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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
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VOLUME 105, NUMBER 200 COPYRIGHT 2010

## Proposed city budget sees lower tax rate

*Though an increase in water rates can be expected, officials tell council*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Get it right the first time. That's exactly what the Big Spring city administration did with the proposed 2010-2011 budget during Tuesday night's work session, as council members praised the

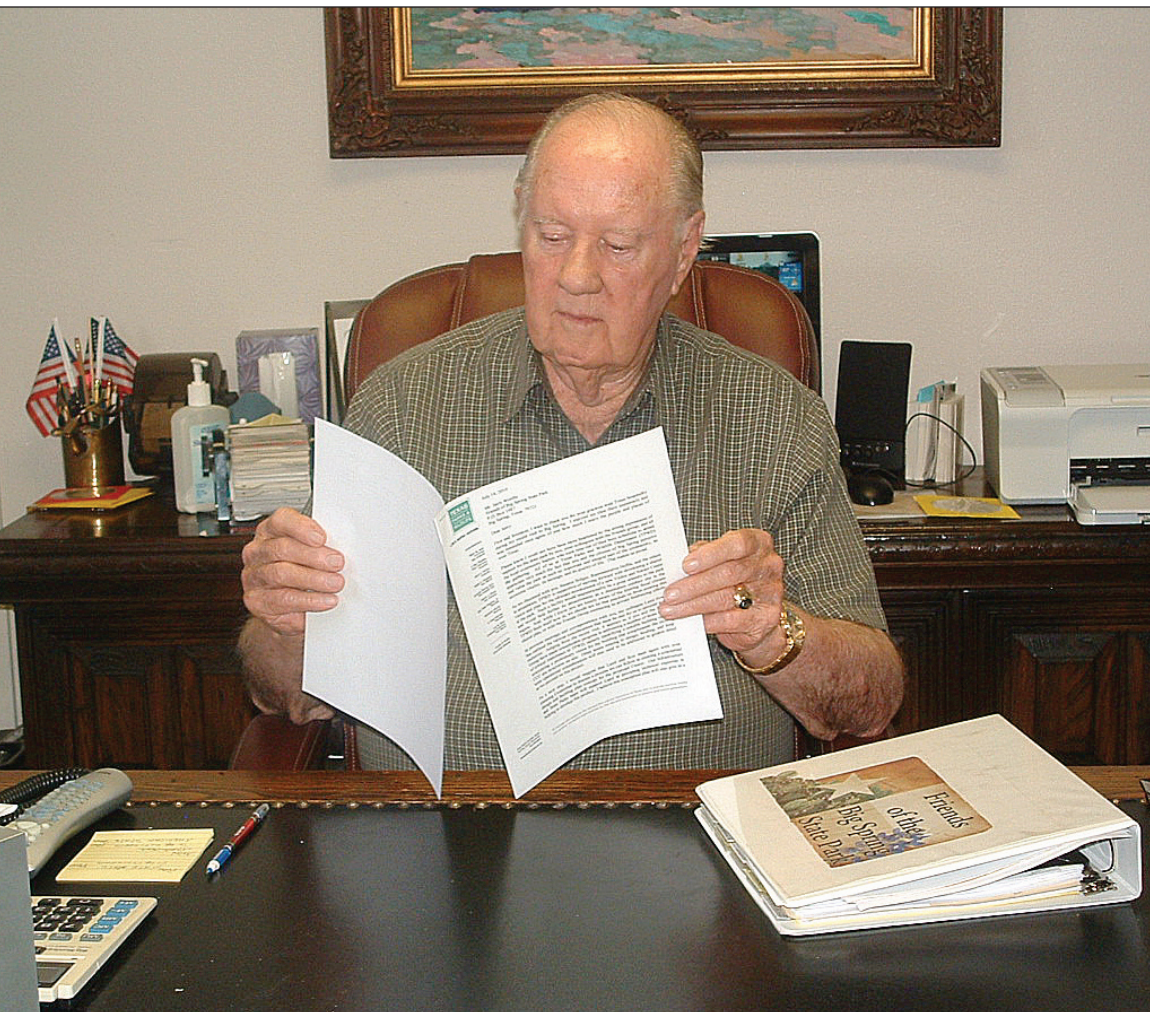
city staff for a fiscal plan that will bring the tax rate below \$1 per \$100 valuation. In an informal polling of the council members, the government panel gave the fiscal plan a thumbs up Tuesday night. The budget is based on a tax rate of \$0.9995 per \$100 valuation — down 1.34743

cents from the current tax rate of \$1.01 — the fiscal plan is expected to serve the city's needs for the coming year, but on a very tight margin, according to Fuqua. "I feel very good about it right now. As I mentioned to the council, I couldn't have done it without the staff,"

Fuqua said. "We made some substantial cuts. We set a goal from the very beginning to get our tax rate below \$1 and we want to start looking at bringing that down for our taxpayers. However, we also wanted to be able to give our employees raises, and that really presented a challenge. The coun-

cil told us they supported the raises, but we needed to find a place to get the money from. So we made some substantial cuts. We can still provide the same service, but we'll have to watch our budgets very closely. There may be a little

See **CITY**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Jerry Worthy, chairman of the Friends of the State Park, reads a letter from Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, expressing support for a proposed nature center at Big Spring State Park.

## Sans financial aid, state pledges help with center

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

Financial aid might not be forthcoming, but state officials have promised a helping hand to efforts to bring a nature center to Big Spring State Park.

For the past several months, the Friends of the State Park has been actively seeking local and state support for the proposed facility, which group members say would in-

crease visitation to the park in general and Howard County as a whole. Plans drawn up by the group call for a 5,000 square foot center at the southwestern portion of the park. Projected cost of the facility is \$560,000, according to Jerry Worthy, chairman of the Friends of the State Park committee.

See **CENTER**, Page 3A

## Term limits advocated by mayor

*Council to consider city charter changes*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring voters could likely be headed to the polls in 2011 to vote on a number of changes to the city's charter, as members of the city council agreed Tuesday night to begin efforts to bring the municipal document into the 21st Century.

The matter was brought before the governing body by newly elected Mayor Tommy Duncan, who told the council and audience he feels the city could benefit from a number of changes to the charter.

"I have been looking over the current city charter and discussing it with City Attorney Linda Sjogren," Duncan told the council. "She indicated there are some things within the charter that are outdated and need to be brought up to current legal standards of the state."

Sjogren said she's found a number of articles in the charter that contradict existing state laws.

"These are just a few of the

*"I think it's important council members have the opportunity to serve, then other members of our community have the chance to come in and provide their expertise."*



Mayor Tommy Duncan

things I've found, so there are probably more," Sjogren said. "One of the problems is with a provision we have set at 30 days and state law requires six months. I understand City Finance Director Peggy Walker has a problem with the way the depository contract has to be renewed every year, and that's a burden for the city. Most of them are just little housekeeping errors, and there are probably others."

See **CHARTER**, Page 3A

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

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 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

## Texas, feds wait turns in Jeffs cases

**JENNIFER DOBNER**  
 Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah Supreme Court decision that overturns polygamous church leader Warren Jeffs' 2007 criminal conviction won't automatically make him a free man. Even if Utah doesn't retry him, Texas and federal prosecutors are waiting to move forward with their own cases. Justices on Tuesday unanimously said Jeffs should get a new trial be-

cause state attorneys overreached in their argument that performing the marriage of a 14-year-old girl to her 19-year-old cousin amounted to facilitating a rape.

Utah officials now have two weeks to seek a rehearing before the state's high court and then a month to decide if they'll retry the 54-year-old head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on charges of first-degree felony rape as an accomplice.

Authorities in Texas are trying to get him sent there to face charges in connection with his own alleged marriages to underage sect girls in 2005. A federal indictment stemming from Jeffs' stint as a fugitive on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list is also pending.

"He would not go free," said Melodie Rydalch, spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Utah.

See **JEFFS**, Page 3A

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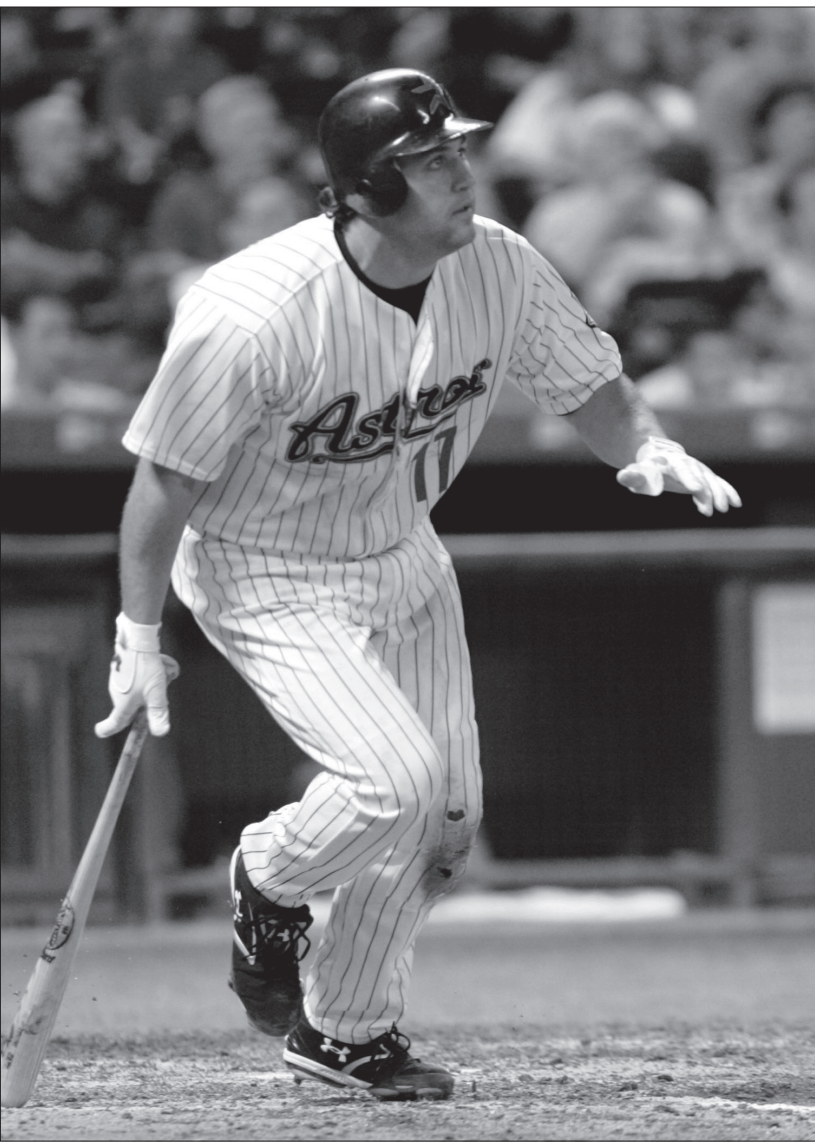
**"Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark"**

**Saturday, July 31st**

**Comanche Trail Amphitheater**



# Berkman slam beats Cubs 6-1



AP Image

The Astros' Lance Berkman helped Houston to a win against the Cubs on Tuesday with a grand slam in the seventh.

HOUSTON (AP) — Brett Myers has pitched so well all season that Houston Astros manager Brad Mills couldn't say if the right-hander's complete game Tuesday night was his best work of the year.

Lance Berkman hit his first grand slam since 2008 to beat Myers and the Astros beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1.

It is the 10th career complete game for Myers (8-6) and his first since May. He allowed four hits and struck out a career high-tying 12 batters.

Myers extended his club record for consecutive starts of at least six innings to begin a season to 21 with his performance.

"Wow. It's tough to separate them. You just can't," Mills said when asked if Tuesday's outing was Myers' most impressive this season.

Berkman's fifth career grand slam came in Houston's six-run seventh inning with the team leading 2-0. The slam, his first since Aug. 12, 2008, sailed over the bullpen and landed in the stands behind it in right-center field.

Berkman has struggled this season after having ar-

throscopic surgery on his left knee in March and is hitting .240. He said starting the season with the surgery has made things difficult.

"I think whenever you have a surgery right at the beginning of the season, miss all spring training and then try to come back two weeks in, you're always going to be a little bit behind," he said. "So I knew that coming in. I'd done it before and ... it's not the way you want to do it, but you can still be productive, particularly late in the season when you start to get your legs under you a little bit."

Myers retired the first nine batters he faced before giving up a double to Tyler Colvin to start the fourth inning. Myers walked Marlon Byrd with no outs in the fifth inning before retiring the next eight batters. Byrd singled with two outs in the seventh inning, but Alfonso Soriano grounded out to end that inning. Myers threw a perfect eighth inning.

He didn't allow a run until Colvin, a rookie, hit a solo homer to right field in the ninth. It was his 16th homer of the season. Myers gave

up a single to Starlin Castro before striking out the next three batters to end the game.

Myers didn't want to reflect on if this game was his best this season.

"I don't try to look too much into it," he said. "We won. That's all I can really talk about. It was a good win for the team and we needed the win. I am happy that we all contributed."

Andrew Cashner (1-4) hit Humberto Quintero on the shoulder to a pitch with no outs in the seventh. Jason Bourgeois came in as a pinch runner, stole second base and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Myers. Cashner intentionally walked Michael Bourn before Bourgeois scored on a bunt by Angel Sanchez when Cashner's throw to catcher Koyie Hill was a split second late to make it 1-0.

Houston pushed the lead to 2-0 when Hunter Pence drove in Bourn with a grounder to right field. Carlos Lee walked before Cashner hit Jeff Keppinger with a pitch to load the bases and set up Berk-

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

# Rangers beat A's on Cruz's two-run blast

ARLINGTON (AP) — Nelson Cruz made Cliff Lee feel better about a no-decision.

Cruz's two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th lifted Texas to a 3-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night after Lee struck out a career-high 13 and scattered five hits in a nine-inning effort that failed to produce his 100th career win.

"It's too bad we couldn't get (Lee) the win, but the team got the win and that's all that matters," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

With the game tied at 1,

Josh Hamilton drew a one-out walk off Michael Wertz (2-2) and Cruz followed by lofting a 1-1 pitch high into the left field seats.

The AL West Rangers improved to 9-3 since the All-Star break.

Lee is 1-1 with two no-decisions in his four starts since he was acquired by Texas in a trade with Seattle on July 9.

The Rangers have scored only nine runs in Lee's four starts.

"It felt good, especially the way we've been playing lately and the way Cliff Lee threw

the ball," Cruz said after his second career game-ending homer. "It's crazy we haven't scored more runs for him. Hopefully we'll turn it around for his next start."

Lee had the most strikeouts for the Rangers since Aaron Sele's 13 on Aug. 12, 1999, against Detroit. Lee didn't walk a batter and has issued only seven walks in 17 starts this season.

Oakland advanced a runner to third with two outs in the 10th, but Neftali Feliz (2-2) struck out pinch-hitter Cliff Pennington.

The A's only run against Lee was unearned in the sixth with the help of a two-base error on second baseman Ian Kinsler.

Lee has lasted at least eight innings in eight straight starts, the longest streak in the majors since Toronto's Pat Hentgen had 12 in a row in 1996.

A's starter Gio Gonzalez allowed eight baserunners in the first four innings, then retired the final six he faced before leaving after six innings and 111 pitches. Gonzalez gave up one run and five hits,

struck out six and walked three.

"It was definitely a pitcher's duel from the start to the finish," Lee said. "Fortunately Nelson put a good swing on one there at the end and it went out of the park, so it was good to see."

Wuertz said the home-run pitch was "a slider that didn't slide so much. He did what good hitters do. It came at the wrong time but it's part of the game. I thought when he first hit it, it was way out, then it

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

# AP Sources: Bengals reach 1-year deal with Terrell Owens

CINCINNATI (AP) — A year after they were featured on HBO's "Hard Knocks," the Bengals have scripted their own reality show.

T.O. and Ocho. Two self-conscious stars, one NFL team.

How will they fit? How will it work? Which receiver will provide most of the drama?

And, more importantly, will any of it help the Bengals get back to the playoffs?

The Bengals reached a contract agreement with receiver Terrell Owens on Tuesday, two

**"Ocho Uno is coming 2 town!! Hey Robin, Batman will b there soon!"**

Terrell Owens via Twitter, Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver

persons familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. He's expected to report to training camp in a day or two and sign a one-year deal that will pay him \$2 million with a chance for an additional \$2 million in bonuses.

The Bengals were his first choice, giving him a chance to team with close friend Chad Ochocinco, who has al-

ready dubbed the pair Batman and Robin. The Bengals made an offer on Monday, and Owens accepted a day later.

Players are required to report for the start of training camp on Wednesday in Georgetown, Ky. Owens is expected to show up when workouts begin on Thursday, said one person speaking on condition of anonymity

because the team had made no announcement of the signing.

On his Twitter account, Owens replied to Ochocinco Tuesday: "Ocho Uno is coming 2 town!! Hey Robin, Batman will b there soon!" He's expected to sign his deal when he arrives in Georgetown.

Already, it's like something out of a reality show.

Ochocinco gushed about the matchup on his Twitter feed, welcoming Owens and joking that "all of our games have been moved to pay-per-view, you got to pay to see this."

Both of the look-at-me receivers are accustomed to cable.

By adding the 36-year-old Owens, the Bengals will lead the NFL in reality show stars. Ochocinco competed on "Dancing With the Stars" in the offseason, and has a dating show called "Ochocinco: The Ultimate Catch"

currently running on VH1. After Ochocinco's show comes "The T.O. Show."

Ochocinco's last show involved eliminating two contestants. Owens' last program had him walking down a runway as part of a fashion show in metrosexual attire — bare chest under an open jacket with a huge necklace and a wig.

In a couple of days, it will be the dancer-and-dater on one side of the field, the metrosexual model on the other.

See **OWENS**, Page 2B

## Sports in brief

### Youth Basketball Tournament

The 2010 San Antonio Youth Basketball Championships will take place Aug. 6 through 8. This tournament is for boys and girls, third through 12th grade. Visit [www.otcybc.com](http://www.otcybc.com), e-mail [rising-stars07@yahoo.com](mailto:rising-stars07@yahoo.com) or call (979) 417-3721 for more information.

### Co-ed Softball Tournament

There will be a co-ed softball tournament Aug. 7 in Ozona. The entry fee is \$125 per team and the deadline to enter is Aug. 2. There will be prizes for first, second and third place winners. For more information call Chris at 325-763-6630 or e-mail him at [CARDENAS\\_CHRIS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CARDENAS_CHRIS@YAHOO.COM).

### Big Spring Football Season Tickets

Get season tickets at the ATC. Previous season ticket holders can purchase tickets from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting

July 26 and ending Aug. 9. General public ticket sales are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting Aug. 10 and ending Aug. 18. The cost is \$25 dollars per ticket book, which includes five home games. The last day to purchase will be Aug. 18. Any questions should be directed toward Kay Cook at 264-3662.

### Athletic Physical Exams Notice

Athletic physical exams are required by the University Interscholastic League for all athletes entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades. This also includes any new person to athletics who has never completed a physical exam. Forms can be picked up at the Athletic Training Center. Once completed, the physical form must be turned in to coach Campbell in the training room or to Kay Cook, the athletic secretary. Prior to Aug. 2, equipment will not be checked out until physical is complete and on file in the training room. For more information, call 264-3662.

### Over 80 Scramble

The Big Spring Country Club invites everyone to participate in its over 80 scramble on Aug. 14 and 15. It benefits the Big Spring Shirne Club. Combined ages of the 2-person team must be 80 or higher. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. There is a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. Entry includes barbecue on the course both days. For more information call the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

### City Golf Championship

Any Howard County resident and anyone who is currently an annual member at the Big Spring Country Club or at the Comanche Trail Golf Course can play.

The event takes place July 31 and Aug. 1. and the entry fee is \$40. The entry fee does not include the cart.

Call the Comanche Trail Pro Shop 264-2366 for complete details.

## Obituaries

### Marjorie Elam Hollingsworth

Marjorie Elam Hollingsworth, 90, of Big Spring died Friday, July 23, 2010, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born July 3, 1920, in Groesbeck, Texas, and married Robert Clyde Hollingsworth on Jan. 19, 1941, in Gregg County, Texas. He preceded her in death Feb. 20, 1985.

Marjorie grew up in Savoy, Texas, graduating from Savoy High School and moved to Big Spring in 1956 from Kilgore. She worked as a realtor for a number of years before working with her husband at his certified public accounting office. She enjoyed playing bridge and played for many years.

She was a member of First Christian Church. Survivors include two daughters, Bobbye Deel and husband Corkey of Big Spring, and Dell Hollingsworth and husband Paul Raffeld of Austin; a special friend, John Arista of Big Spring; her sister-in-law, Jayne Estes of Grand Prairie; two granddaughters, Tere Robitaille and husband Sgt. 1st Class Steve Robitaille of Harker Heights, and Kim Vincent and husband Malcolm of Midland; and three great-grandchildren, Morgan Vincent and Miles Vincent, both of Midland, and Lyndi Robitaille of Harker Heights.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, John and Alberta Elam; and one brother, John Elam.

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

*Paid obituary*

### Esteban M. Martinez Jr.

Esteban M. Martinez Jr., 66, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Galveston. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m.

Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Aug. 23, 1943, in Alice, Texas, to Julia and Esteban Martinez Sr. He married Sara Juarez on March 17, 1987, whom he called "his baby doll." He moved to Big Spring in 1987 from Midland. He had sold cars at Sewell Ford and had been a DJ for KWEL Radio.

His favorite hobby was music and had been in several bands and church groups. He was a truck driver and had owned Martinez Transport. He and his wife had also owned Nana's Kitchen. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Sara, the love of his life, of Big Spring; three daughters, Jacinda Martinez of the home, Jessica Hernandez of Big Spring and Veronica Bustillos of Fort Worth; four sons, Esteban Martinez III and wife Lucy, and Rudy Martinez, all of Midland, Roberto Martinez and wife Jessica of Stanton, and Marcelo Hernandez of Big Spring; mother, Julia Martinez of San Antonio; mother-in-law, Dora Juarez of Big Spring; one brother, Guillermo "William" and wife Sylvia of Midland; two sisters, Amelia Hernandez and husband Ceasario of Midland, and Maria Emma Silva and husband Ismael of San Antonio; mother of his children, Irene Flores of Dallas; one aunt, Concita Martinez of Alice; 15 grandchildren, Joshua Bustillos, Bianna Utley, Aylssa Martinez, Angel Martinez, Sydney Martinez, Daliha Martinez, Stephanie Martinez, Sernia Martinez, Aaron Pena, Fay Pena, Gage Delbosquez, Alina Hernandez, Sebastian Hernandez, Marissa Hernandez and Gabby Hernandez; eight great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Roberto Martinez, Raul Martinez, Steve Martinez, Marcelo Hernandez, Joshua Bustilio, Adrian Martinez, Morris Hernandez and Guillermo Martinez Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

*Paid obituary*

### Fabris A. Moore

Fabris A. Moore, 92, of Big Spring died Monday, July 26, 2010, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel with Eddy Pitchford, minister of Coahoma Church of Christ, and Clark Johnson officiating. Interment will follow at Loraine Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at the funeral home.

She was born July 16, 1918, in Marion, La., and married J.W. Moore on July 13, 1935, in Sweetwater. He preceded her in death June 12, 1998. Fabris had lived in Howard County since 1951 and was a housewife. She was a member of Coahoma Church of Christ.

Survivors include two sons, Alfred Moore of Austin and Danny Moore and wife Sherye of San Antonio; two daughters, Myrtie Lee and husband D.C. of Big Spring, and Wenona Hamilton and husband Horace of Fort Worth; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Ricki Lane Moore; her parents, Ernest Carpenter and Myrtie Jane Cooper; her stepmother, Mattie DeMoss Carpenter; two brothers and one sister.

The family suggests memorials be made to the donor's favorite charity.

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

### Billy Joe Nelson

Billy Joe "Wild Bill" Nelson, 38, died Sunday, July 25, 2010, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, July 30, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2010, at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Eleanor Burlison

Eleanor Burlison, 89, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 27, 2010, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### J.L. Wetsel Jr.

J.L. Wetsel Jr., 88, of Tarzan died Tuesday, July 27, 2010, in a Ballinger nursing home. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

### Vernon Hinsley

Vernon "Jimmy" Hinsley, 84, of Coahoma died Tuesday, July 27, 2010, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- DANIELLE RAE MIER, 20, of 1001 Bluebonnet, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft - shoplifting.
- STEPHANIE ELAINE BAKER, 30, of 2614 Ent, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, failure to report name or address change and driving while license invalid.
- BELEN OLIVAS, 33, of 1419 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on charges of hindering officers discharging official duties and failure to identify.
- THOMAS LEWIS EASON, 34, of 4700 Highway 176, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- JASON SCOTT WILLIAMS, 30, of 2509 Hunter, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ROSENDO ROBLES YANEZ, 40, of 811 Creighton, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction, failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired license plate and failure to appear (two counts).
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 46, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY was reported in the 500 block of E. 16th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Oriole.

## Sheriff

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.
- THOMAS LEWIS EASON, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- SCOTTY RAY BLAND, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole.
- STEPHANIE ELAINE BAKER, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, failure to change address and driving while license invalid.
- BELEN OLIVAS, 33, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify and interfering with a police officer discharging official duties.
- JOHN M. RAMIREZ, 43, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole - blue warrant.
- JASON WILLIAMS, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a warrant for motion to revoke probation for reckless driving.
- ROSENDO R. YANEZ, 40, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, no liability insurance, displaying an expired registration and failure to appear (two counts).
- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on 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 1000 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Oxford. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Crispy Goat Cheese Salad  
baby spinach, blueberries, red onion, herb vinaigrette \$6  
Grilled Gulf Shrimp Caprese  
tomato, fresh mozzarella & basil \$10  
Jalapeno Soup  
potato, bacon, red onion, jalapeno \$7

**Weekend Special's**  
Grilled Quail  
jalapeno cheddar grits & bbq vinaigrette  
Blue Cheese Crusted Beef Tenderloin  
Smashed Red Potatoes & Asparagus

**Entrées**  
1 lb. Bone In Rib Eye  
poblano potatoes, crispy onion, shiner bock sauce \$30  
Blackened Red Snapper  
white cheddar rice, broccoli & lemon butter sauce \$25  
Hand Made Fettuccini  
garlic marinated & grilled steak, crimini mushrooms, green onions & bleu cheese cream \$28  
Citrus Marinated Chicken Breast  
roasted thigh, garlic mashed potatoes, cajun-jalapeno creamed corn \$20  
New York Strip au Poivre  
brandy-green peppercorn, bacon-green onion-horseradish mashed potatoes, asparagus \$27

Add to your Entrée, sautéed mushrooms \$3  
sautéed onions \$2, béarnaise sauce \$4, baked potato \$3  
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Chad Nichols - Manager  
Jeanie Coor - Special Event Coordinator / Public Relations

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# New look Texas Tech on display in Irving

IRVING (AP) — Tommy Tuberville showed up to Big 12 media day wearing a suit with a red and black striped tie and a Texas Tech lapel pin. His players were equally well groomed.

That alone shows how much things have changed at Texas Tech.

Mike Leach is gone and so are his casual, wacky ways — on and off the field.

Leach ran the Red Raiders for 10 seasons marked by record passing totals but no championships. His disdain for defense and special teams, and his fascination with pirates, brought him a lot of attention because of how unique those things are for a college football coach. But when an accusation of player harassment was piled atop other difficulties with his bosses, it cost him his job and prompted a messy fight that's still not resolved.

Tuberville was hired to clean things up and to finally win a title. He's spent the last six months getting players and boosters to buy into his new way of doing things.

How different?  
His teams will pass less

and run more, perhaps down to a 60-40 split. (Yes, passing will still be the bigger number.)

Quarterbacks occasionally will take snaps directly from the center instead of lining up in a shotgun formation.

They'll punt on most fourth downs.

Defense will be emphasized.

Players are being encouraged to discuss things like winning championships and making it to the NFL.

Seriously, those are all things that weren't happening under Leach.

So it could've been jarring when Tuberville came in demanding things like being on time and not wearing earrings to practices or games. Instead, he's "made it as tough as possible, physically and mentally," and found players ready to be challenged.

"I've had not one complaint nor one player quit the team," said Tuberville, who also walked into turmoil at his two previous head coaching jobs, Mississippi and Auburn. "(Tech) is the only team out of the three that nobody quit."

At his first meeting with the team, Tuberville apologized — on behalf of his profession — for what the players endured during their bowl week. That was when Leach went from being suspended to being fired just before a hearing to see whether he could get an injunction forcing the school to let him coach in the Alamo Bowl.

"I think he wanted to reassure us that it wasn't going to end up like that for him," quarterback Taylor Potts said. "He wanted us to realize he's not in it for selfish reasons at all. He's here to win ballgames, and he wants us to win. ... He respected all of us. It was nice to hear him care about us."

Tuberville also met one-on-one with players.

"I don't know if you want to say star-struck, but it was kind of like, 'This guy was an established coach; he went undefeated (at Auburn in 2004),' said Steven Sheffield, who is battling Potts for the starting job. "The way he conducted himself, everything was just totally different: 'I've been there, done this before ..."



File photo  
**Cerbi Ritchey and the Lady Steers girls basketball team just finished up a team camp Tuesday at South Plains College in Levelland. They played against Smyer, among others, in preparation for next season.**

## OWENS

Continued from Page 1B

In the middle will be quarterback Carson Palmer, who helped bring Owens to Cincinnati. Palmer worked out with Owens in California and called coach Marvin Lewis, saying the team ought to try to sign him.

"He and Chad are going to do some great things with Carson," said Drew Rosenhaus, the agent for both receivers. "Carson Palmer had a lot to do with this deal coming together."

Bengals owner Mike Brown went along, even though he knew Owens also brings a lot of baggage. The outspoken receiver has a history of undercutting his quar-

terbacks, though he was on good behavior last season in Buffalo.

Brown doesn't mind. He has a history of providing extra chances to players who have caused trouble, allowing them to extend their careers in Bengals stripes. In the last two years, the Bengals also have signed receiver Chris Henry, running back Cedric Benson, running

back Larry Johnson and receiver Matt Jones, all of whom were let go because of off-field issues.

"Yes, people can make mistakes," Brown said at the team's preseason luncheon on Monday. "It doesn't mean that they go on the rest of their lives making mistakes. They can get their ship pointed in the right direction. This is a 36-year-old man."

## RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

caught up in the wind and died a little bit, and just got out."

In the Texas first, Michael Young drew a one-out walk and raced home ahead of Vladimir Guerrero's double. Young dislodged the ball from catcher Kurt Suzuki's glove on his slide to the plate.

Guerrero had been in a 4-for-31 slump over his previous eight games and had gone without an RBI for a season-long nine straight games.

The A's tied it at 1 in the sixth with the help of Kinsler's error. Coco Crisp singled, and took off for second on a steal attempt. Kinsler failed to cover catcher Bengie Molina's throw, and Crisp moved to third when the ball skipped

into center field. Suzuki's single drove in Crisp.

The official scorer consulted with Rangers coaches after the game, and it was determined that Kinsler was supposed to cover the base, removing an error that had been charged to Molina.

NOTES: Cruz went 2 for 5 to extend his career-best hitting streak to 15 games. ... A's DH

Jack Cust was ejected in the seventh by home plate umpire Kerwin Dantley for arguing a called third strike. ... Texas RHP Rich Harden allowed two hits over six shutout innings with 10 strikeouts against Memphis in a rehab start for Triple-A Oklahoma City on Monday night, and he could be activated off the 15-day DL (strained left gluteus muscle) by the weekend.

## ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

-man's slam. "I just didn't execute my pitches tonight, and it all started with Quintero," Cashner said. "I had him 0-2, could have put him away, and I hit him. It just kind of snowballed from there."

Cashner, had been dealing with a sore throat but said he felt fine on Tuesday, allowed two hits and six runs in 1 1-3 innings.

Rookie Chris Johnson extended his career-best hitting streak to 11 games with a single in the second inning. His streak is the longest for a Houston rookie since Chris Burke had a streak of the same length in 2005. Johnson added a single in the fifth inning.

Cubs starter Ted Lilly allowed five hits and no runs with eight strikeouts in 5 2-3 innings. He was replaced by Cashner after walking Pence and Berkman in the sixth inning. Cashner struck out Johnson to end that inning.

"My stuff was better, my command, obviously that last inning I faltered a little bit," Lilly said. "I maybe was going a little bit too fast. But I am starting to feel like my stuff is starting to come around as we get along here a little bit."

NOTES: Keppinger left Tuesday's game in the eighth inning with tightness in his lower back. ... C Geovany Soto was out of the lineup a day after leaving in the sixth inning after fouling a ball off his left foot earlier in the game. Cubs manager Lou Piniella said the bruised left foot was feeling better on Tuesday and that he was "50-50" to play.

**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

**ANSWERS**

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

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Schools of life

Traditional learning in schools has been mainly from books, but in some communities across the country, book learning is being augmented with "life lessons" by having students interact and socialize with senior citizens. Plus, collecting pencil sharpeners and honey-vanilla granola.

**AmericanProfile**

## su | do | ku

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### A Very Strange Game

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 10 4 3  
♥ J  
♦ A 7 4 2  
♣ 10 6 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ A J 8 6  
♥ K 8 7 5  
♦ K 10  
♣ A 9 5

**EAST**  
♠ K 9 7 5 2  
♥ Q 10 6 4 3  
♦ —  
♣ 8 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ —  
♥ A 9 2  
♦ Q J 9 8 6 5 3  
♣ K Q J

The bidding:  
**South** 1♦  
**West** Dble  
**North** 1♠  
**East** Dble

Opening lead — five of hearts.  
In team-of-four events, you can't tell at once how you fared in a particular deal. Regardless of how you've done at your table, the net result is known only after you compare your score with the result at your teammates' table.  
Consider West's emotions on this

deal where he doubled five diamonds and then watched declarer make the contract with an overtrick. The only trick West got was a club.  
West was naturally despondent about this result. Had he passed five diamonds, instead of doubling, he would have lost only 620 points instead of 950.  
However, West's self-esteem was restored when he learned that the bidding at the second table had gone:  
**South** 1♦  
**West** Dble  
**North** 3♦  
**East** 4♦  
6♦ Dble  
West's hopes of beating six diamonds at this table certainly were more promising than those of the West who doubled five diamonds at the other table. He was, of course, unlucky to find that his K-10 of trumps were nullified by the presence of the ace of diamonds in the North hand rather than in South's.  
So the East-West pair at the first table wound up gaining 590 points on the deal when their North-South teammates at the second table scored 1,540 for bidding and making a slam on 20 high-card points.  
Verily, bridge is at times a very strange game.

Tomorrow: A collaborative effort.  
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CITY

Continued from Page 1A

luck involved, too. But we feel very good about it right now.”

One issue wasn't resolved during the work session, however, as the city administration back-tracked on options to pay for an increase in the cost of water coming from the Colorado River Municipal Water District. Monday night, the council considered several options that called for increases in base rates and consumption rates for both residential and commercial customers.

However, during Tuesday night's work session, Fuqua asked the council to allow the city staff to look at a new tier-based system that could make the increases fair for the mu-

nicipality's customers.

“We spoke with officials from CRMWD and they have indicated they will increase our rates because they had some rate increases, and they do a pass-through to the member cities,” Fuqua said. “We're looking at how to pass those through to our citizens. There are several options, and we've looked at how it will impact the base rate and the consumption rate. One thing that was suggested to us was to look at the commercial rates because the base rates for both residential and commercial customers is the same right now. A lot of cities have different rates for each of those.”

“We have been looking at how to make the pass-through fair, and we spoke to officials from the city of San Angelo, which uses a tiered system

that goes by the size of the water line and the meter going into the establishment. So what we're going to do is start looking at that tiered system and bring back some additional options for the council to review. We're just looking to pass through the increases that are coming to us. We're not looking to make a profit or get any additional funds from it.”

The proposed budget would also provide for a sludge removal belt press and related equipment for the city's water treatment facility, a project estimated to cost approximately \$1.1 million. City officials said the addition will hopefully help the city avoid problems with the municipal water's turbidity similar to those experienced earlier in 2010.

The \$1.1 million will come

from the city's capital revolving fund, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

Also part of the 2010-2011 budget is \$500,000 earmarked for renovations at the municipal auditorium to bring the facility into ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. According to Fuqua, the money will come from the city's Conventions and Visitors Bureau's motel tax fund.

The narcotics task force developed by the Big Spring Police Department during the 2007-2008 budget session will also see an increase in funding, as the 7.321 cents from the tax rate currently devoted to the program gets bumped up to 9.15 cents.

The proposed budget also provides \$382,000 for a landfill compacting tractor. The purchase includes a \$115,000 buy-

back option after five years, according to Fuqua, and will help extend the life of the existing landfill facility for an additional two years.

The fiscal plan includes \$1.6 million currently earmarked for renovations to the Troy Hogue Law Enforcement Center, according to Fuqua, who said city officials are looking at a number of options to revamp its police station, including use of the old elementary school facility near the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

Mayor Tommy Duncan called for the cancellation of work sessions tentatively scheduled for tonight and Thursday evening in the wake of the meeting.

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

CHARTER

Continued from Page 1A

I'll be looking over it (the charter), as will the council members, before we hold a work session to address them.”

Housekeeping items aren't the only things Duncan said he'd like to see changed within the charter, telling the council he would like to see term limits set on the council seats and the mayor's seat.

“There are a couple of things I'd personally like to see put into the charter,” Duncan said. “I would like to see term limits initiated on council members. I think it's important coun-

cil members have the opportunity to serve then other members of our community have the chance to come in and provide their expertise.

“What I'd like to see is a term limit imposed on the mayor starting this past May, and term limits imposed on the council members the next election after that charter amendment. That way every council member sitting on the council now will have a full-two term opportunity to serve. After a council person or a mayor serves two terms, if they sit out two terms they will be eligible to run again and serve two more terms.”

Duncan said he'd also like to see changes to the way initiatives and referendums are handled by the mu-

nicipality.

“One of the things I'd like to see in the charter is an initiative and referendum in order to allow the citizens of Big Spring easier access to a more active role within the government,” he said. “I think there are a lot of varied ways initiatives and referendums can be placed in the charter, and the city attorney has been looking at other cities and is drafting some language that would be a starting point we can look at in a work session sometime in the near future.”

Duncan also called for clarification of the mayor's power to veto, which is currently a part of the charter, as well as the way a council member is replaced if they leave office before

their term has expired.

Any proposed changes to the city's charter must be approved by voters, according to city officials. Sjogren said she feels the matter could be ready to go to the polls in time for the May 2011 municipal elections.

The council agreed to scour the city's charter to familiarize themselves with the document and look for needed changes in preparation for a city council work session, expected to be held sometime in the coming months.

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

CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

The group recently hosted a tour of the site for the proposed center by officials with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. During that tour, group members politely, yet firmly, pressed state officials for their approval and

help with the project.

Results were mixed.

Carter Smith, TDPW executive director, was obviously enthusiastic about the proposed center, but added that current economic conditions precluded the chance for any financial aid at this time.

But other avenues of support were definitely open, Smith said earlier this month.

“A lack of funds shouldn't preclude us from helping to bring this vision to reality,” Smith said. “What we can do is lend some of our expertise to help with this project. Certainly, for the short term, we will be resource-constrained, but times will get better and will improve. What we need to do in the meantime is help lay a good

foundation for this project.”

One of Worthy's main goals, however — receiving an official state OK for the project — was achieved when he received a letter from Smith last week promising support for the project.

Although state money will not be forthcoming anytime soon, Smith promised aid in the

form of technical expertise, including architectural assistance, Worthy said.

In the meantime, the local group will continue collecting private donations to help build the center. To date, more than \$70,000 in pledges have been received, Worthy said.

Pledges and donations can be made through the Big Spring Area

Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

JEFFS

Continued from Page 1A

Any federal prosecution would likely come after cases in Utah and Texas are resolved, Rydaldch said, but in the hours after the ruling, it was unclear just how the states would proceed.

“We're going to take a look at this case anew and do a legal analysis of the ruling,” Deputy Washington County Attorney Brian Filter said. “We're going to talk to the victim and to law enforcement. What we've done from the beginning is tried to seek justice in the case, and that's what we're going to continue to do. Where that takes us, I don't know.”

In 2007, a jury convicted Jeffs on two counts of rape as an accomplice for his role in the 2001 spiritual marriage of Elissa Wall and Allen Steed.

Jeffs performed the marriage ceremony in a Caliente, Nev., motel and later counseled Wall to be obedient and give her “mind, body and soul” to her husband to make her marriage work.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of alleged sexu-

al assault, but Wall has frequently spoken publicly about the case.

During the trial and later in her book, “Stolen Innocence,” Wall said she objected to the marriage and was forced into sexual relations with her husband.

Prosecutors argued that Jeffs' abuse of his religious authority made him guilty of accomplice rape.

But in its ruling, Utah's high court said 5th District Judge James Shumate improperly rejected defense-proposed jury instructions that would have required the panel to determine that Jeffs intended for a rape to occur when he conducted the marriage.

The court also said state attorneys were wrong to equate Jeffs' actions and role as a religious leader with Steed's alleged act. Steed was charged with rape the day after Jeffs' conviction, but the case has never been resolved.

Jeffs' defense attorney Wally Bugden said the state was so invested in bringing down “an unpopular religious figure” that it relied on the wrong legal theories.

“They mixed and matched and confused the theories of accom-

plice liability, with the theories of lack of consent ... stretching, pushing the law beyond the limits of what was reasonable so that ultimately the Supreme Court agreed with us basically on every point that all of the jury instructions were wrong,” Bugden said.

At a courthouse news conference Wall called the court's ruling “emotionally devastating,” but said justice had not been served and she would find the strength to testify against Jeffs again if needed.

“This is not the end and I, by no means, am backing down,” she said. “I am still in shocked understanding that there is a huge possibility that we would do this all again and more than anything, that Warren Jeffs is possibly going to walk away.”

Assistant Utah Attorney General Laura DuPaix called the court's ruling unfortunate and said it could make it harder to prosecute people who force young girls into unwanted marriages.

The FLDS church is one of at least 11 distinct self-described Mormon fundamentalist communities that consider plu-

ral marriage an essential religious doctrine that brings exaltation in heaven.

“I don't think the ruling forecloses us continuing to go after men like Warren Jeffs and prosecuting them for their crimes, which the state considers heinous,” DuPaix said.

Tuesday's ruling also comes as Washington County authorities investigate allegations that Wall may have lied about her medical records that were used in the trial. Filter declined to comment on the status of that investigation or its impact on any decision about a future prosecution of Jeffs.

Texas authorities have charged Jeff with bigamy, sexual assault of a child and aggravated assault related to alleged marriages between Jeffs and girls ages 17 and 15 in 2005. The cases are based on information from family records gathered during a 2008 raid on a church ranch near Eldorado.

After Tuesday's rul-

ing, however, an extradition hearing in 3rd District Court was canceled because Texas' request to bring Jeffs there was based on his status as a convicted felon in custody. It will now have to be refiled in 5th District Court.

Jeffs will oppose extradition, Bugden said.

Wall said she has not been contacted by Texas authorities cases, but said she is hopeful that the lack of accomplice liability issues in those cases will make it “easier for them to have a conviction stick.”

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**EXP. 7/31/10**

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Chester D. Urban, 90, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Sunday (August 1) at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Esteban M. Martinez, Jr., 66, died Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Galveston. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Andrella Perez, 76, died Saturday, July 24, 2010. A funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Iglesia Bautista Central with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Vernon "Jimmy" Hinsley, 84, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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**  
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**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Making mistakes is something we like to admit here

We blew it! And believe us, having to admit making a mistake in an editorial is definitely a bitter pill to swallow. But the fact remains we used a couple of incorrect dates in Sunday's editorial about Leadership Big Spring.

We're not sure why, or how we could have made such a mistake, but we certainly used the wrong dates for both the start of the program and the deadline for registering.

What is correct, however, is that it's time to apply for one of the most impressive programs the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce provides our community.

While a great many of us are familiar with the Leadership Big Spring program, designed to familiarize future community leaders with various assets and institutions in our community, some may not.

The program, which teaches leadership skills through a series of courses and tasks, is also older than many people might realize, according to Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

A new class of the Leadership Big Spring program — the 27th — will begin Aug. 12 at the Dora Roberts Community Center's Lake Room.

Chamber officials are currently accepting applications for the class, giving local citizens until July 30 to sign up for the program.

The class has evolved over the years, according to ValVerde. Participants are now asked to be a part of the community by going to local government and school board meetings, and are asked for their input from what they see and what they have gotten out of the meeting.

They also tour agricultural sites, all the county's medical facilities, educational agencies, industries, local attractions and city and county agencies. They will also go through the Boy Scouts COPES Course which, ValVerde says, really bonds the group.

ValVerde said the program not only teaches it's class members how to lead, but how to have a positive impact on the community.

Each year members of the Leadership Big Spring class embark on a community project by either funding it themselves or by seeking donations from sponsors, providing experience in getting other people and businesses involved in supporting worthwhile projects.

The program's cost is \$400 per person for Chamber members in good standing and \$600 for non-Chamber residents wanting to take part in the class. Those tuition fees include transportation for tours, meals, a leadership skills book and information.

Applications are available at the Chamber office located 215 W. Third. In addition, interested persons can call the Chamber at 263-7641.

We encourage all interested citizens to take part in the program, but remember, the class is limited to 25 people, so be sure to get those applications in as soon as possible.

We believe you'll be glad you did, because in the long run, you'll be better for it and so will our community.

## 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

We feel Your Heavenly touch, Lord, when We trust in You.

Amen

# Wake-up call for buried heads

Whenever I write about Latin America, I'm amazed by the responses I get from some readers, especially those who claim not to care about what's happening in our own backyard.

Like ostriches burying their heads in the sand, they don't even want to know about issues that affect them.

Some complain about the influx of undocumented immigrants, but they don't care about the reasons many people are driven to come here. Some worry about the violence coming northbound across the Mexican border, but not about the guns going southbound and fueling the bloodshed. Others criticize Latin America's drug production, but not North America's drug consumption. And others think of themselves as guardians of freedom and human rights, but not when those rights are violated south of the U.S. border. Ignorance is bliss!

Yet now that someone is threatening to dig into their pockets by making us Americans pay much more at the gas pump, perhaps they'll begin to care.

When Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez threatened to cut off oil sales to the United States Sunday, the socialist despot sent us a huge reality check.

Venezuela is our fifth-largest oil supplier. If that spigot suddenly were shut off, there is no doubt we would see a huge spike in our gas prices.

Chavez has been trying to get our attention for years. He even came to New York and told the United Nations that then-President George W. Bush was the devil. But many of us refused to pay attention or to take his diatribe very seriously.

Yet now that he has been caught with his hands in the cookie jar — harboring Colombian terrorists in Venezuelan

territory — Chavez is trying to divert attention by threatening a potential economic war against the United States.

Talk of possible military conflict between Venezuela and Colombia has been simmering for years. Colombia has been receiving U.S. taxpayer funds for its war against drug-trafficking/leftist guerrillas, and the Venezuelan government doesn't even try to hide its sympathy for the rebels' cause. After all, in Chavez's view, we are the evil empire and Colombia, instead of trying to protect its citizens from murdering thugs, simply is doing our bidding.

It's crazy, I know, but so is the man trying to provoke a South American war and trying to draw us in.

"If there is any armed aggression against Venezuela from Colombian territory or anywhere else supported by the Yankee empire, we ... would suspend shipments of oil to the United States," el loco Chavez said Sunday.

His declaration of an economic war against the United States followed Colombia's charges that many of the rebel leaders and some 1,500 guerrillas they are pursuing are crossing into Venezuela and taking refuge there after causing havoc in Colombia.

In an emergency meeting of the Organization of American States last Thursday, the Colombian ambassador presented videos, photos and maps pinpointing the locations of Colombian rebel camps within Venezuela.

He said that Venezuelan authorities have not acted on information given to them by Colombia and asked for the formation of an international commission to inspect the rebel bases of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in Venezuela.

Yet instead of denying that Colombian rebels are given refuge in Venezuela, the Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS only denied that there was enough evidence to prove it. And Chavez, with his back against the wall, immediately broke dip-

lomatic relations with Colombia, ordered Colombian diplomats to leave Venezuela, started foolish talk about possible conflict along the 1,200-mile border between the two countries, and threatened an oil embargo against the United States.

Refusing to be intimidated, outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, the strongest U.S. ally in Latin America, fired back in a speech Saturday, when he explained that Colombia is being attacked from rebel bases in Venezuela. "These bandits enter, do us harm and then return to a foreign country, violating the sovereignty of brother nations," Uribe said.

Although Colombia has not threatened military action and Colombian President-elect Juan Manuel Santos has made many conciliatory gestures that one would assume might improve relations between the two countries when he takes office Aug. 7, Chavez keeps implying that Colombia — propped by the United States — is itching for a military conflict.

But it's the other way around! Chavez is the one who is itching for a fight, especially against the United States. Some say he can't afford to wage an economic war against us — that Venezuela can't survive without selling oil to the United States. But Chavez doesn't care about Venezuela. He cares only about his legacy. He wants to be remembered as the man who stood against the evil empire, and he is crazy enough to do anything to get his way.

American isolationists may not believe this is serious. They may continue to bury their heads in the sand. Some even may argue that Colombia should not make a fuss about rebel attacks from foreign soil so that our gas prices will not be affected. But if there were terrorist camps getting ready to attack us from Mexico or Canada, we would not wait for the spineless OAS to send inspectors. We would bomb them first and ask questions later.

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# You can call it tasing Arizona

The Obama administration had gone to federal court to kill Arizona's new illegal-immigration law, scheduled to go into effect on Thursday. The Department of Justice argues that enforcement of the Arizona law "is pre-empted by federal law and therefore violates the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution."

Does this mean that if Team Obama prevails over Arizona, San Francisco and other sanctuary cities should prepare to go to court against the feds?

After all, the Obama brief argues that "a state may not establish its own immigration policy or enforce state laws in a manner that interferes with the federal immigration laws. The Constitution and the federal immigration laws do not permit the development of a patchwork of state and local immigration policies throughout the country."

In 1989, Ess Eff passed a sanctuary city ordinance, which prohibits city employees from working with federal immigration officials, unless required by federal law, state law or warrant.

In 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom, who is running for lieutenant

governor, announced he would not allow city "department heads or anyone associated with this city to cooperate in any way, shape or form" with Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids to arrest immigrant fugitives who had criminal records or had violated deportation orders.

Even when federal law required cooperation, San Francisco had declined. Some time around 2005, city officials determined that they would not notify federal authorities when undocumented juveniles — or criminals who simply claimed to be under 18 — were charged with felonies. Instead, the city sent serious and repeat offenders into under-supervised group homes and even flew some offenders back to their home countries.

In 2008, after the feds detained a probation officer flying an illegal immigrant to Honduras, Newsom told city workers to notify ICE when undocumented minors were arrested on felony charges, as per federal law.

But the sanctuary city policy itself stands.

Now one would think that if the Obama administration cannot brook "a patchwork of state and local immigration policies throughout the country," the U.S. Department of Justice would have sued San Francisco to end its sanctuary city program. But apparently, Team Obama objects when a state

wants to enforce the law — instead of flout it.

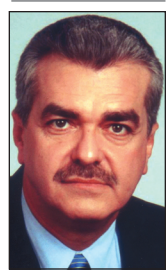
Department of Justice spokesperson Hannah August put it this way in an e-mail: "There's a difference between a state or locality saying they are not going to use their resources to enforce a federal law, as so-called sanctuary cities have done, and a state passing its own immigration policy that actively interferes with federal law. That's what Arizona did in this case, and we believe it is an unconstitutional interference with the federal government's prerogative to set and enforce immigration policy."

The DOJ has a point in arguing that the Arizona law's mandatory enforcement provision is likely to interfere with ICE's focus on deporting illegal immigrants with criminal convictions. The Washington Post reported Monday that under President Obama, deportations are on track to be 10 percent above the Bush administration's 2008 total.

Still, a patchwork is a patchwork. When a state wants to push immigration enforcement, that's interference. When cities that get federal funds choose to thwart enforcement, suddenly, it's a resource decision.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@schronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@schronicle.com).

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# Spanish region says adios to bullfighting

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Lawmakers in Catalonia outlawed bullfighting Wednesday, making it Spain's first major region to ban the deadly, centuries-old ballet between matador and beast after heated debate that pitted animal rights against a pillar of traditional culture.

Cheers broke out in the local 135-seat legislature after the speaker announced the ban had passed 68-to-55 with nine abstentions. The ban will take effect in 2012 in the northeastern coastal region whose capital is Barcelona.

Catalonia is a powerful, wealthy area with its own language and culture and a large degree of self-rule. Many in

Spain have seen the pressure here for a bullfighting ban as a further bid by Catalonia to stand out from the rest of the country.

The practical effect of the ban will be limited: Catalonia has only one functioning bullring, in Barcelona, while another disused one is being turned into a shopping mall. It stages 15 fights a year which are rarely sold out, out of a nationwide total of roughly 1,000 bouts per season.

Still, bullfighting buffs and Spanish conservatives have taken the drama very seriously, seeing a stinging anti-Spanish rebuke in the grassroots, anti-bullfighting drive which started in the region

last year.

But Joan Puigcercos, a lawmaker from a Catalan pro-independence party, insisted this was not about politics or national identity but rather "the suffering of the animal. That is the question, nothing more."

He said that even though attendance at bullfights is on the decline in Spain it would be morally wrong to sit back and just let the Spanish national pastime die a natural death.

However, the Catalan regional president, Jose Montilla, said Catalonia should have done just that — let social customs evolve to the point where bullfighting would vanish on

its own, rather than legislate an end to it and deny people's right to choose whether to go to the ring.

"I voted against the ban because I believe in freedom," Montilla said.

The result will energize animal rights groups bent on seeking bans in other regions of Spain.

"The suffering of animals in the Catalan bullrings has been abolished once and for all. It has created a precedent we hope will be replicated by other democratic Parliaments internationally, in those regions and countries where such cruel bullfights are still allowed," said Leonardo Anselmi of PROU, the

animal rights groups whose signature-collecting campaign late last year forced Catalonia's Parliament to debate and vote.

Bullfighting is also popular in Mexico, parts of South America, southern France and Portugal.

The center-right Popular Party, which is fervent about the idea of Spain as a unified country run from Madrid — and also supports bullfighting — said it will fight back against the ban here.

It will press both chambers of the Spanish Parliament to pass a law giving bullfighting a protected status that will bar regions from outlawing it.

# Why not check this out? At the library

The staff and I appreciate your patience with the lack of air-conditioning at the library last week. I am writing this column on Wednesday the 21st with a fan blowing on me, trying to get things done (one of which is this column). The basement is on a separate A/C so we take breaks in there to cool off.

Dorothea Benton Frank was born and raised on Sullivan's Island in South Carolina. While she now lives and writes in NYC, she returns to the South for many of her novels, including "Low Country Summer" (F FRA D). Frank's favorite characters are strong maternal figures along with a wayward daughter who returns home for rejuvenation. Old hurts, betrayals and dark secrets surface, along with the healing that comes. A good book to read on these hot July days.

I guess I missed the craze for the TV show, "Little House on the Prairie," because when it came on I was already in college and didn't have a television. I don't think I have ever read the books, though. For seven years, Alison Arnglim played a wretched, scheming, selfish, lying, manipulative brat on one of TV history's most beloved series. Though millions of "Little House

on the Prairie" viewers hated Nellie Oleson and her evil antics, Arnglim grew to love her character — and the freedom and confidence Nellie inspired in her. In "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch" (B ARN A), Arnglim describes growing up in Hollywood with her eccentric parents: Thor Arnglim, a talent manager to Liberace and others, whose appetite for publicity was insatiable, and legendary voice actress Norma MacMillan, who played both Gumby and Casper the Friendly Ghost.

She recalls her most cherished and often wickedly funny moments behind the scenes of "Little House": Michael Landon's "unsaintly" habit of not wearing underwear; how she and Melissa Gilbert (who played her TV nemesis, Laura Ingalls) became best friends and accidentally got drunk on rum cakes at 7-Eleven; and the only time she and Katherine MacGregor (who played Nellie's mom) appeared in public in costume, provoking a posse of elementary schoolgirls to attack them. Arnglim does not have a happy home life, as you will find out when you read the book; and there will be sections that are disturbing. It is an interesting book, but it may shatter your illusions about the show. This "blurb" is taken from the book flap.

Are you in the "sandwich" generation? Are you taking care of your parents or other loved ones? Are you having trouble finding impor-

tant records of your folks? If so, do check out Melanie Cullen's book, "Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To" (332.024 CUL M). You will have access to many pages already prepared that you can just fill in. Titled "My Planner" it begins with the words, "These pages will serve as a guide in the event of my incapacity or death. Please begin by reading the first section — Letter to Loved Ones." There is a lot to read and discuss. If you are married, widowed, divorced or whatever, and you wish to spare loved ones uncertainty as to your wishes, this is an excellent resource.

Here is a resource for winter time (or anytime, really) when you want to come home to a hot, home-cooked meal. "Slow and Easy: Fast-Fix Recipes for Your Electric Slow Cooker" (641.588 HAU N) by Natalie Haughton has some delicious-sounding recipes for even a novice cook to try. Anything from soup to casseroles to barbecue can be prepared in a slow cooker. How does a Coconut-Zucchini Cake sound? Yes, even desserts can be made using the slow cooker! If you want to cook outside, the use "The Scout's Outdoor Cookbook" (641.578 CON C) by Christine and Tom Connors. The recipes tell you how many briquettes or coals to use, the correct pot/pan to cook in, how to pre-fix dry ingredients and then simple instructions on cooking.

George E. Brown has

written a definitive guide on "The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers" (635.044 KIR T). It is not enough to get a saw or pruning shears and then start hacking (I mean, sawing) on your victim (um, "tree/shrub"). You must take care in this task as you would not want to have a hacked up, ugly tree in your front yard for all to see. This is not a Pruning for Dummies type book, but rather a serious, textbook style volume.

Still, there is some excellent information available for the amateur to take advantage of.

Ready for some science fiction? We now have volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the Forgotten Realms/Hunter's Blade series by R. A. Salvatore. Book 1 is "The Thousand Orcs" (SF SAL R); book 2 is "The Long Drow" (SF SAL R); and book 3 is "The Two Swords" (SF SAL R).

Marj Carpenter's

book: "Get Your Foot Out of the Durn Penunias: Stories From My Life" (B CAR M) is ready to check out.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main and our e-mail address is [reference@co.howard.tx.us](mailto:reference@co.howard.tx.us).

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

## Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And Criminal Law

Kerr, Ward, McLaughlin, & Myers, L.L.P.

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**Legals**

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS** HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LAVERNE MARTIN GASKINS, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of LaVerne Martin Gaskins deceased, were issued to Joe Mac Gaskins, Independent Executor, on July 19, 2010, in the proceeding styled "Estate of LaVerne Martin Gaskins, Deceased," Cause No. P-13870 in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, which is still pending and that said person now holds such Letters. All persons having claims against said Estate, which is being administered in Howard County, Texas, are hereby required to present the same to said Independent Executor, at 7510 W. FM 846, Knott, Texas 79748 before suit upon same is barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such Estate is closed, and within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Joe Mac Gaskins, Independent Executor of the Estate of LaVerne Martin Gaskins, Deceased, Cause No. P-13870 in the County Court of Howard County, Texas #6629 July 28, 2010

**Legals**

**Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit**

CJ Energy, LLC, P.O. Box 2812, Midland, TX 79702, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Clearfork Formation, Ballenger Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 9.5 miles North of Garden City in the Deadwood (Wolfcamp) Field, in Glasscock County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4800 to 6500 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #6628 July 28, 2010

**Legals**

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**  
**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL**  
OIL AND GAS DOCKET  
NO. 08-0265736

IN RE: CONSERVATION AND PREVENTION OF WASTE OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS  
Austin, Texas  
July 14, 2010

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
ON THE APPLICATION OF WICHITA WATER LLC PURSUANT TO STATEWIDE RULE 81 TO CREATE, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A BRINE MINING FACILITY  
STANTON BRINE FACILITY, WELL NO. 1, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) FIELD, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the public and to all interested persons that under the legal authority and jurisdiction of Title 3, Oil and Gas, Subtitles A, B, and C of the Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapters 26, 27 and 29 of the Texas Water Code, and TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. §§ 2001 et seq. (2010), the RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS will hold a hearing on **September 9, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.** at the William B. Travis State Office Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. This hearing will be conducted in conformity with the TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. §§ 2001 et seq. (2010). For room assignment, on the date of the hearing please check the bulletin board in the 1st Floor lobby. Persons planning to attend this hearing are urged to contact the applicant, Wichita Water LLC, immediately prior to the hearing date to confirm that the hearing will proceed on the scheduled date.

Any interested person may submit written comments regarding the proposed application. Any written comment must be filed in the Commission's Office of General Counsel, Docket Services, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78711 no later than 5:00 pm on the date of the hearing, August 27, 2010. Written comments can also be submitted by email to mark.helmuehler@rrc.state.tx.us or by fax set to 512-463-6989. Consistent with the provisions of Statewide Rule 81(i)(9), the Commission's responses to all written comments will be included in the proposal for decision issued following the hearing in this docket.

This hearing will be held to consider the application of Wichita Water LLC for a permit to create, operate, and maintain a brine mining facility to be known as the Stanton Brine Station, Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, located on the Interstate 20 access road between State Highway 137 and County Road 3451, just outside of the city limits of Stanton in Martin County, Texas.

The applicant has requested authority to produce brine through the injection of freshwater to dissolve salt from the Salado Salt formation located subsurface between approximately 1650 feet and 2500 feet. The applicant proposes to complete and case the well such that any injected fluid will be confined to the injection interval. Surface injection pressure will be limited to a maximum of 740 psig. The maximum allowable injection pressure at the casing seat will be limited to 0.8 times the overburden pressure at that depth. Should a permit be issued, the Commission will include other conditions and requirements as necessary, such as monitoring and reporting of the extracted brine, mechanical integrity testing of

the well, groundwater monitoring, and plugging and abandonment of the well. A copy of the draft permit prepared by the Oil & Gas Division is attached to this notice.

The Commission's Oil & Gas Division has reviewed the application, and has determined that, based on the information contained in the application, the proposed well and facility will not endanger surface or subsurface usable quality water as the application meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for casing the cementing the well to isolate the brine mining injection interval and the operating facilities are designed to prevent any uncontrolled discharge of brine at the surface.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Sheila Hall at (806)894-3151 or 6701 Aberdeen, Suite 11, Lubbock, Texas 79424. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure or the submission of written comment, please contact the Railroad Commission, Office of General Counsel, at (512)463-6848.

IF A CONTINUATION IS NECESSARY, this hearing will proceed at the William B. Travis State Office Building, Austin, Texas, and, to the extent possible, on subsequent working days. The room number and exact time of the continuation will be announced on the record in this proceeding and recorded with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas.

PURSUANT TO SAID HEARING, the Commission will enter such rules, regulations, and orders as in its judgment the evidence presented may justify.

ANY REQUEST FOR POST-PONEMENT of this hearing must be received no later than five (5) working days prior to the scheduled date shown above. Copies of such request must be forwarded to all parties shown on the service list.

TO APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROCEEDING, a party other than the applicant must file with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. A copy of the notice of intent to appear should be served on the applicant and any other parties or record.

IF ANY PARTY DESIRES A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT of the hearing by a Court Reporter, that party should notify Docket Services at (512)463-6848, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. If a written transcript is requested, the Commission may assess the cost of the transcript to one or more parties. Unless any party requests a written transcript, the record will be made by audio recording.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY who needs auxiliary aids and services in order to have an equal opportunity to effectively communicate and participate in this hearing must request such aids or services at least two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing by notifying the Personnel office of the Railroad Commission of Texas by mail to P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, or by telephone at (512)463-7327 or TDD No. (512)463-7284.

ALL EXHIBITS FILED AS A PART OF THE RECORD in this cause must be submitted in duplicate. Data in Commission records may be incorporated by reference, but the reference must be specific, and if it includes exhibits filed in prior proceedings before the Commission, a copy of such exhibit properly identified shall be submitted for this record.

#6621 July 21 & 28, 2010

**The Spider**

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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**3**

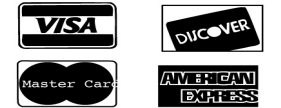
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**5**

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# FBI scrutinized over test cheating

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating whether hundreds of FBI agents cheated on a test of new rules allowing the bureau to conduct surveillance and open cases without evidence that a crime has been committed.

In some instances, agents took the open-book test together, violating rules that they take it alone. Others finished the lengthy exam unusually quickly, current and former officials said.

In Columbia, S.C., agents printed the test in advance to use as a study guide, according to a letter to the inspector general from the FBI Agents Association that summarized

the investigation. The inspector general investigation also was confirmed by current and former officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, agents could be disciplined or even fired.

FBI Director Robert Mueller was scheduled to testify Wednesday before Congress, where the new guidelines and the cheating scandal were expected to come up.

The inquiry threatens to be another black eye for the FBI as it tightens controls after years of collecting phone records and e-mails without

court approval. The brewing scandal has already upended management at one of the nation's largest field offices.

The FBI had no comment on the investigation.

Motyka's letter urges the inspector general to focus instead on what he called the "systemic failure" of administering the test without consistent rules.

FBI agents should not be punished "because of a failure to effectively communicate the rules," he wrote.

Such testing is unusual. FBI agents are required to take online training courses to stay current on bureau policies, but pass-fail tests are rare. In 2008, however, when

the FBI received more leeway than ever in conducting surveillance and opening investigations, it assured Congress that it would train and test its agents to make sure they knew the rules.

The Domestic Investigations and Operation Guidelines allowed the FBI, for the first time, to conduct surveillance for national security purposes without evidence of a crime. Agents were also allowed to consider race when opening early inquiries. For instance, the FBI could look into whether the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba had taken hold in a city if it had a large Pakistani-American presence.

The new rules gave agents more flexibility to identify and prevent terrorist attacks. They also raised concerns that the FBI would use its new powers to monitor religious organizations.

The FBI has a checkered past when it comes to conducting surveillance. From the late 1950s through the early 1970s, the bureau opened hundreds of thousands of files on Americans and domestic groups, including anti-war organizations, civil rights groups and women's movements. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the bureau collected U.S. phone and computer records without court orders.

## Is human trafficking a punishable crime?

Human trafficking is considered a federal crime in the U.S. under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act was reauthorized in 2003 providing an additional \$200 million to be spent on fighting domestic human trafficking.

## Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 describes "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- 1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18.
- 2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

## Do human trafficking victims qualify for benefits?

A person who is identified by law enforcement as a victim of 'severe forms of trafficking' may be referred for certification from the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement.

They may be eligible for:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid
- Health Screening
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance
- Refugee Social Services
- Immigration Relief-Protection includes T Visa, U Visa, or Continued Presence Status

## For Help and Resources in Texas

Health and Human Services Trafficking Information and Referral  
1-888-373-7888

Catholic Social Service Network for Victims  
anywhere in US: 202-541-3385

Mosaic Family Services, Inc.  
Dallas  
214-821-5393  
www.mosaicservices.org

YMCA International  
Houston  
Trafficked Persons Assistance Program  
713-339-9015 for victim services  
\*After 5 p.m. call 713-339-9783  
www.ymcahouston.org

## Federal Trafficking-Related Links

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000  
www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2003  
www.state.gov/documents/organization/28255.pdf

Office of Refugee Resettlement Trafficking Efforts  
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/actvict.html

Office for Victims of Crime Trafficking Effort  
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/help/tip.html

## Victim Services of Big Spring 263-3312

www.vsofbigspring.com



6200 La Calma  
Suite 110  
Austin, Texas 78752  
www.taasa.org

## Human Trafficking



The voice of sexual violence survivors in Texas.

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
Free. Confidential. 24/7.

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## What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking (formerly known as trafficking in persons) is a form of modern-day slavery. It is the illegal trade in human beings through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception, fraud or sale for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims include women, men and children.



## What is the prevalence of human trafficking?

- Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually.<sup>1</sup>
- Between 14,500-17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S annually.<sup>2</sup>
- Human Trafficking provides organized crime annual profits between \$8-10 billion.<sup>3</sup>
- The U.S. is ranked as the third largest destination country for Trafficking.<sup>4</sup>
- Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens are estimated to be trafficked within the U.S.<sup>5</sup>

These are just best estimates. No one really knows the true numbers of trafficking victims.

1 U.S. Department of State. (2004). Trafficking in Person's Report June 2004 (Publication No. 11150), Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

2 Ibid.

3 Ashcroft, 2004

4 The Polaris Project. (2004). National Trafficking Alert System Criminal Justice Briefing Materials (Version 6), Washington, DC: The Polaris Project

5 Ibid.

## How To Identify a Trafficking Victim

- Why and how did the person come into the country? Many victims have come willingly when promised a good job.
- How was the person recruited? Many victims are recruited by acquaintances from the same ethnic group or country of origin.
- Does the person have identification papers? Many times the traffickers have custody of the victim's documents and identification papers.
- Does the person owe money to their "employer?"
- When encountering a group, does a "spokesperson" tend to speak on the group's behalf and not allow anyone else to converse with authorities?
- Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?



## Is there a state law prohibiting trafficking?

- The 78th Texas State Legislature passed H.B. 2096 (Penal Code Ch. 20A.02), which prohibits trafficking.
- The law became effective Sept. 1, 2003.
- The offense is a second-degree felony, with an enhancement to a first degree felony for involving a child younger than 14 years of age, or of any trafficking offense that results in the death of a trafficked person.



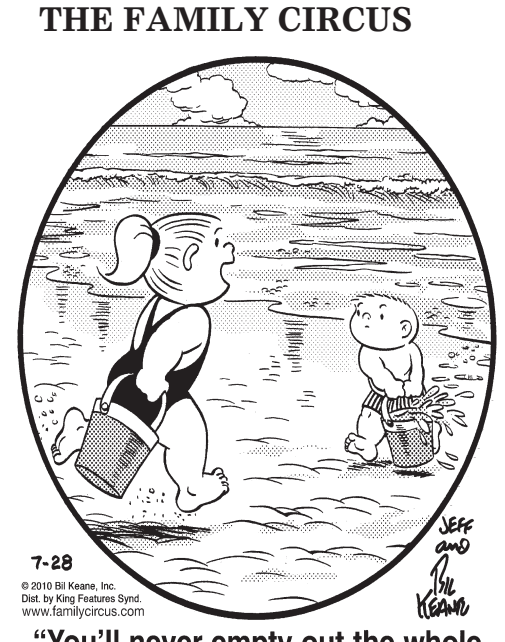
## Why don't trafficking victims just go to the police?

1. Most victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.
2. Most victims do not know what city or state they are in because they are often forced to move.
3. Most victims have a strong sense of distrust of authorities for fear of deportation or from prior experiences with corruption within the system.
4. Most do not identify themselves as a victim.
5. Confidentiality is vital for victims of human trafficking.

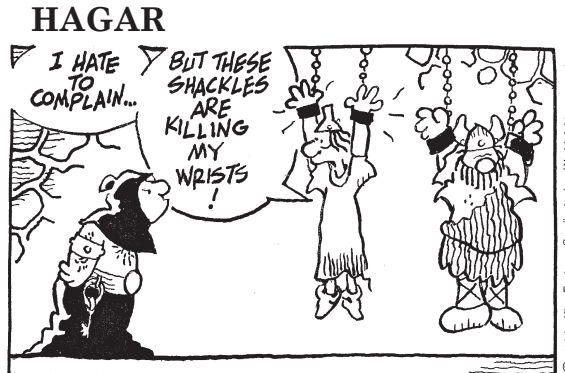
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM ABC	News	Vida	George Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	CCM	BBC	King	Cash Cab	On Deadly Ground, Joan Chen	Texas Ranger	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Phineas	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM ABC	Jeopardy!	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men	News	El Cartel II	News	King	Faye H.	Business	King	Cash Cab	UFC 117: Court.	Bones	Bones	Game Deck	Wizards	Football	MLB Baseball: Chicago White Sox at Detroit Tigers.
7:PM ABC	Fortune	Hasta que el Dinero	So You Think You Can Dance	Big Brother	El Clon	Minute to Win It	Payne	Cortes	70s Show	70s Show	Shark/South Africa	Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore	UFC Unleashed	Bones	Game Deck	Knockouts 5	NFL Live	Baseball: Big League, Final.
8:PM ABC	Middle	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)		Criminal Minds	El Fantasma de	America's/ Talent	Browns	House	Love Me Tender-Love Songs	Top Model	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Movie: The Wood, Richard T. Jones	Deck	Jonas	Baseball: White Sox at Detroit Tigers.
9:PM ABC	Family Cougar			CSI: NY	...Elisa? La Diosa	Law & Order: SVU	Browns	Light of the Southwest	Lower Your Taxes! Now With Ed Slott	Plain Jane	Ultimate Air Jaws	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Pros vs. Joes	Dark Blue	Deck	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM ABC	(01) Castle	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Uri Harel	Married... Married...	Best Bites: Hits	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	The Mo'Nique	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter
11:PM ABC	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Uri Harel	Roseanne	Best Bites: Hits	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	Baseball
12:PM ABC	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	A Corazón Abierto	Jay Leno	Tonight	Dr. Young	Roseanne	Best Bites: Hits	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	Baseball
1:AM ABC	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Sex & Sex & Charles	Israel	Bernie	Best Bites: Hits	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	Baseball
2:AM ABC	Extra	Amar sin Limites	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sex & Sex & Charles	Israel	Bernie	Best Bites: Hits	Air Jaws II	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	Baseball
3:AM ABC	Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Tonight	Sanchez	Shark/South Africa	Rubicon	Star Trek: Voyager	Memphis Beat	Vick	Suite Life	Suite Life	2010 Poker	SportsCenter



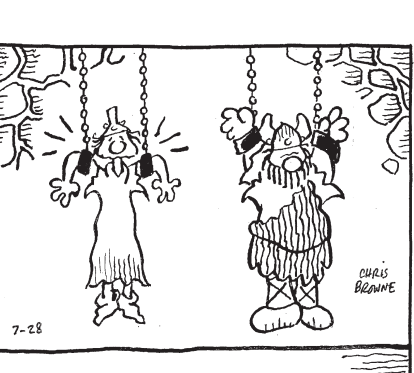
**DENNIS THE MENACE**  
"AM I BEING PUNISHED FOR NOT EATIN' MY CARROTS, OR FOR HIDIN' 'EM IN THE LAUNDRY BASKET?"



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**  
"You'll never empty out the whole ocean yourself, PJ! Here — I'll help you!"



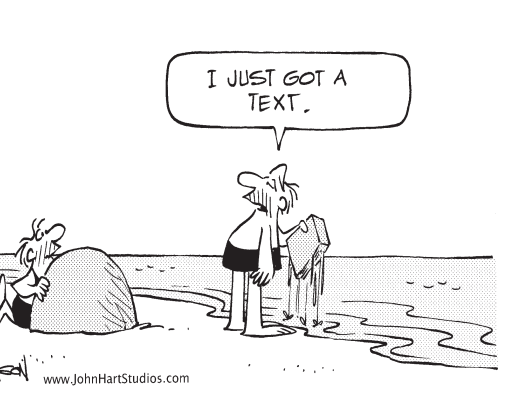
**HAGAR**  
"I HATE TO COMPLAIN... BUT THESE SHACKLES ARE KILLING MY WRISTS!"



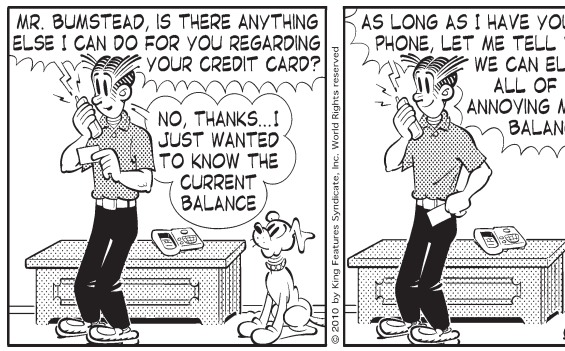
**BLONDIE**  
"MR. BUMSTEAD, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YOU REGARDING YOUR CREDIT CARD?"



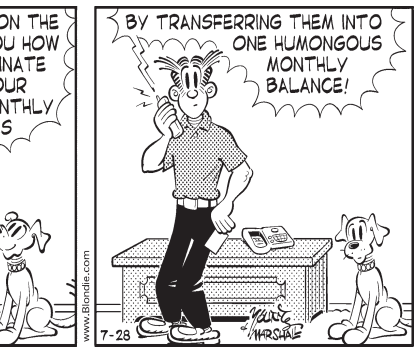
**BC**  
"SO I SAYS TO THE GUY—I SAYS 'HANG ON.'"



**WIZARD OF ID**  
"IS THAT QUASIMODO?"



**BLONDIE**  
"AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU ON THE PHONE, LET ME TELL YOU HOW WE CAN ELIMINATE ALL OF YOUR ANNOYING MONTHLY BALANCES"



**BLONDIE**  
"BY TRANSFERRING THEM INTO ONE HUMONGOUS MONTHLY BALANCE!"

**This Date In History**

Today is Wednesday, July 28, the 209th day of 2010. There are 156 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On July 28, 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

**On this date:**  
In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.  
In 1609, the English ship Sea Venture, commanded by Admiral Sir George Somers, ran ashore on Bermuda, where the passengers and crew founded a colony.  
In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.  
In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.  
In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I

veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand money they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1945, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

In 1960, Henry Cabot Lodge, Richard Nixon's choice to be running mate, was nominated for vice president by the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1990, political newcomer and upset winner Alberto Fujimori was sworn in for his first term as president of Peru.

In 2002, nine coal miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek (KYOO'-kreek) Mine in Somerset, Pa., were rescued after 77 hours underground.

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director Andrew V. McLaglen is 90. Actor Darryl Hickman is 79. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 76. Art critic Robert Hughes is 72.

The former president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, is 72. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 69. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 67. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 65. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 64. Actress Linda Kelsey is 64. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 63. Actress Sally Struthers is 62. Actress Georgia Engel is 62. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 61. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 56. CBS newsman Scott Pelley is 53. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 49. Actor Michael Hayden is 47. Actress Lori Loughlin is 46.

Answer to previous puzzle

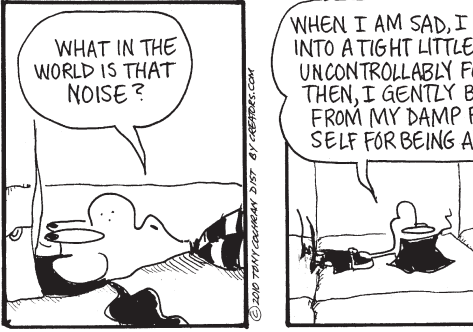
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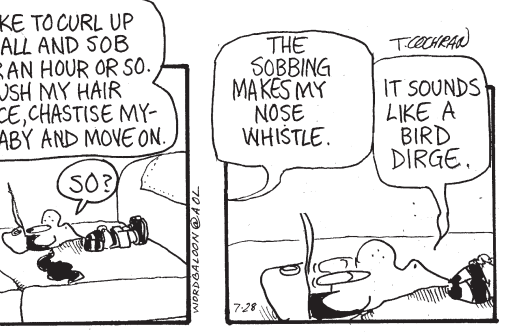
**AGNES**  
"WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT NOISE?"



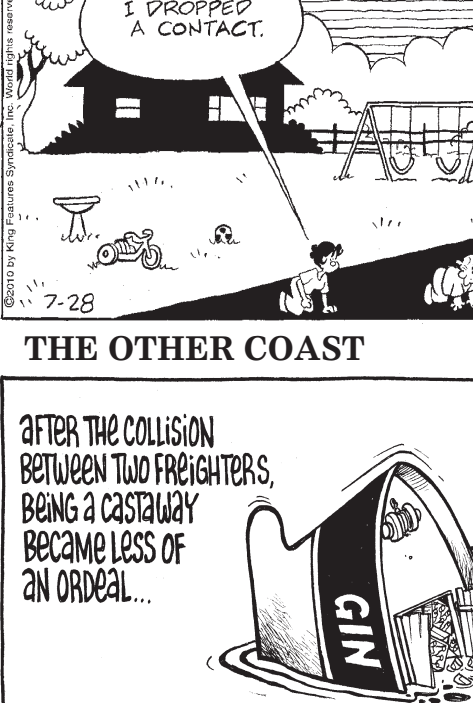
**AGNES**  
"SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT HE'S ONE HECK OF A WINGMAN"



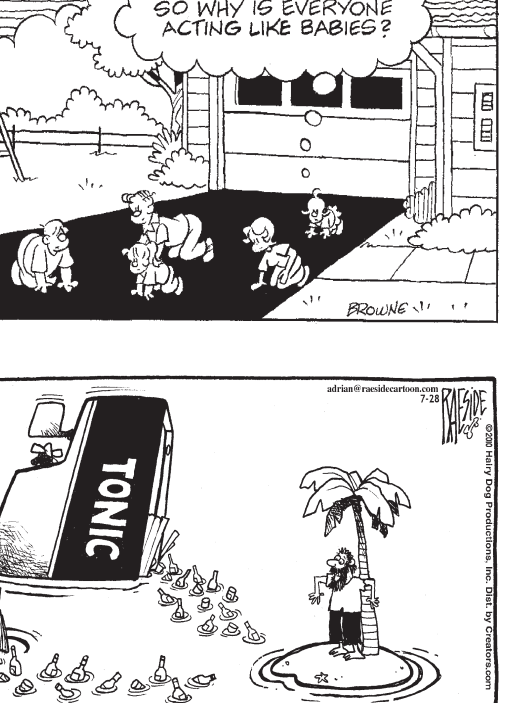
**HI AND LOIS**  
"I DROPPED A CONTACT."



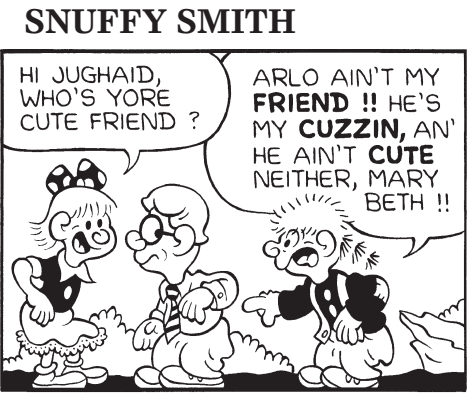
**HI AND LOIS**  
"SO WHY IS EVERYONE ACTING LIKE BABIES?"



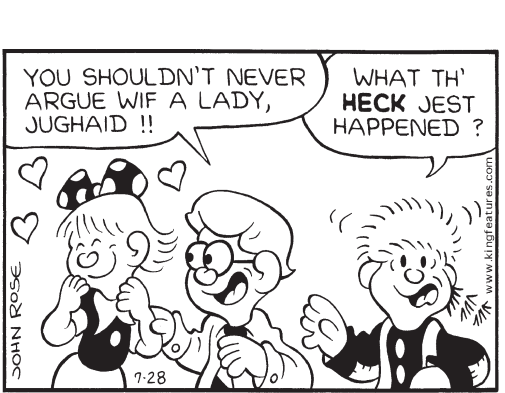
**THE OTHER COAST**  
"AFTER THE COLLISION BETWEEN TWO FREIGHTERS, BEING A CASTAWAY BECAME LESS OF AN ORDEAL..."



**THE OTHER COAST**  
"YOU SHOULDN'T NEVER ARGUE WIF A LADY, JUGHAID!!"



**SNUFFY SMITH**  
"HI JUGHAID, WHO'S YORE CUTE FRIEND?"



**SNUFFY SMITH**  
"WHAT TH' HECK JEST HAPPENED?"



**BEEBLE BAILEY**  
"SIR, DID YOU FORGET THEY'RE RE-FINISHING THE FLOORS TODAY?"



**BEEBLE BAILEY**  
"ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF A PARADE SATURDAY?"

**Newsday Crossword**

**BACK TO BASICS** by Norma Steinberg  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Omelet needs
  - 5 Enliven, with "up"
  - 10 Banister
  - 14 Ill-gotten gains
  - 15 Elizabeth of cosmetics
  - 16 Jazz singer Fitzgerald
  - 17 Sulk
  - 18 Of lasting value
  - 20 Recently
  - 22 Strep or Close
  - 23 Grp. of MDs
  - 24 French existentialist author
  - 26 Pickled-pepper picker
  - 28 April 15 addressee
  - 29 \_\_ Frome (Wharton novel)
  - 33 Surrounded by
  - 34 Used to be
  - 35 Next to
  - 36 Wine, in French
  - 37 A mark against
  - 39 Evergreen variety
  - 40 Ducked
  - 42 Show agreement
  - 43 Little explosions
  - 44 Audition tapes
  - 45 Blame, so to speak
  - 46 In need of airing out
  - 47 All over the place
  - 49 New Haven student
  - 50 Glacial periods
- DOWN**
- 1 Ticklish Muppet
  - 2 Mistake
  - 3 Sell a million copies, as a CD
  - 4 Feeling angry
  - 5 Wise man
  - 6 Old hand
  - 7 Words at the altar
  - 8 Trees of Lebanon
  - 9 Legislate
  - 10 Polite RSVP reply
  - 11 Salve ingredient
  - 12 Misfortunes
  - 13 Young men
  - 19 Boulevard
  - 21 Roofing goo
  - 24 Thailand, formerly
  - 25 Munitions supply
  - 26 Macadamized
  - 27 Author Zola
  - 30 Lone Ranger cry
  - 31 Proficient
  - 32 Full of gossip
  - 34 Say 7 Down
  - 35 Auction action
  - 37 Blueprint
  - 38 Like thick twine
  - 41 Queen mother, e.g.
  - 43 Achieve against expectations
  - 45 Save
  - 46 \_\_ culpa
  - 48 Condescend
  - 50 \_\_ facto
  - 51 Oaf
  - 52 Money in Malta
  - 53 Queen of the Nile, for short
  - 54 Cobbled together
  - 55 Otherwise
  - 57 Honda alternative
  - 58 Winter clock setting in NJ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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60						61				62		
63						64					65	

# Stargazer

## Galileo and Saturn

In 1609, Galileo made his first perspicillum (see-through device) which we now call a telescope. It was initially used as a spyglass for seeing distant ships and other terrestrial objects. In late 1609 he first turned his device skyward and was astounded by views of the Moon, Jupi-



PAUL  
DERRICK

ter, Venus and other heavenly bodies. But nothing confused him more than what he first saw 400 years ago this month. In announcing his discovery, he wrote, "I have observed the highest planet, triple-bodied," referring to Saturn, which was then believed to be the most distant planet.

Elaborating his finding, he stated, "Saturn is not a single star, but is a composite of three, which almost touch each other, never change or move relative to each other, and are arranged in a row along the zodiac, the middle one being three times larger than the other two lateral ones...situ-

ated in this form - oOo."

It was a mystery Galileo never solved. His crude telescopes, inferior even to today's department store scopes, couldn't quite reveal what every school child now knows to be Saturn's rings. It wasn't until several years after Galileo's death that Christiaan Huygens, using a larger and improved telescope, solved Saturn's riddle.

To the naked eye and through most binoculars, Saturn looks like a bright star. But most of today's telescopes, even inexpensive ones, reveal what Galileo never saw clearly enough to understand.

Saturn is currently visible in our evening sky, so get out that scope tucked away in the closet, or call up a friend with a scope, or

attend a local star party — whatever it takes. Then for fun, pretend you're Galileo getting your first clear view of Saturn and its rings. Eureka!

## Sky Calendar

- July 31, Saturday morning: The Moon is above Jupiter high in the south.
- 31, Saturday evening: Mars is just to the lower left of Saturn low in the west.
- Aug. 1, Sunday: Lammas, a cross-quarter day celebrating the middle of summer.
- 2, Monday: The Moon is at 3rd quarter.
- 4, Wednesday morning: The crescent Moon is above the Pleiades star cluster in the east.
- 8, Sunday evening: Brilliant Venus (bottom), reddish Mars (upper left), and creamy-

colored Saturn (upper right) form a triangle low in the west at dusk.

- 9, Monday: The Moon in new.
- 11, Wednesday evening: The crescent Moon is to the lower left of Mercury in the west at dusk.
- 12, Thursday evening: The crescent Moon is below Venus with Saturn to Venus' right and Mars to Venus' upper left.
- 12-13, Thursday-Friday all night: The Perseid meteor shower peaks with virtually no Moon interference all

- night.
- 13, Friday evening: The crescent Moon is to the left of the trio of planets.
- 13, Friday: An unlucky day for the superstitious — glad I'm not!

*Stargazer appears every other week. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or paul-derrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at stargazerpaul.com.*

## Parent's Corner: Welcome to my Morning

When I was working for the Department of Education in Colorado I was often scheduled to do presentations at various school districts. One of the presentations I truly enjoyed doing was labeled, "Welcome to My Morning." I took the title from a John Denver song called "Farewell Andromeda," where his lyrics posed the proposition that we are responsible for our actions and the results we get.



DARRELL  
RYAN

Let me share those lyrics with you: "Welcome to my morning, welcome to my day. I'm the one responsible; I made it just this way to paint myself some pictures to see what they might bring. I think I made it perfectly; I wouldn't change a thing! Welcome to my happiness; I know it makes me smile and it pleases me to have you here for just a little while, while we open up some spaces to try to bring some change and if the truth is told they may never come again. Welcome to my evening, the closing of the day; though I could try a million times I couldn't find a better way to tell you that I love you so please let me say, 'Thank you for allowing me to share your day today.'"

As I consider the meaning behind these words I am convinced that we create each day with the attitude we bring to the table. We can make it good or we can make it bad. The choice is ours to make. Yes, bad things happen, many of which are beyond our control, but we control how we react to those events. We can question why; we can be bitter or we can accept those events and ask ourselves what we can do to make things better. Our attitude makes the difference. Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. We choose how we react to situations. We choose how people affect our mood. We choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line:

The way we live our life is our choice.

I read about a man who fell 60 feet from a communications tower. He said the first thing that went through his mind was the well-being of his soon-to-be born daughter. Then, he said, "As I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action. I wasn't sure what to do

until a big burly nurse shouting questions at me said 'John, are you allergic to anything?' 'Yes,' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity!' Over their laughter, I told them, I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from this story that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude is everything. It's up to us to create an attitude that will handle whatever comes our way and take responsibility for our actions in a positive manner.

And remember through it all, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

*Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENT: Office Closure

### Dr. Kim Bango

Family Physician  
1608 W. FM 700, Suite D  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Phone: (432) 263-0500  
Fax: (432) 263-0501



It is with my deepest regrets that I am announcing the closure of my office, as of July 16th 2010. **My last day to be available to patients will be July 16th.**

Please take this time to begin choosing your new physician.

- Be reassured that your medical records will remain confidential and accessible at all times, even after our office closes, as they will be transferred to **Family Medical Center**.
- If you plan to choose a physician at Family Medical Center as your new family physician, no further action will be required to obtain or transfer records. These records will already be maintained with their staff. Otherwise, records are available as below:

**Prior to July 16th**, your records can be obtained by either:

- Choosing a new physician. At the new physician's office, ask to sign a request for medical records from our office. If we receive this written authorization before **July 16th**, a copy of your records will be directly transferred.
- Come to our office and sign a release to receive a copy of your records, before **July 16th**.

After July 16th, requests for records can be made to Family Medical Center as below:

Family Medical Center  
2301 S. Gregg Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
Phone: (432) 267-5531  
Contact: Kelly Hankins

Feel free to call our office during this transition for any questions or concerns. It has been a great pleasure providing for your health care needs. I wish future health and happiness to everyone.

Kim Bango, MD <sup>10134</sup>

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars is the energetic young boy testing out a new class at school. Saturn is the teacher who lays down the rules and enforces them. These two planetary influences align now in Libra, the sign of relationships. Your loved ones have something to teach you, and you have something to teach them, too. Respect one another's boundaries.



HOLIDAY MATHS

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Think of this: You can be anyone. The one who doesn't know you well has a blank slate as far as you are concerned. Be who you want to be, and don't worry a lick about whether that's who you were before.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Who, you? Shy away from work? Never! Your mood is enhanced by the hefty list of tasks you expect yourself to have done by the end of the day. You get in, get it done and get out.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your memory will serve you well. Still, if you're not 100 percent sure, it's better to do your research or ask for a clue than to pretend you know the right answer.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Pretty much everything has more than one cause. You will make a study of

cause and effect and try to understand the full range of influences on a situation. Then you will pinpoint the key factor to the problem and find a solution.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's like the people around you are talking in code. This is an unhealthy tongue. You will open the communication and find a way to coexist happily with one another.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day is adventurous, but at the end of it, you need to connect in a way that makes you feel cozy and safe. The natural scent of your familiars will be better than the most expensive perfume.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are no shortcuts. You have to experience things for yourself in real time in order to get the lesson. Reading or hearing

about other people's experiences won't count this time.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is not a time to stick to what's essential and important. It's the whimsy and the tangents that will be what you remember. Forget about the bottom line for a moment and suddenly life has new flavor.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In a doubting mood, there are plenty of things to be dubious about, including the very basic structures of society and human nature in general. But why go there? Stay on the sunny side, even when it makes no sense.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone is only half listening to what you are trying to express. Recognize this, and ask for their full attention. If you don't get it, that's OK, too —

you'll still take the opportunity to hone your argument.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Streamline. Make room for a new energy to drop into your world. The closet is a good place to start. The uncomfortable shoes have to go. And while you're at it, toss out the clothes that don't fit right, too.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** Loved ones celebrate you and thrill to the opportunity to give back to you. When it comes to work, you're not messing around. There's something you want to accomplish, and you'll do it this year. August features unforgettable experiences with your team. You'll meld your lifestyle with someone else's in February. Aries and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 33, 24 and 17.

**FILES:** Former "Friends" cast member Lisa Kudrow is on the cutting edge of the entertainment world as she woos audiences to the microscreens of their laptops, phones and hand-held devices to watch her latest comedy, "Web Therapy," available in streaming media. Kudrow is an entertaining Leo, born under the future-thinking aspect of Saturn in innovated and technologically savvy Aquarius.

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

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CELEBRITY PRO-

Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** I am 55 and have been married to Jim, age 73, for five years. Jim's wife died six years before we met, and his two children became furious when he began dating, saying he was being unfaithful. They badgered Jim until he decided them his house and property. Jim also gave each kid \$250,000 in cash and paid off the mortgages on their homes.

The deeds specify that Jim can stay on the property as long as he lives, but make no provision for a surviving spouse. When we married, Jim asked the kids to allow me to continue

to live there after he dies, but they refused. After that, whenever the kids asked for money, Jim told them it was time they lived within their means. (They have good jobs.) They became hostile and accused Jim of choosing me over them. They have not allowed him to see the grandchildren for three years. The only time they speak to him is to demand he divorce me.

Without telling Jim, I sent both his children a polite e-mail asking what it would take for us to be a family again. They told Jim about the letter, and he accused

me of interfering in his relationship with his kids, saying it was none of my business and I have "ruined all possibility of reconciliation." I was shocked by his reaction, but apologized. However, Jim will not accept my apology. Was I out of line? What about his kids? Is there any hope for this family? — *Tired of Drama*

**Dear Tired:** Jim is worn down from fighting with his kids, defending his marriage and missing his grandchildren. Although your intentions were good, the e-mail was the straw that broke the camel's

back. His selfish children used it as an excuse to attack him in force. Ask Jim to go with you for counseling to see whether your relationship can withstand the pressure. If he won't go, go without him.

**Dear Annie:** My best friend is having an online affair. She feels it is only a minor form of cheating since they are not meeting in real life. Frankly, in my book, it's cheating all the way around.

I told her that if her husband asks me about it, I will not lie to him. But I am so uncomfortable with the situation

that I no longer call her or visit their home. Even if she were to stop e-mailing this guy, I still would not lie to her husband if he asked why we've stopped speaking. Is this friendship a write-off? — *Confused in California*

**Dear Confused:** It certainly sounds like it. Your friend is behaving terribly, and we agree that you should not be a party to her lies. The most you can do is suggest she get into counseling with her husband so they can figure out why she is willing to risk her marriage for her online buddy.

Otherwise, keep your distance.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com).*

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