Hamilton overran Reddick's fly ball down the line; that fell in for a double to make it 6-4 in the sixth. The ball appeared to bounce back into play off a fan.

"I just misplayed it," he said.

Rangers starter Colby Lewis allowed three runs on five hits in five innings. Wakefield gave

up six runs on seven hits in six innings.

NOTES: Cruz left the game in the ninth with a cramp in his left hamstring. ... The Red Sox put outfielders Mike Cameron (strained abdominal muscle) and Jacoby Ellsbury (bruised chest) on the 15-day DL before the game. They recalled Reddick and selected McDonald from Triple-A Pawtucket. Wakefield surpassed Cy Young to move into second place on the Red Sox all-time list with more than 2,729 innings pitched.

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ANSWERS

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

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APRIL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Governor Rick Perry designated April 2010 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in Texas. Victim Services joins rape crisis centers across the state in commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to promote awareness and encourage support of this issue.

According to a 2003 study conducted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, approximately 1.9 million Texans have been sexually victimized.

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men are victims of Sexual Assault.
- Most victims are sexual assaulted by someone they know.
- Less than 20% of sexual assaults are ever reported to the police.
- Sexual assault is never the victim's fault.

Last year our agency served a total of 68 Victims of Sexual Assault:
50 were child victims 39 Primary and 11 Secondary
18 were adult victims 14 Primary and 4 Secondary

Sexual violence is a persistent and pervasive problem in our society, one that requires attention year-round. In order to foster healthy communities, all citizens of Big Spring, must support the effort to end sexual violence every month of the year.

LAST YEAR VICTIMS SERVICES SERVED:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Child Victim Of Physical Abuse | 4 |
| Child Victim Of Sexual Abuse | 50 |
| Victim of DUI/DWI | 0 |
| Victim of Domestic Violence | 203 |
| Adult Victim of Sexual Assault | 18 |
| Elder Abuse | 0 |
| Adult Molested as a Child | 4 |
| Survivors of Homicide Victim | 11 |
| Robbery | 9 |
| Aggravated Assault | 16 |
| TOTAL | 388 |

"The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victim of Crime states in their Crime Clock:"

- 2 People are murdered every hour.
- An average of 24 people are raped each hour.
- 510 people are assaulted each hour.
- 1,622 thefts are committed each hour.
- 67 women are victimized by an intimate partner every hour.
- 391 homes are burglarized every hour.
- 103 children are abused every hour.
- There are 2 alcohol-related deaths every hour.
- 1062 people are victims of identity fraud every hour.
- 157 people are stalked every hour.

RAG BALL TOURNAMENT 16 AND UNDER



DATE: ~~APRIL 17, 2010~~ **(Rescheduled for April 24, 2010)**

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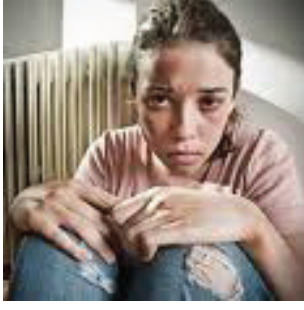
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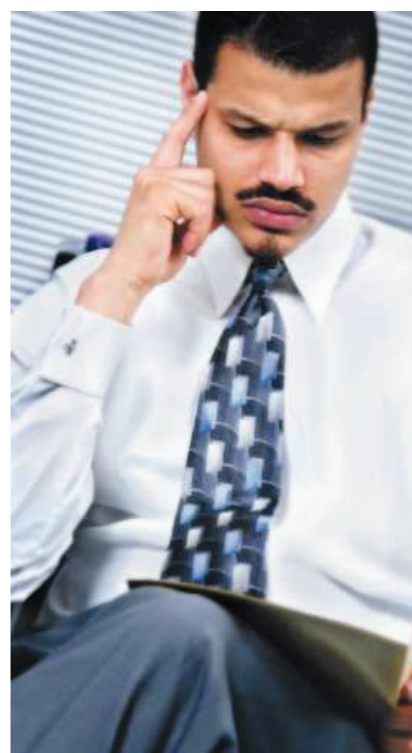
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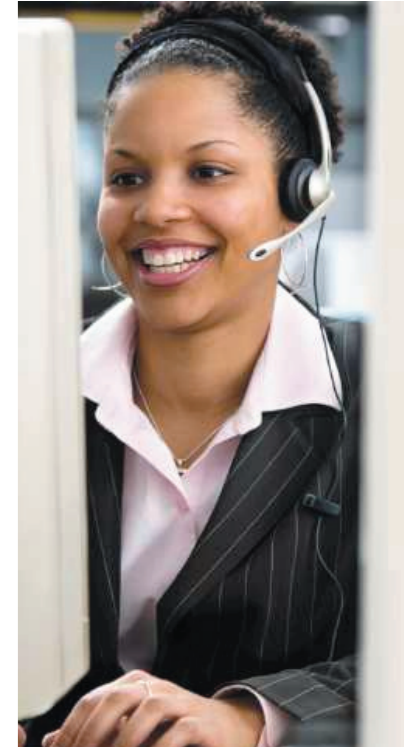



Victim Services
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Recognizing Administrative Professional's Day



Administrative Professionals Day
From: *April 21*



**Big Spring
ISD**

Thank You
To All
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Personnel

Happy Secretary's
Day

**BIG SPRING
GIN**

Thank
You
For
All
You
Do.

Happy Secretary's
Day

Thank You
Diane
&
Rachel
For All
Your Hard
Work!
-Ronnie
Big Spring Farm
Supply

Farm Bureau
Salutes

Deanie
Burdette

Rosemary
Hernandez

ALON U S A
BIG SPRING REFINERY
wants to salute
all our
administrative
assistants
for all
your hard
work
throughout
the year.
Thank You!

**87
AUTO**

SALUTES
Monica Martinez
Dolores Franco
Tasha Martinez
&
Becky Dominguez

Happy
Secretary's
Day!

Holy Trinity
Catholic Parish
Salutes
Sylvia Salazar
Isabel Escovedo
Ramona Molina
Teresa Rocha
for all their
hard work and
support
throughout
the year
Thank You.

**Harris Lumber
& Hardware, Inc.**
1515 E. FM 700
267-8206

Salutes
Donna
Coates
Office Manager

Dr. Carlos Dimidjian
Salutes
Barbara Hale
and
Cindy Billalba
for all
their
hard work
and
excellent
patient care.
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Secretary's Day!

Cus Choate Well Service, Inc.
Choate Well Service
salutes

PATTY
CHOATE

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your hardwork!

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Salutes
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Mraz
Sherry
Brock
Leslie
Imler

**City of Big Spring
Police Department**
Salutes
Judy Westbrook,
Ann Reid
And
Celeste Valle
We
Appreciate
All Your
Hard Work
Thank You
Captain Lonnie Smith
and
Big Spring Police Department

saluting
All Administrative Assistants
HERALD

Thank You
Tammy, Mindy, Sandie
& Sharon
to your loyalty and hard work!
-Sherry Wegner

Thank You
Callie
for all your **Hard Work** and
Dedication!
Love Always, James Riley

Mom,
You're the Best
Secretary in the world!
Love, Kelly
Kelly Newton Insurance Agency, Inc.

Howard County
appreciates all its secretaries
and clerks for all their
hard work and dedication
Thank You

Thank You
Linda Alexander, Cecilia Rudgins
& Candy Norman!
We Greatly Appreciate All
Your Hard Work!
-Kay Moore
Home Realtors

Thank You,
Susie Gartman
For taking care of our
Business for over
30 years!!
Gartman A/C, Heating & Plumbing

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would like to thank his staff
Court Administrator Jeanne Wilson
Deputy Court Clerk Michelle Sanchez
Deputy Court Clerk Stacey Austin
for all their hard work & dedication
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Professionals!
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Betty Gamboa (manager)
for your hard work
and dedication
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Betty Gamboa
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Justices of the Peace**
would like to thank and salute
our clerks for all their hard work.
Kay Hulse,
Judge Wiseman's Clerk,
Linda Hoffman,
Judge Dobb's Clerk,
and
Norma Garcia & Patti Hedges,
Judge Green's Clerks

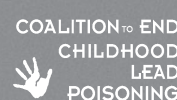
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All Your
Hard Work
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Lorrie Grantham
for a
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Mayoral debate should be a very interesting event

A mayoral debate, which organizers hope will educate voters in preparation for the Big Spring election on May 8, is set for Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Cactus Room of the Howard College Student Union Building.

All four candidates — Mayor Russ McEwen and challengers Tommy Duncan, Shannon Thomason and Oscar Velasco — are expected to participate in the debate.

According to debate coordinator Dana Baker, area residents that have submitted questions they would like to see posed to the panel of candidates. Officials with the Republican and Democratic parties helped organizers sort through the submissions and form them into questions for the candidates.

The debate's moderator will be Michael Quinn Sullivan, president and CEO of Empower Texans and Texans for Fiscal Responsibility.

The debate is being coordinated by volunteers within the community, Baker said, to help voters make an informed decision during the May election.

"I just felt like we need to give the candidates a chance to speak out on what they feel is important to the community, as well as give the people that will be casting the ballots a voice in the matter," Baker said. "The candidates will be given time to answer the submitted questions, as well as discuss each others' responses."

What's more, Baker said the candidates won't be allowed to see the questions ahead of time, and that "should be an excellent chance to see how much they know about the issues that are weighing on the minds of Big Spring voters."

We can't help but agree. We'll certainly see how well they think on their feet, anyway.

Suffice it to say, Thursday should be an interesting evening.

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

With You, Lord, we can move on from our past mistakes.

Amen

Using the OKC bombing

Monday was the anniversary of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that left 149 men and women — most of them federal workers — and 19 children dead. As is his habit, former President Bill Clinton used the occasion to bash his critics.

In a New York Times opinion piece, "What We Learned in Oklahoma City," Clinton placed the blame on Americans who have advocated smaller government.

The terrorists — bomber Timothy McVeigh and his accomplices — who targeted the Murrah Federal Building, he wrote, "took to the ultimate extreme an idea advocated in the months and years before the bombing by an increasingly vocal minority: the belief that the greatest threat to American freedom is our government, and that public servants do not protect our freedoms, but abuse them."

When a former president seizes such a tragedy for partisan purposes, it is no wonder a new Pew Research poll found that a modest 22 percent of voters say they trust Washington to do the

right thing most of the time.

Clinton wrote that while criticism is "part of the lifeblood of democracy ... we should remember that there is a big difference between criticizing a policy or a politician and demonizing the government that guarantees our freedom and public servants who enforce our laws."

What I want to know is: Other than the twisted McVeigh and company, who is not clear on this difference?

Does Clinton think his all his critics are stupid, or is he playing stupid?

But wait, there's more. Clinton continued, "We must all assume responsibility for our words and actions before they enter a vast echo chamber and reach those both serious and delirious, connected and unhinged."

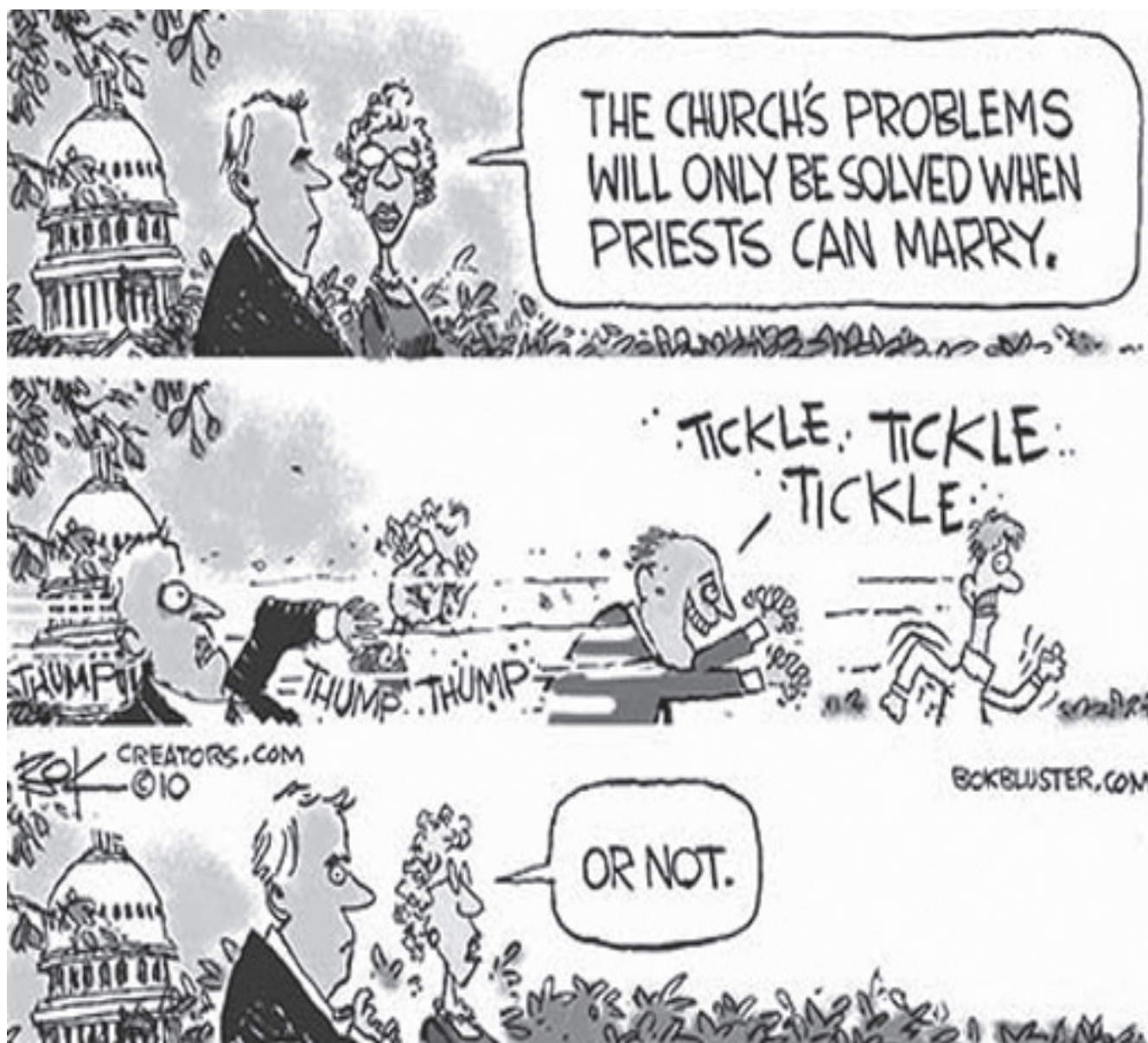
Think about that for a minute: If anyone were to cast blame for the Fort Hood shootings that left 13 dead, or any other attacks within American military bases, on the antiwar movement, then that assertion would be followed by howls of outrage, and deservedly so.

It would be absurd to suggest that opposition to the war be misconstrued as promoting violence against U.S. troops.

Yet somehow arguing against President Obama's health care plan can be construed as practically an incitement to violence.



DEBRA SAUNDERS



Throw away your to-go cup!

I've just returned from my trip to Italy, and I'm trying to find the words to describe the experience. I suspect it may take several columns to cover all the inspirations and insights gleaned from my travels.

My first conclusion is that you must feel Italy — not merely see it. Indeed, there are many sights to see. But if you rush around trying to see as many as possible during your brief visit, you will miss the most important experience of all — cappuccino.

I fell in love with cappuccino while in Italy. Perhaps this love affair was made possible because cafés do not serve your cappuccino in a to-go cup. No, the only way to truly enjoy a soothing cup of cappuccino — and the café owners know this — is in a small china cup. This requires you to stop and sit or stand still while you drink.

Relishing my many cappuccino encounters allowed me to think about how I was feeling. And I loved how I felt as I slowly sipped — not wanting my cup to empty too fast. I felt calm, attentive, refreshed and happy. I felt an appreciation and an awareness of the moment I've never

felt before.

Italy and cappuccino were teaching me what it means to "live in the moment." No longer were these just words that sounded like a good idea. Indeed, before I came to Italy, putting those words into practice was sometimes harder than it sounded.

Even the tour guide in Bologna emphasized the importance of feeling what we were seeing. She said what was important was to notice how we felt in each church — each an example of a distinct architectural style and time in history.

She said, too, that each church represented a different understanding of man's relationship to God. In one church, she said, we can feel the man entering with his head down waiting for a better life after death. In another church, she said, we can feel man looking upward with hope of a better life that is possible right now.

One of my friends questioned our tour guide about the name of a church we had just toured. And the tour guide said its name didn't matter — wanting us to think only about how it made us feel. And so I did.

Life doesn't pass us by, my friends. But I think we can pass life by if we walk too fast. In Italy I learned to slow down. Actually, this isn't something I learned so much as it just hap-

pened as I focused on and appreciated each moment. I took a deep breath with every step, and I couldn't help but walk more slowly.

I remember a line from a favorite country song: "I'm in a hurry and don't know why." But I do know why I'm no longer in a hurry! Living six days in Italy was enough to help me really understand why. Life happens in the moments. And each moment is precious and longing to please us, love us, comfort us, engage us, if only we slow down and allow ourselves to feel and experience each moment. I will not forget this lesson now that I'm home. I don't want to ever miss "feeling" a moment of life again!

To make sure I don't, I'm ordering everything I need to make cappuccino — with an Italian brand moka, milk foamer and espresso. Somehow, I think making and having a delicious cup of cappuccino before I start each day will help me remember what is most important. And from now on, when I'm out and about and want a cappuccino, I plan to go into the coffee shops and sit down instead of going through the drive-throughs. No more to-go cups for me!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com

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► News briefs

Air controllers in Germany say all restrictions for the country's airspace are now lifted

BERLIN (AP) — Air controllers in Germany say that all restrictions for the country's airspace have been lifted.

Deutsche Flugsicherung said Wednesday that the current weather situation allowed it to completely reopen the airspace above Germany — among Europe's busiest in normal situations.

A statement from the agency said the concentration of volcano ash in the sky "considerably decreased and will continue to dwindle because of the weather conditions."

All German airports, including Frankfurt International, a key global hub, are expected to operate normally by the end of the day, it said.

Americans see U.S. autos topping Asian competitors

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a long romance with foreign rivals, America's love affair with the automobile is returning to its roots with a revived affection for U.S.-made cars.

Slightly more Americans now say the United States makes better-quality vehicles than Asia does, with 38 percent saying U.S. cars are best and 33 percent preferring autos made by Asian companies, according to an Associated Press-GfK Poll.

The survey suggests those numbers are largely fueled by a plunge in Toyota's reputation and an upsurge in Ford's. The poll was conducted in March, as Toyota was being roiled by nightmarish publicity over its recall of more than 8 million vehicles around the globe and allegations that it responded sluggishly to safety concerns.

Though the U.S. advantage is modest, it marks a significant turnabout for American automakers battered by recession and relentless competition from foreign manufacturers. When the same question was asked in a December 2006 AP-AOL poll, 46 percent said Asian countries made superior cars, while just 29 percent preferred American vehicles, reflecting a perception of U.S. automotive inferiority that began taking hold about three decades ago.

GM CEO Whitacre to visit Fairfax plant, possibly to announce investments in Detroit, Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — General Motors Co. is preparing major investments at its plants in Detroit and Kansas City, Kan. — the latest signal of a potential turnaround for the automaker.

Wednesday's expected announcement by CEO Ed Whitacre at the company's Fairfax Assembly Plant in Kansas City comes a day after the company confirmed it has repaid the \$8.1 billion in loans it received from the U.S. and Canadian governments.

The loan payback to the U.S. government comes five years ahead of schedule, and Whitacre said it is a sign GM is on its way toward reducing government ownership of the company.

Obama has begun talks with potential Supreme Court nominees

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing forward with one of his most consequential decisions, President Barack Obama has begun informal talks with potential nominees for the Supreme Court. And now he is reaching out to the senators who will control the confirmation fight ahead.

Obama was to meet Wednesday with the top Democrat and Republican in the Senate, along with leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as he launches a period of political protocol that comes with each high court nomination. The White House says the point is for Obama to get advice from the senators on how to proceed and even ideas of people to consider.

**Why not check this out?
At the Howard County Library**

Last week I was in San Antonio attending the Texas Library Association's annual convention. There were scads and scads of new books to see, vendors to visit with and programs to attend. One in particular that I attended was on how libraries (and librarians) self-censor what materials are purchased for the library. The speaker felt that we should purchase each and every book that a patron asked for, but I disagreed. If you want to know more, stop by and we can discuss it. Here are some new books for you to check out.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

From the series "The Dresden File," comes Harry Dresden's story. In "Small Favor" (SF BUT J) written by Jim Butcher, Harry's life seems to have calmed down. As Chicago's only professional wizard, lately the worst case he has had to work on is trying to remove stains from his carpet. However, past cases cast a long shadow. An old bargain places Harry in debt to the monarch of the Winter Court of Sidhe. This traps Harry between two equally hard places that will strain his skills and loyalties to the limit. We have several of his books, so if you like this one, try the others.

Published in 2007, Anita Shreve's "Body Surfing" (F SHR A) is the story of Sydney, who has already been divorced and widowed by the age of 29. Trying to regain her footing, she accepts a job as a tutor for the Edwards family in New Hampshire. No sooner than she is settled in, Ben and Jeff Edwards (adult sons) appear and soon are vying for her love. As the summer wears on, old secrets are slowly being exposed and Sydney's life does, too.

Again, while not a new book, Dean Koontz's "Your Heart Belongs to Me" (F KOO D) is still an excellent read. Ryan Perry at age 34 has it all, a fabulous job, girlfriend and his health. Within a period of weeks, one of those is gone. Diagnosed with incurable cardiomyopathy, Ryan needs a heart. A year later, Ryan is back on the top of his game as a recipient of a new heart. Yet, chilling messages begin to arrive. Heart candy, a heart pendant and a graphic video of actual heart surgery with a message that "your heart belongs to me." Come check it out to see who is stalking Ryan.

I am not familiar with Louise Penny as this is the first mystery we have received in print form. Taking place in Three Pines in Quebec, Canada, a stranger is murdered in the local bistro and no one is talking. The main character is Chief Inspector Gamache and along with his team, he is called upon to strip back layers of lies and rancid secrets. Again, I haven't read it, but the book flap makes it sound good.

Faye Kellerman is also an excellent mystery writer. Her husband is Jonathan Kellerman and I think one of their sons is also a writer. In "The Mercedes Coffin" (M KEL F), LAPD Detective Peter Decker and his wife Rina Lazarus are pulled into a spellbinding thriller. Billionaire genius Genoa Greeves is devastated when her favorite teacher, Bennett — "Dr. Ben" — Alston Little is found dead, stuffed into the trunk of his Mercedes. His murder is never solved. Fifteen years later,

music producer Primo Ekerling is found in much the same way. With no direct link, Greeves offers the LAPD a substantial amount of money to solve the case. That case is thrown to Peter to solve. Calling on the detectives who worked the case years before, one will talk and one won't. Decker plunges into the case and it twists and turns in amazing ways. It is an enjoyable book.

As one of the staff members was working this weekend, she was amazed at the amount of juvenile non-fiction books that were being checked out. Johnny, the reference guy, had weeded about 4,000 old and tired juvenile non-fiction over last summer and the replacement books are here. Johnny had also written two grant proposals and last week the news came that the library received a \$2,500 Texas Book Festival grant to be used to complete the juvenile non-fiction area. With this money, we are able to complete the juvenile non-fiction upgrade in one year, rather the three-year time frame originally planned. Bring the kids down to see what we have.

Be sure and check with circulation staff for your login and password. The new computer program will let you check your record from home, renew books online and to place holds on materials. When looking at the catalog online, be sure to click on Howard County Library on the left side of the screen (if you need to). When you look up a specific book, it checks all of the libraries in the West Texas Library System. You need to be sure and check to see if the Howard County Library has it.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday and 10 to 2 Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing and on Saturdays it is closed from 12-1. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working; our e-mail address is hollise@hotmail.com

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The human maturation process is funny. Though we gather hundreds of new bits of information every day of our lives, that doesn't necessarily make us smarter. The concept will be well illustrated today, when the playful Leo moon casts a natural spotlight on children and those who think like them. Creativity trumps knowledge.

ARIES (March 21-April

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19). You want to be involved with a certain person, although what this person really needs is a caretaker. Take a step back. Is that what you really want? Be mindful of your boundaries.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A friend is more attached to you than you realize and may behave in a possessive or overly sensitive manner. You could find yourself tiptoeing around in order to avoid hurting this person's feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A minor eruption of emotion this morning may be a bit messy, but it's nothing too destructive. Do something about it quickly, and the rest of your day is positively dreamy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your emotional and material environments will get a lift — though you'll have to start the ball rolling with your actions. Tidy up your

own loose ends and clutter, and loved ones will follow your lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your appreciation will be felt, even if you don't make a big show of it. But if you do effervesce, the effort will encourage those around you to do even more for you next time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're so imaginative and filled with visions of your ideal future. Someone from planet Earth will try to bring you back down to the ground tonight. Reality is pretty good, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Life is an adventure, not an ordeal — although sometimes the only way to tell those two apart is by observing the person who is going through it. Your attitude determines the level of fun you can reach.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A person who means well will throw a wrench in the works. The element of unpredictability will be good for you, and so will the delay this causes. This person's positive intentions will, in the end, produce a happy result.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your

sympathy for someone is so strong that it turns into empathy, and then suddenly you can feel the other person's pain. But it's not really yours to feel. Stay within your own emotional limits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be inspired to maintain a healthy perspective about the material world and your possessions. People are always more important than "stuff." You'll put the feelings of your loved ones first.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll mix things up. People around you are smiling because they are intrigued. What will you do next? And even when the trick doesn't work out as planned, your banter will be brilliant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The roadblocks on the path to romance are not big problems. They're more like a dozen daily habits that don't exactly engender closeness or excitement. Seize playful moments, and make the most of them.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21). This year you learn that wishful thinking really can come true, as long as it's followed by faithful action. You'll take the

necessary steps to launch a project, and by July, you'll be making money at it. There's a love connection that makes you feel wealthy in many ways. You'll hear the words you've longed for in June. Pisces and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 12, 4 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've been married for 10 years, and I do not believe in divorce. But there are days when I can't stand my spouse and it's all I can do to be in the same room without cursing under my breath. I don't think we need to go to counseling or anything like that, because we only clash about 10 percent of the time. It has been suggested by one of my good friends that it's not normal for people to dislike a marriage partner as much as I dislike mine. What do you think? I'm a Scorpio, and my partner is a Taurus."

You may not think you need marriage counseling, but it could be helpful for you to talk to a professional on your own to air out some of your strong feelings. Scorpions like you are notoriously private and

can do denial like no one else. Managing passionate emotions is a Scorpio specialty, but it's just not healthy to keep those toxic feelings and opinions inside. And confiding in your friends can be less effective than sorting things out with a trained professional. Even though you think this is no big deal, it will benefit you to bring your issues to light in a safe and supportive environment.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Barbra Streisand exemplifies Taurus talent. Taurus rules the throat, and many excellent singers have the sign of the bull featured prominently in their astrological charts. Streisand not only has her sun in Taurus, but she also has the communication planet Mercury there, as well as Saturn and Uranus. Her moon is in Leo, the sign of the entertainer, and her natal Venus is in soulful Pisces.

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. © 2010 CREATORS.COM



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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I'm 24 years old and confused. I have been in an on-and-off relationship with the same woman for the past eight years.

A year ago, I discovered "Samantha" had been having extended, all-night conversations with "Andrew," the same guy she cheated on me with in high school.

I was so hurt that I broke off our relationship. We got back together a few months later, but during the break, I got involved with "Ava."

Ava recently had a baby boy and told me I might be the father. I have asked for a DNA test, but in the meantime, I've become really attached to the child and told Ava she can call on me any time.

Even if the baby is not mine, I would still want to be part of his life. The other potential candidate for fatherhood changed his phone number and moved out of town.

No child should grow up without a father. Am

I wrong to want to be a father to this boy even though I'm back with Samantha now? — *A Man with a Good Heart*

Dear Man: Becoming a father to another woman's child could profoundly change the relationship you have with Samantha.

If the child is biologically yours, you have a legal obligation to care for him. If you are not the father, it is kind and generous of you to want to be part of his life, and we hope you will be.

But if you intend to stay with Samantha, we recommend you let her be part of the decision. Otherwise, you may have to choose between them.

Dear Annie: My sister, "Crissy," has been

married eight years and has two young children and a third on the way.

The problem is, Crissy bombards the entire family with pictures of her kids.

I have two kids, and my brother has three. We all live in close proximity and see each other often.

The only gifts Crissy ever gives anyone are huge, framed photographs of her children. It has become a family joke.

My mom has complained to me that she has run out of room to put up all the pictures of Crissy's children that she sends every birthday, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Annie, is it in good taste to constantly give framed photos of your family to others and expect them to display them in their homes to the point that it is intrusive? We love Crissy and her kids, but we are

— *Running Out of Room*

Dear Running: You do not have to display every large photograph Crissy gives you.

Exhibit the most current one, and put the others in a box or scan them into your computer.

If Crissy asks where the pictures went, simply tell her you don't have the space to display all of her photographs, although you'd love to have the pictures without the frames.

She may be relieved. It's expensive to keep doing this.

Dear Readers: Today is Administrative Professionals Day. If you have assistants who make your job easier, let them know how much they are appreciated.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2010 CREATORS.COM

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Courtesy photo
These Grady High School students are bound for the Regional academic contest in Levelland.

Grady students headed to region academic meet

Grady High School has qualified a number of students to participate in the Conference 1A Regional University Interscholastic League Academic Meet.

The meet will be held Friday at South Plains College in Levelland. Competitors from Grady and their events include:

Current Issues & Events: 1. Team- Chris Struab, Christian Medina, Tyler Matthews, Cody Mitchell. Individual- 1. Chris Struab,

2. Christian Medina, 4. Tyler Matthews, 5. Cody Mitchell.

Spelling & Vocabulary: 1. Team- Max Kennady, Peter Unger, Jack Kennady, Sam Harryman. Individual- 1. Max Kennady, 2. Peter Unger, 3. Jack Kennady, 4. Sam Harryman.

Social Studies: 1. Team- Max Kennady, Sam Harryman, Gerry Adkins, Chris Struab. Individual- 1. Max Kennady, 2. Sam Harryman. Computer Applica-

tions: 3. Maxwell Kennady.

Persuasive Speaking: 3. Cody Mitchell.

Poetry: 2. Charmynee Arnold.

Prose: 3. Morgan McDonald.

Mathematics: 2. Dylan Cox.

Number Sense: 2. Zane Robinson

Editorial Writing: 1. Jackelina Martens, 3. John Ramirez.

Feature Writing: 3. Jackelina Martens.

Ready Writing: 3. Gerry Adkins.

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1A

to pose to the candidates during the debate.

"Tonight, the Republican and Democratic chairmen will sort through the questions and choose which ones will be posed during the debate. The candidates will not be seeing them ahead of time. Also, our moderator for the debate, Michael Quinn Sullivan, is preparing several questions of

his own, so I think this will be very informative for the public."

Sullivan — president and CEO of Empower Texans and Texans for Fiscal Responsibility — is a former newspaper reporter, Capitol Hill staffer and think-tank vice president who recently garnered praise from the Fort Worth Star Telegram for his work during the most recent legislative session.

"I spoke to Mr. Sullivan via e-mail today, and all of his arrangements have been made," said Baker. "We're

very excited to have him participating in the debate. I also checked out some of the questions he's posed at other debates he's participated in, and I feel he'll be a welcome addition to what we're trying to accomplish."

The debate is being coordinated by volunteers within the community, according to Baker, to help voters make an informed decision during the May election.

"I just felt like we need to give the candidates a chance to speak out on what they feel is important to the

community, as well as give the people who will be casting the ballots a voice in the matter," Baker said. "The candidates will be given time to answer the submitted questions, as well as discuss each others' responses."

Baker said officials with the city of Big Spring have agreed to video tape the debate, as well, and plan to run it on cable Channel 17.

"I'm sure there are folks out there that will be unable to attend because they have to work or have other pressing matters," said Baker.



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