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HERALD

BIG SPRING SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016



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Attacking Cruz's wife could hurt Trump with female voters



AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT**
Associated Press

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — Donald Trump's latest rude comments about Ted Cruz's wife are raising new alarms among Republicans about the party front-runner's ability to win over women, especially in a poten-

tial fall presidential match-up with Hillary Clinton.

Trump is under fire for jabs at Heidi Cruz, as the rivals engage in an increasingly bitter, personal battle for the GOP presidential nomination. Hostilities reached a new high Friday when Cruz accused Trump and "his henchmen" of stoking false rumors that he'd cheated on his wife.

"We don't want

a president who traffics in sleaze and slime," the Texas senator told reporters in Wisconsin.

"We don't want a president who seems to have a real issue with strong women."

Trump's history of sexist comments, from his "Apprentice" television program to racy interviews with radio host Howard Stern, have long been seen by Republicans as a potential vulnerability, especially in a general election match-up with Clinton, who would be the coun-

try's first female president.

The issue took off in the first GOP debate when Fox News' Megyn Kelly asked Trump about calling women "fat pig," "dog" and other names. Her question sparked a continuing quarrel between Trump and the network.

Trump also faced a backlash after he was quoted in a "Rolling Stone" profile insulting businesswoman Carly Fiorina, who endorsed Cruz after she dropped out of the 2016 Republican race.

"Look at that face!" Trump was quoted saying. "Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?!"

The issue reignited Wednesday after an anti-Trump super PAC released an ad featuring a risqué photo of his wife, Melania, a former model, taken

See, **TRUMP**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Julie Bass

Marcy House held its Easter Celebration Friday afternoon. The children all walked away with their Easter baskets overflowing with eggs. See more pictures on page 9A.

A passion for education

A Howard County resident takes over top leadership of state organization



LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

While a student in the Big Spring ISD school system, Irene Galan Rodriguez loved school and always strived for excellence as a student. When she became a mother, she was determined to be involved with her three children's educations so they, too, could take advantage of all the opportunities available.

"As a single mom raising kids, I wanted them to get on the right path and to do that I wanted them to stay busy and so I had to be busy with them," Rodriguez said.

See, **PASSION**, Page 3A

Let's cook together

Special to the Herald

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Howard County will offer a program that will help organize the preparation of four easy and nutritious main dishes in a single session.

"Cooking with Friends" is a way to

learn healthier cooking habits, said Melissa Deeter, AgriLife Extension family and consumer sciences agent in Howard County.

In addition, this method of preparing and cooking meals will promote more family meal time, save time and money in the kitchen, and teach individuals the basics in freezing, Deeter said.

The first lesson of 2016 will be on Family Friendly Recipes and the program will be from 9:30 a.m. to

noon, Saturday, April 9 at the G. C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex located on the Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

"The cost for all four sessions is \$15," Deeter said. "We will meet once a month for the next four months. Please Register by (Monday) April 4. When you register, please provide your email and physical address so we can get the shopping list to you."

The session will cover healthy eating, food safety, measuring, packaging and freezing

See, **COOKING**, Page 3A

HC trustees to start meeting with tour



By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

A tour of the Criminal Justice and Dental Hygiene departments is on the Howard College board of trustees meets Monday.

"Big Spring Area Foundation donated some money which was used to purchase simulation equipment for the Dental Hygiene and Criminal Justice departments," said Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "We will be touring with representatives from the foundation."

The tour will begin at 11 a.m. at the

McKinney building located on the Big Spring campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane. After the tour, trustees will break for lunch before heading back into the regular meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room when trustees will present the Foundation with a resolution.

In other business trustees will:
• Hear updates to the baseball and the detention/retention ponds programs. College officials will also update the board on property the college owns in Martin County. Acquired in 1972 from the U.S. government, the college has used the property for its agriculture department but has not used the land in recent years for educational training.

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509 HILLSIDE - \$180,000.00
Adorable older home updated and move-in ready. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Stunning hardwood floors. Apartment has 684 sq. ft.

3701 CALVIN ST. - \$89,500.00
Just Reduced! 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. Features an open living area with room to entertain. Kitchen is nice and bright. A good size back yard.

900 W. 17TH STREET - \$155,000.00
Large Parkhill home with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with a sun room and office area. Nice large open living/dining over looking the backyard with canyon view. A one car garage.

Obituaries

Charles Davis



Charles Wayne Davis, of Round Rock, Texas, passed away peacefully on March 24, 2016 at the age of 58. He was born in Big Spring, Texas on April 23, 1957.

Charles worked for AT&T for 39 years and was a dedicated, loyal, and hardworking employee. He enjoyed all sports, especially football, and was an avid University of Texas fan. He was also the number one fan of his wife Carol's singing, which brought him much joy. Charles always enjoyed a date-night out, especially going to

movies. His gregarious laugh, huge heart, and generous spirit will be sorely missed.

Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Carol Davis; sister-in-law, Anita Correll and husband, Tom; uncles Travis Ellis and Bobby Ellis and wife Treva; and aunt Gladys Irion; as well as many special cousins and extended family. He is preceded in death by his parents, A. Latrice and Earl "Dick" Davis and sister, Lynda Davis.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2nd at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring, Texas.

Condolences may be shared at www.beckchapels.com. Arrangements under the care of Beck Funeral Home, Austin/Round Rock.

Paid Obituary

Cletis Bullard



Cletis Bullard, 87, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 19, 2016. No services are set at this time.

Cletis was born July 12, 1928 in Duncan, Okla. and married Jack Lee Bullard Dec. 8, 1947 in Selma, Calif. He preceded her in death Feb. 12, 2008.

She was a member of the West Hwy 80 Church of Christ.

Cletis is survived by two daughters, Frances Catano and Sherry Felts both

of Big Spring; two sons, William "Bill" Bullard and wife, Cynthia of Big Spring, and Anthony "Tony" Bullard and wife Debbie of Arizona; nine grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents Hugh and Frankie Wilkinson; three brothers, Fred Wilkinson, Eugene Wilkinson, and Hugh Wilkinson; and five sisters, Lorena Wilkinson, Mildred Riley, Ruby Meeks, Oleta Byford, and Augusta Watzlavick.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **TERRY SCOTT DIAZ**, 33, of 705 N. Weatherford, Midland, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **AMANDA MARTINEZ**, 26, of 2604 Barksdale Dr. was arrested on warrants for driving while license invalid, three counts of bail jumping/failure to appear, speeding in school zone and using wireless device in school zone.
- **MICHELLE LAVON DEAN**, 25, of 208 S. Austin St. was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license and expired registration.
- **BILLY MANN KIRK**, 70, of 610 Caylor Dr. was arrested on two warrants from other agencies.
- **MARISSA YVETTE PHILLIPS**, 22, of 538 Westover Rd. 105, was arrested on a charge of theft of property, more than \$750 but less than \$2,500.
- **ISAAC DANIEL PLATT**, 27, of 538 Westover

Rd. 105, was arrested on a charge of theft of property, more than \$750 but less than \$2,500.

- **JEREMIAH LEE MONCADA**, 37, of 906 Baylor Blvd. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JACKIE LOYD MURPHREE**, 22, of 204 N. Main 112, was arrested on a warrant for terroristic threat – place public in fear.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2600 block of Barksdale Dr. and the 1000 block of N. Main St.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of S. Birdwell Lane and the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3300 block of E. FM 700.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80, the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. and the 2900 block of W. 8th St.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of E. 6th St. and State.

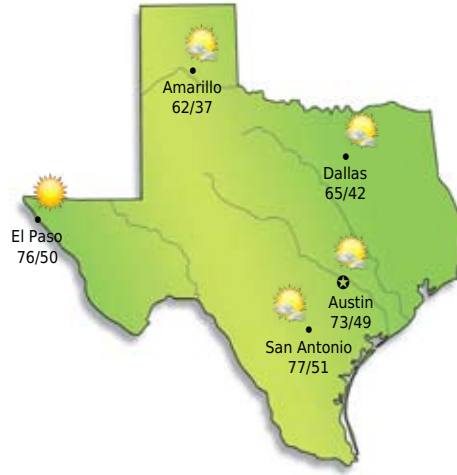
Carla Smith

Memorial services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home in Big Spring, Texas for Carla Deniece (Nichols) Smith, age 61 of Big Spring. Hewett-Arney Funeral Home of Temple, Texas is entrusted with arrangements.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sun 3/27	Mon 3/28	Tue 3/29	Wed 3/30	Thu 3/31
67/41 Mainly sunny. High 67F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	78/51 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	85/56 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	82/48 Sunny and windy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	74/46 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 8:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 8:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 8:04 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 8:05 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 8:05 PM

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	81	47	Sunny	Kingsville	80	66	P Cloudy
Amarillo	63	30	Sunny	Livingston	81	58	Sunny
Austin	80	60	Sunny	Longview	78	53	P Cloudy
Beaumont	80	63	Sunny	Lubbock	75	37	Sunny
Brownsville	80	67	P Cloudy	Lufkin	80	56	P Cloudy
Brownwood	81	52	M Cloudy	Midland	86	46	Sunny
Corpus Christi	77	66	P Cloudy	Raymondville	81	68	M Cloudy
Corsicana	78	57	Sunny	Rosenberg	80	62	P Cloudy
Dallas	78	56	Sunny	San Antonio	80	61	Cloudy
Del Rio	84	62	P Cloudy	San Marcos	79	59	Sunny
El Paso	80	48	Sunny	Sulphur Springs	77	53	Sunny
Fort Stockton	86	48	Sunny	Sweetwater	81	45	Sunny
Gainesville	76	49	Sunny	Tyler	79	54	Sunny
Greenville	77	53	Sunny	Weatherford	79	53	Sunny
Houston	81	63	P Cloudy	Wichita Falls	80	46	Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	72	59	Cloudy	Miami	83	74	Sunny
Boston	43	33	M Cloudy	Minneapolis	50	37	Cloudy
Chicago	49	44	P Cloudy	New York	53	41	Sunny
Dallas	78	56	Sunny	Phoenix	87	58	M Sunny
Denver	36	21	Snow Showers	San Francisco	68	54	Clear
Houston	81	63	P Cloudy	Seattle	61	45	M Cloudy
Los Angeles	80	56	P Cloudy	Saint Louis	65	45	P Cloudy

Moon Phases

First Mar 15	Full Mar 23	Last Mar 31	New Apr 7

Support Groups

MONDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

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

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30

p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

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

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Story ideas?

Call 263-7331 ext 230 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

Lottery

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) – These Texas lotteries were drawn Friday:

All or Nothing Day
02-04-05-07-10-11-13-14-17-18-20-21

All or Nothing Evening
02-09-10-11-12-16-17-20-21-22-23-24

All or Nothing Morning
03-04-05-08-09-10-12-13-14-18-19-21

All or Nothing Night
01-02-03-05-06-07-08-11-14-15-18-24

Cash 5
12-20-21-23-31

Daily 4 Day
4-6-0-1, Sum It Up: 11

Daily 4 Evening
7-3-2-8

Daily 4 Morning
3-6-8-3

Daily 4 Night
8-4-6-5, Sum It Up: 23

Mega Millions
04-11-12-35-46, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 2
Estimated jackpot: \$35 million

Pick 3 Day
9-5-6, Sum It Up: 20

Pick 3 Evening
9-3-6

Pick 3 Morning
4-6-2

Pick 3 Night
3-1-5, Sum It Up: 9

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$101 million

Triple Chance
07-12-14-15-20-21-27-42-46-51

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PASSION

Continued from Page 1A

That passion led her to take a leadership role in public school education for more than 20 years, first in the Big Spring Independent School District and now on the state level.

In late February, Rodriguez assumed the office of president for the Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA), an organization established in the 1970s which advocates for quality public education for all Texas children. Among its activities, the organization provides scholarships for students to further their education, provides its members with training on educational issues and advocates at the state level to legislators to improve public school education.

"It is a diverse organization," she said. "The group is looking out a lot for the culture. I got interested because we talked about the very same things that we do as a member of TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) and as a school board member. We give of our time not only because I think when we get on we want to see change in our community, but also be a part of the school district - that's what got me involved."

Her journey to a state leadership role began locally as a volunteer for the then Bauer Magnet Elementary School.

"When they (her children) started at school, I had to be the room mother," she recalled. "If my kids signed me up to do things, I was glad to do it. I never got tired of it. I wanted my kids to excel. Everything was about my kids and school."

It was after her youngest son graduated from high school, Rodriguez first ran for a trustee on



Courtesy photo

Irene Galan Rodriguez receive the gavel during her recent installment as president of MASBA

the Big Spring ISD. She was elected in 1994 and has served as a board member ever since.

"Even now everything I do, my decisions, are based for all kids," she said. "I don't care where they come from or what they look like."

During her first TASB conference for board training, Rodriguez noticed a trend.

"As time went on and the more I went, I would see the leadership roles were from east and south Texas," she said.

So she decided to become more involved. Rodriguez would eventually go through the Leadership TASB course to earn her Master Trustee certificate. According to the TASB website, the course is a program designed to expose experienced board members to a variety of issues, people, activities and locations. It's a year-long program consisting of five week-end sessions lasting two to three days each. Irene graduated in 2000 from the course.

"At the time, I was the

only one from Region 18 to graduate," she said. "I am pushing more for West Texas. I want to get more people from West Texas involved."

It was also during TASB conferences, she first heard about MASBA.

"With MASBA, we want the same thing," she said. "We want to make a difference. They were working on a mission especially for bilingual students. These are the people we want to help and let the school boards know there are ways to get things done for bilingual students."

"I want the best programs for my school district," she continued. "I want to be able to bring them to my superintendent and say I found these programs and I think it will help us."

She eventually joined the group 12 years ago and was elected to several leadership roles, including serving as the secretary of the board, vice president and then president-elect. Rodriguez has also served in leadership roles on the

Big Spring ISD board, including as president several times.

Locally, Rodriguez is very active in her community. She has served on the board of Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Howard County Child Welfare and Teen Court. She has also been a member of Keep Big Spring Beautiful along with participating in several other community committees.

Although active in other areas of the community, education still seems to be her main focus.

"I am very passionate in wanting to see that our school district is doing good and our community is doing good," Rodriguez said. "Our school district has its ups and downs. We've had some problems in the past that started with our ratings but we are coming back and getting stronger."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at citydesk@big-springherald.com

Take Note

Let's go dancing!

Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost is \$8 per person.

The Howard County Fair needs people to cross stitch squares for the annual Quilt Fundraiser. Complete kits may be picked up from Cheryl Joy at the Heritage Museum, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674

Meetings

The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

**TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION**

COOKING

Continued from Page 1A

meals and provide more online resources for participants.

"Bring your friends or come meet new friends," Deeter said. "We will provide the shopping list for you and you just show up with the ingredients on the list. You can tailor it to fit your family."

She said participants will be guided through the preparation and freezing of four easy and nutritious main dishes before the session is over.

"If you do the prep ahead of time, all you have to do is pop it in the oven or on the grill and it fits in with today's busy schedule that we all face," Deeter said.

For more information or to register, contact Deeter at 432-264-2236 or e-mail melissa.deeter@ag.tamu.edu.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1A

in a GQ photo shoot.

"Meet Melania Trump. Your Next First Lady. Or, you could support Ted Cruz on Tuesday," it read. Trump responded by falsely accusing Cruz of running the ad and warning, "Be careful, Lyin' Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!" Cruz's wife is a former Goldman Sachs investment manager and White House aide, who served as economic policy adviser to President George W. Bush.

On Wednesday night, Trump escalated things when he re-tweeted side-by-side images of Cruz's wife, with an unflattering grimace, and Melania in a gauzy, glamorous pose. "No need to 'spill the beans'" read the caption. "The images are worth a thousand words."

At an event Thursday in Wisconsin, Cruz responded by calling Trump "a sniveling coward" who has a problem with women - particularly "strong women."

Cruz continued to dig in Friday, painting Trump's comments as part of a larger pattern of misogyny.

"He's directed these attacks at Megyn Kelly. He's directed these attacks at Carly Fiorina. He's directed these attacks at Columba Bush, Jeb Bush's wife," he said.

Though Trump continues to outdistance Cruz in the delegates that will decide the GOP nomination, recent polls have shown the billionaire's favorability on the decline, particularly among women.

In a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 70 percent of women had a negative opinion of Trump. Nearly three quarters of women overall, and 39 percent of Republican women, had an unfavorable

view of him in a recent CNN poll.

"He already had a gender gap prior to all this," said Republican pollster David Winston. "The potential for that to be bigger now looms on the horizon."

Katie Packer, a former top aide to 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, and the founder of the anti-Trump Our Principles PAC, said all this spells trouble for the general election.

Packer, whose group was behind a recent ad that features women of various ages reading comments Trump has made about women, said Clinton remains vulnerable among many women.

However, she said, "If he loses women by 10 points more than Mitt Romney, it's not a question of whether or not he loses, it's a matter of who does he sweep out with him."

Indeed, Trump's latest tweeting struck a sour chord with some female suburban voters considered the key to victory in battleground states such as Colorado

"He makes all kinds of derogatory statements against women, and I just don't like to hear that," said Ilse Lucas, 70, a retired teacher's aide who doesn't consider herself a Democrat or Republican. Shopping in a suburb west of Denver, Lucas said Trump's comments could drive independent voters like her to Clinton.

Cruz, meanwhile, worked to send a distinctly different signal Friday on a campaign trip ahead of Wisconsin's April 5 primary.

At an Oshkosh manufacturing plant, Cruz was introduced by his wife, who praised him as her "best friend and partner." After

the introduction, he gave her a long hug as the audience cheered.

"In the last few days, Donald Trump has taken to attacking Heidi," Cruz told the group, sparking boos that echoed through the warehouse.

"I'll tell you something," Cruz said. "I think Heidi is the most beautiful, brilliant, amazing, fantastic, loving mom, an incredible wife and she's my best friend in the whole world and I love you with all of my heart."

It was a message that, for some voters, couldn't cover up the nasty fight between the two candidates.

"I don't know what to say except that I'm disappointed in both of them," said Jennifer Churchfield, a 52-year-old Republican from a suburb south of Denver. "The conversation needs to be about the economy, jobs, education, foreign policy. You know, things that matter."

"This is a non-debate," she added. "What are they doing?"

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

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Opinion

"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.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

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

STATE GOVERNMENT

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Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**
State Representative
Texas 72nd District

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: 512-463-0331

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

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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— Cell: 816-1015.

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• **CRAIG BAILEY** —
Home: 264-2202.

• **JIMMIE LONG** — 267-4224.

• **JOHN CLINE** —
Home: 263-7158.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@big-springherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

A fierce love of ketchup

When our oldest son went to France on a Rotary Youth Exchange visit, he told us the family he was living with served ketchup from a silver bowl at mealtimes. Now we're talking about an upscale family that resided on an estate and had a yacht on the Mediterranean, a chalet in the Alps and upstairs and downstairs maids. They just had a thing for ketchup and considered it special. We thought it strange to find that in a country known for its culinary delights. Sure enough, when the youngster from France came to spend a few weeks with us to complete the exchange, he had ketchup at every meal.

I have a friend who grew up thinking ketchup was a delicacy. His name is Jack Ed Irons and he lives in Dallas. He grew up on Big Spring's north side where his father ran a cotton compress. His dad also ran a

compress in Stanton and occasionally Jack Ed would ride over there in the mornings with his dad. When his dad needed to stay in Stanton to tend to business, he gave his son train fare and Jack Ed rode the train the 18 miles back to Big Spring.

"Growing up in Big Spring was kind of a Norman Rockwell kind of experience. My dad would come home from work and we'd have lunch and listen to Paul Harvey. We sat at a counter my grandfather made. We all had our special places. After lunch my dad went back to work and my brothers and I went back to school."

Jack Ed admired his mother. A plaque on her wall carried the phrase: "There's a special place in heaven for the mother of three boys." Somebody added some more words: "Especially your three boys." Jack Ed, the oldest of the three, says he was lucky to have the two brothers he had.

Ketchup was a big deal among the three Irons boys.

"My brothers and I loved ketchup," says Jack Ed. "We put it on everything, much to the chagrin of my dad. He really

didn't like that too much but he put up with us. We used lots of ketchup. My parents must have bought it by the case. Finally they started rationing our ketchup. They came up with a plan to give each of us one bottle of ketchup a week. And that was it. We would not get any more until the beginning of the next week."

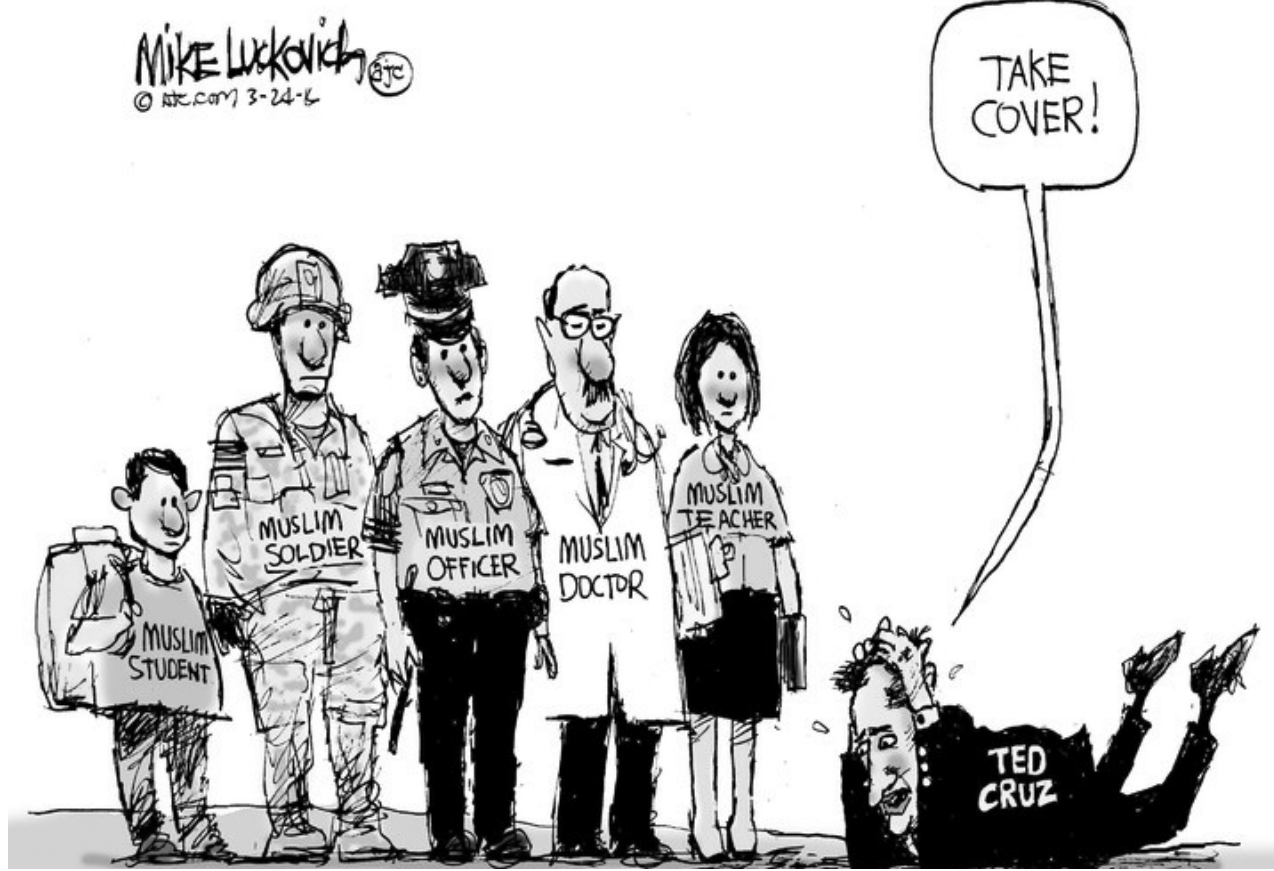
Well that wasn't enough for the Irons boys. "We devised a way to sell ketchup back and forth to each other for ten cents a shake. Sometimes we would sneak some from another bottle from time to time. We all knew how to do that. We were famous about our love of ketchup."

They labeled their bottles and kept them in the pantry. Jack Ed says he always tried to hide his bottle behind the other two. But his brothers did the same thing. They ran out of ketchup occasionally and those were horrible times at the Irons house.

Tumbleweed enjoys hearing good stories and sharing them with readers of his column. Contact him at ts@tumbleweed-smith.com.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



Free crosses on Church Street

Odds are, Shrimp Boat Manny's, on Church Street in Livingston, TX, may be the ultimate oxymoron. Where else, pray tell, can diners scarf down delicious Cajun food whipped up from Southern Louisiana recipes that owners Manny and Nancy Rachal have featured since 1985... then, pick up free crosses on the way out?

The intent is for the sealed cedar crosses—weighing 2.6 pounds each, 42 inches tall and 33 inches across—to be posted in yards or wherever. Painted in white on each cross are the words "JESUS IS LORD."

They are stacked beside each entry to the restaurant, and in three months, patrons have helped themselves to almost 3,000 signs. Oh, the oxymoron mentioned earlier; how 'bout "shrimp and salvation?" For those quick to criticize unintended irreverence, perhaps propriety might suggest that patrons find satisfaction for the tummy temporarily and the soul for eternity?

Several years ago, Rev. Vic Bass, then pastor of a non-denominational church in a rural building between Diboll and Lufkin that once housed a honky-tonk, heard of a Nacogdoches man who enjoyed making crosses. Last spring, when he retired as a pastor of Faith Family Church, he took on a cross project himself, expanding it as he could.

In a single year, it has grown beyond all expectations. Be-

tween Easters of 2015 and 2016, about 100,000 crosses have been made and distributed. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous East Texas businessman, two men have been hired full-time, and volunteers have popped up to help out.

So far, it has cost the anonymous underwriter between \$10,000 and \$12,000 monthly. There is no end in sight. Project leaders say they'll keep handing out crosses at least until the national election in November. And the generous provider nodded approval.

Dale Foux, manager of Shrimp Boat Manny's and a bona fide Cajun, is something of a "straw boss" on the distribution end of the project. His pick-up has a sign "free crosses," and folks take them as they please.

Foux and his followers sometimes leave "free cross" trailers on the side of the road, and David Landrum at "Cool Shades," a car-tinting/truck accessory place in Cleveland, also stocks them. Gary Vess, Jr., who lives in Livingston and owns a transmission shop in Lufkin, hauls completed crosses from Rev. Bass' place to Livingston on his way home most days.

Crosses are available, too, at Thomas Mercantile, a souvenir/tea room/sandwich shop on a gravel road near Livingston. Several churches also have partaken. When Bar None Cowboy Church, between Tatum and Henderson, featured historian David Barton and Duck Dynasty's Phil Robertson as speakers, they expected to need quite a few crosses. Founder Vic put 900 crosses on a cattle trailer; volunteers unloaded, and all were gone by service's end. Then, the Bar None folks ordered 500 more for their Easter worship.

Foux has hundreds of Cajun

jokes and stories. The Cajun Ten Commandments include: "Just be one God in heaven, Brought yo'self to church, Don't be kilt nobody, Don't yo took nothin', always told the troot and don't yo wish for yo neighbor's pirogue."

When the subject of crosses comes up, he's as serious as a funeral. He says NOT ONE patron of the restaurant has spoken critically of the project; in fact, many diners want to help out.

He believes when a 130-ton* project like this gets rolling, the outcome is unpredictable, well beyond our comprehension. (*the weight of the crosses built to date.)...

I pray the financier will never grow weary in well doing, and laborers for the cross will grow well beyond few. Workers on the project warrant deepest thanks and congratulations.

These yard signs have great permanence, with deep meaning from now on, long after temporary political signs are uprooted and gone. Whoever said it first got it right: "The ground at the foot of the cross is exceedingly level."

This project brightens the hope of Easter. It refreshes in a world of turmoil and discord, rife with distrust and disgust. So does the marquee of a Tennessee church: "Duct Tape May Patch a Lot of Things, But Three Nails Fixed It All." Stand and sing—or sit and hum—The Way of the Cross Leads Home.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Columns archived at venturegalleries.com, newbury blog.

Weekly oil report

New Locations:

Glasscock County

XTO Energy, Inc.
500 W. Illinois, Suite 100
Midland, TX 79701-0000
Joanne Baltier, Regulatory Analyst
(432) 682-8873

#203 Zant, re-completion, El: NA, API #42-173-36497
Wilshire (Pennsylvanian) Field
5.10 miles east of Spraberry
Section 2, Block 36, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 12,000 feet
467' FWL, 8415' FSL of 3,160-acre lease
467' FWL, 2168' FNL of the survey
SWR 36 (H2S)

Energen Resources Corporation
3510 N. "A" St., Bldgs. A and B
Midland, TX 79705-0000
Vonda Freeman, Regulatory Analyst
(432) 684-3693

#102H Pecos "SN 43-31 02", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-173-37289
13.87 miles southeast of Garden City
A-190, Section 43, Block 33, T-5-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 9500 feet
200' FNL, 1980' FWL of 771.14-acre lease
200' FNL, 1980' FWL of the survey

Energen Resources Corporation
3510 N. "A" St., Bldgs. A and B
Midland, TX 79705-0000
Vonda Freeman, Regulatory Analyst
(432) 684-3693

#104H Pecos "SN 43-31 04", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-173-37294
13.87 miles southeast of Garden City
A-190, Section 43, Block 33, T-5-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 9500 feet
200' FNL, 610' FWL of 862.7-acre lease
200' FNL, 610' FEL of the survey

New Oil Completions:

Glasscock County

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.

370 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202-0000
(720) 876-3926

Contractor not listed
(MWD)

Yates 1605'
San Andres 2728'
Clear Fork 3637'

SX.
Spraberry 5905'
Dean 7395'
Wolfcamp 7543'

Energen Resources Corporation
3510 N. "A" St., Bldgs. A and B
Midland, TX 79705-0000
(432) 818-1732

Contractor not listed

#2409H Cook Books (Allocation) "2409", API #42-173-37109
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2711' GR
10.20 miles south of Garden City
A-1066, Section 24, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey
630' FWL, 2330' FNL of the survey
Total Depth: 7940 feet. PBT: NA. Logs: Gamma Ray

Daily Potential: 60 Bbbls 41.0 gravity oil w/ 1,257 BWPD
Flowing. GOR: 3916
Spud: 2-12-15. Completed: 6-25-15. Pay: NA
9-5/8" @ 7461 feet w/ 599 sx.; MS tool @ 3651 feet w/ 710

5-1/2" @ 15,945 feet w/ 2,180 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7900 feet
Perfs: 8107-15,850

#107H Cole Ranch "35", API #42-173-36819
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2709' GR
11 miles southwest of Garden City
A-1102, Section 40, Block 35, T-4-S, T&P RR Co. survey
325' FNL 950' FEL of the survey
Total Depth: 8138 feet. PBT: NA. Logs: Gamma Ray

Want to be a zombie?

Join 'The Walking Dead' immersive show

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — When the lights come on, the scene in front of you isn't pretty: There's a gagged woman handcuffed to a wall, a TV on at full volume and a guy lying on a couch with a gaping belly wound.

Such is the troubling landscape that greets audience members at the beginning of the touring immersive show recreating the chilling world of "The Walking Dead," in which the world has been plagued by a zombie apocalypse. The horror drama series on AMC is one of the most popular shows on television.

Visitors make their way through the 10,000-square-foot attraction — six sets built into tractor trailers, plus various tents — as either a postapocalyptic survivor or, after a quick makeup session, an undead zombie. If you go in as a human, the handcuffed woman — she's the one moaning "They're going to kill me!" — needs to be ungagged. Then she'll give you some more unsettling news: The key to her handcuffs was swallowed by the gentleman on the couch. The one with the hole in his gut. "Someone's got to go and get the key," says creator and director Michael Counts, one of

the early pioneers of immersive theater, during a backstage tour. "Use your imagination to figure it out."

After that gross situation, you must handle simulated gunfire, holographic images of Walkers, billowing smoke, tunnels, realistic light and sound effects, and actors playing Walkers hunting for you. And that's just the first part.

"It's all these effects that are highly designed, very specific, very produced that ultimately create this totally immersive, totally transportive experience where you're in the world of 'The Walking Dead,'" says Counts.

"The Walking Dead Experience — Chapter One" is set the night that the zombie apocalypse starts. It's backed by the fan-driven Walker Stalker Con and Skybound Entertainment, the company led by "The Walking Dead" creator Robert Kirkman.

It's traveling the country in three tractor trailers and is part of both the Walker Stalkers tour and the Heroes & Villains Fan Fest. It's currently in Salt Lake City and will make stops in April in Denver and Nashville, Tennessee; Chicago in May; and Charlotte, North Carolina, in June.

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OFFER ENDS ON MARCH 31ST, 2016

Removal of Confederate symbols turns nasty in New Orleans

By **CAIN BURDEAU**

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Backlash against a plan to remove prominent Confederate monuments in New Orleans has been tinged by death threats, intimidation and even what may have been the torching of a contractor's Lamborghini.

For now, at least, things have gotten so nasty the city hasn't found a contractor willing to bear the risk of tearing down the monuments. The city doesn't have its own equipment to move them and is now in talks to find a company, even discussing doing the work at night to avoid further tumult.

Initially, it appeared the monuments would be removed quickly after the majority black City Council on Dec. 17 voted 6-1 to approve the mayor's plan to take them down. The monuments, including towering figures of Gens. Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard, have long been viewed by many here as symbols of racism and white supremacy.

The backlash is not surprising to Bill Quigley, a Loyola University law professor and longtime civil rights activist in New Orleans who's worked on behalf of a group demanding the monuments come down.

The South has seen such resistance before, during fights over school integration and efforts in the early 1990s to racially integrate Carnival parades in New Orleans.

"Fighting in the courts, fighting in the legislature, anonymous intimidation," Quigley said. "These are from the same deck of cards that are used to stop all social change."

For all its reputation as a party city of fun and frolic, New Orleans is no stranger to social change and the tensions that come with it. It was the site of an early attempt to challenge racial segregation laws in the Plessy

vs. Ferguson case and home to then-6-year-old Ruby Bridges whose battle to integrate her elementary school was immortalized in a Norman Rockwell painting.

New Orleans is a majority African-American city although the number of black residents has fallen since 2005's Hurricane Katrina drove many people from the city. Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who proposed the monuments' removal, rode to victory twice with overwhelming support from the city's black residents.

Nationally, the debate over Confederate symbols has become heated since nine parishioners were killed at a black church in South Carolina in June. South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from its statehouse grounds in the weeks after, and several Southern cities have since considered removing monuments.

"There is no doubt that there is a huge amount of rage over the attack on Confederate symbols," said Mark Potok with the Southern Poverty Law Center, an Alabama-based group that tracks extremist activity.

His group counted about 360 pro-Confederate battle flag rallies across the nation in the six months after the church shootings. Such rallies were rare before then, he said.

In New Orleans, things have turned particularly ugly.

In early January, as it beat back legal challenges seeking to stop the removal, the city hired a contractor to remove the monuments.

But H&O Investments LLC of Baton Rouge soon pulled out of the job, citing death threats, "unkindly name-calling," outrage on social media and the threat of other businesses canceling contracts.

One day, several protesters came while H&O workers took measurements. Some of

the protesters wore materials "with affiliation to white supremacy groups," said Roy Maughan Jr., a lawyer for the contractor.

That same day, Maughan said, "a specific articulated threat" was phoned into city authorities warning workers at the monuments to leave for their safety. On Jan. 12, H&O sent the city a letter saying it was dropping out.

Then, on Jan. 19, a Lamborghini belonging to the owner of H&O Investments was set on fire. The sports car was parked outside his office near Baton Rouge, Maughan said.

A national rental crane company the city had hoped to hire also refused to be involved.

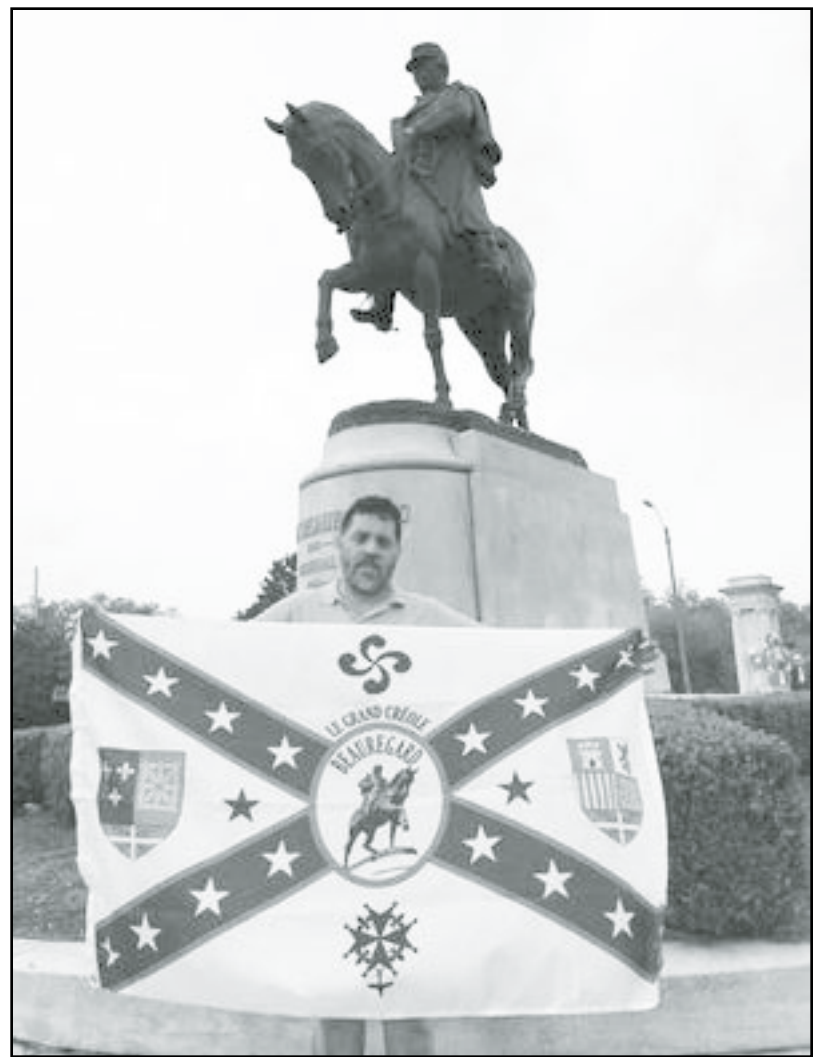
The FBI and local fire investigators declined to comment. No arrests have been made.

After H&O withdrew, the city opened a public bid process to find a new contractor — and things got messy again.

When the names of companies interested in the work turned up on a city website, businesses were reportedly slammed with emails and telephone calls denouncing their involvement. The protest was organized at least in part by Save Our Circle, a group touting thousands of supporters who want a massive monument to Lee in Lee Circle preserved in the spot where it has stood since 1884.

The city closed public viewing to the bidding process and has met with contractors without disclosing their names. The mayor declined requests for an interview.

Michel-Antoine Goitia-Nicolas said his reasons for supporting boycotts, making calls and joining protests on behalf of the monuments are personal: He



AP Photo/Cain Burdeau

Michel-Antoine Goitia-Nicolas stands next to an equestrian statue of P.G.T. Beauregard on March 16, 2016, while displaying a flag associated with the Confederate general.

traces his ancestry to Beauregard, a Louisiana native who led Rebel troops at the opening of the Civil War. A prominent equestrian statue of Beauregard at the entrance to City Park is slated to be taken down.

"It's totally divided this city," Goitia-Nicolas said of the city's plans.

Standing next to the Beauregard statue, Goitia-Nicolas said he was willing to chain himself to statues to stop the removal.

"Our lesson in history is

that when we tear down the monuments of the past we rebuild the errors of our past," he said. He said he was proud of Beauregard, who he said "never owned slaves."

"Why take it down? Put a statue of somebody positive in black history right here, in the midst of Beauregard, or in the midst of Lee. We support that."

Just this month, a state lawmaker began pushing a bill meant to save the monuments. Legal challenges, too, are on appeal.

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Position Available- (1)



801 Owens

(432) 267-8234



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For more information contact

Pat Simmons 432-213-5444



OIL

Continued from Page 5A

(MWD)

Santa Rosa 1000'
Yates 1250'
Seven Rivers 1300'
Queen 1500'
Grayburg 2850'
San Andres 3080'
Glorieta 3860'
Clear Fork 4740'
Spraberry 6455'
Wichita/Albany 7500'
Dean 7860'
Strawn 7900'
Wolfcamp 8040'
Pennsylvanian 8300'

Daily Potential: 1,022 Bbls 42.0 gravity oil w/ 1,022 BWPD Pumping. GOR: 1218
Spud: 2-17-15. Completed: 8-24-15. Pay: NA
9-5/8" @ 3918 feet w/ 925 sx.
5-1/2" @ 18,263 feet w/ 2,425 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7741 feet
Perfs: 8479-18,147

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.
370 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202-0000
(720) 876-3926

#2007A Powell "20", API #42-173-37188
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2563' GR
11.50 miles northwest of Garden City
A-936, Section 20, Block 35, T-3-S, T&P RR Co. survey
470' FNL, 1080' FEL of the survey
Total Depth: 10,317 feet. PBTD: 10,317 feet.

Contractor not listed

Yates 1891'
San Andres 3418'
Clear Fork 5186'
Spraberry 6440'
Dean 7784'
Wolfcamp 7933'
Strawn 9894'
Atoka 10,130'

Logs: Gamma Ray (MWD)
Daily Potential: 34 Bbls 41.0 gravity oil w/ 116 BWPD Pumping. GOR: 117
Spud: 7-28-15. Completed: 9-04-15. Pay: NA
5-1/2" @ 10,270 feet w/ 610 sx.
MS tool @ 5085 feet w/ 460 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 8602 feet
Perfs: 7691-10,136

Midenergy Operating, LLC
306 West Wall St., Suite 415
Midland, TX 79701-0000
(432) 262-8050

#2605 Zant, API #42-173-36611
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2628' GR
18 miles southeast of Garden City
A-1033, Section 26, Block 36, T-2-S, T&P RR Co. survey
330' FSL, 330' FEL of the survey
Total Depth: 10,751 feet. PBTD: 10,614 feet. Logs: Neutron
Daily Potential: 64 Bbls 2.4 gravity oil w/ 480 BWPD Flowing. GOR: 1359
Spud: 11-17-14. Completed: 8-04-15. Pay: NA
8-5/8" @ 4000 feet w/ 1,140 sx.
5-1/2" @ 10,750 feet w/ 1,270 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 8317 feet
Perfs: 8374-10,562
8374-10,562: Frac w/ 21,500g 15% HCL, 27,842 Bbls slick water and 875,569# 100 mesh sand, 30/50 Coolset and 30/0 Pro-Lite sand

Contractor not listed

Santa Rosa 1450'
Yates 2270'
Seven Rivers 2530'
Queen 3200'
Grayburg 3850'
San Andres 3900'
Clear Fork 6150'
Spraberry 6900'
Dean 8200'
Wolfcamp 8400'
Strawn 10,200'

Howard County

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.
370 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202-0000
(720) 8876-5176

#1803D Ward "18", API #42-227-38452
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2621' GR
4.90 miles north of Big Spring
A-1469, Section 18, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. survey
2000' FSL, 2148' FWL of the survey
Total Depth: 7601 feet. PBTD: NA. Logs: Gamma Ray

Contractor not listed
(MWD)

Yates 1718'
San Andres 3361'
Clear Fork 4173'

Spraberry 6097'

Daily Potential: 737 Bbls 42.0 gravity oil w/ 1,407 BWPD Pumping. GOR: 455
Spud: 3-29-15. Completed: 9-08-15. Pay: NA
9-5/8" @ 7334 feet w/ 555 sx.; MS tool @ 4013 feet w/ 540 sx.
5-1/2" @ 15,924 feet w/ 1,789 sx.; 2-7/8" @ 7076 feet
Perfs: 8063-15,827

Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc.
P.O. Box 3178
Midland, TX 79702-0000
(972) 969-3587

#2 Kentex "1", API #42-227-38645
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2476' GR
13.50 miles southwest of Big Spring
A-518, Section 1, Block 35, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
2060' FWL, 2566' FSL of the survey
Total Depth: 10,049 feet. PBTD: 10,026 feet.
Logs: Acceptable cased hole logs
Daily Potential: 32.80 Bbls 42.8 gravity oil w/ 457 BWPD Flowing. GOR: 121
Spud: 10-26-15. Completed: 1-14-16. Pay: NA
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4-1/2" @ 10,049 feet w/ 887 sx.; 2-3/8" @ 6812 feet
Perfs: 6878-9562

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Man charged in lottery scheme fights extradition

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A Texas man accused of helping his friend, a former lottery security officer, attempt to collect jackpots from fixed lottery tickets has lost an appeal of his extradition to Iowa, where he faces charges of fraud.

Robert Clark Rhodes II, of Sugar Land, Texas, was charged last year by Iowa authorities with two counts of fraud, and Texas authorities arrested him March 30, 2015. He was released on bond as he fought extradition. A judge ruled last year Iowa has enough evidence to arrest him and Rhodes appealed. A Texas appeals court on March 8 dismissed Rhodes' challenges and said the extradition may proceed.

On Wednesday, Rhodes filed a petition asking the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to consider the case, said Rhodes' attorney Terry Yates.

Iowa wants Rhodes because of his ties to Eddie Tipton, the former Multi-State Lottery Association computer security officer convicted of fixing a Hot Lotto game in 2010 in an effort to get himself a winning ticket worth \$16.5 million.

Iowa Assistant Attorney General Rob Sand, who successfully prosecuted Tipton last July on two charges of fraud, alleges Tipton disguised himself with a hooded jacket and bought the ticket, then gave it to Rhodes to figure out a way to collect the jackpot anonymously.

Sand alleges Rhodes reached out to attorneys in New York and Canada but both failed in their attempts to cash the ticket because Iowa requires lottery winners to identify themselves and prove they bought the ticket or acquired it legally. Since the men refused to disclose the identity of the ticket buyer the jackpot was never paid. Tipton couldn't win a jackpot

because he worked at MUSL, a vendor for the Iowa Lottery.

Tipton, 52, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He has appealed and remains free on bond.

In October, Sand charged Tipton with ongoing criminal conduct and money laundering

after investigators uncovered new evidence they say shows he worked with associates to fix jackpots and claim prizes worth millions of dollars in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

Tipton is scheduled to face a trial on those charges in July.

In Wisconsin, a ticket matched the Dec. 29, 2007, Megabucks drawing done on a computer

Tipton's MUSL team in Iowa built. Rhodes claimed the \$783,257 jackpot in the name of a company he founded called Delta S Holdings. Wisconsin law allows winners to remain anonymous if they collect the money in a trust or company name. Investigators, however, learned that Rhodes was behind Delta S Holdings. They also found bank statements showing Delta S Holdings transferred tens of thousands of dollars to Eddie Tipton in the 18 months after the lottery jackpot was claimed.

Sand said he couldn't comment on the Texas appeals court ruling in Rhodes' extradition case.

Rhodes could testify at Tipton's upcoming trial.

"We don't know that yet," Yates said. "It's a possibility."

Tipton worked as a computer security specialist at a company Rhodes founded in 1993 and later served on the company's board of directors. Tipton left the company in 2003 to work at MUSL in Iowa, where he built computers and software designed to randomly generate numbers for several lottery games.

Robert Clark Rhodes II, of Sugar Land, Texas, was charged last year by Iowa authorities with two counts of fraud.

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Rolling Stones unleash rock and roll on massive Cuban crowd

HAVANA (AP) — The Rolling Stones unleashed two hours of shrieking, thundering rock and roll on an ecstatic crowd of hundreds of thousands of Cubans and foreign visitors Friday night, capping one of the most momentous weeks in modern Cuban history with a massive celebration of music that was once forbidden here.

The week opened with the arrival of President Barack Obama in Air Force One, accompanied by more than 1,000 employees of a government that waged a cold war against Cuba for more than 50 years. This time, U.S. forces were armed with briefing books and press invitations, here to seal the president's 2014 opening to Cuba with a string of expertly crafted public events that saw Obama call for democracy live on state television, then attend a Major League Baseball exhibition game with Cuban President Raul Castro.

The week ended with Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts firing "Jumpin' Jack Flash" "Sympathy for the Devil" and "Satisfaction" into a jubilant crowd from 3-story-tall high-definition television screens and thumping towers of speakers.

From Sunday evening to late Friday night, it felt as if the full force of the 21st century had landed with bone-rattling impact on an island that still feels mostly cut off from the modern world.

"Havana, Cuba, and the Rolling Stones!" Jagger cried. "This is amazing! It's really good to be here! It's good to see you guys!"

Cambodia's zeal for rubber drives ethnic group from land

BOUSRA, Cambodia (AP) — For generations, the indigenous Bunong were famous as the great elephant keepers and masters of the forests in eastern Cambodia. They called the fertile, rolling hills of their ancestral homeland "meh ne," or mother — a source of food, livelihoods and self-identity.

From its rich red soil, they harvested rice, pumpkins and bananas. From the towering forests, they gathered honey, resin and medicinal plants. Under the leafy canopies, they buried their dead and worshipped spirits they believed lived in the rocks and trees.

All that changed in 2008, when without warning, bulldozers started razing their fields and forests to make way for rubber plantations the government had granted to a European-Cambodian joint venture that will



The Associated Press

Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones performs in Havana, Cuba.

likely feed China's burgeoning car market.

The long-term land leases, called economic land concessions, were meant to promote development in the poor, rural province of Monduliri, but for the roughly 800 Bunong families displaced from their ancestral land, the projects brought mostly hardship and loss.

It's a pattern that has been repeated across the country. The Cambodian human rights group LICADHO estimates that more than 200 concessions and other state-linked land deals have harmed half a million people. The U.N. has called land conflicts, including those created by the long-term leases, the country's No. 1 human rights problem.

Protests against Trump risk

backlash in GOP primary

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. (AP) — David Rau wasn't sure about Donald Trump. So the landscape contractor strolled over to the main park in this Phoenix suburb to watch one of the businessman's recent rallies and decide for himself.

Demonstrators pulled their cars across an access road to block people driving to the event. Dozens marched to the park and stood by Rau, chanting "Stop the hate!" as he tried to listen. He left a Trump convert. "I've got the right to listen to somebody speak, don't I?" Rau asked.

Trump's rise in the Republican presidential contest has sparked increasingly confrontational protests, mobilized his opponents and

drawn scrutiny of the GOP front-runner's rhetoric and the sometimes rough way his campaign handles dissent. But as demonstrators escalate their tactics, they also risk helping Trump, especially among Republican voters his rivals are furiously trying to persuade to reject the billionaire businessman.

"I encourage people to speak out against Trump in a forceful but respectful manner because some of these protests are only serving to help him," said Tim Miller, a spokesman for a Republican group trying to stop Trump. "He continues to dominate the news, he can play the 'us vs. them' card when liberals disrupt his events and that serves as a rallying point for his candidacy."

Even Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has been troubled by protesters' tactics, as well as by Trump's response.

Public sentencing of protesting workers backfires in China

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities in southwestern China had apparently thought their Cultural Revolution-style public sentencing of eight workers who took to the streets demanding

back wages would stand as a warning to others at a time of a slowing economy and rising worker unrest.

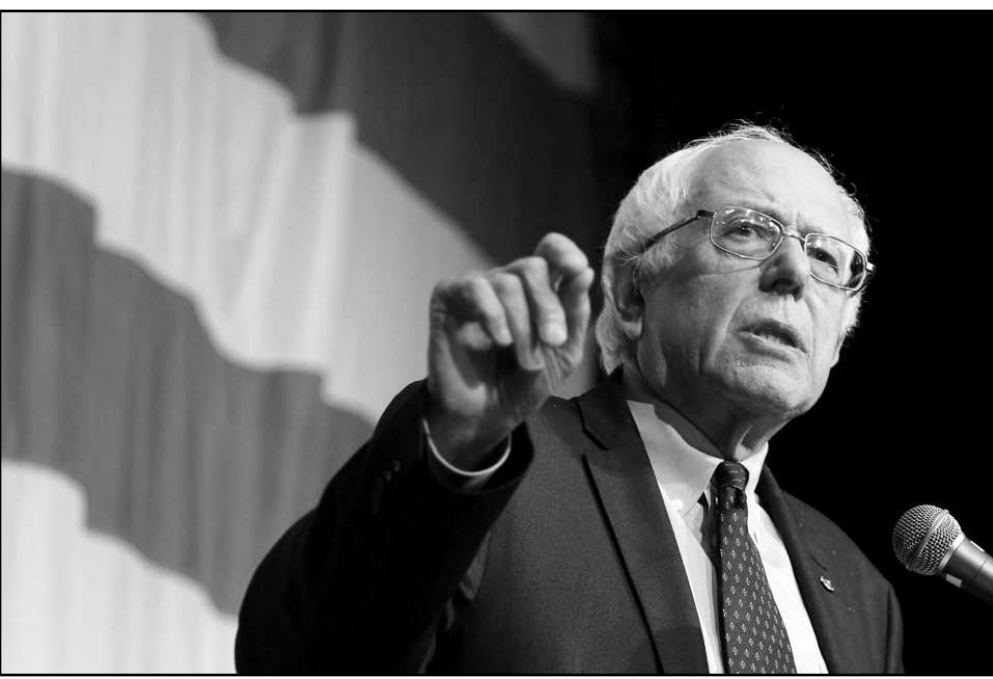
Instead, the parading of the three women and five men through streets with their heads bowed and a guard on each arm has drawn fire and sympathy with the defendants, and calls for the deadbeat bosses to be publicly humiliated.

The incident in the Sichuan province city of Langzhong underscores concerns over the system's inability to protect worker rights against politically connected employers and a government obsessed with social stability and terrified of rippling unrest — even at the expense of justice.

"Where is the dignity of the law? Where is the moral conscience on the earth?" said Sima Nan, an outspoken scholar and social critic better known for his unapologetic defense of China's Marxist political system.

The trial punished workers seeking their rights "but pardoned those who maliciously failed to pay up without even a word of moral condemnation," Sima wrote on his public microblog.

Discover new worlds — Read!



Charlie Riedel / AP

Sanders seeks caucus trifecta win to close delegate gap

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders pushed for a trifecta of wins in Saturday's Democratic presidential caucuses in Hawaii, Alaska and Washington state, hoping to stoke a spring comeback against the commanding front-runner, Hillary Clinton.

The Vermont senator spent much of the week on the West Coast, trying to build his enduring support among liberal activists into a Saturday sweep that could help him narrow a gap of 300 delegates won in primaries behind Clinton.

That's about double the margin that then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama held over Clinton in the 2008 primaries.

While Sanders faces a steep climb to the nomination, a string of losses for Clinton would highlight persistent vulnerabilities within her own party. Sanders continues to attract tens of thousands to his rallies — drawing more than 17,000 in Seattle this week — and has collected more than \$140 million from 2 million donors.

But turning that passionate support into the

party nomination is growing increasingly difficult. Clinton has a delegate lead of 1,223 to 920 over Sanders, according to an *Associated Press* analysis, an advantage that expands to 1,691-949 once the superdelegates, or party officials who can back either candidate, are included.

Based on that count, Sanders still needs to win 58 percent of the remaining delegates from primaries and caucuses to have a majority of those delegates by June's end.

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Games, egg hunts and smiles found at Marcy House Easter celebration



HERALD Photos/ Julie Bass
Marcy House Residents sat outside enjoying the weather and watching kids play games and hunt for Easter eggs Friday afternoon. Above: A worker tosses the ball to the next contestant in rock bowling. Top left: Kids tied their legs together with yarn for the three legged race. Left: Two boys are still all laughs and smiles as they tumbled to the ground still tied to one another.

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Ranch Day is scheduled April 9 at NRHC



Courtesy photo

Volunteer Jim Rymer has been a Ranch Host at the National Ranching Heritage Center for 24 years and will again greet visitors at the door of the Matador Half Dugout from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 9 during the 46th Annual Ranch Day activities. The 1888 half dugout was once a line camp for cowboys on the Matador Ranch.

Special to the Herald

More than 4,000 visitors are expected from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the National Ranching Heritage Center (NRHC) in Lubbock for the 46th Annual Ranch Day, a free hands-on experience focusing on both pioneer life and contemporary ranching.

"Our historical park speaks volumes about the frontier settlers who lived in those structures and created legends and history in the process," said NRHC Executive Director Carl Andersen. "We have nearly 150 volunteers who will help make that history come alive on Ranch Day. Anyone who visits us will see chuck wagons, cowboys, horses and even an authentic Comanche tepee."

Andersen said the 49 historic structures at the NRHC have been chronologically arranged to exhibit the evolution of ranch life from the late 1700s

through the mid-1900s.

These structures have been relocated, restored and furnished to represent the time period in which they were built. Ranch Hosts dressed in period clothing will greet visitors and provide historical information about many of the structures.

Guests can buy hamburgers and have lunch on the grounds as they participate in a magic show and such memorable pioneer activities as leatherworking, washing clothes on a washboard, churning butter, rope-making, and paint cattle branding. Members of the Texas Tech Equestrian Center will provide horseback rides and horse demonstrations.

Ranch Day also will emphasize contemporary ranching issues through hands-on ranch science demonstrations presented by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, Texas Tech Pre-Veterinarian Society, Natural



Resource Conservation Service, Wind Energy Student Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Quail Tech Alliance.

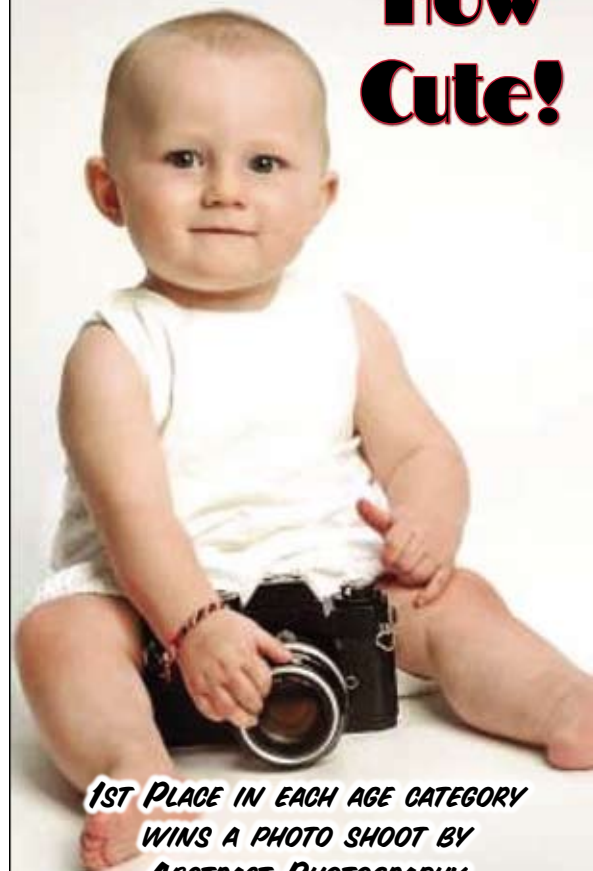
The NRHC is a unique 27-acre museum and historical park that offers educational programs and exhibits to promote interest in ranching history

and contemporary ranching. Supported by Texas Tech University and the Ranching Heritage Association, the center is located at 3121 Fourth St. adjacent to the Texas Tech campus.

For more information, visit www.nrhc.ttu.edu.

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Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring catcher Mia Oliva crushes a home run Friday against Levelland. It was her third consecutive game with a home run.

Lady Steers start 3-0 with walk-off win

Mia Oliva and Cierra Martinez get big hits to lead Big Spring past Levelland, start district undefeated

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers (13-3-1, 3-0) stayed perfect in district play in walk-off fashion Friday afternoon.

The Lady Steers had to climb out of a hole dug by the Levelland Loboettes' five-run third inning to secure the win. Leading 2-0, Lady Steers pitcher Mariah Sarmiento struck out the first batter of the inning. The Loboettes answered with a single and a double, and the next batters had an RBI groundout and a single to tie the game at two. With two outs, Sarmiento had a chance to minimize the damage, but an error in center field gave Levelland two base runners instead of three outs, and Loboette Miranda Villegas hit the next pitch

out of the ballpark to give her team a 5-2 lead.

The Lady Steers got within one thanks to a Levelland error in the bottom of the fifth. Down 6-2 with one out, Ysabel Soliz grounded to third, but a misplayed ball gave Big Spring a free baserunner. Following a popup, Jaci Aguilar singled to center field to give the Lady Steers two on with two outs. Catcher Mia Oliva then put a fast ball into the Big Spring Junior High School parking lot for her third home run in the last three games to get the score to 6-5.

In the final inning with the Lady Steers needing to score, Logan Terrazas led things off as a pinch hitter, but was sat down on three strikes. Soliz followed with a line drive base hit past the shortstop,

and Ashley Gonzales walked to move Soliz to second. Soliz then stole third to put the tying run 60 feet away, and Jaci Aguilar delivered another clutch hit to drive in the tying run. Gonzales and Aguilar advanced into scoring position on the throw, and with a base open, Levelland carefully pitched around the hot-hitting Oliva, which led to four balls.

With the bases loaded for of Lady Steers, Cierra Martinez came to the plate. With the infield in and one out, Martinez hit the ball just hard enough and just fair enough down the third base line to score Martinez from third, giving Big Spring the 7-6 walk-off win.

"We knew that she couldn't walk her with the bases loaded there, so she was going to get a good pitch to hit and

that's what I told her. I said, 'You're going to get a good pitch to hit so just be ready to do your thing and put it in play,'" Big Spring head coach Howell Martin said. "And they had the third baseman in so tight that it was pretty easy to get it by her once she made solid contact."

Regarding Oliva's three-game streak with the long ball, Martin said it's nothing new to her.

"When she gets on a roll, she can string them together. She did this last year, and when she gets on a roll she can really pump them, and that ball was definitely not just blown out by the wind," he said.

The wind is one reason Levelland was able to grab the lead in the ball game. The home run by Villegas looked like a routine fly ball, but

with the American flag completely horizontal blowing towards BSJHS, the ball had no problem clearing the fence. Battling the wind can especially be a problem for pitchers, and Martin said he was happy with the way Sarmiento handled the conditions.

"I thought she did a really good job keeping them off balance, and the changeup looked good all day," he said.

The win for Big Spring puts them in a tie for first place in the district, and moves Levelland to 2-1 in district play. The Lady Steers have a crucial matchup at home against Snyder in their next game at 5 p.m. Friday, April 1. Snyder also comes with a 3-0 district record with impressive wins on their resume. They beat Sweetwater 13-1, Lamesa 15-7 and Estacado 15-1.

Hawks sweep doubleheader in Clarendon

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

CLARENDON — The Howard Hawks (16-13, 7-3) took two conference games against Clarendon College Friday, 22-8 and 14-8.

The bats were hot all day, highlighted by first baseman and cleanup hitter Brendon Foust's perfect day at the plate. He had a huge two games, going 6-for-6 with two home runs, nine RBIs and five runs scored.

"He took good at-bats, that's all it really came down to," Howard head coach Britt Smith said on Foust.

But with 36 combined runs, Foust wasn't the only Hawk hitter who was seeing the ball well. Right fielder Dominic Thornton went 3-for-8 with a home run, four RBIs and six runs scored, and second baseman Jackson Owens went 4-for-10 with two RBIs and four runs scored. Up and down the lineup, it was hard to find someone who didn't contribute at some point, and the Hawks used the offense to overcome their 10 errors on the day, seven of which came in the opener.

"I thought we really played well."

See HAWKS, Page 4B

Steers beat Levelland 6-5, improve to 2-0 in district

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers (7-11, 2-0) remain perfect in the district after a close 6-5 win against the Levelland Lobos Friday.

The Steers trailed 1-0 early, but came right back in the bottom of the second. Bryson Burt doubled to left field, and Dylan Cantu walked. Elijah Munoz then hit the second double in the inning to left field that scored both runners and gave the Steers a 2-1 lead. A Noah Perez sacrifice fly later in the inning scored Munoz from third to extend the lead to 3-1.

The Steers scored another three runs in the bottom of the third to gain a 6-1 advantage. Riley Henson led off the inning with a single and Edward Aguilar followed suit, giving the Steers runners at first and third. Dylan Marquez came in at first base as a courtesy runner,



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Steers shortstop Riley Henson throws to first for the out in Friday's 6-5 win.

and immediately stole second base, giving Big Spring two runners in scoring position. Henson scored on a ball in the dirt that allowed Marquez to move to third, and Preston Alexander grounded out to shortstop on a ball that was deep enough to score Marquez. With no one on

and one out, the Steers strung together three singles from Burt, Munoz and Matthew Tarrats that eventually scored Burt from third, giving the Steers the 6-1 lead.

Tarrats, who started the game on the mound, had a rough start to the following inning. The top of the fourth

saw Levelland pull closer as Tarrats gave up two doubles and three singles to get the Lobos within two at 6-4 with one out. Even though he was coming off of an 111-pitch performance Tuesday at Estacado, Big Spring head coach opted to relieve

See STEERS, Page 4B

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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value

Warriors make 21 3s, beat Mavs for 65th win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — After a record-setting night of 3-pointers for Golden State, coach Steve Kerr's focus was more on deficiencies at the other end of the court that nearly cost his team a game against an undermanned opponent.

Klay Thompson scored 40 points and Stephen Curry added 33 as the Splash Brothers combined for 14 3-pointers in all in a 128-120 victory Friday night over a Dallas Mavericks team missing Dirk Nowitzki and two other starters.

"Our defense was horrific," Kerr said. "Dallas exposed us and they ran great stuff and they made shots and deserve all the credit in the world. But our defense was horrific. We lost focus time after time."

Thompson and Curry made sure it didn't matter. Their long-range shooting helped Golden State make 21 3-pointers in all to give the team a record 938 on the season, breaking the mark of 933 set by Houston last season.

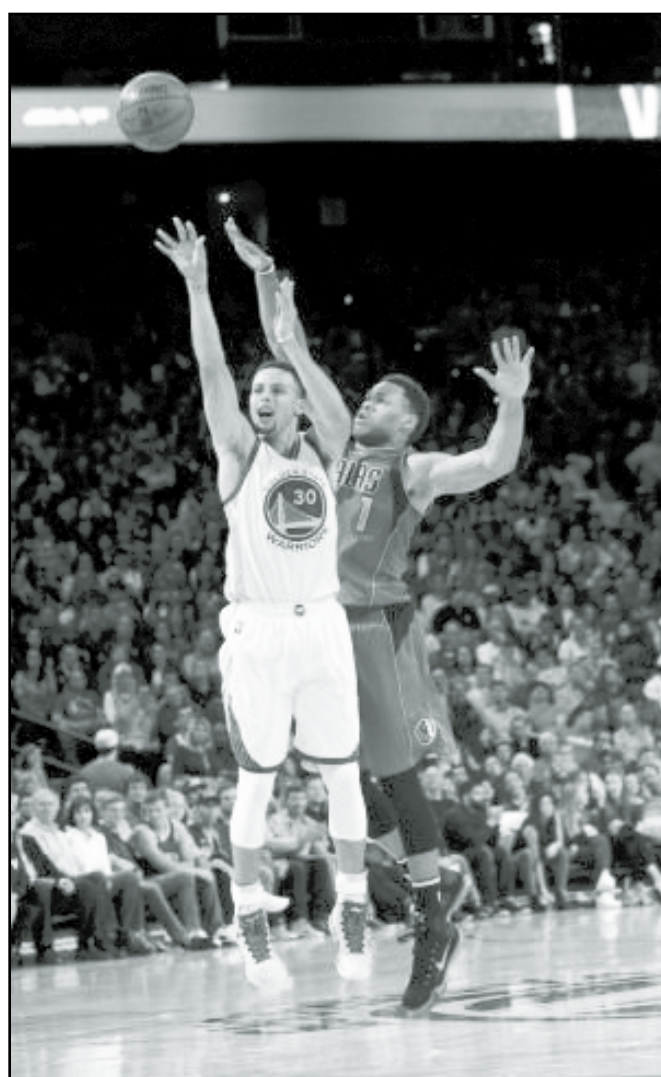
"That's pretty sweet," Thompson said. "The game is kind of changing and I think we're on the forefront of that. Our team's shooting ability is second to none."

Draymond Green added 19 points as the Warriors won their 52nd straight regular-season home game and improved their record to 65-7 following a 67-win season a year ago. The only other team to win at least 65 games in consecutive seasons was Chicago in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Bulls won a record 72 games that first season, a mark the Warriors remain on target to beat after their latest win.

"We know we can make history," Thompson said. "That's a good motivator itself."

Wesley Matthews scored 26 points and J.J. Barea added 21 for the short-handed Mavericks, who were without Nowitzki, Devin Harris and Chandler Parsons. David Lee added 12 points, nine rebounds and six assists in his first game back in Oakland since winning the championship with Golden State last season.

Dallas fell into a tie for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry shoots over Dallas Mavericks' Justin Anderson (1) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, March 25, 2016 in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won 128-120. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

with Utah.

"We've shown that we can compete with everybody in the league. The important thing now is getting there," coach Rick Carlisle said. "The next 10 games are going to tell the story."

The Warriors opened up an 18-point lead in the third quarter before Dallas fought back to get the deficit into single digits early in the fourth three times. Thompson responded with 3-pointers each time to restore the double-digit margin.

The Mavericks then closed to 116-113 with just over three minutes remaining on a 3-pointer by Charlie Villanueva. But Harrison Barnes hit a turnaround jumper and Curry scored on a coast-to-coast layup with help from a slick behind-the-back dribble to elude Zaza Pachulia to make it 120-113 with 2:33 remaining.

"That's how they beat people," Lee said. "They're similar to the Spurs. A lot of teams are in the game at some point, but they make plays at the end and they find a way to win a lot of these closer games."

Curry was involved in one of the few plays that didn't work on a night dominated by the

offenses. Late in the second quarter, he found himself all alone behind the 3-point line. Thompson raised his arms in celebration and started back down to the other end of the court, so sure that Curry would make the open 3.

The only problem was Curry decided to pass to an equally open Thompson. The ball hit off Thompson and was nearly a turnover.

"I thought he was hotter than I was at the time, so I wanted to give it up," Curry said. "Bad decision."

Curry made up for that blunder when he hit a 33-footer punctuated by a shimmy dance just before the halftime buzzer to make it 72-58.

TIP-INS

Mavericks: Dallas hit 18 3s as the teams combined for a record 39 on the night. ... G Devin Harris left the team to attend the birth of his child. ... Parsons will miss the rest of the season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Friday.

Warriors: The Warriors had 47 fast-break points to just one for Dallas. ... Thompson hit nine 3-pointers to give him a career-high 246 on the season.



Ron Schwane/Associated Press

Act II for RG3: Griffin's shot to reboot career with Browns

CLEVELAND (AP) — Back before he rocketed into the NFL as a freakish touchdown-maker, before the knee injury and his downfall in Washington, Robert Griffin III was convinced he'd play for the Browns.

During pre-draft workouts in Arizona, Griffin and his agent were set for Cleveland to be his home.

"We were ready then," Griffin said, "and we are more than ready now."

Four long, trying years later, Griffin has a chance to revive a career that once seemed unstoppable.

No longer viewed as one of football's brightest and flashiest players but rather a reclamation project, Griffin signed a two-year, \$15 million contract Thursday with the Browns, a team on a perpetual mission to find a franchise quarterback.

RG3 is beginning his second act.

Griffin hasn't been the same since his dazzling rookie season in Washington in 2012, when the former Heisman Trophy winner — possessed with a rocket arm, a tailback's speed and endless swagger — took the league by storm. However, his next

three seasons were curtailed by injury and clouded by controversy and the 26-year-old found himself without a team when the Redskins released him March 7.

The Browns, who tried unsuccessfully to trade so they could draft him in 2012, are giving him another shot.

"I'm just excited to come in and compete," Griffin said. "Nothing's ever been given to me in my life, so I just want to go out and compete with the guys and grow with this team. I feel like that's all I'm really focused on."

He's been given no promises by the Browns, who have the No. 2 overall pick in this year's draft and are expected to take a quarterback — presumably California's Jared Goff or North Dakota State's Carson Wentz. As the team was completing its deal with Griffin, new coach Hue Jackson attended Wentz's pro day workout in North Dakota along with offensive assistant Pep Hamilton.

"I'll take the guy under my wing," Griffin said during a conference call. "I'm real excited about that."

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Tarrats with pitcher Anthony Godwin. Godwin got the next two better to fly out to end the inning. He gave up one run in the fifth, but locked down the Levelland hitters in the sixth and seventh to secure the 6-5 win for Big Spring.

"We threw a lefty out there today, Matthew Tarrats, it's his first varsity outing. The kid was juiced all day, and he did a great job, but I thought he was running out of gas there towards the end," Smith said.

"The funny thing is before the game even started, earlier today I talked to Anthony and I said, 'Hey, do you have one in you if you have to close it out?' and he said 'Coach, I've got three in me, I feel great.' So with us not having a game next Tuesday and being off until Friday, he's got plenty of time to rest and that's what you've got to do to win the games one at a time. You bring the hoss in to do it, all 120 pounds of him."

Smith added that Godwin's confidence in his abilities, as well as his mindset when he's on the mound, is what sets him apart from other pitchers. "He's got the killer

instinct. When he's on the mound, he knows exactly what he wants to do, and that's why he works so quick. He's confident and he knows what he's doing, and it doesn't matter if it's the seventh inning or if it's a start. He's confident and he's going to attack the hitters and you just love that bulldog mentality from a pitcher," he said.

Godwin added that he had no problems throwing on short rest.

"I feel great. I woke up this morning and my arm felt great, so why not?" he said. "Next we play Snyder, both 2-0, and I'll be on the mound. So it's going to be a good game."

Smith said with both

teams undefeated in district through two games, he expects the game against Snyder to be a classic rivalry game.

"We always play Snyder great. It's a good rivalry, and it's a clean rivalry. It may get testy sometimes, but the kids play hard and it's a fun deal. It'll be really fun next Friday at Steer Park with the Snyder Tigers and Big Spring Steers both 2-0," he said.

The Steers take on the Snyder Tigers at 7 p.m. Friday, April 1 at Steer

Park, a game that will be played in honor of Dylan Lance and feature a memorial service prior to the first pitch. The service was origi-

nally scheduled for Friday's game against Levelland, but was moved to April 1 due to a change in the schedule.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)
Steers center fielder Preston Alexander makes a catch in Friday's 6-5 win over Levelland.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

We pitched it really well and we had a plan going in and the guys stuck with it and executed it. The defense was a little shaky in the first game, but we pitched around them," Smith said. "We made 10 errors and were still able to win both games, so that'll tell you that our hitters were really good all day. Two huge wins on the road, and we needed them."

The Hawks also got solid production from bench players filling in for injured starters. Chad Paris, who took over in left field for Hunter Hill after Hill pulled his hamstring in Wednesday's game, went 2-for-7 with a big home run, two RBIs and four runs scored. Outfielder Cameron Williams took over for team captain James Davison after Davison took a fastball to the ankle at the plate in the first game, and in his first at-bat, Williams hit a sixth-inning grand slam to put the Hawks up 22-4. Smith said Davison rested and iced his ankle all day, and will hopefully be ready to go for Saturday's doubleheader.

The Hawks also got starting third baseman Andrew Beck back in the lineup after missing some time with a shoulder injury. He struggled in the finale, but in the opener went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and scored two runs.

"He didn't have a great day numbers-wise at the plate," Smith said. "He looked like a guy that hadn't played in a week, just pressing and trying to do a little too much, but it helped us lineup-wise to have him in there for sure."

Shortstop Rahman Williams, who has been under pressure to perform better on the defensive side, had a good day at the plate as well, going 5-for-8 with three RBIs and four runs scored.

"I thought he played really well today. He made a couple of mistakes defensively, but on the whole, it's not an easy place to play and the conditions today didn't make it any easier. I thought he was really good offensively and took some really good at-bats, and we needed it," Smith said.

On the mound, Jose Quezada started and completed the opener, giving up five earned runs on 10 hits and notching seven strikeouts in six innings. The finale saw Parker Towns start and pitch four innings, followed by Matt Szymczak who pitched three, and Jakes Davis who locked down the final two. Towns gave up three earned runs on seven hits and struck out six, and Szymczak allowed one earned run on three hits with one strikeout. Davis didn't allow a hit in the final two innings.

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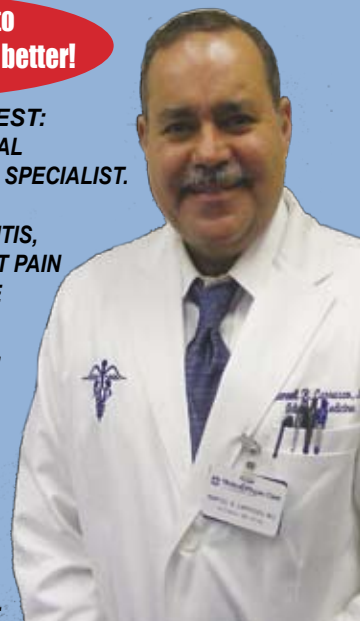
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Tower gardens give students a chance to learn about gardening

It's a community garden minus the dirt. As Angie Garcia, Marcy Elementary cafeteria manager, placed another seedling in the school's new aeroponic vertical tower garden on Thursday she commented, "I'm going to have the best-looking plants."

"They'll be the best because I'll talk to them every day." Garcia's comment was a good-natured comeback response when someone said her seedlings didn't look as good as the ones at the Kentwood vertical garden.

By Thursday, Big Spring ISD employees had several of their district's new aeroponic vertical towers set up, thanks to the efforts of the district maintenance workers, and planted in hopes the first crop will be ready for harvest before the end of the school year.

"We are going to basically teach the kids about growing vegetables and where they come from," said Judy Rodriguez, Big Spring ISD food service director. "We've planted tomatoes, peppers, strawberries and lettuce. We are not replacing our menu with this. This is basically a learning activity. They (the students) are going to be able to sample some of it."

According to the manufacturing website — towergarden.com, in an air or mist environment without the use of soil. The tower has a 20 gallon reservoir tank where water and mineral nutrient solutions are combined. A pump pushes the blend to the top of the tower and sends the solution evenly over the roots of the plants. The seedlings are planted in rockwool and not dirt, according to horticulturist Michelle McMullen, who is assisting the district with the program.

"We started with seedlings because of our short growing window right now since the kids are getting out of school in May," Rodriguez said. "We are hoping that we will have some production of toma-

atoes and other things, so we can show the kids before they get out."

According to Rodriguez, the towering vertical garden idea came as a response to the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) push for public school's to create onsite gardens as a learning tool. The program is aimed at increasing students awareness and understanding of agriculture. Earlier this year, the district began Farm Fresh Fridays, a program to promote fresh fruits and vegetables which is held at a different campus each week.

"We don't live in an area conducive for gardening so this is an alternative," Rodriguez said. "We can grow things year round with the grow lights."

This project will allow students some hands on experience with growing vegetables.

"The high school will use theirs for their culinary and food science department," she said. They are going to grow other things like herbs next year as they are cooking in their culinary class."

Each of the elementary schools — Goliad, Marcy, Moss and Washington — along with Kentwood and Big Spring High School will have a tower garden on site. The cafeterias at Big Spring Intermediate School and Big Spring Junior High School are too crowded at the moment to make the project viable there, Rodriguez added.

"I think our students are going to become a little more aware that when they see produce at the gro-



Top: A plant thrives in the soilless environment of the tower garden.

Middle: Angie Garcia, cafeteria manager for Marcy Elementary School, checks on the plants in a tower garden.

Bottom left: A strawberry shows the production capable of the garden towers.

Bottom right: (L to R) Martie Aleman, Michelle McMullen and Judy Rodriguez all share in the enthusiasm for the garden towers.

cery store — lots of times they can't relate to where that produce comes from — this can teach them it actually comes from plant," she said.

Although only one will be launched this year, Rodriguez said, each participating school has two tower gardens and the high school has three. All the gardens are expected to be up and running by next fall.

And Rodriguez encourages parents to also become involved.

"We sent out a letter requesting parents to volunteer and help us," she said. "We have a few community volunteers."

Each tower cost \$1,200 to purchase which was partially funded through the TDA school nutrition program, Rodriguez said, but added a plea for community donations.

"We will still need to get donations to help cover expenses for this and for expenses down the road like the seeds and plants and chemicals," she said. "We are actively taking donations."

As for right now, the gardens need a little time, love and attention.

And a little work to produce a sweet reward is something Martie Aleman, a nurse for Big Spring ISD who is on the School Health and Advisor Committee, knows first hand. She grows a small garden every year.

"Nothing tastes better than a fresh, grown tomato," she said.

To donate to the program or for more information, contact the Big Spring Administration Office at 432-264-3600. The administration office is located at 708 E. 11th Place across from Big Spring High School.

Photos and story by:
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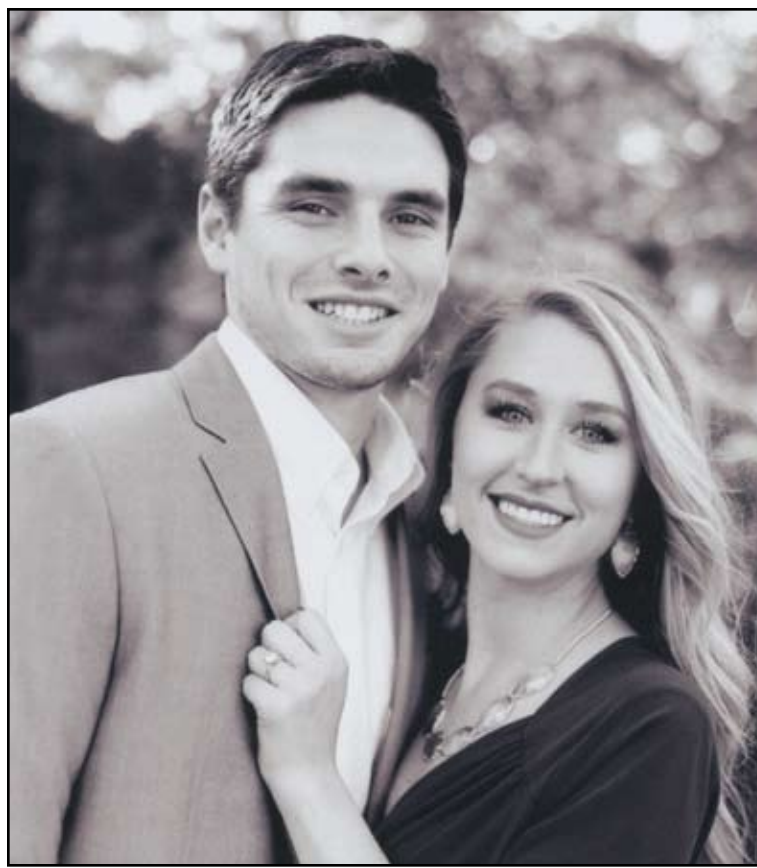
Schuelke - Young to wed May 20, 2016

Patty and Kenneth Schuelke of Brownwood, Texas; Woody Young of Springtown, Texas; and Yvonne and Dennis Garner of Gunter, Texas are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Julia Kristin Schuelke and Richard Austin Young.

Julie is a 2014 graduate of Howard Payne University with a bachelors of psychology. She is currently attending Hardin Simmons University, Abilene pursuing a masters in clinical counseling and will graduate in August of 2016. She is the granddaughter of Joann Peugh.

Richard is a 2015 graduate of Howard Payne University with a bachelors of business management. He is currently pursuing a masters of business administration and will graduate in December of 2016.

The couple plan to wed on May 20, 2016 at Willow Creek Chapel in Abilene, Texas.



Courtesy Photo

Hanna Williams, Brinly Watkins, Aubrie Smith, Ashley Reyes and Kalyn Whitehead threw color paint in the area to celebrate the Color Run last weekend. More information on page 14C.

Covell - Fulton to wed June 25, 2016

David Covell of San Antonio and Sandra Clifford of Dothan, Alabama would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Lynn Covell, to Tyler Lane Fulton, son of Karen Fulton and the late Don Fulton of Stanton.

The future bride received a bachelor of science with a concentration in Kinesiology from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas and is teaching and coaching at Stephenville High School.

The future groom received a bachelor of science from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas and is working on a Master's in Biology and plans to attend physical therapy school.

The couple will be married June 25, 2016 in Stephenville, Texas. After a honeymoon in San Francisco, the couple will reside in Stephenville.



Club News

Daughters of the American Revolution

The Captain Elisha Mack Chapter met on Feb. 13, 2016 at the Big Spring Country Club with Regent Hollis McCright presiding.

Speaker Sue Ann Damron presented a program title Patriotic Order of the Sons of America. POSofA, founded in 1847 in Philadelphia, is one of America's oldest patriotic and fraternal societies still in existence. The organization's history and accomplishments were presented. Its headquarters is a building that existed during the Valley Forge encampment and has been remodeled to resemble Mount Vernon. POSofA saved and restored Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge, began the project to erect the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge, helped to save Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia and had Congress make Flag Day a national holiday. Though little known outside of Pennsylvania, this small group has had a tremendous impact on historic preservation in their

small area.

Clara Lewis' National Defense report included the fact that 31 percent of Vietnam Vets, 10 percent of Gulf War Vets, 11 percent of Afghanistan War Vets and 20 percent of Iraq War vets suffer from PTSD.

The Nominating Committee members Sherri Key and Katie Lara presented the slate of officers who will be inducted in the May meeting.

Regent Hollis McCright announced the DAR's letter writing campaign to establish a Guinness world record title for most letters written to military personnel collected in one month. Anyone may join the campaign, but the letters must be delivered to DAR Headquarters the week of June 13-17.

Neva Green won the door prize - patriotic decorated beverage dispenser.

The next meeting will be held on April 9 at the Big Spring Country Club.

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Lunch: hamburger, fries, garden salad, baby carrots and mixed fruits.

Tuesday
Breakfast: sausage and biscuit;
Lunch: Asian bowl, egg roll, brown rice, tomato, cucumber cup, steamed broccoli and snowball salad.

Wednesday
Breakfast: toast, cheddar omelet and sausage or fruit and yogurt parfait; Lunch: meatball sub, garden salad, carrot coins and applesauce.

Thursday
Breakfast: sausage kolache and yogurt; Lunch: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, savory green beans, roll and apple-pineapple d'lite.

Big Spring ISD

Monday
Breakfast: Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Cocoa Puffs cereal, string cheese, apples, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: spaghetti, green beans, pears, fresh fruit bowl and milk.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Maple pancakes, grapes, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: crispy tacos, ranch beans, baby car-

rots, garden salad, strawberries and bananas, and milk.

Wednesday
Breakfast: sausage roll, applesauce cup, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, roll, fruity Jell-O, fresh fruit bowl and milk.

Thursday
Breakfast: baked cheese stick, banana, assorted fruit juice and milk; Lunch: Teriyaki sandwich, baked chips, garden salad, broccoli with ranch, grapes and milk.

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday
Chicken and dumplings, french style green beans with red peppers, apricots, crackers and milk.

Tuesday
Baked pork chops, brown rice, brussels/carrots/cauliflower, banana pudding, bread and milk.

Wednesday
Beef Stew with vegetables, chocolate chip cookies, fruit cup, cornbread and milk.

Thursday
Soft chicken tacos with salad and cheese, spanish rice, cherry pink cloud and milk.

The consumer tablet is dying; long live the business tablet

NEW YORK (AP) – Tablets may never again be the consumer sensation they once were, but they are finding new life among professionals.

Apple took aim at that market in announcing a second iPad Pro model this week. Samsung started selling the Windows-based Galaxy TabPro S last week, while Microsoft doubled down on its Surface tablet business last fall with Surface Book, a laptop whose keyboard pops off to leave behind a tablet. Google has its own using Android, the Pixel C.

Unlike early models, these tablets are meant to be used with a physical keyboard and a stylus. That makes them appealing to people looking to get stuff done, whether that's typing a report or drawing on a graphics app.

"It's no secret the tablet business has slowed down overall except in places where there's productivity," says Gary Riding, a senior vice president for mobile computing marketing at Samsung. ("Productivity," in this case, being jargon for work as opposed to play.)

These new devices also have higher price tags. Many sell for almost \$1,000, or even more with accessories. Companies market them as PC replacements rather than devices for watching video, reading books and playing games. "That is, things you can already do with your phone."

The Surface Pro 3 is "much thinner than a laptop, and when you have the case with the keyboard, it's essentially a laptop," says Ryan Hastman, who now leaves his Mac laptop behind while traveling to raise money for the University of Alberta in Canada.

Tablet shipments fell 10 percent to 207 million worldwide last year and are projected to fall another 6 percent this year, according to IDC. But one subset, tablets with detachable keyboards, more than

doubled to 17 million last year. It's projected to grow to 64 million in 2020 and represent 30 percent of the overall tablet market, rather than 8 percent now.

"It's not all doom and gloom," IDC analyst Jitesh Ubrani says. "Microsoft's done a very good job at marketing detachables. Everyone's now jumping on that bandwagon."

In a sense, Apple was a victim of its own success following the iPad's debut in 2010. Tablets took off with consumers who found them appealing replacements for home laptops. But people haven't replaced them as often as phones. And as phones got bigger, some people began wondering whether they needed a tablet at all.

Enter Microsoft, long the king of "productivity" software, which in 2012 designed a tablet that ran Windows and targeted professionals. The Microsoft Surface didn't have the fun apps that iPads and Android tablets had, but it had Word, Excel and other Office apps long before entertainment-oriented devices did. It also has a USB port and other features missing in most tablets.

It took Microsoft two years to get it right, though. The Pro 3 in 2014 was the first Surface with a fully adjustable kickstand that mimicked the flexibility of laptop screens. And last fall's models were the first Surface devices with Windows 10, which mirrored traditional PCs much more than the Windows 8 it replaced.

"Everyone wants a tablet, and everyone needs a laptop," says Brian Hall, Microsoft's general manager for Surface. "You can have an approach that says people need to buy one of each, or you can have an approach that says there's a happy medium."

The holiday quarter was the best yet for Surface, with revenue increasing 29 percent to \$1.35 billion.

But don't count Apple

out. IDC estimates that Apple sold more than 2 million iPad Pros in the holiday quarter when it launched, compared with 1.6 million units for Surface. Apple's advantage: apps designed from the start for touch screens and battery conservation, rather than ones adapted from the mouse-and-keyboard world of plugged-in Windows PCs.

Now, Apple is giving customers additional choice. A 9.7-inch iPad Pro that starts at \$599, \$200 cheaper than the 12.9-inch original (add about \$250 for the keyboard and stylus). Just as Microsoft and Samsung have done, Apple is targeting the hundreds of millions of people whose Windows machines are at least five years old. Apple says most iPad Pro customers are coming from Windows.

Bryan O'Neil Hughes, head of outreach and collaboration for software maker Adobe, says a faster processor and better graphics make the Pro something people choose, rather than settle for, when replacing PCs. Many professionals in creative industries, he says, prefer tablets over laptops for presentations, sketching and design.

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Seeing holes in effort to bridge 'word gap' in poor children

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) – When former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced his foundation was awarding \$5 million to launch Providence's high-tech idea to improve the vocabularies of the city's youngest children, he said he hoped the pilot could take root in Rhode Island and spread across the nation.

Three years later, more than 500 families have participated in Providence Talks, which uses wearable audio recorders to count every word spoken by toddlers and their parents in low-income households.

But whether the pioneering program is a national model or just an interesting concept hasn't been settled.

Most child development experts agree on one thing: Poor preschool children hear far fewer words than wealthy children. That can lead them to fall behind in building early literacy skills, and, when they grow older, to do poorly in school.

Providence's program was envisioned as a way to close what's called the "word gap" by encouraging parents to speak more with their infants and toddlers.

Social workers regularly visit homes, delivering charts that show how many words were spoken each hour and day, excluding from TV and radio. They talk about methods to boost the count and enrich conversations, from reading picture books to chatting about the texture of peanut butter or vegetables while walking down the supermarket aisle.

And while the program's own self-evaluation last year found that participating parents are talking more with their kids, the results for children are inconclusive and might not be known until they grow older. No one promised immediate success, but devoting so much to an unproven program worries some experts.

"It's a really well-intentioned program and I very sincerely hope it succeeds, but it doesn't have any firm basis in existing research," said James Morgan, a Brown University professor of cognitive, linguistic and psychological sciences who studies early childhood literacy and has been an adviser to the program.

"Providence Talks is one huge field study. But that's not what Bloomberg intended it to be," Morgan said. "If this should end up failing, people will throw up their hands and say nothing works, and that's that."

Morgan's skepticism hasn't deterred Providence Talks boosters from trying to scale up the program to reach at least 2,500 families by late 2017.

With nearly two more years before Bloomberg's grant is supposed to run out, organizers are enrolling more families by doing group sessions in addition to personalized home visits. An outreach campaign at the city's main birthing hospital spreads the message as soon as children are born. The program prizes a rich variety of words but doesn't preference any language, an essential ingredient in a city where 40 percent of residents are Latino.

Darly Niebla said it

didn't take long for her 1-year-old daughter, Gracey, to get used to wearing a recorder attached to a vest. A pediatrician recommended that she and her husband join the program because the girl wasn't talking yet. Niebla said she was already accustomed to conversing with her kids. "As her older daughter was chatty from an early age, but home visitors coached her to try other tactics, such as getting on the floor with Gracey to engage her more directly."

Beating about 300 other cities for the \$5 million grand prize of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayoral Challenge was "probably the proudest, if not the proudest, day of my administration," said former Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. His successor, Jorge Elorza, who took over last year, also supports the program, which has its own office inside Providence City Hall.

"We're hopeful this is a model for the rest of the country and raises awareness of parents across the country and really across the world," Taveras said.

The concept is already expanding in other cities. The LENA Research Foundation, the Colorado nonprofit organization that developed the recording device, launched two new programs last year using the group session model in Huntsville, Alabama, and the San Mateo County Library system in California. It will expand this spring to Minneapolis, Houston and Ames, Iowa.

Expectations are high after the Providence pilot attracted international attention and was featured in lengthy profiles from the BBC to The New Yorker magazine. Bloomberg chose the program because it addresses a challenge many cities face and can be spread elsewhere if it works, said James Anderson, who leads Bloomberg Philanthropies' government innovation program.

Anderson isn't worried that the bold idea is still just an experiment. He said the city has already adapted and strengthened its model after learning from early weaknesses and successes. He said the preliminary results are "early but promising."

"Providence will be continuing to monitor and assess the program as it ramps up," he said. "The ultimate assessment of impact will be kindergarten readiness and school performance."

And while Morgan cautioned against investing too much money before study trials can measure the program's effectiveness, his fellow adviser Ken Wong, a professor who directs Brown University's Urban Education Policy Program, was more willing to take the leap.

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Defiance mingles with fear in Belgian capital after attacks

BRUSSELS (AP) – Six-year-old Carlton Kahindi took the tea candle in his tiny hand and gently placed it on the makeshift memorial to victims of Belgium's attacks.

Though he could barely see from beneath a stocking cap, he knew his actions had meaning. That's why he was really careful.

"It's for the people who went to heaven," he said.

Thousands of people came to Brussels' central square on Wednesday, determined to defy extremists who would have them cower in fear. The city got back to work, if not back to normal.

Many of those laying flowers, lighting candles and scrawling messages of peace in chalk were children brought by parents who were seeking to explain that something terrible had happened. They wanted them to understand.

"I want him to still have faith in humanity," said Carlton's mother, Carole Kahindi.

Defiance and fear mingled in the minds of residents coming to terms with the violence that they had long expected, but had hoped wouldn't come.

"You can't protect yourself against terrorism. Are you going to stay at home today? Tomorrow? The day after tomorrow?" asked Dirk Verstraeten, 53, who was catching a bus to work. "Life must go on."

Jean and Anne-Marie Materielle were among only two dozen or so tourists admiring the gilded

gothic facades of Brussels' Grand Place. The pair from central France arrived in Brussels on Tuesday, arriving in the Molenbeek neighborhood only hours after the three bombs went off in the Brussels airport and subway.

Both said they'd gotten an earful from a local businessman who was devastated that his neighborhood, a favored locale for several of those who attacked Paris on Nov. 13 was once again at the center of world attention. "He wasn't happy," Jean said.

A platoon of soldiers is now standing guard outside the city's central train station. There's only a trickle of tourists flowing through Brussels' gothic Grand Place and gardeners at Brussels' 18th-century Warandepark are checking each trash can extra carefully.

A line swelled outside the central train station in Brussels as travelers lined up to get their bags checked. Soldiers stood guard every few feet as half a dozen military trucks idled nearby.

The mood on the street was jittery. Several metro stations were still closed, roads were snarled with traffic. Sirens repeatedly wailed.

Joggers ran loops and dog walkers chatted in Brussels' Warandepark, across from the country's parliament. But the gardeners on duty said the atmosphere was different.

"It was a black day. A very black day," said Jean-Marie

Vrebos, a 58-year-old cleaning the park's playground. "We should punish those who commit terrorism. We don't deserve terror."

"We should punish them, grab them" he said as he yanked a piece of trash off the ground with a clasper "and bring them to justice."

His colleague Kevin Engels, 24, said, "behaviors have changed. Even our bosses seem stressed. They asked us to empty all the trash cans. We pay close attention to everything."

"And you can hear the sirens," he added as an emergency vehicle blared its way down the road.

Yet everywhere around the city people just insist that this won't break them, even though it's impossible to put it out of mind.

"I am not afraid, because terrorists want you to be afraid. That's the thing: they win if we get afraid to leave home," said student Alexandra Cyran.

"But today, when I was walking to school, I was looking at the people and I was thinking: does he have a bomb? Is this person OK?"

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's All in the Spots

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

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The suit-preference signal has many applications. In its classic form, it is used by a defender on lead to tell his partner which of two side suits to return after the lead has been ruffed.

The mechanism is quite simple: If the leader prefers to have the lower-ranking side suit returned, he leads his lowest card for partner to ruff; if he prefers the return of the higher-ranking side suit, he leads a high card for partner to ruff.

This concept can be extended to a variety of situations that might arise

during the play. Today's deal provides a typical case.

South opens four spades in fourth seat, and West leads the ten of clubs. Declarer wins with dummy's jack, leads the nine of spades and finesse. West takes his king but is faced with a dilemma. He would like to reach partner's hand in order to obtain a club ruff, but he does not know whether to lead a heart or a diamond. Both leads appear to have an equal chance of success — and an equal amount of risk.

In the actual deal, if West leads a heart at trick three, declarer finishes with 11 tricks, while if West returns a diamond, the defense scores two diamonds, a spade and a club ruff for down one.

However, thanks to the suit-preference signal, West does not have to operate in the dark. East, fully aware that his partner's lead might be a singleton, can play the deuce of clubs at trick one to request a diamond return should West regain the lead. West, for his part, should be on the lookout for just such a signal from East at trick one.

Alternatively, if East had the heart ace rather than the diamond ace, he would play the nine of clubs at trick one to ask for a subsequent heart return. The suit-preference signal takes all the guesswork out of the game!

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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Stewardess in cocaine case will be sent back to California

NEW YORK (AP) – A JetBlue flight attendant accused of trying to sneak a suitcase full of cocaine through Los Angeles International Airport and making a dramatic dash to escape has been ordered returned to California.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Birotte Jr. in Los

Angeles issued the order Thursday after prosecutors appealed a New York City jurist's decision to free Marsha Gay Reynolds on \$500,000 bail.

Birotte directed U.S. marshals to transport the Jamaica-born Reynolds, 31, to Los Angeles. She

appeared in Brooklyn federal court Friday afternoon.

Reynolds, a U.S. citizen and resident of Queens, is a former Jamaican beauty queen and New York University track athlete. She surrendered in New York on Wednesday.

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

Life! forms can be found at www.bigspringherald.com

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Something special's happening in the Circle.

April 2016

- April 4 – No Games Today Only
Sr. Circle Room Not Available.
- April 5 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., "Spanish Inn."
- April 6 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
- April 7 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Gale's, 10:00 a.m.
- April 9 – Big Spring Health Fair, 8:00 a.m.-Noon,
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
- April 4-15 – SENIOR CIRCLE OFFICE CLOSED.
PANAMA CANAL CRUISE
- April 11 – Games, 1-5:00 p.m.
- April 12 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Long John Silvers", 5:30 p.m.
- April 13 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
- April 14 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Gale's, 10:00 a.m.
- April 18 – Games, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- April 19 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Crispy's", 5:30 p.m.
- April 20 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
- April 21 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Gale's, 10:00 a.m.
- April 22 – POTLUCK & BINGO,
11:30-2:00 p.m.
- April 18-22 – NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
- April 25 – Games, 1-5:00 p.m.
Hobbs, 9:00 a.m.
- April 26 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Supper Club, "Cowboy's" 5:30 p.m.
- April 27 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
- April 28 – Mall Walking, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee @ Gale's, 10:00 a.m.

Senior Circle

Senior Circle 17th Anv. Party 3:00 PM

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

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Home Realtors ribbon cutting

Courtesy photo

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives were on hand to join Home Realtor staff for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the business' office at 110 W. Marcy. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon is Home Realtors director Leslie Elrod, center.



Star Dodge ribbon cutting



Courtesy photo

Owners and employees of Star Chrysler and Dodge were joined by Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the car dealership, located on the south service road of Interstate 20.

Mighty Wash ribbon cutting



Courtesy photo

Owners and employees of Mighty Wash were joined by Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the car wash, located on 1002 Scurry Street.

Step into spring with the right lawn care service

Springtime is here and flowers are in bloom—so now may be the time to start landscaping your lawn. Whether your lawn needs a little touch-up or complete makeover, BBB advises finding the right helping hands so your dream of a green wonderland doesn't turn into a nightmare.

Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin advises consumers not to rush into hiring lawn help. It's important to get clear, written expectations for what services the company will provide and agree on a fee before work begins. Your BBB launched a helpful spring home improvement page that can serve as a resource for finding BBB Accredited landscaping or lawn services.



HEATHER MASSEY

Last year, BBB received more than 3,700 complaints against landscape and lawn maintenance and more than 3,100 complaints against landscape contractors nationwide. Nearly 100 complaints were processed by your BBB.

Many complaints alleged dissatisfaction with the services provided and performance of the business. Other complaints reported problems with contracts and delivery.

To find a lawn care business you can trust, BBB offers the following advice:

- Know what you want from a lawn service. Lawn care companies provide many services, so it's important to decide what services and products are appropriate for your needs and budget.
- Find a trustworthy business. Go to bbb.org to check the company's BBB Business Review. Here you can find information on the business, such as how long they've been in business, contact information and customer reviews.
- Check references. Ask the business for references and photos of previously completed projects. Call all references and ask what their experience was working with the company and if they were satisfied with the services provided.
- Don't sign up for services on the spot. If a sales representative comes to your door, get that person's name or business card. Call the business directly or perform the transaction through the company's website, and give the sales representative's name if you're concerned about them getting credit for the sale. If you insist on signing up on the spot, carefully read all the documents you are signing, particularly if they are electronic. On tablets or laptops, scroll up and down to see the entire document you are signing.
- Ask for a lawn inspection and free estimate. Lawn care companies that quote a price without seeing your lawn may not give you an accurate estimate. A company should be willing to visit your home to provide you with an agreed upon fee.
- Get a written agreement. A contract should clearly state the services you will receive, guarantees and refund policies, as well as how and when payment will be handled. If you are using a recurring service, the contract should also include how often the company will come out to work on your lawn, how to cancel the service and a schedule for when payments are due.

To find a BBB Accredited air conditioning contractor that you can trust, visit bbb.org/central-texas.

Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin. You can reach her by phone: (432) 741-2592.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Marcus Joe Anderson, 2621 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St. #19, Big Spring
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
Timothy Tod Beck, 910 E. 6th St., Big Spring
Elda Melina Bernal, 1311 Mobile, Big Spring
Kimberly Danielle Buchanan, 1909 Morrison, Big Spring
Wayne Richard Buyce, 4042 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake
Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring
Pedro Chavarria, 1404

Wood St., Big Spring
Matilda Cortez, 302 N. St. Teresa, Stanton
Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E. Parker, Midland
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 2521 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Jose Enrique Faz, 602 N.W. 7th St., Big Spring
Juana Fierro, 406 N.W. 5th St., Big Spring
Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave Apt 901, Midland
Leticia Garcia, 1404 Princeton Ave., Big Spring
William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big

Spring
Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring
James Michael Griffin, 303 Butler St. #502, Atlanta
Christina Nichole Gutierrez, 2809 25th St., Snyder
Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Matias Hernandez Jr., 620 E. 4th St., San Angelo
Kaleb Hill, 910 Baylor, Big Spring
Ammie Lee Howell, 1507 Hilltop Road, Big Spring
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N. Texas #198, Odessa
Stephanie Ford Johnson, P.O. Box 483, Coahoma
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave.,

Odessa
Ruann R. Martinez, 1005 N.W. 2nd St., Big Spring
Saprina Lea Martinez, 2521 Chanute Dr., Big Spring
Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
Clinton Aaron Muse Jr., 700 Ohio, P.O. Box 2104, Big Spring
Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover No. 236, Big Spring
John Troy Riddle, 3717 Old Howard Co. Airport Road, Big Spring
George Anthony Robinson Jr., 1905 Wasson Rd. #14, Big Spring
Andy Rodriguez, 1904

See RECORDS, Page 6C

RECORDS

Continued from Page 5C

Runnels Street, Big Spring
Christina M. Rodriguez, 624 State Street, Big Spring
Linda Eva Rodriguez, 2519 Gunter Circle, Big Spring
Juan Romero, 2504 March Circle, Big Spring
Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Road, Big Spring
Yuri Lozano Rubio, 421 Cedar, P.O. Box 173, Colorado City
Stacie Lyanne Salas, 5102 Wasson Road, Big Spring
Shane Skaggs, 1 Courtney Place 301, Big Spring
Kendra D. Tatum, 412 S. Moss Lake Rd., Big Spring
Joe Anthony Villarreal, 2206 Cecilia, Big Spring
RickyLynnWaltenbaugh, 538 Westover Road Apt. # 133, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 3706 Connley, Big Spring
Tamara Ruth Whitt, 3706 Connley, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. #28, Big Spring

Filings

Mark Molina vs. Debra Molina, divorce
Tammy Griffith vs. Jody Griffith, divorce

Leobardo Rios vs. Joan Killen, divorce
State of Texas vs. Brandee Castillo, civil cases relating to criminal matters
State of Texas vs. Luis Villa, civil cases relating to criminal matters
Joe Guzman vs. Yolanda Ovalle, divorce
HD Supply Waterworks, Ltd. vs. JS Yoakum Excavation and Construction, LLC, 2013 Big Spring Housing, Ltd., contract - consumer/commercial/debt
Katrina Baker vs. Nathan Baker, divorce
Amanda Crouch vs. Jimmy Crouch, divorce
State of Texas vs. Ryan Ward, seizure

Marriage Licenses

Mark Edward Hall, 46, and Kaye Lynn Woolbridge, 28, both of Big Spring
Alberto Arenivos Belez, 46, and Malinda Sue Olivares, 45, both of Big Spring
Daniel Viera, 38, and Kimberly Rios, 37, both of Big Spring
Clinton Jay Stenley, 27, and Rachel Rhea Byrne, 27, both of Big Spring

Warranty Deeds

Grantor: Pamela K. Brown
Grantee: Ellis Ray Smith
Property: .327 acre tract

in the southeast quarter of Sec. 48, block 32, T-1-N, T&P Ry
Date: March 8, 2016

Grantor: Silverleaf Communities LLC
Grantee: Marc Couch and Kristi Couch
Property: Lot 12, block 2, University Gardens #2 addition
Date: March 8, 2016

Grantor: Frances Mathie
Grantee: Guy Milton Mathie
Property: Lot 16, block 4, Cedar Crest addition
Date: March 1, 2016

Grantor: Judy R. Mann as trustee for Eddie G. Mann and Judy R. Mann
Grantee: Judy R. Mann
Property: Lot 8, block 3, Anderson addition
Date: Feb. 26, 2016

Grantor: Claud D. Fryar and Patsy R. Fryar
Grantee: Eric Herm
Property: 198.172 acre tract out of north half of Sec. 12, block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR
Date: Dec. 8, 2015

Grantor: William Otto Warner
Grantee: Linda Warner
Property: Lot 2, block 5, Suburban heights addition
Date: Dec. 1, 2015

Grantor: Leslie Kay El-

rod
Grantee: Alyesford International
Property: .028 acre tract out of south part of the north 50 feet of the southeast quarter of block 18, College Heights addition
Date: Feb. 26, 2016

Grantor: Tiera Group, LLC
Grantee: Joshua Brian Duke and Nakita Mara Duke
Property: Lot 2, block 9, Wrights Airport addition
Date: Feb. 6, 2016

Grantor: Viola Hernandez
Grantee: Bibian Salgado Jr. and Arali Salgado
Property: Lots 7 and 8, block 16, Washington Place
Date: March 4, 2016

Warranty Deeds with lien

Grantor: Steve Bryant
Grantee: Jackie Long
Property: 1 acre tract in the northwest quarter of Sec. 34, block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co.
Date: Feb. 26, 2016

Grantor: Marsha Sturdivant
Grantee: Marcelino Luna
Property: Lot 3, block 35, WR Settles Subdivision
Date: Feb. 1, 2016

Microsoft axes chatbot feature

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — OMG! Did you hear about the artificial intelligence program that Microsoft designed to chat like a teenage girl? It was totally yanked offline in less than a day, after it began spouting racist, sexist and otherwise offensive remarks.

Microsoft said it was all the fault of some really mean people, who launched a "coordinated effort" to make the chatbot known as Tay "respond in inappropriate ways." To which one artificial intelligence expert responded: Duh!

Well, he didn't really say that. But computer scientist Kris Hammond did say, "I can't believe they didn't see this coming."

Microsoft said its researchers created Tay as an experiment to learn more about computers and human conversation. On its website, the company said the program was targeted to an audience of 18 to 24-year-olds and was "designed to engage and entertain people where they connect with each other online through casual and playful conversation."

In other words, the program used a lot of slang and tried to provide humorous responses when people sent it messages and photos. The chatbot went live on Wednesday, and Microsoft invited the public to chat with Tay on Twitter and some other messaging services popular

with teens and young adults.

But some users found Tay's responses odd, and others found it wasn't hard to nudge Tay into making offensive comments, apparently prompted by repeated questions or statements that contained offensive words.

Soon, Tay was making sympathetic references to Hitler.

"Unfortunately, within the first 24 hours of coming online, we became aware of a coordinated effort by some users to abuse Tay's commenting skills to have Tay respond in inappropriate ways," Microsoft said.

While the company didn't elaborate, Hammond says it appears Microsoft made no effort to prepare Tay with appropriate responses to certain words or topics. Tay seems to be a version of "call and response" technology, added Hammond, who studies artificial intelligence at Northwestern University and also serves as chief scientist for Narrative Science, a company that develops computer programs that turn data into narrative reports.

"Everyone keeps saying that Tay learned this or that it became racist," Hammond said. "It didn't." The program most likely reflected things it was told, probably more than once, by people who decided to see what would happen, he said.

Permits

Delbert Aaron, Donelson, 615 Highland Dr. Res HVAC; Val: \$6,500 Fee: \$45.
James Phillip Ringener, 1706 Alabama St. Structure; Val: \$2,300 Fee: \$25.
Spring Creek Fellowship, 1801 E. FM 700. Com HVAC; Val: \$10,500 Fee: \$70.
Spring Creek Fellow-

ship, 1801 E. FM 700. Com HVAC; Val: \$10,500 Fee: \$70.
Heriberto Barrientos, 1905 Choctaw Dr. Res Re-roof; Val: \$7,000 Fee: \$45.
David W. Gilbert Sr., 2108 Nolan St. Other Non res; Val: \$275 Fee: \$25.
Dairy Queen, 1009 N. Lamesa Res gas; Val: \$19,546 Fee: \$32.

Delmas Ward, 1701 Morrison Dr. Structure; Val: \$4,200 Fee: \$35.
Christina Babb Carl, 1101 Marijo Ave. Res elec; Val: \$1,000 Fee: \$25.
Vanessa Malu Calderon, 2518 Warehouse 607 E. Com elec; Val: \$0 Fee: \$25.
Lupe Moreno, 807 Creighton St. Non res; Val: \$1,000 Fee: \$25.

Sandy Buchanan, 1304 Stadium Ave. Structure; Val: \$500 Fee: \$25.
Preston W. Harrison, 503 Benton Other non res; Val: \$6,900 Fee: \$45.
Arturo Contreras, 1806 E. 11th Place. Res add; Val: \$500 Fee: \$25.
Sam's Package Store, 2409 S. Gregg St. Com elec; Val: \$1,500 Fee: \$25.

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2013 Chevrolet Malibu LT II
Was \$16,425 **NOW \$15,500** Stk# E299
2015 Chevrolet Malibu LT
Was \$19,200 **NOW \$18,086** Stk# E239
2015 Chevrolet Impala LT
Was \$24,350 **NOW \$23,385** Stk# E146
2013 Ford Escape S
Was \$15,575 **NOW \$14,458** Stk# F039

2014 Jeep Compass Sport
Was \$17,400 **NOW \$15,800** Stk# E104
2010 Mercedes Benz GLK 350 Only 51K
Was \$22,450 **NOW \$20,450** Stk# D207A
2015 Chevrolet Equinox LT
Was \$22,150 **NOW \$21,290** Stk# F020
2015 Chevrolet Traverse LT
Was \$29,500 **NOW \$27,700** Stk# F019
2012 Cadillac Escalade ESV Luxury
Was \$37,500 **NOW \$35,500** Stk# E103
2008 Chevrolet 1500 LT 4WD Texas Edition
Was \$26,400 **NOW \$24,000** Stk# E170A
2011 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Only 36K
Was \$27,450 **NOW \$25,280** Stk# F014

2013 Chevrolet Texas Edition Crew Cab Leather
Was \$31,000 **NOW \$28,000** Stk# F295
2014 Chevrolet LTZ 1500 Crew 4WD
Was \$36,550 **NOW \$33,500** Stk# F007
2014 Ram 1500 Limited Laramie 1500 Diesel
Was \$42,000 **NOW \$38,000** Stk# E247
2014 Ram 3500 Mega Cab Longhorn 4WD Diesel 9K Miles
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Easter Moon

Today brings a celebration of hope and renewal. The Scorpio moon is right in theme with the Easter story, as this is the moon of life, death and resurrection. The focus on rebirth is reflected in one of Scorpio's symbols: the phoenix, a magical bird who bursts into flames at the end of life, only to regenerate out of the ashes as a newborn baby.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll meet people who remind you of people you've met before. You'll also get the chance to repeat what went right with those people and redo the things that went wrong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Tend to the financial sector and the rest will fall in line. Expense tracking and other organizational efforts will take some time to set up, but in the end, this will prove so worth your while.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may not think of the relationship in terms of "love," and yet you are, without ques-

tion, heart-bound to someone. That is why you will go where this person goes without thinking about it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have nothing to apologize for, so don't. This is a day to hold on to your strength. Remind yourself that you're powerful. You don't need the situation you're in. You're there because you want to be there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will feel good to extol the virtues of a partner. This will remind you what you appreciate about the person, and it will also let others get a better understanding of your commitment level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It will be harder than it should be to get to the information you want. Instead of probing deeper, take a step back. Sometimes you have to ask a "dumb" question to get a smart answer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've shown magnificent restraint. The evening features a wondrous gift not to be taken for granted -- a friend who encourages you to talk and talk until you heal the bite marks on your tongue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You think it in secret and it

comes to pass. Is this a fluke? And what if you had told someone? Would it still have had the same powerful intensity? The answers are: no and no.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Last time worked out brilliantly, but if you try to do it the same you'll come up with something sad, stale or forced. Let go of what happened last time. You're fresh and new as the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While advancing your agenda you'll be direct, concise and warm. It all happens quite naturally, because this is more than a communication style; it's who you really are on the inside.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Seeing someone else do it well will make you think, "I could do it better." And you really can. The question is: Would this be worth your time? Is it what the world needs? Is it what you want?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Regarding that goal you haven't been able to make time for, well, you can use today's lull in the action to change that. Even if you can only carve out a 15-minute brainstorming session, fortunes will favor you for it.

(March 27). You know where you're headed. Your secret to success is consistent, deliberate, tenacious action. You'll be trusted with a huge responsibility in April and rewarded in June. September and November bring connections, and you'll love how these ties open your world and influence you in different directions. Capricorn and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 20, 5, 33 and 16.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The week begins with Easter bunnies, bonnets and buns (hot cross, of course) to house the inevitable egg salad we'll make with all those lost-and-found hardboiled eggs. These are the pagan symbols for a Christian holiday that is timed by the lunar calendar. Easter is always scheduled for the first Sunday after the full Libran moon. Another way of saying that is the full moon after the spring equinox, otherwise known as the sun's passage into Aries. Though the story of Jesus is uniquely Christian, tales of death and rebirth are ubiquitous in both ancient and modern mythology. It is perfectly

fitting that this year's Easter holiday happens largely under the Scorpio moon, which is the moon of rebirth. As the week progresses there will be very little cosmic interference in our personal growth. The moon moves through Sagittarius, the expansion realm, lending passion, curiosity and dumb luck to our efforts. Mercury and Saturn favor us as we make the connections to blossom like spring wildflowers

CELEBRITY PROFILES: International pop sensation Jessie J suffered a minor stroke at the age of 18 and later declared that the health scare made her a better artist and inspired her to take more risks in life and art. J was born when the sun was in daring Aries and the moon in show-stopping Leo. Mercury in imaginative and musical Pisces ensures that J will continue to grow and explore with each new song.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page.

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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 PETA target
9 Capitale economica d'Italia
15 Certain herd member
16 Perspicacity
17 Guys who work with goats
18 Metaphor, e.g.
19 60 Down, in 51 Down
20 Jai alai shots
22 Cone-filled, perhaps
23 Embroid
25 Some hibernics
27 Family
29 Names on certain theater walls
32 Song that lost to "Born Free" on Oscar night
35 Completely new attitude
38 Do to a tee
39 School that sounds cool?
40 Authoritative appointee
41 Hunger Games descriptor
43 Filmom fraternity
44 Hard to bend
45 Society (Pacific Cities Sustainability sponsor)
47 Fleeting romance
49 VIP at the Missouri surrender
53 Blend
56 Subject of transhumanism
58 Where Smokey Bear was first seen in CGI in 2008
59 Procter & Gamble's first laundry soap
61 Sherlock Holmes, in retirement

- DOWN**
1 Wan
2 personality
3 Memoir basis for *What's Love Got to Do With It*
4 Convention aftermath
5 Smallest of the amino acids
6 Language of many Kosovars
7 Person attempting a takeoff
8 Frog's (Mexican restaurant chain)
9 Advice or knowledge, to grammarians
10 Unwelcoming
11 Oreos/marshmallows concoctions
12 "Two together" prefix
13 About .002% of the atmosphere
14 Partner of 60 Down
21 Person on dozens of US stamps since 1966
24 Like Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov
26 Compound used in fracking
28 By implication
30 Bring down
31 Conform metrically
32 "Your point being...?"
33 Pepsi sub-brand
34 Solidarity signifier
36 Something worn by Miss Piggy
37 Where residents are often found
39 Repurposes artistically
42 Relative of -ish
43 Political flap of 2003
46 Hall of fame, in headlines
48 Countertop brackets
50 Kremlin feature
51 It's north of Cologne
52 Captain companion of Doctor Who
53 Green shade
54 Higher-up
55 Part of Steinway's logo
57 *Wir leben Autos* sloganer
60 Individual in question
62 DC soccer venue for the 1996 Olympics

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ANSWERS
nyopns

Answer to previous puzzle
VERSE JAM TAUT
IMEAN UZI ARNO
SINGE DON MESA
INTERFEROMETER
AGE TVA ERA HAM
WONT AVIS GMATS
ETCH TON ROO
HERBERTHOVER
OLD WAR ISIS
COMBO MOBS ETNA
SPA KIA ICE EKG
HUNTERGATHERER
ASIA ANT AROMA
REAR QUO CIVET
PSST TMP HEDS
3/26/16

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

PRAVEEN K. REDDY, M.D.

will be leaving Complete Care Orthopedics on April 29, 2016.

Dr. Praveen K. Reddy, M.D. will be seeing patients until April 29, 2016. You may contact the office at 3310 W. Wadley, Midland Texas. If you would like your medical records or if you have questions, please call 432-697-6036. After April 29, 2016, you may call 432-332-0428. Until then, your records will remain with Permian Premier Health Services.

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- Sanitation Truck Driver
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- Part Time General Worker
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- Seasonal Positions**
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- Assistant Manager
- Part Time Senior Attendant
- Part Time Attendant
- Maintenance Worker

For more information call
Human Resources
at
(432) 264-2346

Apply at Credit World, 1611 S. Gregg for the following positions: Delivery/Warehouse & Counter Clerk.



Big Spring Office Manager. Manages Senator Kel Seliger's Big Spring district office. Submit resume to lauren.bradford@senate.texas.gov.

Higginbotham-Bartlett is now hiring for full time positions. Must be able to pass drug screen and background check. No phone calls please. Apply @ 1900 E. FM 700.

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Visit our website's Career Opportunities page to view complete position descriptions for the following openings at the Gunsight Energy Center:

- Administrative Assistant
- Operations & Maintenance Manager
- Several Wind Technicians

Invenery LLC is a developer, owner, and operator of renewable and clean energy generation facilities in North America and Europe. Invenery is a highly-experienced leader in innovative clean energy solutions.

Invenery has developed more than 12,032 MW of utility-scale wind, solar, natural gas and energy storage projects in the United States, Canada and Europe. This includes more than 8,835 MW of projects in operation, with more than 3,197 MW in construction or advanced development. We are North America's largest independent wind power generation company.

It's an exciting time to work in the cutting-edge clean energy industry, and Invenery is looking for the best and brightest to join our team. Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit their resume online at www.inveneryllc.com/careers

Wanted Farm Hand. Experienced only! Call after 7pm. 432-270-0070

Help Wanted

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AS WELL AS CREW POSITIONS. Management applicants must have some management experience and be at least 18 years old. Crew applicants must be at least 16 yrs. old and know how to smile...ALOT!! All positions require flexible day/night schedule. Apply in person only please @ KFC 1711 S. Gregg St.

LONG JOHN SILVER'S IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AS WELL AS CREW POSITIONS. Management applicants must have some management experience and be at least 18 years old. Crew applicants must be at least 16 yrs. old and know how to smile...ALOT!! All positions require flexible day/night schedule. Apply in person only please @ Long John Silver's 2403 S. Gregg St.

Need help at the B&GC (TSA) for SUMMER Day Camp Worker F/T, for information call 432-267-8239

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

Now hiring Vacuum Truck Drivers. Must have one year current experience. Must be able to commute to Tarzan. For further info call Monday-Friday from 8-5 432-631-1994.

Help Wanted

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269188



West Texas Centers

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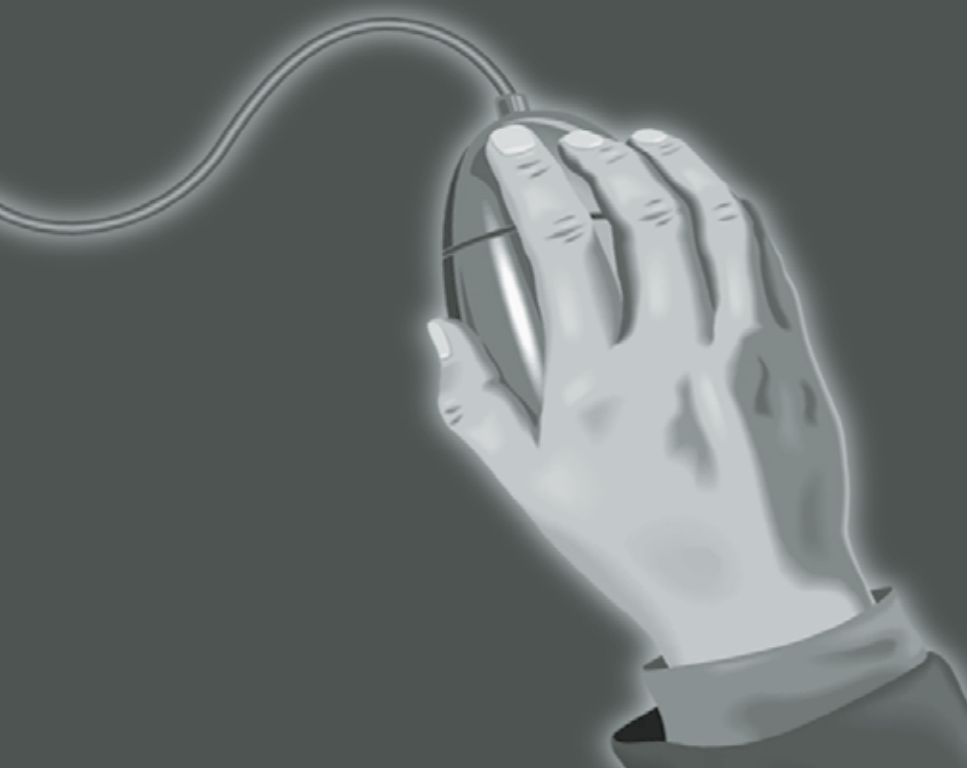
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This Season's Harvest Professionally Processed & Sanitized. NO HAND SHELLING HERE! Ask about Delivery \$10lb or \$8lb for 5lbs&up 432-935-0035

Jobs Wanted

Weekend help available for light housekeeping, running errands, grocery shopping, etc. for the elderly or for those who just don't have time. Call 432-816-9035 or 432-935-5353 for more info.

Miscellaneous

PIANO TUNING \$64.

Repairs since 1972. Former full-time University of Wisconsin tuner. No huge up-rights, please. Stewart Speers 432-638-0618

RECORDS WANTED 45rpm

little record (1950s-early 70's) Rock & Roll, R&B, Soul, Texano, Western Swing, early Country. Speers Piano 432-638-0618

Public Notice

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE

Owner of 2015 Freightliner, LP# ILL P863887, State of Illinois, VIN#3AKJGLD52FSGK1044 being held at Paige Towing Yard 5305 N Service Rd Big Spring, TX 79720 since 11/19/2015. Contact Matthew Dahmer at 432-230-1354

#9009 March 24-April 4, 2016

CGG is performing a seismic survey within the City of Big Spring and surrounding areas. This will involve surveying, placing sensors on permitted properties, and utilizing vibroseis trucks on City streets. All personnel will be wearing hard hats and orange vests, and will be from either Pathfinder Navigation or Geokinetics. We will have third party monitoring to ensure minimal impact from our operations. This is a CGG sponsored activity, and any questions or concerns should be addressed to our local office at 210 West 3rd St, Big Spring, Texas. Our local phone number is 432-271-2577.

#9011 March 25 - April 14, 2016

NOTICE FOR SURFACE COMMINGLE PERMIT

Apache Corporation seeks to surface commingle oil and condensate production from the Abrams (46385), Kloh ETAL (41524), Gilbreath, S. (46360) and Phillips, H. (46386) leases in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) field. All of the wells involved are in Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) field and are located in Howard County in Railroad Commission of Texas District 08. Production will be allocated by well tests. Any questions or concerns should be referred to Sandra Belt, Sr. Regulatory Analyst, at 303 Veterans Airpark Ln., Midland Texas 79705 or call (432) 818-1962.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

SWR 26 of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Pursuant to the terms of SWR 26, this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received within 21 days of the date of the last publication. If you have any questions regarding the protest procedure, please contact the Railroad Commission at (512) 463-6848 or in writing within 21 days to the Railroad Commission of Texas Oil and Gas Division, P O Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967.

#9014 March 27 - April 22, 2016

Real Estate for Rent

1 acre of land for RV/Mobile Home (not in trailer park) 1 trailer for \$500/month Call 432-213-5631

Real Estate for Rent

1 bd/1bath duplex for rent. 308 E 8th Street. 500 rent/500 deposit. Electric paid. Please call 213-3757.

1010 B Nolan. New duplex. Two 2 bed/2 bath w/kitchen appliances. No bills paid \$975/month, \$500/dep. Call 432-267-7449 or 432-634-8101

107 East 25th St. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. No smoking/no pets. Refined. \$1,000/month, \$1,000/dep. Call 432-213-2319

1200 Sheppard St. 1 bed, 1 bath. \$700/month, \$300/dep. 6 month lease. No pets. Call 785-462-5570

1206 East 11th Place. 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage, CH/A, living/dining room. \$1,400/month plus deposit. No HUD/no bills paid. (432) 267-2296

1307 GREGG STREET, STE B. Prime Retail Location. \$500.00/month + \$500.00 Security Deposit. For more information, please call Westex Auto Parts at 432-263-5000.

1321 Tucson. 3 bed, 1 bath, CH/A. \$800/month, \$500/dep. Call 432-517-2876

2504 Albrook. 3 bed, 1 bath, tile throughout, 6 foot privacy fence. \$975/month, \$600/dep. Call 432-263-0822 Tues-Fri 10-5pm, Saturday 10-2pm or pick up an application @ 1300 E. 4th St.

2606 South Chanute Drive, 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, fenced yard, CH/A \$1000 month, \$1000 deposit. One Year Lease Required. No indoor pets. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

3 bed, 2 bath, stove incl., washer/dryer conn. \$1,200/month, \$1,200/dep. Call 432-413-8139

403 Hillside. 3 bed, 2 bath. All appliances, very nice. \$1,500/month, \$1,500/dep. No pets/no smoking. References required. Call 432-213-2319.

520 Scott Dr. in Highland South. 3/2, nice yard. 432-267-2296

605 N. Main. 2 bed, 2 bath, very clean. \$1,000/month, \$1,000/dep. References required. Call 432-213-2319

622 State. 2 bed, 1 bath, CH/A, garage, \$800/month, \$800/dep. No smoking, no pets, no HUD. References required. Call 432-270-3849

Affordable Country Living-OAS- IS RV Park has Spaces & Travel Trailers for Rent. Call 432-517-0062 or 264-9907.

Available soon. Nicely furnished, super private, super quiet, modern, spacious, 1 bedroom office apartment. Utilities paid, washer/dryer, \$700/month. One person only! Non smoking/pets. Credit qualify. Broker 432-270-0707

Forsan ISD. House for sale or rent as is. Contact Bardo 682-438-9292

RV Space for Rent. NOT in RV Park. Quiet, secluded area. Country Living! ALL BILLS PAID! Call (432)816-1107

Travel Trailers & Spaces for rent. Peaceful Country setting. Call Brandy 432-213-3608 for spaces or trailers.

Travel Trailers For Rent. For More Information Call Ann @ 816-6484 or Ticia @ 213-3504

Real Estate for Sale

Reduced Price! Forsan ISD. 5 acres, 3 bed, 2 bath, fireplace, basement, workshop, RV shed. Call 432-270-7064 or 432-270-7065

Services Offered

Bushhog & Tilling. Call Vic 432-816-1154

Want to Buy

Looking to buy an armoire/closet. Prefer oak. Call 432-714-4309

Vehicles

2014 Dodge Pickup. Ram 2500 6.4 Hemi. 14K miles. Call 432-466-9355

Looking to buy a Regular Cab Pick up Truck for School. 432-213-4425

Legals

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit with a Retail Dealers on Premises Late Hour License by Jesus Rodriguez dba Chances "R" to be located at 308 Price Street, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. Application is made by Jesus Rodriguez- Owner.

#9014 March 25 & 27, 2016

CAUSE NO. T-6600

HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. RILEY RIVERA, ET AL

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AMENDED NOTICE OF SUIT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN PURSUANT TO PROPERTY TAX CODE SECTION 33.57

Pursuant to Order of the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, notice is hereby given to the individuals named herein, and all other persons claiming an interest in the property the subject of this suit, that suit has been filed for foreclosure of the tax lien against such properties. A copy of the Petition filed on behalf of the various taxing entities is attached hereto, and such petition describes the properties against which foreclosure is sought, as well as the owners of record of any interest in such parcels.

Notice to all owners of an interest in such properties is hereby given as follows:

1. A petition to foreclose the tax lien against each parcel shown on the Petition was filed on the 22nd day of February, 2016, commencing foreclosure proceedings;
2. The legal description, tax account number, and, if known, the street address for each parcel, is shown in the Exhibits to the Petition attached hereto;
3. This notice is addressed to each owner of an interest in each parcel as shown in the Exhibits to the Petition attached hereto;
4. Final hearing on the Petition is scheduled for the 9th day of May, 2016 at 1:00 o'clock p.m.;
5. Each and every owner of any interest in each parcel

Legals

the subject of this suit may lose whatever property interest they own in such parcel as a result of the hearing and any subsequent tax sale;

6. A person's interest in any parcel may be preserved by paying all delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, attorney's fees and court costs before the date of the scheduled hearing on the petition, or, you may contest the Petition by filing with the clerk of the court a written response to the petition not later than the seventh (7) day before the date scheduled for hearing on the petition and specifying in the response any affirmative defense. A copy of such response must be served on the taxing units' attorney of record in the manner required by Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;

7. The name, address and telephone number of the taxing units are as follows:

Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432) 264-5000

Howard County
300 S. Main
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432) 264-2332

City of Big Spring
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432) 264-2401

City of Coahoma
P. O. Box L
Coahoma, TX 79511
Telephone number: (432) 394-4287

City of Forsan
P. O. Box 714
Forsan, TX 79733
Telephone number: (432) 457-2355

Big Spring ISD
708 11th Place
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432) 264-3620

Forsan ISD
P. O. Drawer A
Forsan, TX 79733
Telephone number: (432) 398-5444

Howard County Water Control and Improvement District
7917 N. Service Rd.
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432) 393-5233

Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District
P. O. Box 1314
Stanton, TX 79782
Telephone number: (432) 756-2136

The name, address and telephone number of the attorney for the taxing units is shown at the bottom of this notice;

8. Coahoma ISD may also impose taxes on one or more of the parcels the subject of this suit and may intervene in this case without further notice and set up its claims for delinquent taxes.

Respectfully Submitted,

MOUTON & MOUTON
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 1030
Big Spring, TX 79721
Telephone No.: (432) 263-7676
Teletypewriter No.: (432) 263-8686

By: Drew Mouton

Legals

State Bar No. 14606400

ATTORNEY FOR ALL PLAINTIFF TAXING UNITS

CAUSE NO. T-6600

HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. RILEY RIVERA, ET AL

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS 118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Now comes THE COUNTY OF HOWARD, which brings this action for itself and as agent for HOWARD COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT, CITY OF BIG SPRING, BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, CITY OF COAHOMA, CITY OF FORSAN, FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, HOWARD COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1, and PERMIAN BASIN UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, hereinafter called Plaintiffs, whether one or more, and for cause of action would show the Court the following:

I

Defendants are those persons and legal entities named and described in the attached Exhibits "1-5, 7-9 and 11-23" if living, and if any or all of the named Defendant(s) be deceased, the unknown heirs of each of such deceased Defendant(s); the unknown owner or owners of any of the property the subject of this suit; the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees of the any Defendant; and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon any of the property the subject of this suit, on which property there are delinquent taxes, penalties and interest, assessed and justly due, owing, and unpaid to Plaintiffs in the amounts and for the years shown on the Tax Statement(s) made a part of each Exhibit attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference as if repeated verbatim, on each property separately assessed for all delinquent years up to and including 2015.

All of the property is located in Howard County, Texas, and all volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, are to the Deed Records, Howard County, to which instruments reference is made for a more complete description of each tract.

The total amount of delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney's fees owed exceeds the appraised value of each parcel, or, in

the alternative, there are ten (10) or more years for which delinquent taxes are owed on each such parcel.

II

All taxes were authorized by law, and each political subdivision in whose behalf this suit is brought was legally constituted and authorized to levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes on property, and all of the taxes were legally levied and assessed against the property and the owners thereof; that Plaintiffs now have and assert a lien on each separately described property to secure the payment of all taxes, penalties, interest; and recover costs and expenses in accordance with the provisions of Property Tax Code § 33.48; and all things required by law to be done have been legally performed by the proper officials.

III

All of the above described property was, at the time the taxes were assessed, located within the boundaries of the Plaintiffs and of each political subdivision in whose behalf this suit is brought, and the tax was imposed in the county in which this suit is brought.

IV

The attorney whose name is signed hereto is legally authorized to prosecute this action on behalf of Plaintiffs.

V

Plaintiffs have incurred certain expenses for procuring data and information as to the name, identity, and location of necessary parties and in procuring necessary legal descriptions of the property, which expenses are reasonable abstractor's costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants for foreclosure of the tax lien against the above described property securing the amount due against each tract which is the total amount of delinquent taxes due and owing on each such parcel at the time of the filing of this petition, as well as all taxes becoming delinquent thereafter up to the date of judgment, all interest, penalties, costs and expenses in accordance with the provisions of Property Tax Code § 33.48 accruing up to and including the day of judgment, plus attorney's fees of 20% of all tax, penalty and interest as provided by law, an order of sale, post judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; and for such other relief to which the Plaintiffs may be entitled; provided, however, that personal judgment for such taxes, penalties, interest and attorney fees is not sought against any Defendant named herein.

Respectfully Submitted,

MOUTON & MOUTON

West Texas Centers

MH Mobile Crisis Outreach Worker: Will respond to the crisis hotline and provide face to face care for in-crisis mental health consumers. Requires Bachelor's degree in Social Work field or Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 24 hours in psychology, sociology or other human service hours. Travel within an assigned region is required. Personal vehicle required - mileage reimbursement. Hours are Mon.-Fri.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE

269187

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501 Highland Drive

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If you are dedicated to providing quality care, have strong core values and a caring heart, we'd love to have you on our team. Excellent salary / great benefits.

Please apply in person or email resume to:
Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation
1100 West Broadway, Stanton, TX 79782
PH: 432-756-2841 Fax: 432-756-2904
ADM.Stanton@daybreakventure.com

For other job opportunities, visit our website
www.daybreakventure.com

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****HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS****

Join a team that supports you – professionally and personally

We are currently seeking top-notch healthcare professionals to join our team in **Big Spring, TX** at the **Big Spring Correctional Center**.

We offer competitive compensation and benefits!

Healthcare Opportunities Include:

- Licensed Vocational Nurse – Full-Time / Per Diem
- Registered Nurse – Full-Time/ Per Diem

For more information, please visit jobs.correctcaresolutions.com
Or contact **Timothy Marquez @ 432-466-4894** or tmarquez@correctcaresolutions.com

CCS is an EOE/Minorities/Females/Vet/Disability Employer

Legals	Legals	Legals	Legals	Legals	Legals	Legals
A Professional Corporation Attorneys at Law P. O. Box 1030 Big Spring, TX 79721 Telephone No.: (432) 263-7676 Telecopier No.: (432) 263-8686	The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	of the Secretary of State.	TELEPHONE NUMBER: (432) 264-2401	records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	BERNICE LOOTENS SHEFFIELD, IL	
By: Drew Mouton State Bar No. 14606400				PATRICIA S WILLEY	ELLIOTT YELL	
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS				DONALD EDWARD WILLEY	THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT: CITY OF BIG SPRING ATTN: CITY ATTORNEY KAYE EDWARDS 310 NOLAN BIG SPRING, TX 79720	
EXHIBIT 1				WILLEY WILLEY WILLEY	EXHIBIT 14	
<u>Property and Amounts Owed</u>				DONNA DUE WILLEY GRANT 4042 VICKY BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720	<u>Property and Amounts Owed</u>	
LT 2 BK 3, EARLES ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS				CECIL GUY WILLEY 2703 APACHE BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720	LT 4 BK 8, GOVERNMENT HEIGHTS TO BAUER ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS	
R4164 702 BELL				HOWARD COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 7917 N. SERVICE RD. BIG SPRING, TX 79720 TELEPHONE NUMBER: (432) 398-5444	R360 605 N DOUGLAS	
TOTAL DUE: \$3,257.45				JERRY L PHIFER AND BRENDA S PHIFER 1601 MAIN BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720	TOTAL DUE: \$1,657.44	
<u>Years owed:</u>				OFFICE OF THE ATTOR- NEY GENERAL CHILD SUPPORT UNIT 0804E 1031 ANDREWS HWY STE 400 MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701- 3804	<u>Years owed:</u>	
1994-2015				UNITED STATES DEPART- MENT OF TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SER- VICE WAGE AND INVESTMENT AREA #3 PO BOX 145595 CINCINNATI, OH 45250	200-2015	
The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.				EXHIBIT 9	The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	
RILEY RIVERA 702 S BELL BIG SPRING, TEXAS				Property and Amounts Owed	PATRICIA AGUIRRE 603 N DOUGLAS BIG SPRING, TEXAS	
THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:				THE WEST 40 FEET OF THE NORTH 50 FEET OF THE WEST 80 FEET OF LT 1 BK 4, EARLES ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS	LUCAS GONZALES APT 30 WEST TEXAS COTTON COMPRESS BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720	
BERT EUGENE BLACK AKA BERT E BLACK JR. OPAL LEE BLACK #3 SAN MIGUEL SQUARE ODESSA, TEXAS 79762				R4178 505 W 8TH	EXHIBIT 15	
EXHIBIT 2				TOTAL DUE: \$1,314.77	<u>Property and Amounts Owed</u>	
<u>Property and Amounts Owed</u>				<u>Years owed:</u>	A TRACT OF LAND OUT OF AND PART OF NW/4 OF SEC 33 BK 32, T1N, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS, DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS ON THE AT- TACHED EXHIBIT	
LT 11 BK 1, J.T. PRICE ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS				1996-2015	R46239	
R9081 1218 W 3RD				The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	TOTAL DUE: \$1,016.26	
TOTAL DUE: \$3,268.86				MARIO SALAZAR 505 W 8TH BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720	<u>Years owed:</u>	
<u>Years owed:</u>				EXHIBIT 11	2000-2015	
2004-2015				Property and Amounts Owed	2000-2015	
The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.				LT 4 BK 40, ORIGINAL TOWN ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS	The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	
RILEY RIVERA 702 S BELL BIG SPRING, TEXAS				R8204 506 LANCASTER	ROYCE G PARRISH P.O. BOX 44 HARDIN, TEXAS 77561	
EXHIBIT 3				TOTAL DUE: \$1,127.04	EXHIBIT 15	
<u>Property and Amounts Owed</u>				<u>Years owed:</u>	An undivided 1/5th interest in the below described tract.	
LT 12 BK 1, J.T. PRICE ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS				2000-2015	All that certain parcel and piece of land out of and part of the Northwest One-Fourth (NW/4 of Section No. Thirty-Three (33), Block No. Thirty-Two (32), Township One (1) North, T & P Ry. Co. Survey, in Howard County, Texas and said parcel of land being more particularly described as follows:	
R9082 1220 W 3RD				The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.	BEGINNING at a point in the North line of said Section No. 33, Block No. 32, Tsp. 1- North, T & P Ry. Co. Survey,	
TOTAL DUE: \$2,664.93				CARLOS BARRIGO 1600 MAIN BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720		
<u>Years owed:</u>				LESLIE LLOYD 1206 ANGELA RD BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720		
1998-2015				THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:		
				HOWARD COLLEGE 1001 BIRDWELL LANE BIG SPRING, TX 79720 TELEPHONE NUMBER: (432) 264-5000		
				HOWARD COUNTY 300 S. MAIN BIG SPRING, TX 79720 TELEPHONE NUMBER: (432) 264-2332		
				CITY OF BIG SPRING 310 NOLAN BIG SPRING, TX 79720		

Legals

in Howard County, Texas, which point is 1320 feet Eastward of the Northwest corner of said Section No. 33;

THENCE Eastward, along the North line of said Section No. 33, a distance of 660 feet to point for the Northeast corner of this parcel;

THENCE Southward, parallel with the West line of Section No. 33, a distance of 396 feet to point for the Southeast corner of the parcel;

THENCE Westward, parallel with the North line of said Section No. 33, a distance of 660 feet to point for the Southwest corner of the parcel, same being the Southeast corner of a certain 3 acre tract of land in the name of A. B. Moore;

THENCE Northward, parallel with the West line of said Section No. 33, and along the East line of the said A. B. Moore 3 acre tract, a distance of 396 feet to the PLACE OF BEGINNING, said parcel comprising six (6) acres of land.

SAVE AND EXCEPT that certain one-half acre tract of land our of and part of the above referenced tract of land previously conveyed by Warranty Deed dated July 21, 1961 from Minnie Odell Parrish, joined by her husband, I. T. Parrish to W. B. Moorehead and wife, Lav-erne Moorehead, said Deed of record in Volume 296, page 515 of the Deed Records of Howard County, Texas, reference to which deed is heremade for a more complete description of said half acre tract.

EXHIBIT 16

Property and Amounts Owed
SC 32 BK 33 T1N, BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS

R49885 2412 W 3RD
TOTAL DUE: \$3,472.89

Years owed:

1994-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

BEULAH SAULTER

EXHIBIT 17

Property and Amounts Owed
A PARCEL OF LAND OUT OF SEC 32 BK 33, T1N, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R49917 504 PRESIDIO

A PARCEL OF LAND OUT OF SEC 32 BK 33 T1N, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R49918 500 PRESIDIO

TOTAL DUE: \$1,800.16

Legals

Years owed:

1988-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

JOE TORRES DECEASED
PO BOX 2955
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79721

EXHIBIT 18

Property and Amounts Owed

A PARCEL OF LAND OUT OF THE SE/4 OF SC 42 BK 32, T1N TR 14, WILLIAM B CURRIE, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS, DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS ON THE AT-TACHED EXHIBIT

R46682 306 NE 11TH

TOTAL DUE: \$2,227.04

Years owed:

2002-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

CESARIO GAMBOA

ANDRES GAMBOA

LUZ GAMBOA HERNANDEZ

PATRICIO NIETO
803 MOORE SCHOOL RD
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

EXHIBIT 18

Property (including any improvements):

All that certain parcel and piece of land out of and part of Tract No. Fourteen (14), of the Wm. B. Currie Subdivision of the Southeast One-fourth (SE/4) of Section No. Forty-two (42), in Block No. Thirty-two (32), T-1-N, T & P RR Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas, more particularly described by mete and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the South line of Northeast 11th Street and the North line of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision, 144 feet Westward from the Northeast corner of said Tract No. 14,

Legals

said beginning point being the N.W. corner of a parcel heretofore conveyed to Nix and the N. E. corner of this parcel;

THENCE Westward, along the South line of Northeast 11th Street and the North boundary line of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision, a distance of 86.4 feet to Northeast corner of a 10 foot strip of land conveyed to C. E. Barrington and wife, said point being 60 feet Eastward from the Northwest corner of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision and the N. W. corner of this parcel;

THENCE Southward, along the East boundary line of the said Barrington 10 foot strip, parallel to and 60 feet Eastward of the West boundary line of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision, a distance of 150 feet to point for S. W. corner of this parcel;

THENCE Eastward, parallel with the North boundary line of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision, a distance of 86.4 feet to S. W. corner of the Nix Tract and S. E. corner of this parcel;

THENCE Northward parallel with the East and West boundary lines of Tract No. 14, Wm. B. Currie Subdivision, and along the West line of the Nix Tract 150 feet to the PLACE OF BEGINNING.

SAVE AND EXCEPT a certain five foot tract of land running North and South and parallel to the western boundary of the above-referenced property being previously conveyed by Warranty Deed dated August 23, 1978, from Miguel Gamboa and wife, Diana Gamboa to James Watkins, and filed for record in the Office of the County Clerk of Howard County, Texas under Clerks File No. 649.

EXHIBIT 19

Property and Amounts Owed

A PARCEL OF LAND THAT IS PART OF BK 8, WILLIAM B CURRIE, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS, DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS ON THE AT-TACHED EXHIBIT AND PART OF THE SE/4 FO SEC 42 BK 32, T1N, T&P RY CO. SURVEY, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS, DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS ON THE AT-TACHED EXHIBIT

R46645 1100 N NOLAN

TOTAL DUE: \$2,048.06

Years owed:

2003-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

RAYMOND AND VIRGINIA BARRAZA
1100 N NOLAN
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

Legals

EXHIBIT 19

Being a part of Block Eight (8) of the Wm. B. Currie Subdivision in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas and being a part of the Southeast one-fourth (SE ¼) of Section Forty-two (42), Block Thirty Two (32), Township-one-North, T & P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas, and described by Metes and Bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of said Block 8;

THENCE, Northward along the West boundary line of said Block 8, a distance of 50 feet to a point for the Northwest corner of this tract;

THENCE, Eastward on a line parallel with the South line of said Block 8 a distance of 73 feet to a point for the Northeast corner of this tract;

THENCE, Southward on a line parallel with West line of said Block 8, a distance of 50 feet to a point for the Southeast corner of the tract;

THENCE, Westward along the South line of the said Block 8 a distance of 73 feet to the Southwest corner of said Block 8 for the Southwest corner of this tract and the place of beginning.

EXHIBIT 20

Property and Amounts Owed

LT 10 BK 60, ORIGINAL TOWN ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R8371 705 NOLAN

TOTAL DUE: \$1,304.39

Years owed:

1994-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST #2
BIG SPRING TEXAS
711 CHERRY
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:

CITY OF BIG SPRING
ATTN: CITY ATTORNEY
KAYE EDWARDS
310 NOLAN
BIG SPRING, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 21

Property and Amounts Owed

THE SOUTH 100 FEET OF THE WEST 80 FEET OF LTS 2-3 BK 4, EARLES ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R4179 503 W 8TH (REAR)

Legals

TOTAL DUE: \$2,047.05

Years owed:

1995-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

ELOCIA SALAZAR
503 ½ W 18TH
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

ELOCIA SALAZAR
PO BOX 6
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79721

EXHIBIT 22

Property and Amounts Owed

LT 8 BK 10, SUBURBAN HEIGHTS ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R9862 4216 DIXON

TOTAL DUE: \$13,592.96

Years owed:

2003-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

THOMAS M GARNER
SHIRLEY GRAYSON
4216 DIXON
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

SHIRLEY GRAYSON
2304 MARSHALL
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:

BUCKS FINANCIAL V, LLC
228 PARK AVE S, #28282
NEW YORK, NY 10003

EXHIBIT 23

Property and Amounts Owed

THE WEST 100 FEET OF LT 12 AND THE NORTH 25 FEET OF LT 11 (SAVE AND EXCEPT THE EAST 40 FEET THEREOF) ALL IN BK 47, ORIGINAL TOWN ADDN., CITY OF BIG SPRING, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

R8281 601 JOHNSON

Legals

TOTAL DUE: \$17,223.74

Years owed:

2000-2015

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by service of citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested at the address shown below, or by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting, if no address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, or, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

MARY AND JOE PENA
601 JOHNSON
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

THE FOLLOWING ARE LIEN HOLDERS AND MAY BE NOTIFIED AT:

MITCHELL CHUOKE,
TRUSTEE
5801 AVENUE J
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553

#9002 March 20 & 27, 2016

**P14434
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF HOWARD COUNTY,
TEXAS
SITTING IN PROBATE**

**IN RE:
THE ESTATE OF
DAVE SHERMAN
JOHNSON, III,
DECEASED**

No. P-14,434

**CITATION ON
APPLICATION FOR
DECLARATION OF
HEIRSHIP**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED in the estate of Dave Sherman Johnson, III, Deceased, Cause No. P-14,434, In The County Court of Howard County, Texas, Sitting in Probate:

On the 17th day of June, 2015, Ingrid D. Johnson, Applicant, filed in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, an Application for Declaration of Heirship and for Letters Testamentary. The Court can hear this application any time after 10:00 A.M. on the first Monday, after 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the Howard County Courthouse, in the City of Big Spring, Texas. All persons interested in the estate are cited to appear before the Court at the time and place mentioned above by filing a written answer contesting the application if they desire to do so.

The officer executing this application is to publish in a newspaper of common circulation in the county in which these proceedings are pending, not less than 10 days before the return day, exclusive of the date of publication, and return the original copy of the citation to the Clerk, stating in the written return the time when and the newspaper where the officer published the copy.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and the seal of the Court at my office in the City of Big Spring, Texas, on the 10th day of March, 2015.

Donna Wright

#8998 March 27, 2016



Color Run fun



The Texas Outlaws held its first Color Run on Saturday, March 19 at Comanche Trail Park. The event was held to raise funds for the 12 and under fast pitch team to attend an out of state tournament.

Courtesy photos

Left: Team picture; top row, from left, are Riley Johnson, Bryleigh Morris, Aubrie Smith, Kalyn Whitehead, Brinly Watkins, Ashley Reyes, Madison Garcia and bottom row from left, Jadeyn Merrill, Kenzi Canales K'Leigh Williams, Joycelyn Torres, Hannah Williams, Miya Baeza and Aria Mendoza

Right: Aria Mendoza is all smiles as she participates.



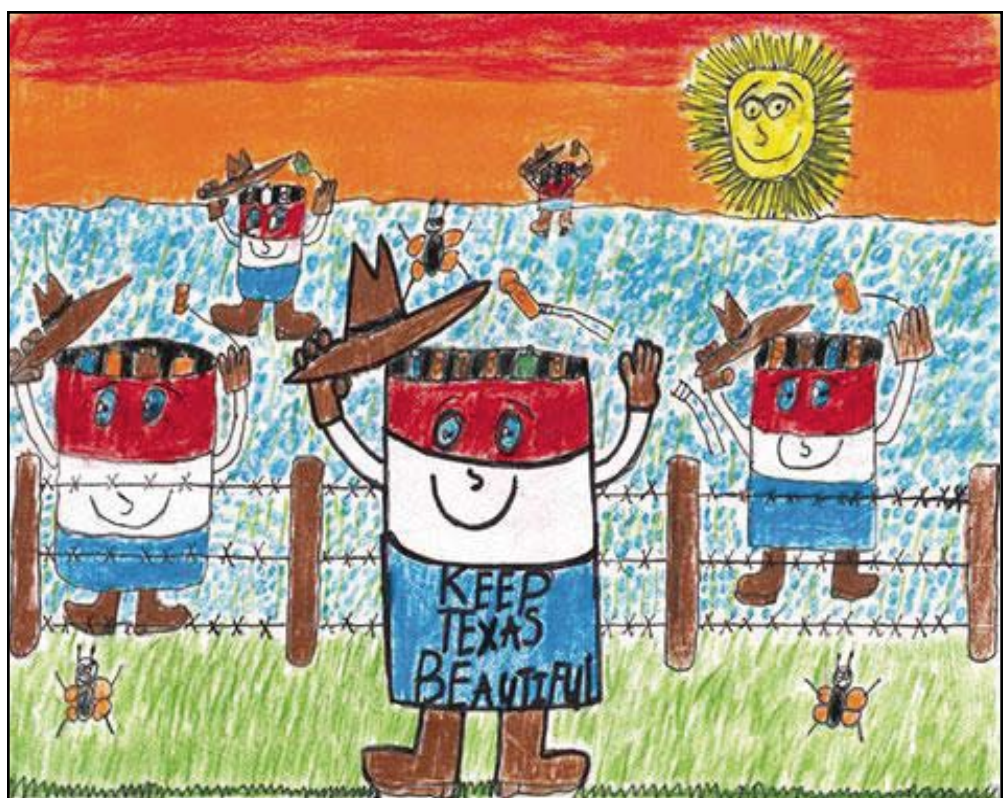
Big Spring Jr. High Council clean up Comanche Trail Park



Courtesy photos



Recently the Student Council organization at Big Spring Junior High School took it upon themselves to clean-up Comanche Trail Park as so many of them enjoy spending quality time with their families there. The students decided to get together after extracurricular activities and were able to fill bag after bag of trash. After spending an hour working together to clean-up, the 30 students sat down and enjoyed a meal together. The group's sponsors are Jackie Sampay and Jennifer Lovett.



It's not too late! Enter the contest by April 8, 2016

Get Creative with the Don't Mess With Texas Elementary School Art Contest!

We invite Texas students in kindergarten through fifth grade to submit their original artwork for a chance to be featured in the 2017 Don't Mess With Texas Calendar.

Students who illustrate their passion for a beautiful, litter-free environment and create the top 13 winning designs will have their artwork featured in the calendar and on the Don't Mess With Texas and Keep Texas Beautiful websites. Each winner will also receive an iDeaUSA 8 tablet donated by H-E-B and Central Market! Teachers representing students who create the top 13 designs will win a \$100 H-E-B/Central Market gift card!

For contest rules and entry forms go to www.DontMessWithTexas.org

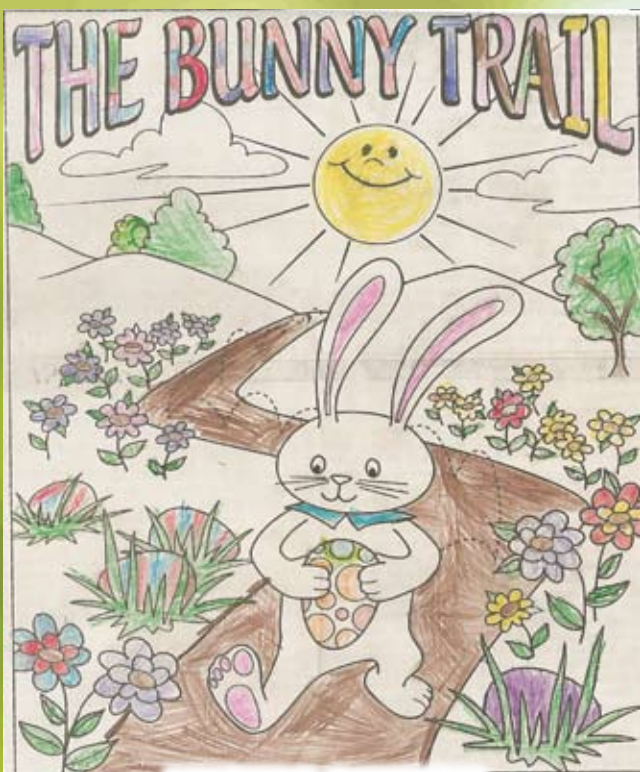


Art Contest created in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful and sponsored by H-E-B and Central Market. Don't Mess With Texas is a registered mark and trademark owned by the Texas Department of Transportation.

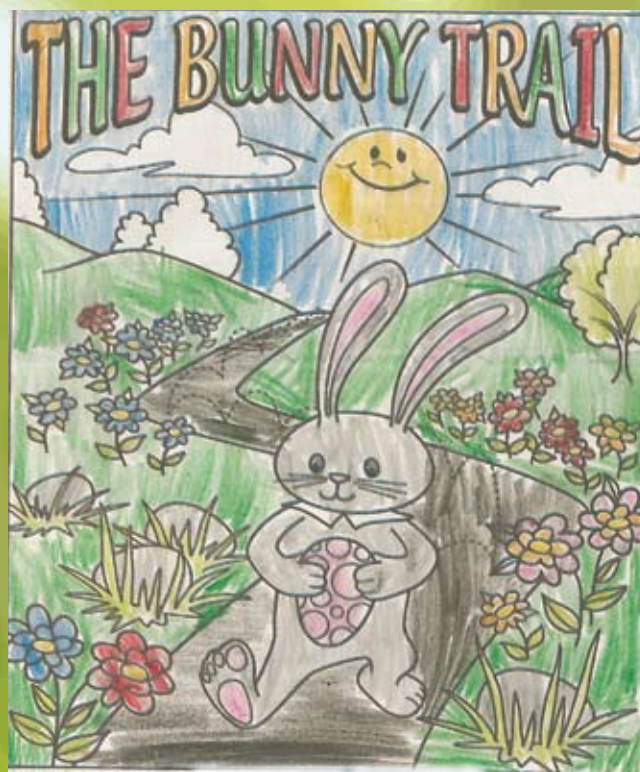
269047

Congratulations

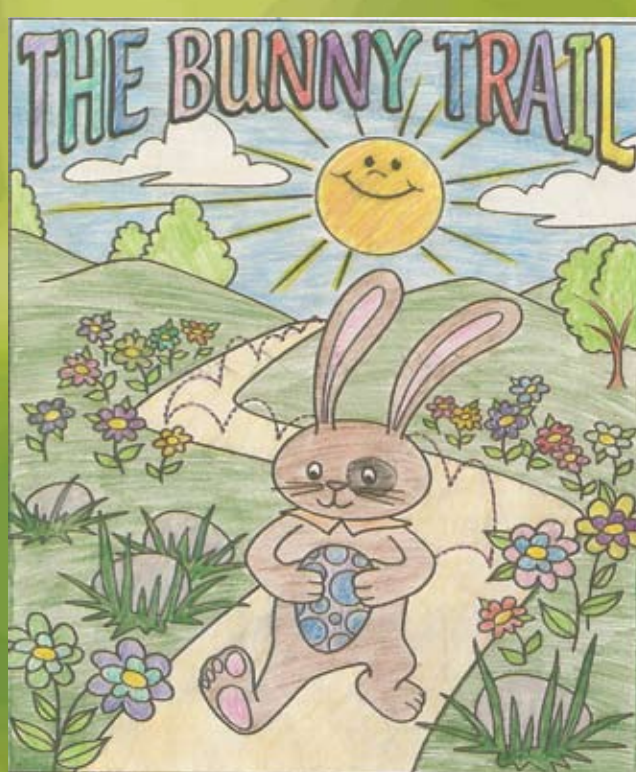
To Our Easter Coloring Contest Winners!



LEIGHLA GUZMAN
Age: 5



EMALYN OLIVAS
Age: 8



KAELI WOODALL
Age: 10

A Special Thanks To Our Sponsor, HEB, And Our Supporters Of The Easter Coloring Contest!

- Bowl-A-Rama
- H&R Block
- Mitchem Wrecker
- Kelly Newton Insurance
- Walmart

- Bargain Mart
- JayBug's Boutique
- Big Spring Education FCU
- Klassic Kleaners
- Hippy Chic Salon

Progress 2016

Business and Industry



*A special
supplement
of The
Big Spring
Herald
March 27,
2016*

The Chalet: A local gem

Local store run by all-volunteer force to benefit patients at BSSH



Big Spring State Hospital's Volunteer Services Council's Chalet Resale Shop started more than 25 years ago as a fundraiser that was nothing short of a low-key, makeshift garage sale that sometimes pulled in several dollars a day.

Now the profits from their daily operations helps fund patient needs, such as a transport van and the construction of a family visitation center.

"You have to remember that we are only open three hours a day and most of our items sell for just a few dollars or even less," Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations Dee Lindsey said. "That's a high volume of sales crammed into just a few hours. The amount of business they do is phenomenal."

"And when you think about it — it's all run by volunteer labor."

"You'd be hard-pressed to find any other volunteer group that produces that much work in that amount of

time. They are the most dedicated, hard-working group of women and men I have ever come across. Ever. I constantly am in awe of them each and every day."

The Chalet Resale Shop has grown from its meager beginnings switching locations numerous times as it has outgrown its space.

When they moved to their current home at 115 E. Second St., around 2003, Chalet Manager Ruth Nanny looked at the cavernous building that, at the time, they only occupied a portion of and she shook her head and exclaimed to no one in particular that there was no way they would utilize much of the space.

"It was like a big, empty barn."

But the volunteers put out the word for donations and the people of Big Spring and the outlying communities responded, and responded, and have continued to respond.

"We are ever so thankful for everyone in the community that donates to the Cha-

let," Lindsey said. "The dedication and hard work of the volunteers is overwhelming to see and my heart is overjoyed by each one of them."

"They never complain, they never gripe. They just sort, hang, fold, clean. They do whatever needs to be done all for the benefit of the patients of the Big Spring

State Hospital. You'd be hard-pressed to find people who work for a wage working as diligently as they do."

Eventually the space that Nanny thought would never be filled began to overflow at the seams, and the racks were pushed together as close as possible and every inch of display space and workspace was taken up. Nanny and VSC Board Members Tommy and JoBeth Corwin knew at that time they needed to find even more room.

That's when an anonymous and generous benefactor stepped in and gave them what they needed most in this world — more room.

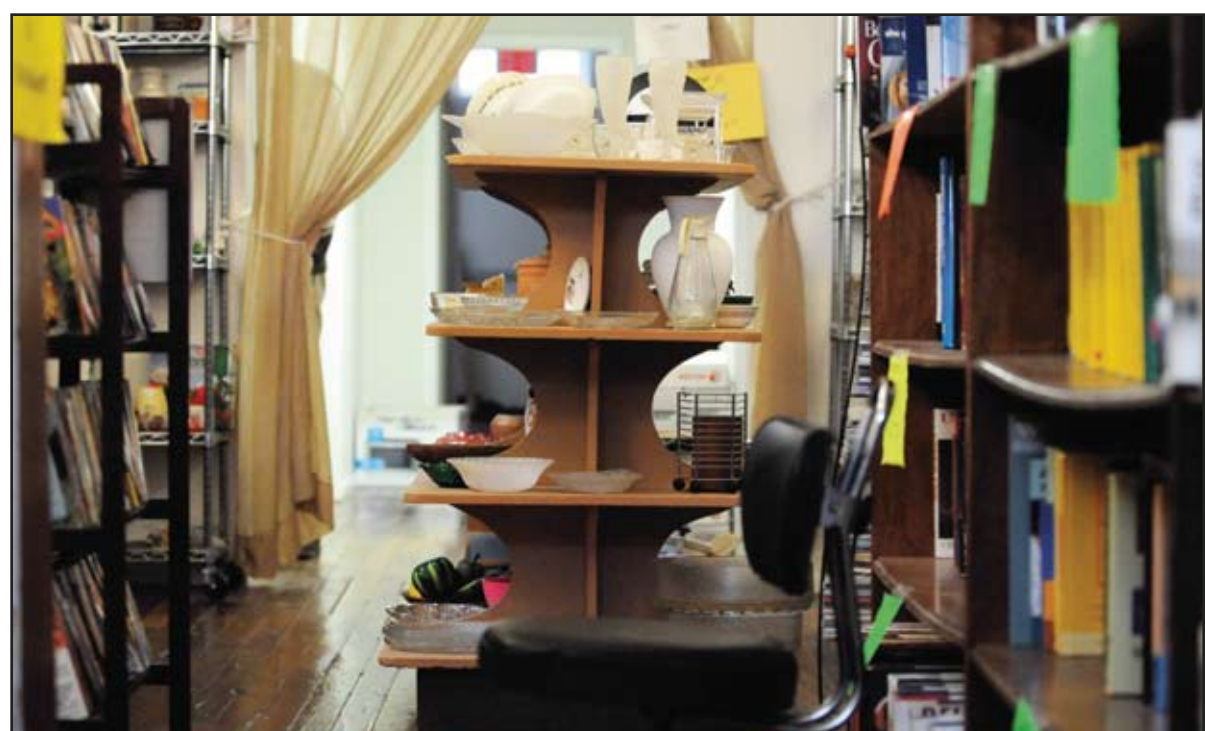
More than 2 years ago, a generous donor gave the Volunteer Services Council the ability to add onto the current building at 115 East Second St. allowing The Chalet's expansion next door.

"Boy, did we ever need the room," Nanny said. "We had no place to store and sort items, and our racks were so close together. We were very crowded. We managed, but space was starting to get tight. This was truly a blessing."

Nanny and JoBeth Corwin knew for several years they needed extra space and had looked at several possibilities. Next door was the most logical because it would not require anyone to be off-site.

"If we had to purchase a building across the street, we would have to put two people over there and we just didn't have the resources," Nanny said. "It just wasn't a workable solution. Here, we were able to knock down the wall and get to work. We would not have been able to do it without the generous support of one of our donors, who wants to remain anonymous," Nanny said. "Without his help, we could not have done this. And because of his generosity, the people of Big Spring have benefited, the Chalet has benefited and most of all the patients of Big Spring State Hospital have benefited."

See, **CHALET**, Page 4



10 years and going strong

Parkview Nursing and Rehab celebrated 10 years at its present location in November 2015 but staff & owners have decades of elder care in the community

Homegrown and still growing strong, Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Home celebrated 10 years at its present location in November 2015 but the business spirit, administration and even many of its employees have grown strong roots together to provide the Crossroads area with care for the elderly much longer than a decade.

"We want our residents to feel like they are in their home," said Kristi Beauchamp, administrator. "We want them to get into a routine and feel comfortable here."

Founders Vicki Cole and her daughter Kristi Beauchamp were already in the nursing home care business running Mountain View Lodge when the Parkview facility was purchased by the family in 2005.



Cole



Beauchamp

Cole, the owner and operator, has been in the nursing home business since 1980, according to the Parkview website. A licensed nursing facility administrator since 1999, Beauchamp serves as the facilities administrator. Together, the two have more than 35 years of experience in the field, Beauchamp said.

Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation provides both 24-hour long-term care and short-term rehabilitation services. The business completed a new painting and flooring project. There are new outdoor areas and a new sunroom. The facility has also enlarged the space for the rehabilitation area with direct access to the short-term patient wing which is separate from the long-term care rooms.

"We have been and continue to be locally owned," Beauchamp said. "Since its a family-owned business, we can invest more into our facility than a corporate-owned facility."

Parkview is located at 3200 Parkway Road by the Comanche Trail Park.

— By Lyndel Moody





Big Spring's Leading Jewelry Store For 55 Years

"Thank You Big Spring"



Greg Brooks and Betty Gamboa at Blum's
Combine for over 80 years of Jewelry Experience.

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Age ain't nothin' but a number

John Ferguson recently celebrated his 88th birthday, not from a nursing home or senior citizen center, but from behind the desk at his Big Spring law firm, Weaver & Ferguson, P.C. Attorneys at Law. And unlike some senior citizens, Ferguson exhibits a quick wit and a playful sense of humor.

"I'll retire when they bring in a box or a net," joked Ferguson on his impressive 66 year long career. "I'd be bored to death at home watching TV. This is all I've ever done!"

Born in 1928 and raised in South Texas, Ferguson grew up during the Great Depression, but according to him, didn't feel its impact. Ferguson's father was a superintendent which made for a steady job and the family was able to travel extensively.

"We went on vacations to different places like Colorado and Missouri," said Ferguson of his boyhood travels. "We didn't much feel the economic depression at all."

Growing up, Ferguson was an A-B honor student in Navasota, Texas and did well in almost every subject. That is, except for shop.

"I only ever had one D and that was in shop," explained Ferguson. "I was actually failing and pretty bad at it, but then I broke my arm. I guess my shop teacher felt bad for me because of my broken arm, so he gave me a D instead of failing me!"

Ferguson seems to have held onto some of that boyhood luck, for when he joined a program with the army active reserves and took the oath in June of 1945, there were only three months left in the second World War. While serving his year of active duty in the army, Ferguson was able to take some college courses. Unfortunately, those college courses were not in the most ideal spot for him.

"I was really hoping I would get to go somewhere exotic, like Hawaii or something," joked Ferguson. "But symptomatic of my luck, I was sent right back to Texas to College Station."

He was able to rack up college credits and transfer them to the University of Texas, where he graduated with his undergraduate degree as well as his law degree in 1950. Ferguson was inducted



into the Chancellor's Review at UT, a prestigious honor society, and then set out to look for a job. When the jobs didn't pour in, as 22 year old Ferguson expected, he accepted a job in Midland, which provided a bit of a culture shock.

"When I was offered the job with Phillips Petroleum in Midland, I had to get a map out to see where it was," laughed Ferguson. "I thought I was going to be able to have my pick of jobs since I had a law degree and was in Chancellors but that was the one that I got."

Ferguson attributed his lack of offers to perhaps his youthful look, as he was just 22 years old at the time. Being one of the younger employees at Phillips Petroleum, Ferguson found an older mentor in that of colleague Horace Burton.

"It was almost like going to grad school for free," said Ferguson of learning under Burton.

But after seven years with Phillips under the careful mentorship of Burton, Ferguson landed the assistant county attorney position in Stanton. After some opposition from his then-wife over the lack of social events in Stanton, Ferguson packed up to Big Spring and on June 1, 1966, he started his almost 50 year tenure at Weaver & Ferguson.

"After seven years of learning about the oil/gas industry, I figured that was the kind of law I should go into," said Ferguson.

At Weaver & Ferguson, Ferguson primarily

practices oil and gas law, citing it as his favorite. But he also practices probate and estate planning, real estate, and family law.

"Big Spring is a unique place in West Texas," said Ferguson. "When I lived in Midland I would take drives here just to look around. It is a really pretty place."

When Ferguson isn't practicing law, he makes time to be an active member of his church home, First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring. Ferguson sings in the choir, teaches an adult Sunday School class, and serves on the session committee.

"I've served out three year terms on the session committee five or six times," said Ferguson of his church involvement. "I teach a Bible class on Sundays and I really have learned a lot by teaching it. I have had to give up a lot of Saturdays to study for it but I have really learned a lot."

He talks highly of his family, including an adult son and younger brother who he joked "couldn't believe what a nice guy he turned out to be".

So while some look forward to spending their golden years watching television or relaxing on the couch, Ferguson couldn't imagine spending his any other way.

"I've always wanted to be a lawyer," said Ferguson. "Well, except when I was little. I wanted to be a cowboy then."

- By Amanda Elston



Harris Lumber and Hardware has been a family owned company since 1965. Bert Harris started the business and was a long time supporter of Big Spring. Then in March 2002, Steve and Gay Herren bought out the remaining stock of Harris Lumber and Hardware.

Our new warehouse is completed and will allow us serve the customer better. We look forward to the future to serve our past, present and future customer. We are proud to be a part of this great town.

THANKS - BIG SPRING IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.

WE'VE BEEN HERE - WE'LL BE HERE!

236594

HARRIS LUMBER & HARDWARE, INC.

LUMBER • HARDWARE • BUILDING SUPPLIES • APPLIANCES • ELECTRONICS

gaze crystal kitchen

CHINA • HOUSEWARES • FLATWARE • CRYSTAL • GIFTS



1515 E. FM 700



267-8206



always have lots of snacks and cold drinks and hot coffee. We love to work. But we love to snack as well. We're a fun group."

Nanny and Corwin have more than 30 volunteers at their disposal. Some work every day, some work a few days a week, some a few days a month. It's all depending on their schedule.

With the recent expansion and more and more people moving into Howard County, the need for volunteers is at its highest level ever, Nanny said.

"We sure do need more help. We would love to get more volunteers."

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the Chalet and ask for Nanny or the Corwins or Lindsey. You can call Lindsey at 432-268-7535 or email her at Danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

The Chalet is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. or at the Community Relations office on the Big Spring State Hospital campus

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. As to the future of The Chalet, Nanny just takes it day by day. Any time she needs something, someone steps up and provides.

"Every time we turn around there is a new blessing," she said. "We were blessed when we got this building when we started renting it, and then when we bought it, and then when we added air conditioning and heat. We are blessed with our donors and our customers. You just never know what blessing is going to pop up."

"We have had just so many people step up," Nanny continued. "While we were trying to renovate and create our new space, our volunteers still had to do their work and Workforce Sgt. John Spence with the Howard County Sheriff's department stepped up and brought in his work crew and helped us."

"He was tremendous and so were his guys. They worked and worked and worked. I can't say enough about those guys. They got us up and going. They were a blessing."

"Every time we turn around a blessing presents itself."

— Story and photos
by Valerie Avery

CHALET

Continued from Page 2

All proceeds from The Chalet go directly to the patients of Big Spring State Hospital. Money raised through Chalet sales and other fundraisers such as the Cars, Stars and Handlebars fundraiser have funded Christmas parties, the purchase of a transport van and the construction of a Family Visitation Center, among many other items.

"What the volunteers add to the hospital and our patients does not have a price tag," Big Spring State Hospital

superintendent Lorie Dunnam said. "I am asked all the time how come our Volunteer Services Council is so successful and my only answer is, 'It's the people here in Big Spring. They are the reason.' They are hard-working, salt-of-the-earth, wanting nothing in return except what is good for our patients."

"They believe in the work we do out here and they believe in our hospital and they support our hospital. We truly value their work and appreciate our partnership with them. And we are so thankful that donors in the community, such as the gentleman who allowed the addition onto The

Chalet stepped forward. We needed that so much."

The addition has given Nanny and the Corwins a separate room for books, knick-knacks, televisions, and dishes to be displayed away from the clothing. It also gives workers three additional workrooms within an arms' reach of the display area to help sort in the high traffic area.

"That was just so important to get them out near the floor area where they could work closely with the items and replenish them as needed," Nanny said. "Those items move quickly and it gives them their own work area." Moving those workers away from the huge clothing sorting area also gives those workers much-needed space and will allow them to go through items more rapidly and get them out onto the floor, Nanny said.

"We were just on top of each other," she said. But what she is most proud of is the small break room area tucked near the window and away from public view that gives workers a chance to take a breather and grab a handful of pretzels or snack on a homemade muffin or sip a cup of coffee. "It's a nice area where our ladies and men can rest if they need a few minutes," Nanny said. "It's one of the benefits of working at The Chalet. We



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Relay for Life: Funding the fight for cancer through community effort



ning included multiple drawings. The Rocking Star team brought in a wooden rocker with a leather seat for a fundraising drawing. The Scenic Mountain Medical Center Cancer Crushers brought in a handmade quilt with words of encouragement and pictures supporting the Relay for Life as the prize of their fundraiser drawing. Another team, the Men in Black, used an AR 15 as the bait of their fundraiser drawing.

All of the teams present had booths set up with little games to play or products to purchase and some were selling drinks and snacks for the long evening of walking.

In the center of the make-shift track, there were various activities during the evening. Near the beginning of the evening kids and adults shared the ring as they did the chicken dance. Later in the evening, local Zumba instructor Elvira Conner led the group in sweat inducing dancing to many laughs and smiles of both participants and spectators.

Another fun activity of the evening was the male beauty contest. Two gentleman willing to raise some money dressed up in their best dresses and wigs, complete with make-up and jewelry to walk around and try to fill their purses with donations. The good sports brought in an additional \$300 for the evening fundraising. The winner, "Cinnamon" was part of the Washington Throat Puncher team.

Another business in Big Spring currently working to raise funds to donate is the YMCA.

Recently, they held a recreational volleyball tournament.

"It was for men, women and mixed teams. Each team paid \$100 to sign up for the two bracket elimination competition," said Maggie Gonzales, contact for the volleyball tournament.

"We are planning on hosting a dodgeball tournament in April too so people can start getting their teams together," said Gonzales.

Big Spring may be a small community, but it, and the surrounding areas, are full of big hearted people and businesses.

"The counties of Howard and Glasscock are inspiring. These are not large communities involved in our Relay for Life, and yet they bring out the numbers that are seen in places such as Lubbock and San Angelo. The hearts in this area are big and the determination is always there among our communities" said Beverly Grant, 2015 Relay for Life Event Chair.

According to Manny Negrón, Specialist for the Relay for Life, the 2015 Howard/Glasscock counties Relay for Life raised more than \$92,000 so far and the fundraising season isn't over until Aug. 31.

— By Julie Bass

An event that takes months to plan and prepare for while only taking an evening to complete will be back again before we know it.

The 2016 Howard/Glasscock Counties Relay for Life is scheduled for May 6 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 6 p.m. - midnight.

There was so much energy and so many activities throughout the evening last year that it was almost impossible for anyone to get bored and slow down. This year is expected to be just as busy and alive with activities for everyone in the family.

In years past, this event has been something that the whole town can get behind and sponsor, and that is just what many of the local businesses are doing again this year.

There will be another live auction this year with items donated from various groups and businesses throughout the area.

In 2015, the auction portion of the evening brought in more than \$1,800. There are also fundraisers that companies around town throw before the Relay itself to help raise funds.

For several years now, TexaStone Quarries has run a special on products from which they donate the funds.

"Sometimes we have leftovers or some extra from an order. Sometimes orders are placed and no one ever comes to pick them up, or a contractor may decide that wasn't what they needed so we have a lot of nice, new pieces. We use all of that in the sale and people get a great deal while we raise money for Relay for Life," said Jennifer Sayles of TexaStone Quarries.

The TexaStone Quarries Stone and Scrap Sale will take place sometime in mid-April. The TexaStone Racers will participate again in the 2016 Relay for Life.

A few of the teams that participated last year

were The Young and Breastless, Home Hospice, Rocking Stars, Domestic Performance, Stand with Briana, Men in Black, Washington Throat Punchers, HEB and SMMC Cancer Crushers. Alon Refinery was onsite fundraising by selling food and drinks during the evening.

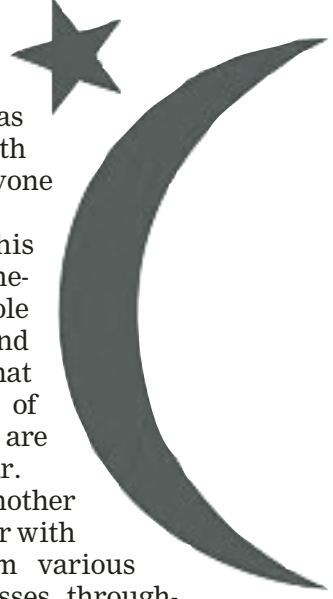
Whether a survivor or a supporter, everyone involved in the Relay for Life showed their love for not only the ones they walked for, but those who had lost their battle and those still fighting. They didn't have to know the other people there to know that the entire coliseum was filled with kindred spirits all working towards a single goal, to find a cure for cancer.

Some were more outspoken than others, such as the Washington Throat Punchers who decorated their camp with words of fierceness. "Punch cancer in the throat" was the biggest message they hoped to get through to all involved.

Incidentally, the Washington Throat Punchers ended up winning the "camp-site award" for their decorations and messages towards fighting cancer.

Another award that evening was given to the Young and Breastless for their team shirt design.

Some of the other fun activities of the eve-



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Betting big on Big Spring



EDC invests in airpark, transportation infrastructure for long-term



The oil boom may have gone bust, but that doesn't mean the Big Spring Economic Development Corp. has given up on the idea of growing this area's industrial base.

Like every other community in oil-producing areas, Big Spring has felt the effects of the downturn in prices. While that has certainly hampered or, in some cases, tabled plans for economic expansion, it has by no means halted them altogether, officials said.

And Terry Wegman, executive director of the EDC, said the news hasn't been all bad in that regard.

"The companies that have a really good vision are still looking at Big Spring and the Permian Basin," Wegman said. "Companies like Twin Eagle, which just spent \$10 million to open a rail park east of town, or Prince Eco, which built a facility at the airpark, or Savage, a pipe company that continues to grow, or Navigator, which has a crude gathering facility east of town. I'm very optimistic. I think the smart companies are still investing in this area."

Wegman said attracting industry to this area has its share of misses to



go along with its hits. That's just the nature of this particular beast.

"We chase a lot of rabbits," he said. "We don't catch them all, but we're not going to stop trying."

Before you get a mental image of EDC as Elmer Fudd desperately tracking an industrial Bugs Bunny, Wegman wants you to keep in mind that local officials have a lot more weapons at their disposal than the befuddled cartoon character.

And the more weapons, the better.

"There's a ton of factors that go into attracting industry," Wegman said. "Most of the leads we're getting are because of the infrastructure we've built. Industry people are always looking at the market and they consider a ton a factors, like salaries and the cost of living. There's a whole laundry list of things they consider."

See, **EDC**, Page 7

'Cookie Man' dedicated to improving his community

What do you give to the man who gives of himself freely? How do you thank someone that constantly gives their time to others, and asks for very little for himself?

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce decided to call that man the 2015 Man of the Year, but everyone else calls him Gale Pittman.

Pittman has his hand in so many cookie jars around town, that it is easy to see why people can't help but

smile when they see him.

During the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Banquet in February, the speech introducing the Man of the Year was:

"Our Man of the Year for 2015 is homegrown, born and raised in Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1979 and has been in the local business world in some way or another since that time."

The speech continued: "You know him by his trade, but you also know him for his spirit of giv-

ing, for his willingness to step up to the plate when needed and for his eternal smile and gracious spirit. Give him a job and he'll move heaven and earth to do it and do it well. You will see him helping with the Adopt a Military Hero program, holding an office with United Way, serving in both Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. He's right in the middle of the holidays at the Heritage Museum to everyone's delight and he serves with the Chamber of Commerce and Howard County

Fair Boards as well. He is a graduate of Leadership Big Spring and a man of great faith. His serving spirit just comes naturally as his father who was Man of the Year in the late 70s."

"And one thing is for sure, Big Spring is a sweeter place because of Gale Pittman, the Cookie Man."

Pittman is indeed busy with many organizations and groups around town.

See, **PITTMAN**, Page 7



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EDC

Continued from Page 6

Perhaps the biggest ace in the hole Big Spring has, and one that officials are betting big on, is the McMahon-Wrinkle Industrial Airpark. The airpark has plenty of land and transportation options which should be highly attractive to industrial developers.

The transportation options may be the biggest key to unlock the airpark's potential, Wegman said. With an expanding rail line and soon-to-be completed Highway 87 reliever route to go along with an airport that is capa-

ble of handling airliner-type traffic, airpark tenants will soon have the transportation trifecta — air, rail and highway — to help them get their products to where they need to go.

And the nicest thing about all those transportation options? They're attractive to all kinds of industries, not just oil and gas-related ones. Wegman said getting non-oilfield related businesses in this area will help the local economy better weather the boom-and-bust cycle of the oil patch.

"That's why we're investing so much money at the airpark in rail infrastructure,"

Wegman said. "What we're doing is investing dollars into something that will help Big Spring long-term and help diversify our economy. We're very unique in that regard. Big Spring can be a logistics-distribution center for a lot of industries. The airpark is a tool for us to ... help with that diversity.

"The biggest things in our favor right now are location and the investment we've made in infrastructure," he added. "That goes back to some of the assets Big Spring has — Interstate 20, the reliever route, rail and air. All those factors help Big Spring become more attrac-

tive to individuals."

Local efforts are already being noticed, he said, pointing to an analysis from Policom Corp., an independent economic research firm which specializes in analyzing local and state economies, which ranks Big Spring 226th out of 536 "micropolitan" areas (cities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000) in the United States. If that sounds relatively unimpressive, consider that Big Spring's ranking has jumped more than 200 spots in just the past five years.

While oil prices are certain to be, well, uncertain in the coming months, Wegman sees no slackening in local efforts to attract industry.

"We have one customer

interested in doing business at the airpark and another, chemical-related, customer looking to set up operations near the law enforcement center," he said. "We're working on a lead the governor's office gave us and we're working really hard on the redevelopment of Malone & Hogan Clinic."

"Even with the downturn in oil, we have significant projects in the pipeline," he added. "Our job is to create an economic base that will support retail expansion. If the base is there, the retail aspect will follow. A lot of retailers know about Big Spring and they are looking at us closely."

— By Steve Reagan



PITTMAN

Continued from Page 6

Pittman's most recent addition to civic organizations is the H-E-B Feast of Sharing that had its inaugural meal in 2015.

He can be found decorating the fair barns for the Howard County Fair, organizing a group of people for the H-E-B Feast of Sharing, shaking a can at Sonic to raise funds to help send Christmas packages to Troops overseas during the holidays and just about anywhere that someone needs a helping hand.

However, the most exciting change in Pittman's life, or at least for the community that

knows him, was the grand opening of Gale's Bakery and Deli.

On the grand opening day of the bakery and deli, many people were present to watch Pittman cut the ribbon and welcome everyone into his place.

"This is so great to see so many people here, supporting us as we open. I am just speechless. Thank you," said Pittman.

He spent a great deal of time visiting with all of the patrons and offering cookies and treats.

Unfortunately, not long after the grand opening there were some hiccups and Gale's had to close for some more renovations.

"I'm sorry that it had

to close so quickly. I am hoping to get everything fixed and get the doors opened back up," he said.

But now, at long last, it appears that all issues have been resolved and Gale's is ready to serve its eager customers who exclaim how wonderful the cookies and cakes are.

Gale's Bakery and Deli, which is located at the end of Scurry next to Taco Bell, usually has a full parking lot and an eager staff ready to serve the customers with a smile.

They offer a variety of cookies, cakes and custom deserts.

— By Julie Bass



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Growing their own

BSSH helps employees with higher education expense

As a child, Sheena Howell urged her mother to follow ambulances around Big Spring. At the same age, Jackline Auka used mud from her native Kenya as salve to cure sick dolls pains.

Both knew they eventually wanted a career in health care.

Neither knew it would be in Big Spring or that it would be in psychiatric care.

But both have been drawn to Howard County and will stay for at least several years as part of a pay-back system — a working stipend program put in place by Big Spring State Hospital to encourage employees who want to further their careers, particularly in psychiatric nursing.

“We long have said at Big Spring State Hospital that ‘We like to grow

our own,’” Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Lorie Dunnam said.

What Dunnam means is Big Spring State Hospital encourages employees to find other career paths within the hospital, including nursing, by offering stipends and educational leave.

“It’s no secret there’s a nursing shortage in this country, particularly in West Texas, and even more so in psychiatric nursing,” Dunnam said. “Psychiatric care and psychiatric nursing are a calling.”

“So when we have employees who thrive as psychiatric nursing assistants but who have advanced as far as they can, we started asking ourselves, ‘What else can we offer them?’ We don’t want to lose them because they are good

for the patients.”

Enter the Big Spring State Hospital Nursing Stipend Program and Educational Leave Programs.

Many a cashier or psychiatric nursing assistant now work as Registered Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses, one of the more coveted positions at the hospital, as a result of the hospital-sponsored stipend program.

The state offers the stipend and the hospital’s Volunteer Services Council supplements it along the way to assist employees in their venture, Director of Community Relations Dee Lindsey said.

“The volunteer’s mission is to assist our patients, and if that means helping our employees become Licensed Vocational Nurses and Registered

Nurses, then they are more than willing to help,” Lindsey said. “They have been funding this for a number of years and enjoy helping out anywhere it will assist our patients.”

The nursing stipend program evolved before Assistant Chief Nurse Executive of Operations Jan Rios, RN, began working at Big Spring State Hospital in 1973, she said.

It began as a way to encourage employees who enjoyed providing psychiatric care but could not take time off to attend school and further their careers.

“We have so many employees who are excellent as psychiatric nursing assistants or PNAs who I know would make great nurses,” Rios said.

See, **NURSES**, Page 9



Sheena Howell

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Jackline Auka

NURSES

Continued from Page 8

“And when they come forward and ask if they can apply for the stipend program, that just makes me so happy, because I know that we have someone who truly understands our patients and knows what goes into caring for our patients.”

“Psychiatric nursing is not for everyone. But once you’re hooked, you don’t want to do any other kind of nursing. It just gets in your blood.”

To qualify for the stipend, an employee must currently be working for the hospital for at least six months, be in good standing and be chosen following an interview with a small committee, answering questions focusing on his or her goals. Several are chosen each year.

For each year a nurse is enrolled in the stipend program, they must work for Big Spring State Hospital for two years.

“We do reap the benefits,” Rios said. “I would say we have about a dozen nurses on staff right now of about a hundred who went through the stipend program. It’s very worthwhile.”

About three to four nurses are in the LVN or RN program at any given time. They are paid a stipend or a salary while attending school and they can choose to work every other weekend and receive a higher salary or they can choose to not work at all and receive a little less money, Rios said.

“Most nursing students choose to work every other weekend,” she said. “We do work around their studies. They are hard-working, hard-studying people. We all can remember how difficult nursing school was. So, if they have a big test or they have clinicals that may interfere with work, we adjust their work schedules.”

Big Spring native Howell said she doesn’t find it problematic to work every other weekend and attend nursing school. In fact, she enjoys it.

“It gives your mind a little break, and you can put into practice a little bit of what you are learning in class.”

She said the task-minded person people see today in Howell was her best ally during LVN school and now RN school, but admits she is a different and driven person today.

The procrastinating edge that ate at Howell for most of her young adult life slipped away the night her brother died in a motorcycle accident on the interstate that had carried them to Midland so many times.

“I just decided months later that I could just wallow or get on with my career,” Howell spoke of her 20-something life.

She had spent years jumping from Howard College to South Plains College to EMT school to working as an assistant in a doctor’s office before finally landing a job as a lab tech at Big Spring State Hospital.

“A friend said, ‘You know how to draw blood,’” Howell remembered of that luncheon conversation with a close friend months after the painful accident. “I thought, ‘why not?’”

And a career at Big Spring State Hospital was born.

If Big Spring State Hospital likes to grow its own, then no one has to look further than Howell to see that in action.

Not long after working at the psychiatric hospital, she learned of the hospital’s educational leave program, and she was able to take off work and finish the last few hours of her degree.

“I don’t think many people here are aware of the many benefits that Big Spring State Hospital offers you to further your schooling,” she said during a recent break from her weekend shift on the Pine Unit. “I was able to finish my associate’s degree with no penalty to my hours or my pay.”

“I could take up to eight hours of leave a week and they would pay you for six hours,” Howell said. “Without it, I couldn’t have done it. There’s just no way.”

Following completion of her associate’s degree, she applied and was accepted into the LVN Stipend Program. Looking back now, she said there’s no way she could have attended school and worked to pay all her bills.

“It’s not doable. You attend school six hours a day, five days a week and then you study two to three hours a night. It’s just not doable, going to school and working. You have to sleep. Your sleep is going to help you out more on the test than the long hours of studying our professors always told us and I believe them,” she said.

“I couldn’t have made a living without that stipend.”

Howell was facing many life changes at the time. She was still living in the home that she and her brother shared and trying to decide whether to purchase it outright (she did) and emotionally recover from the loss of her best friend (it’s still difficult).

After completing her associates degree, she entered into the LVN Stipend program and graduated from the LVN program in May 2015 from Howard College. Days later, she started RN School, which she is doing the majority of it online.

“I think me not being a procrastinator has helped me in RN School. If an assignment opens on Monday, I start it on Monday. That helped me in LVN School and is definitely helping me in RN School. I eventually want to go for my BSN. It’s my lifelong dream.”

Auka, a native of Kenya, was accepted into the LVN Stipend program after moving to Big Spring and working as a psychiatric nursing assistant for several months.

In her native Kenya, she worked at a much-higher level as a clinician after studying for clinical medicine and surgery, but when she moved to America, as she put it, “you go back to zero.”

“I knew I had the potential to do better from my experience in the medical field. I knew I could do better.”

“I heard about this stipend program and I said, ‘for real?’ I didn’t believe it. I was really excited. It’s a real opportunity. There is no way I would have made it without the stipend,” Auka said. “It’s a lot of work trying to study and working.”

“One has to suffer if you try to go to school and work.”

Howell agrees.

“There is no way I could have gone to LVN school and worked full-time and supported myself. You spend all day in school and then come home and have several hours of homework. I don’t see how you could work on top of that and get good grades to pass.”

As an LVN, much of Auka’s job revolves around medication therapy, an opportunity she utilizes to provide patient education on their respective medications. “I love working with psychiatric patients, especially those with severe and persistent mental illness, because these people often have limited support in their homes and community and they need someone just to show them care, compassion and patience. I love providing care and helping them to move beyond sickness into wellness and helping them understand that with treatment they can live a normal life. I enjoy learning from them.”

“And what makes me happy is the smile I see on their face when they

are being discharged. It’s a total satisfaction.”

When Auka started in health care, she didn’t dream of a career in psychiatric nursing, but she has grown to love it and appreciate it for its worth. “If I ever go into another field, this is a good base.” “Everything starts from the mind.”

Rios said any nursing student who visits Big Spring State Hospital is told about the stipend program and most are unaware that the hospital hires graduates fresh out of nursing school.

“No matter what field you go into, you need the psychiatric background,” Rios said. “Its good training for whatever specialty you choose. You may be in pediatrics one day and you’re caring for a young boy who has never spent the night away from his mother. Those people are scared. It’s good to have that empathy.”

“I like working with the mentally ill,” Howell said. “When you see a discharge, it makes you feel good.”

PNAs can take educational leave to work on their associates degree, Howell said. “It’s a great idea. You can take four classes. This is doable. I wish more people would do it. We have a lot of great PNAs out here who I know would be great nurses.”

Auka is the number one advocate of the stipend program and the educational leave program. She lives in the nursing dorm on the Big Spring State Hospital campus and tells psychiatric nursing assistants who constantly talk about returning to school that they need to go.

“I tell them that they can commit themselves. They just need to do it. The hospital will give them the leave time to do it.”

For now, she is studying to be accepted into RN school. And when accepted, she will apply for the RN Stipend program at BSSH.

As far as paying it back?
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— Story and photos by Valerie Avery

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No ordinary cup of Joe

Newcomer Corner House Coffee finds its niche in the community

Corner House building, which previously housed Audrey's Bakery and a flower shop, became available, they quickly upscaled their plans. They rented the building on Jan. 1 and worked almost non-stop to have it ready in time for the

manager of Bean's World. The Knudson's also make sure all are trained in the ways of a coffee barrista.

This extra attention to detail has paid off so far, they said.

"When we first opened, we bought about a week's worth of everything," Kevin said. "And we sold out just about everything in two days ... We've already developed a following, people who have been here every day."

Without a doubt, the biggest-selling coffee so far has been the mochas — "We sell a lot of them," Kevin said.

Aside from the popular mochas, the Corner House offers practically all kinds of coffee, including espresso and a Frappuccino-like concoction that is sort of like a milk shake with a caffeine boost added in.

And, yes, if you're not in the mood for something exotic, the Corner House offers its regular House Blend.

The Corner House comfortably seats between 40-50 people, but the Knudsons hope to expand its capacity once warmer weather hits — they plan to extend the patio area to accommodate even more customers.

That's not the end of their expansion plans, either. They want to bring in live music and poetry readings to enhance the customers' experience and to make the Corner House a "date-night place," Michelle said.

Corner House Coffee is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays.

— By Steve Reagan



Coffee isn't just coffee, the proprietors at Corner House Coffee firmly believe.

Kevin and Michelle Knudson, who opened the Corner House at 17th and Scurry streets earlier this month, think that a coffee house should offer more than your ordinary cup of Joe, it should offer an experience.

Make no mistake — you can definitely get coffee at the Corner House. All kinds, in fact, from latte to espresso and lots in between. But the Knudsons want you to enjoy more than the caffeinated (or non-caffeinated, as the case may be) products they sell.

"Anyone can drive through and get a cup of coffee just about anywhere," Kevin said. "We wanted to establish a place that promoted getting people together ... that goes along with our motto, 'We believe life is measured at the speed of relationships.'"

Kevin and Michelle, who pastor at Life Church, have more than just a passing interest in coffee and coffee houses. He's from Seattle, Wash. — "coffee central for the United States," as he describes it. They met "20-something" years ago at Bible college in Stockton, Calif. and married five years ago before moving back to Big Spring, Michelle's home

town.

Kevin said he knew he'd be a pastor at an early age.

"I had a really unique experience when I was 14," he said. "After that, a door opened for me to preach my first sermon. I really believe in a calling, and that's what this is."

While the ministry is undoubtedly important to the Knudsons, they are quick to note they didn't open the Corner House primarily to spread the gospel — they're in it to make a buck, also.

"This is not a Christian coffee house," Kevin said. "It's a coffee house run by Christians ... I always knew, at some point, I would own my own business, along with being in the ministry."

But why a coffee house?

"Because Big Spring needed one, desperately," he said. "We're big on finding a need and filling it."

Michelle says she received a bit of continental inspiration during a recent trip.

"We took a recent trip to Europe," she said, "and I really wanted to model this after what we saw over there, the mom-and-pop style coffee houses they have in Europe."

The Knudsons initially envisioned opening a drive-through coffee kiosk somewhere in town, but when the

coffee shop's opening on March 11.

The house, which was built in 1936, received a new floor and a bathroom that is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Oh, and there's the barrista bar, also.

The Knudsons are big believers in "quality, convenience, consistency and community," and they say they have tried to infuse the coffee shop with those watchwords.

The Corner House boasts a state-of-the-art barrista bar and a wide choice of coffee products that Kevin notes can't be found just anywhere.

"We have a private roaster in the Fort Worth area who sells to us exclusively in this region," he said.

But its not just the beans that are unique to the Corner House experience, Kevin promises.

"We grind and prepare the coffee beans fresh every morning," he said. "We go through the entire process of making your espresso — we don't just push a button. It takes a little bit longer to do it this way ... but it's worth it. It's a higher quality bean and a different process altogether."

The Knudsons currently employ 17 people, including three full-timers led by Amber Griffin, the former



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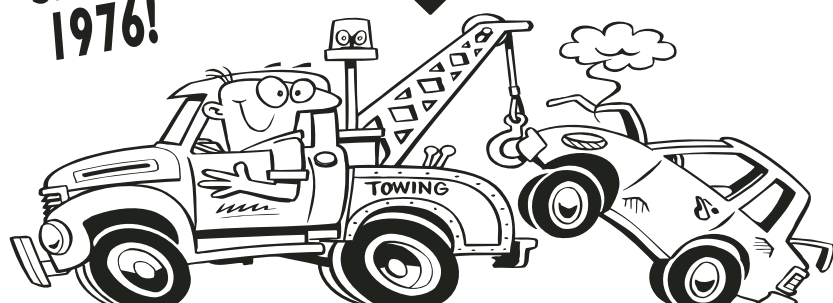
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Rock stars

At Tubb Quarry, ancient limestone is becoming modern-day profit

You see a rock. Kenneth Eubanks and the father-son team of Mike and Mark Stratton see profit.

The three men teamed up three years ago to begin a limestone quarrying operation south of Big Spring. Today, their business, Tubb Quarry, provides limestone for all sorts of purposes, from road grading to oil-field uses to landscaping.

Seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, quarry employees are busy blasting, crushing, chipping, drilling and even washing limestone, then loading the material onto a steady stream of trucks ready to take the product to the oilfield or some other destination.

The operation started modestly enough three years ago, when Eubanks, who co-owns the quarry with his wife, Patricia, approached the Strattons with the idea of doing something constructive with all the limestone deposits embedded into his land.

"When we first got here in 2013, there was a huge demand in the oilfield market for road base and other crushed limestone products," Mark said. "We wanted to establish a permanent facility, open every day of the week to service the Howard County area. There was competition,

but it was only open on specific days."

"There wasn't anyone who crushed rock for the general public," Kenneth added.

"American Limestone used to operate on this property ... but they got bought out. I had this big hole on my land, and I was looking for somebody to fill it up.

I brought Mark in and he brought his dad in, as well. The first thing they asked me was, 'Have you ever participated in the rock crushing business?' Well, I didn't know anything about rocks except it hurts when you get hit by one."

The Strattons brought more than 65 years in combined expertise to the table, while the Eubanks provided the financing and, most importantly, the product.

"The single hardest thing in this industry is to find consistent and reliable natural resources," Mark said. "Ken and Pat happened to be sitting on some pretty good product."

And there's lots and lots of limestone just waiting to get dug up.

"There's more material here than I'll see in my lifetime," Mark said. "Our main pit goes down 31 feet and we have the ability to go down to 280



feet ... We're talking decades of product."

Those limestone deposits date back to the early days of the dinosaurs. A geology professor visited the quarry recently and estimated the age of the deposits to the early Cretaceous Period, some 100 million years ago. (In an interesting sidenote, workers occasionally find fossilized remains of crustaceans from that period, many of which adorn the quarry's main office.)

That abundance of limestone means quarry operations are at a permanent site. "We do not move our plant from spot to spot and crush or destroy ranches and then move on to the next spot," Mark said. "When we began, we didn't want to just tear up the landscape, so we've taken as much care as we could to make sure we didn't destroy the area."

That "green" approach also extends to recycling the water the quarry uses to wash the limestone.

"When we're finally finished here, we'll be able to rehabilitate this property to something useful for generations to come," Mark said.

Tubb is a "shot rock" quarry, meaning workers drill holes into the limestone, then fill those holes with explosives. The resulting blast "is definitely something that will rattle your teeth," as Mike said. A drilling machine then breaks the rocks down to a manageable size and a front loader carries the limestone to the next step

in the process, a feed hopper that crushes and cuts the rock down to predetermined sizes, ranging from 3/8th of an inch to 3-by-5 inches.

Depending on the limestone's ultimate use, some of the product even goes through a washer, which makes the limestone more permeable (water will pass through it more effectively) and allows it to adhere to concrete during a construction project.

The finished product is used for a variety of projects. Tubb Quarry is one of the few area sources which can provide top-grade road base for Texas Department of Transportation construction projects. Also, building contractors from Big Spring, as well as towns such as Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Lubbock and Borger have used Tubb limestone. Although the oilfield sector is going through a down period, the quarry still fills many orders for base material used in roads and pad sites.

But Eubanks was quick to point out that the quarry doesn't do business just with big firms.

"We welcome the small guys, too," he said. "If you only need five tons instead of 5,000 tons, we'll do business with you."

"We're just like 7-Eleven — you can come in and buy stuff."

Private homeowner or small businesses interested in using limestone for landscaping also are welcome.

Tubb even has a portable division, which can go to remote sites and crush rock on demand for customers.

— By Steve Reagan





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Flowers in the West Texas desert

How Jeannine Thibault is helping to turn downtown Big Spring into a thriving art community

Tucked into the slowly reviving Big Spring downtown area is the Desert Art Gallery.

Owner Jeannine Thibault opened the gallery in hopes of creating a central location for local artists, musicians and writers to gather, visit and bounce ideas off each other.

"It's a venue for the artist, but it is free for the artist," said Thibault who displays art and photography of area artist without charge. "I don't collect a commission (if a piece sells). What I am looking to do is promote the arts in Big Spring."

It took a major commitment for Thibault to convert the building, located on the corner of Main and Third streets, into an art gallery. The investment needed to be weighed not just in terms of financial commitment, but it also meant a major change in her life. In Southern talk, she's not from around here.

Thibault hails from the U.S./Canadian border area. Think Vermont and Buffalo, N.Y. She came to West Texas as a travel nurse and after six months, accepted a permanent job at one of the local healthcare facilities.

However, there was one aspect of this area that became a huge selling point for the native from north of the Mason-Dixon line.

"I am so happy not to shovel snow," Thibault said laughing. "The day I moved here, Buffalo had 8 feet of snow."

Throwing away her snow shovel from a dust rag or, in this case, multiple dust cleaning utilities, also meant she had a chance to chase after a life-long passion.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have a gallery to help artists," she said. "I always wanted to have an art gallery I lived in. I was over next door when they had the café (Bean's World), so I was looking around and I thought this place would be so perfect for an art gallery. I love it here and people are so nice."

Thibault held a grand opening of the gallery during the Funtastic Fourth Celebration held in June 2015. A second grand opening is set for the upcoming Funtastic Fourth.

In the past year, the gallery has hosted 10 open mic nights, where writers and musicians are welcomed to perform a poem, song or musical piece in front of an audience. Thibault said the event has attracted a bigger audience each time.

The first weekend of each month, the gallery is the site for a Wine and Canvas class hosted by local artists. A monthly craft class is also held on the site. The gallery is also available for rent to host small parties.

And on the 26th of each month, a group meets at the gallery to brainstorm ways to promote art and create tourism in downtown Big Spring, including the possibility of creating murals along some of the downtown business' street sides.

"We are planning an art walk for the Funtastic Fourth," Thibault said. "We have a map that lists different businesses. At each business will be an artist. People will have a chance to visit with the artist. It's kind of like a scavenger hunt. At each business, you collect a ticket and at the

end, you get a token or something. It's fun and it helps the businesses, also. Right now, we have eight businesses involved, including the Settles."

Businesses or artists interested in participating can call Thibault at 315-480-6340.

Although Big Spring is a tad smaller than Buffalo, N.Y., and many of the East Coast cities she hails from, Thibault said places like Big Spring are perfect to find great artists.

"I've always been interested in art and artists," she said. "I would always read up about them and they are always from small towns. They move to bigger towns to get a job, but they do not start out there. That's where you find them."

"Even if they don't make it big time, it's great to have other artists to talk to and bounce ideas off," she continued. "I want it to be a fun venue and it is. We have so much fun when we all get together."

If fact, Thibault sees, with a little work and effort, the downtown Main Street area turning into a small but thriving artist community.

For now, she is excited to see her own business grow.

"I want it to be a relaxed environment where people can come and listen to acoustic music, poetry, enjoy the art, discuss art and enjoy a glass of wine," she said. "It's a venue for artists. It's pretty much becoming what I hoped."

Currently, the Desert Flower Art Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A listing of the gallery's activities is on its Facebook site: www.facebook.com/Desert-Flower-Art-Gallery.

—By Lyndel Moody



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When life hands you lemons ...

... you can help feed the hungry, as young Logan Henry learned when he opened a very special lemonade stand

Many adults do not learn what it means to volunteer their time and help others until they are at least in their 20s and many not until even later in life.

Logan Henry got a very early start on trying to make the world a brighter and better place for others.

When Logan was 6 years old, he was a picky eater. In an effort to get Logan to eat better, his mother explained that there were kids out there his age who weren't lucky enough to have enough food to eat.

As she explained, the gears turned in Logan's little mind and he felt the need to act.

After looking around at different organizations that offer help to those

less fortunate, Logan and his mom settled on Isaiah 58, a food pantry right here in Big Spring.

Logan's grand plan? A lemonade stand.

Logan Henry got a very early start on trying to make the world a brighter and better place for others.

The first one was in his own neighborhood and did about as well as a neighborhood lemonade stand can be expected to do, but Logan was happy to take all of his profits straight down to Isaiah 58.

In an effort to help Logan do more and help others, plans were set in motion for the next year's lemonade stand.

His mother, Stephanie Henry, took him to Harris Lumber and Hardware, Inc. to purchase supplies to build a real lemonade stand.

See **LEMONS**, Page 3



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LEMONS

Continued from Page 2

A very patient associate assisted them in selecting the boards for the project they had in mind.

They visited and chatted about what the lemonade stand was going to be used for and the plans ahead.

“He stood Logan up on the pallets, kind of sized up what we would need and put together an example of what we wanted. When we went up to the front to pay, we discovered that the associate paid for the lumber. It was amazing and wonderful that this kind man wanted to help Logan with his dream of helping,” said Stephanie.

Three years after Logan started collecting money at his annual

lemonade stand sale, he has become somewhat of a celebrity, appearing in the newspapers, doing radio interviews and even a few television news appearances.

In 2014, while Logan was at Isaiah 58 for his lemonade stand, a motorcycle club out of Odessa showed up. They brought Logan a considerable donation and a new bicycle to show their support.

Logan’s Lemonade Stand is only open one day in July each year, usually close to his birthday on July 16.

This year, Logan will turn 10 years old and hold his Fourth Annual Logan’s Lemonade Stand Fundraiser.

Since its inception, Logan has donated \$4,822 according to his mother’s calculations.

Each year the donation amounts get a little larger, which makes Logan’s smile a little

bigger each year.

When he isn’t running his stand, Logan enjoys volunteering at Isaiah 58.

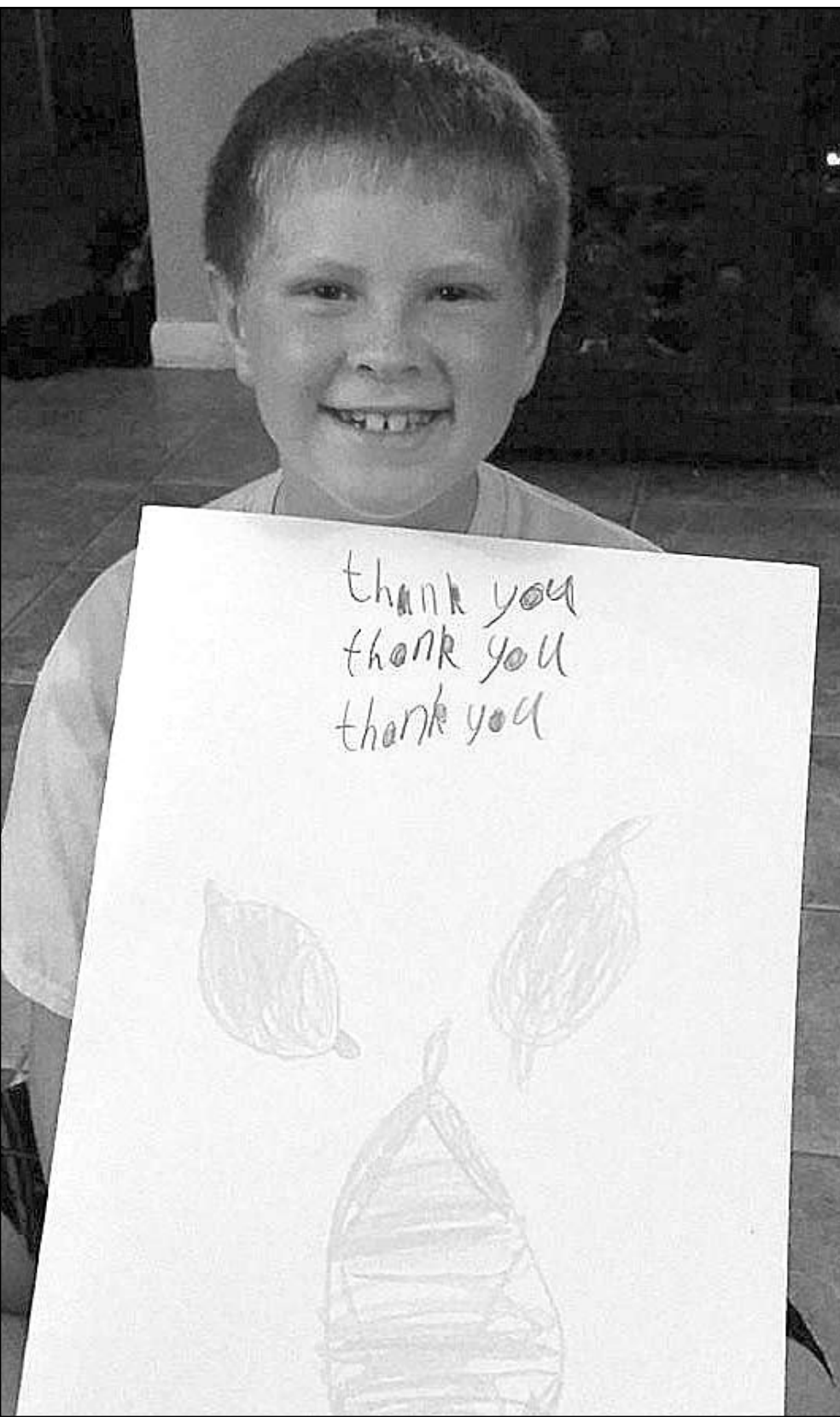
“He gets right in there, helping move boxes, stock shelves and whatever else he can do,” said Stephanie.

Logan has started to include selling shirts and bracelets to help raise funds each year.

“People have been so great to Logan. A lady donated shirts, another person brought bracelets to him to sell. It is amazing how many people have gotten behind him and supported him in all of this,” said Stephanie.

To follow Logan’s progress and support his efforts, like him on Facebook at Logan’s Lemonade Stand.

— Julie Bass



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It's just a day in the "Life"

Tracy Watson had dreamed about being a teacher her whole life. After decades of dreaming, Watson received her teaching degree at age 40 and settled into the education routine. What she didn't realize, however, was that teaching was going to be a rather short term gig in the grand scheme of things. "After about ten years of teaching, I felt the call from God to be involved in women's ministry," Watson said. "I didn't really even know what that was going to look like at that point, I just heard God's call and listened."

After Watson had quit what she thought was her dream job, she said she waited for God to tell her more. After a few years of prayer about direction, she was introduced to The Life Center, a non-profit, faith based organization that offers alternatives to abortion, in Andrews. That's when Watson knew which direction she needed to be moving in.

"I realized that we needed a crisis pregnancy center here in Big Spring," said Watson. "I contacted Judy Rouse, the executive director of the main office in Midland, to see what we could do and it turned out that she had been thinking about putting roots down in Big Spring for a satellite office. God has just moved through all of this. He made everything possible."

Fast forward a year and a half later to present day and The Life Center has clearly begun to put down those roots. The Big Spring Life Center is currently located in the Affordacare building of off South Gregg and they have their own stand-alone building and property in the works. Watson, now the director of the Big Spring satellite, works with a variety of people including pregnant mothers, teen parents, school-age children, and those looking to recover from an abusive or unhealthy past.

"What most people don't understand is how integrated we become with communities," said Rouse, explaining the purpose of The Life Center and its role in the community. "We are a real go-to place for help as far as teen education and parent education. People will call us for referrals to different places so we become a real resource for the community."

Rouse, the executive director of The Life Center for the last 21 years, has watched the non-profit bloom since its humble beginnings with a single office and a three person staff.

"It just caught my heart for the chance to work with teenagers," explained Rouse. "I was raised in a broken home by just my dad and lived in tremendous brokenness. (When she started) I didn't know anything about pro-life or how to work with pregnant mothers. I didn't know how to preach the Gospel to them. But my healing with God began in my 30s and I realized that my background made me sensitive to those with healing hearts."

Within a year of working with The Life Center, Rouse was asked to serve on the board and in the spring of 1996, was made executive director. From there, Rouse took The Life Center and continued to build it up with programs based on the idea of "making positive decisions involving pregnancy". The Life Center's programs focus on three main components: Prevention Education, Restoration, and Intervention. The Prevention Education team meets with school age children from 4th to 12th grade and according to Rouse, meets with over 27,000 students each year.

"We educate through sexual integrity classes in schools that meet for



three consecutive days for one hour classes," said Rouse. "The classes are all age appropriate. Fourth grade is all about character building, education, healthy friendships, and respecting yourself, while older children in sixth grade start being introduced to concepts such as sexually transmitted diseases and making healthy decisions. We are in high demand in West Texas. That is probably our biggest outreach."

And the outreach is making an impact. According to the Midland Reporter-Telegram and statistics provided by Midland ISD, during the 2014 school year the school district reported 73 confirmed teen pregnancies, almost 100 less than in 2010-2011 when MISD started a partnership with The Life Center. According to Watson, Big Spring is starting to see some of those same impacts.

"We are seeing life change at the Big Spring satellite already," said Watson. "We have been working with one girl in particular and it has just been amazing to see what she has learned through our programs and how it has impacted the people around her. When you are able to change one person's life, it winds up changing many."

In addition to sexual integrity classes and referrals, The Life Center also focuses on helping individuals "make positive, life-affirming choices". Just a few of the free services The Life Center offers includes urine pregnancy testing, limited obstetrical ultrasound scans, prenatal and parenting education classes, consultations with a registered nurse, and adoption referrals.

"Say a pregnant lady comes in that is apart of our pregnancy services," explained Rouse. "She gets in the program for material assistance. Until that baby is a year old, she can come in and receive some education, and get diapers and wipes and gently used clothes. But she has to have education. We are not a handout place."

Along with material assistance for teen mothers, those involved in the educational support classes that the center offers have a chance to earn "Baby Bucks" to spend in The Life Center's baby boutique. The boutique is crammed full of books, toys, baby clothes, nursing blankets, toys, and nursery decorations. According to Rouse, an individual can earn "Baby Bucks" by attending classes, earning a GED, take college courses, and holding down a job among other things.

"Some of the kids that come through our program will never have a chance to shop in a boutique or buy brand new clothes," said Rouse. "This gives teen parents a chance to



feel good about themselves and their accomplishments."

Both Watson and Rouse expressed that the center's biblical principles and Christ-centered mission was what set The Life Center apart from other pregnancy centers such as Planned Parenthood. Rouse explained that the choice to participate in additional education classes such as the M.A.R.Y. (Mothering As Responsible Youth) mentoring class

which is a discipleship program for teen moms 13-19 was optional for those coming through their center.

"They come in and we just support them in their pregnancy and with what is going on in their life," said Watson. "We invite them (to the classes) so they have a choice. If she comes back for another appointment, we invite them to other programs."

See LIFE, Page 5

14TH AND MAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST



The churches of Christ have a unique history. Rather than being Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish, the churches of Christ are Restorationist. Their aim is to restore the church of Christ by doing exactly what Jesus and his apostles taught when the church was first established in Jerusalem.

This idea of restoring the New Testament church came about primarily in America in the 19th century. A movement to abandon man-made religious creeds and to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent", was the catalyst for the development of many congregations of the churches of Christ.

The Church of Christ that now meets at 14th and Main in Big Spring was first assembled in 1912. Believers in this restoration plea first began meeting in the "Old School Presbyterian church building". By 1924 the group had out grown that facility. They purchased land at the corner of 4th and Gregg where a small meeting place was built. By 1928 the membership was approximately 160 members and still larger facilities were needed. After lots were obtained at the corner of 14th and Main, a building was begun in January 1929 and completed in March. Other buildings have been added through the years as needed.

Today the Christians meeting at 14th and Main remain true to the restoration plea. The Bible is the only source of direction for conversion, worship and living. Jesus is the head of the church. Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers are appointed by the guidelines of the Bible. Unity is achieved by letting God's Word be the final word in all matters.

We welcome anyone who would embrace with us this unique approach to church restoration. We are simply Christians, baptized believers who follow Jesus and obey God's Word.

Rick Cunningham, Pulpit Minister

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SUNDAY PM WORSHIP.....5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS.....7:00 PM
TUESDAY LADIES CLASS.....10:00 AM



Making a difference here, now



For more than 10 years, Murray and Diane Murphy have led missions trips to Central America through First Methodist of Big Spring in an attempt to make a difference to those whose lives they touch.

The Big Spring couple have gathered doctors, dentists, optometrists and nurses for trips to Nicaragua to offer basic, essential medical treatment to village residents that Americans would most likely take for granted. They've organized youth trips to build houses, paint, and work with village children. In recent years, they have organized volunteers to restore some of the thousands of non-working water wells, bringing close, running, potable water back to villagers after many years of going without.

Murray credits Dave Ring, former pastor of First Methodist Church, for sparking the fire of mission into the couple's hearts and into the church as a whole.

"We went to Nicaragua with our paster for the first time," Diane said. "We felt like that was our mission."

"When he left, he left a void," Murray said. "We got our credentials to lead and our first trip was co-sponsored with a church in El Paso. We took a smaller group that time. Over the decade, we've led more than 150 people to mission."

"The United Methodist Church believes in global mission. We believe in local mission — Food-2Kids came out of our church," he continued. "We believe not either/or (local or global) mission. We believe we can do it all to meet the great commission that the Bible teaches us in Matthew."

Both Diane and Murray are retired educators and the couple have lived in Big Spring for more than 30 years. Diane taught mathematics at Howard College for 15 years. Murray retired as the superintendent of the Big Spring ISD in the early 2000s. He currently serves on the Howard College board of trustees.

Mission work has become a large part of their lives now.

"We help organize and facilitate mission trips," Murray said. "We developed other leaders. Our goal was to establish an understanding of why we do mission, to do mission and to build other lead-

LIFE

Continued from Page 4

If you are interested in helping The Life Center move into their permanent location here



in Big Spring, you can contact development director Jim Martin at jim@midlandlifecenter.org or 432-683-6072.

"In order to be here, we have to have support. This is a viable opportunity for Big Spring to embrace this organization. If you're interested in supporting us in either the day-to-day operations or the Raise the Roof campaign for our new building, contact us and let us know," said Rouse. "When you are stabilizing and redirecting people in communities to have healthy relationships, you are going to have a pretty big impact."

For Watson, her calling to mentoring young women has been realized as the Big Spring Life Center's roots continue to grow deeper as the months go by. Both Watson and Rouse marvel at how quickly Big Spring's satellite took off, compared to the other two in Andrews and Odessa. But both women refuse to take all of the credit at the center's success for themselves.

"People that do not have faith can look at how our center just perfectly came together and can see how it was pieced together from God's plan," said Rouse. "It is a complete God thing," agreed Watson. "It's just amazing how it all came together."

— Amanda Elston

ers."

The first step to any mission program is to develop legitimate, strong sponsorship within the country to be served which is a must, Murray stressed.

"We were lucky. The first year we were there, we meet a group of people who wanted to form a mission group locally in Nicaragua," Murray said. "They make all the arrangements in the country. We go as their guests. For any mission you have to find a way to get things done you need to get done. To do that, you have to find people in the country to get it done. We provide the work, the material and the resources. They provide the invitations."

A mark of effective mission leaders is not only being successful at recruiting people with the necessary skills needed for each trip but also relay to potential volunteers the conditions they will face during their time in the foreign country, Murray said.

"As a leader its falls into our responsibility to keep everybody safe and communicate to them what they can expect," he said.

Although the two attempt to prepare the missionaries, sometimes at the end of the day, members of the group can still be overwhelmed seeing the amount of poverty and living conditions many of the villagers face daily.

"It can get overwhelming," Diane said. "We have a formation at night where everybody shares their stories and talks to each other and that makes a big difference. It's important."

In the past few years, the mission trips have focused more on restoring, if possible, village wells that have fallen into disrepair to bring back water to villagers who have not seen a working well, in some cases, many years, Murray said. Repairing one well can affect 1,200 people at one

time, he added.

"In Nicaragua in the 70s, UNICEF came in and drilled thousands of wells," he said. "These wells are not producing anymore. We are not producing new wells, but we are going in and fixing them. The cost is about \$700 to fix a well."

And once the water begins to flow again, the impact on the village is instantly apparent, the two said.

"When it first begins to pump again, everybody in the village comes out," Diane said. "It's a wonderful experience."

Although the couple have seen many poverty-stricken scenes in their trips to Central America, a recent trip to Africa opened their eyes to how serious the situation is worldwide.

"Central America is a very poverty laden area... but Africa, that is poverty. I have never seen poverty like that," Murray said. "There is a need in Central America, but we also need to continue our help all over the world because America is the last, great hope."

Although the immensity of the problem seems overwhelming, Murray said individuals need to concentrate on the good they can accomplish where they are.

"You can only make a difference where you are and what you do," Murray said. "It looks hopeless but our faith tells us — God told us, Jesus told us to do this no matter how hopeless it is. That is what we are supposed to do. God never promised the world was going to be good. He told us to go out and help. The greatest stories in the Bible are related to Jesus helping those who needed the most help. He gave them help and hope."

— Lyndel Moody



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“...and to the ends of the earth.”

Shawn and Lauren Hart were working and living the American dream with a comfortable house, a dog, a daughter and a son and successful jobs. Shawn was a flight nurse, emergency room nurse and a paramedic; Lauren was an operating room nurse.

Then they made a decision that changed their family's lives forever.

At church one Sunday in April of 2013, a mission conference was held.

“We had talked about becoming missionaries before, but it was for someday when the kids were older and the timing was right,” said Lauren. “By the end of it (the conference), we knew we were going, now.”

With their very young daughter, Charlie Jo, and their 5 month old son, Jack, the Hart family began the process to become missionaries.

“We started by going to Advanced Mission Training, which is a three month long training program in Africa. They teach you about how to be a disciple and make disciples of others. They teach you how to preach, how to conduct bible studies, how to be missionaries,” said Shawn.

After the training, the Harts came back home to Big Spring. In order to be full time missionaries, it required money. Money to take care of the bills in their home here while they are gone, money to travel to Africa and money to live off of while in Africa.

“We do fundraising, but it is more than fundraising. The individuals, organizations and churches that support us are more than just a money supply, they are our partners,” said Lauren. “They give us a way to fulfill God's will and share Christianity with others. We can go over there (Africa) and live among them, have Bible study, teach them the word and teach them how to share the word. We couldn't do that without the financial support of our partners.”

While the partnerships that Shawn and Lauren have help pay bills and let them survive, they live in Africa for 1-2 years at a time. They live and work in Zambia with no electricity or running water like they have here.

The family has two tents that they live in; one is for their sleeping area and clothes, while the other is their kitchen tent where they cook, eat and store the food supplies.

“We have a generator that we only use for a few hours a day, mainly while the kids take their nap so we can use fans and we use that time to charge phones, our computer and other things. We have a solar light for the kitchen and a solar light for our tent,” said Lauren.

The family lives near a river, so there is access to water and it has helped plant life. They live one hour away from fuel and they are one and a half hours (and a border crossing) away from a grocery store.



“We have learned a lot from YouTube. We have learned about plumbing, building, baking and whatever we need to know to help over there,” said Shawn.

“I didn't know how to bake bread when we moved to Africa. I can't just run to the store and grab a loaf, so I had to use YouTube to learn how to make the food we want. I learned how to make brownies, and they are better than anything you can get from a box,” added Lauren.

While the internet is accessible for the family, they do not have access to it where they live. They must drive to other areas to access their 3G or go to a bigger town that has a wifi connection. There is also very limited access to goods that they might need or want to make life a little more comfortable while living there.

“We wanted a dining table. We had to find a builder and tell him

what we wanted. Then he had to order the wood, wait for the wood to arrive and build the table. We tell ourselves, this is Africa. This is just how it is. It took a month to get the table and chairs made,” said Lauren.

Charlie Jo is now four years old and Jack just turned 3 years old. The children have lived in Africa most of their lives so far and their parents couldn't be happier about it.

“C.J. and Jack love it. They can unzip the tent and go outside and play without much worry,” explains Lauren. “They play outside all day and they play like I think kids should. They get dirty, they find bugs and we just love it.”

“I am actually more concerned about them when we are back here. They want to go outside and play in the yard and we have to remind them to let us know where they are. People drive fast down our street and the kids aren't used to that,”

said Shawn.

The family came back to Big Spring in November of 2015, just in time to share the holidays with their families. While here, they visited their partners that give them an annual or monthly donation, friends they haven't seen in years and they looked for more partners to help fund their missionary work in Zambia.

“Sometimes a partner comes into financial difficulty, or they change their mind later on, and that's okay. Things change. But once our funding gets down to a certain level, we come home to find new partners and update the partners we still have,” said Lauren. “It is difficult sometimes. You can't take it personal when someone says no. It is a lot to ask people to partner with you so that you can share the gospel. Once we get our funding back up, we will go back over there and continue our work.”

“Our money goes through Overland Missions. People find us on their website and can donate directly to us. One time gifts are wonderful or they can become our partners. Twice a month we get a statement from Overland Missions that lets us know who is donating and what has been donating so we know what our budget is for the month,” said Shawn.

The Harts left Howard County to head back to Zambia in early March of this year. During that time they spoke at conferences, went to meetings, spoke with partners and managed to become 100 percent funded again. There was even a skating party at Skateland Reloaded in February to fundraise and help the Harts get back to where they feel they belong ... in Zambia.

According to the couple, they head back to disciple to others and more importantly, make disciples of others.

“We believe in Matthew 28:18,” said Shawn.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,’” Matthew 28:18-20.

Shawn and Lauren's biggest goal is not to just be disciples, but to teach the people they help how to spread the Word as well and go make disciples of their own.

For more information on the Hart family, contact them at Shawn @ overlandmissions.com or Lauren @ overlandmissions.com.

— Julie Bass

Taking care of their own, one veteran at a time

Commander of the Big Spring chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) since before the Y2K scare, you could say that Ed Meiser and the chapter have done a number of things for Howard County vets. Of course, saying that would be quite the understatement. Since his induction as commander, Meiser has seen Chapter No. 47 of the DAV serve Howard County and the surrounding area's disabled vets with the utmost respect.

“We put doors in houses where men had Alzheimers, paid electric bills, water bills, rent, mortgage,” said Meiser of his chapter. “We provide groceries from time to time. We fix cars, bought bus tickets. We've even in the past helped with some education expenses like college.”

The Disabled American Veterans, or the DAV, is made up of almost 1.3 million members nationwide. The local chapter, No. 47, is dedicated to serving local disabled veterans in any capacity they need to. The organization accepts donations and occasionally runs fundraisers to, in return, give back to local veterans.

“Here in Big Spring, we raise money through drives such as the Forget-Me-Not drive,” explained Meiser. “A lot of people call it selling. But we really aren't selling.”

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Run, Ernie, run

91-year-old WWII vet passes through area on cross-country jaunt



Last March, Big Spring was visited by a 91-year-old World War II veteran on a special, very personal mission.

He did not come into town followed by a lot of family members telling stories about his life during the war and what he did like someone might think. He was not wheeled in, weak and vulnerable due to years of service to his country and old age.

No, this gentleman ran. He ran all the way to our town, through our town, and past our town as

he made his way from San Diego, Calif. to the Atlantic Ocean near Brunswick, Ga.

He began his journey on Oct. 7, 2013 as a 90-year-old. He visited Big Spring on March 12, 2015, and as of March 4, 2016 he was announcing his next run to be at Seminole, Ala.

His reason behind the run?

"I was one of the crew that brought the LST 325 back from the Isle of Crete, Greece to the U.S. in 2000," said Andrus.

"Plans were being made to take the ship to Normandy for the

D-Day memorial service (D-Day plus 70, 2014) and beach it at the same location where it was on Omaha beach 70 years before," said Andrus.

Unfortunately, the cost of the trip back and forth across the Atlantic is expensive, so the trip was cancelled. This did not stop the group of World War II veterans from wanting to make the trip. It only delayed it for a few years as the men thought of how to best raise funds and fulfill the

See **ERNIE**, Page 8

DAV

Continued from Page 6

It is strictly donation. Anyone that comes by one of our stations, we encourage them to donate, and in return they get a Forget-Me-Not. There are a number of individuals in the community that wait for the Forget-Me-Not drive and want to contribute, so it's really nice. We take those funds

that come in and help disabled veterans with them in a lot of different ways."

Of course, help can come in many different packages. Meiser and senior vice commander Mike Tarpley explained that while some veterans were in need of monetary donations or things like groceries, others suffered from conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder or chronic pain.

"We facilitate a PTSD group at the domiciliary one time a week," said Tarpley. "Guys in the dom come but if anyone outside in the community is

having PTSD problems they are welcome to come also. We also serve on different committees. Junior vice commander Steve Purdy does a pain management group. It started out as veterans but now its moved out into the community," said Tarpley.

Although only in its third year, one of the biggest events that the DAV puts on each year is their annual Dove Hunt. The chapter chooses four disabled veterans from across the state and even the nation and hosts a weekend full of fun, food, and of course, lots of hunting.

"We bring in four. Four is a really important number, we feel, because I've been on some other hunts when we bring a lot of people in, and you see people get lost. It is important that they are able to really bond and get to know each other," said Tarpley.

"We bring them in on Thursday night, and introduce them. We leave them at a ranch-house to hang out. After a group brings in homemade breakfast on Friday morning, we go out for our dove hunt. Friday at lunch another group feeds them and then on Friday afternoon we shoot trap and skeet. Friday night there's a family that brings the core group in, there is normally about 30 of us that help these vets and put on a big party." The dove hunt is held the third week in September and

although put on by the chapter, community groups such as the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department pitch in to make it a weekend to remember.

"The big deal is Saturday night. The Volunteer Fire Department has really stepped up and helped this thing. They feed for everyone that wants to come. The hunt has become a huge event and a real big fundraiser. People donate and we spend what it takes to put the hunt on. They know when they donate that all the extra money goes back into helping our veterans. A lot of people in the community donate different things to the vets and they leave here feeling pretty special."

It isn't just disabled veterans that the DAV is committed to. Every Sept. 11, the group hosts a memorial service for those Howard County servicemen and women who have lost their lives during the war on terror. The memorial is located at the Spring Town Plaza and is handcrafted by Tarpley himself. The first year that the group put it on, Meiser remembered worrying if anyone would show up.

"I was scared to death that no one would show," said Meiser. "I told the guys that if no one shows that we are here and we are gonna honor them.. but it has just grown. It is to the point now that we used to really advertise and now we don't need to. The community has taken over."

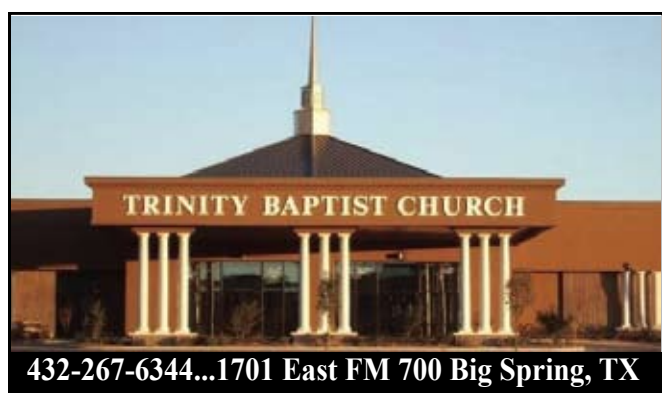
Chapter No. 47 of the DAV meets every third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in a building which, according to Meiser, is a few steps up from where they used to meet.

"We used to meet on Abrams Street. The best I could tell you about that place," joked Meiser, "is if the termites quit holding hands, it would fall down."

Thanks to a donation and the sheriff's work force who helped completely rebuild a home that the VA used to use for families of patients, the chapter now calls 2204 Runnels home. Any disabled veteran interested in joining or participating in volunteering, according to Meiser and Tarpley, is more than welcome.

"We help as many veterans as we can," said Meiser. "We are here to help."

-Amanda Elston



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ERNIE

Continued from Page 7

dream.

Each one, in their own way, have been working to raise funds and get the ship across the ocean.

Andrus runs now to raise funds so that the LST 325, which is the last restored and running one of the 1,051 LST's built during WWII, might make the crossing for the D-Day plus 75 anniversary in 2019.

To support Andrus' run, you can find him at [Facebook.com/ErnestAndrus](https://www.facebook.com/ErnestAndrus) or he can be found on [Facebook.com/Coast2CoastRuns](https://www.facebook.com/Coast2CoastRuns). He updates his status with information of where he will be, how far he will run, how many people ran with him and memorable moments. There is also a place where you can donate funds for the LST 325 and his run.

His Facebook has attracted so much attention that he can't add anymore friends, but just be followed now. He has 5,000 friends on Facebook and many more who just follow his progress.

Every time Ernie runs, he has a companion or two and people waving at him and cheering him on from the sidelines. Most of the time, he has a police escort or someone close by in case of emergencies.

In between running, Ernie speaks with television stations, radio stations, newspapers and anyone who approaches him and wants a minute of his time.

He doesn't run every day. With his age and the goal he has set, he must pace himself. He runs almost every other day, weather and body permitting. He usually makes five and a half miles to seven and a half miles per run.

Recently, he spoke at an elementary school in Alabama along his route. He shared on Facebook that the next day, as he ran by the school where he spoke, all of the students and faculty were out front, lining the street to wave and cheer him on. All 377 of the students shouted and clapped and hollered for him to keep going and wishing him well.

He has now turned 92 years old and put two and a half years of himself into the run to help raise money to sail back to Normandy.

When he started, Andrus said that he expected the cross country run to take him two to four years. Now, his goal is within reach.

On March 1, Andrus wrote on Facebook, "Attention all my Mississippi, and Louisiana friends. The LST is coming your way in September. It will be in Vicksburg, Miss. and sail all the way up the Mississippi River to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Probably make some stops in between. Daily tours while in port. I'll be through with my run and if I can work it into my schedule, I'll try to be on board at some point. It would sure feel great to get back on deck one more time."

—Julie Bass

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Health and Fitness



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March 27,
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Community through fitness

You may have heard of the Mike Fit program around town.

It's not the latest exercise regime hitting stores or a merchandise sale put on by a local workout facility but a program created by a Big Spring man for his family and friends that is quickly gaining local popularity.

"We enjoy it as a family and we started as a family and it's just grown," said Mike Solis of Mike Fit, a free exercise class he holds three times a week. "We love it. Fitness is our life."

Mike has been passionate about physical fitness for years.

Mike said that hitting the gym was a way to combat boredom during long road trips away from his family when he worked on windmills farms. Now each morning, Mike works out at the gym at 5 a.m. for an hour to hour-half before heading to his job at Alon Refinery.

This past August, Mike and his wife, Enchantera, were discussing how to find time to work out together.

"Yes, I could go to the gym but there is no child care there," Enchantera said. "That was a big issue for us. I had the time but we didn't know what to do with the kids. We'd have to go at different times."

The answer would turn out to be Mike Fit.

Mike created a 25-minute cardio workout geared so participants can go at their own pace. Announcing the times to their friends on Facebook, the couple and their children started the workout plan three nights a week at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater. Participation began to grow.

Mike holds classes at 7:30 p.m. but daylight hours became short by November, so their pastor at Family Faith Center stepped in and offered the couple the use of the church's activity center without charge. The couple even found businesses like Flo-Light Screening and Hibbit Sports Store were eager to help support the class by providing

discounts for T-shirts and exercise equipment, they said.

The class isn't typical. It's not led by Mike, although he designs the workouts. A large board lists the exercise order for that night's program. At the beginning, Mike explains the exercises and how many repetitions should be done for each one. Then the group holds a prayer and it is workout time. The program, Mike said, is meant for people to go at their own pace.

"We know it's hard," he said. "There are people who haven't worked out in years. We tell them to take their time. It gets you away from the gym. It's free and you go at your own pace. Yes, we encourage you to keep going, but you know what your body can do."

A core group of about 20 to 25 usually show up for the class but Enchantera said they've seen more than 75 different people take advantage of Mike's program which he is adamant to offer to the participants for free.

"That was something Mike said from the beginning. I don't want to charge," she said. "We've had a lot of single moms tell us 'I can't pay ya'll. How much do you charge?' We tell them it's free and they say 'No, when do I have to start paying ya'll?'"

Since taking the program, Enchantera, who is carrying the couple's third child, said she is feeling stronger and healthier.

The workout has brought the family, who has followed a healthy lifestyle from activity to nutritious meals for years, even closer, the couple said.

"It's something we do together and the kids actually like to do," Enchantera said. "My daughter told me one day 'I really need to tell my PE teacher we need to do Mike Fit.'"

"We've always talked about that it would be nice if we could go to the gym together," Mike said. "It's drawn us closer and the kids love it."

— By Lyndel Moody



A personal approach to sports medicine



Howard College Athletic Trainer John Overton is known for his professional approach to dealing with and treating young people in pain. But when the particular young person in pain happened to be his daughter, his professionalism cracked, if only for a bit.

Overton was attending the Coahoma-Sonora girls' basketball game in February strictly as an interested parent — his daughter, Makayla, logged significant minutes for the Bulldogettes this past season.

However, an incident that occurred early in the third quarter forced Overton to become both father and athletic trainer. While going for an errand pass, Makayla became tangled with a Sonora player and her head bounced hard

off the floor. Within seconds, it was obvious to everyone in the hushed gym that she had suffered a potentially serious injury.

That's when John shed his mantle of father and downshifted into athletic trainer mode, quickly rushing to his daughter's side to offer his assistance.

Makayla exhibited definite concussion-like symptoms and had lost feeling in her extremities. Most fathers would have trouble keeping calm with their child in such obvious distress, but Overton decided Makayla needed to see John Overton the trainer, not John Overton her father, in action that night.

"It was hard because you're looking into your daughter's eyes," he said. "Yeah, I was upset — she was scared to death — but that's not what she

needed to see from me. I needed to be calm, even when she was saying she couldn't feel her legs and she was drifting in and out of the concussion. But when she took my hand and said, 'Help me, Daddy,' that was tough. I was looking around for someone to take my place and let me be a dad."

Out of the corner of his eye, Overton spotted Garrett Parrish, a former Coahoma High School student permanently paralyzed as a result of an accident in 2015.

"Garrett was there, and for some reason, what was going through my mind was that I felt so bad he had to see this," John said.

It was not until later that evening, after emergency

See **OVERTON**, Page 3



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The fad that isn't going anywhere

What many people in the fitness community once thought was a fad is turning into something much more.

CrossFit has grown in popularity each year, and is doing a great job of catering to people of all ages. At its core, CrossFit is “constantly varied functional movements performed at relatively high intensity,” according to its website. More specifically, “CrossFit workouts are based on functional movements, and these movements reflect the best aspects of gymnastics, weightlifting, running, rowing and more.”

CrossFit Big Spring co-owner Culley Wilson said those aspects are what got her hooked on the fitness program.

“I had never even heard of CrossFit and I walked in one day, talked to them, thought I’d try it out, and then I was hooked,” Wilson said. “I have an athletic background with high school sports and I did college track for five years and was pretty successful at that. That competitiveness and that drive never really goes away. So when you go into CrossFit, you’re competing against the clock or sometimes other people in your gym, and it’s pushing yourself, and that kind of filled that competitive void that I had. And it does for a lot of people, that’s why they get hooked.”

When the original owners of CrossFit Big Spring moved, Wilson decided to buy into the company. She acknowledged that CrossFit isn’t for everyone, but at CrossFit Big Spring, you can work out for free for a week before signing up.

“It’s not for everyone, and if they like it, which they typically do, then we’ll sign them up for a membership. But if it’s not for them, then they got a week of

workouts in to try it for free.”

But while most people like CrossFit once they know the details of it, researching the fitness program can be a bit intimidating.

“A lot of people get really scared because they Google ‘CrossFit’ and they see those elite athletes doing CrossFit and they think, ‘I can’t do that,’ and then they never even walk in the doors of our gym. That’s not what we are doing at CrossFit Big Spring,” Wilson said. “We’re starting with really foundational movements, just body weight movements. Squatting, pushing and pulling your body weight.”

Another knock on CrossFit is that the athletes don’t always use proper form. Wilson says that’s nothing to worry about at CrossFit Big Spring because members are coached through all the workouts by a certified coach.

“It’s a coach-led class. Every single time you walk into the gym for a class there will be a coach helping you through the movements so that there’s no questions. And we start with the basics and just your body weight. There’s a lot of barbell movements in CrossFit, but we start with just your body weight and making sure that the mechanics are right before we throw weights on,” Wilson said.

CrossFit Big Spring is located at 1011 E 11th Place, and Wilson recommends visiting the “box” to anyone looking to improve their health and be more active, regardless of their age.

“We’ve got teenagers that come into our gym, and we’ve got people that are in their 50s that are at our gym right now. So it’s a huge range of different athletic abilities. Some people are super competitive and that’s what they want. They want to compete and they want to push themselves really hard. Other people come in and they just want a good workout and to stay in shape. So we cater to both sides of that at our gym.”

-By Drew Williams

OVERTON

Continued from Page 2

medical service personnel arrived and transported Makayla to the hospital, that John finally got to shed his professional veneer and become just a concerned father.

“When they wheeled her in to get a CAT scan, that’s when I talked to God and asked Him to make everything OK. That’s when the emotions hit,” he said. “I handle a lot of situations (as an athletic trainer). I don’t get scared. But when it’s your daughter, man, that’s hard.”

Although the evening was one of the scariest of Overton’s life, it did have a happy ending — Makayla has now recovered from a serious concussion and case of whiplash.

“I can’t say I was prepared for it,” John said. “But I don’t know if you’re ever prepared for something like that.”

Overton’s actions that evening were automatic and ingrained over countless similar episodes in his more than 17 years as an athletic trainer.

He was a three-sports star at Coahoma High School who originally signed a scholarship to play football for Sul Ross State University in 1990, but quickly changed his mind.

“When I got there, it became clear to me I didn’t want to be at Sul Ross,” he said. “I spoke with (then-Howard College athletic trainer) Everett Blackburn, and he offered me a basketball manager’s scholarship, and the rest is history.”

Overton counts Blackburn as one of the biggest influences on his eventual choice of career.

“When it came time for me to leave Howard, Everett helped me make a decision. He was friends with Pete Carlin at (UT-Arlington), who offered me a spot there. It was a great place for me to learn and — this will sound terrible — I learned how not to run a program.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in sports science at UTA, Overton then attended Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he attained his master’s degree.

His first athletic trainer’s job was at Fort Worth Boswell in 1997, and he stayed there for six years before succeeding Jim Campbell as Howard College’s athletic trainer in 2003.

Those unfamiliar with athletic trainer duties may see it as little

more than wrapping ankles and dispensing Band-Aids and drinks of water.

“We do wrap lots of ankles, and hydration is important, but we have so much more to do than just that,” he said.

For starters, athletic trainers are first responders of sorts when an athlete is injured during a game. And when the player is discharged from the hospital, he or she usually rehabilitates their injury under the watchful eyes of the AT.

Another thing that has recently received popular awareness in sports is concussions.

“When I played football, I suffered numerous concussions, but I just shook them off as ‘getting my bell rung,’” Overton said. “Now, we’re spending millions of dollars on concussion awareness and prevention and we know they have long-lasting effects.”

Another relatively new device in the athletic trainer’s arsenal is the portable defibrillator, a “jump-starter for the heart,” Overton said.

“Twenty years ago, you didn’t ever see one of those,” he said. “Now, they’re at every sporting event we host.”

But Overton is involved in more than just injury treatment — he also teaches athletes how to properly take care of their bodies.

“One of the big areas is basic nutrition,” he said. “A lot of these kids don’t know how to eat properly or take care of their bodies. They need to learn that when they’re at the cafeteria, they have to pick and choose what’s good for them. We also talk to them about getting the proper amount of sleep ... Also, we teach an ankle injury prevention class every day to the women’s basketball team.”

Overton’s days are long — he usually shares breakfast with his students at the college and, on game days, won’t get home until late at night. But he has no intention of leaving Howard College.

“This is my dream job,” he said. “As much as this job can upset me some days, I don’t think I want to be anywhere else. My parents are here, so I get to see them, and it’s important for my kids to grow up knowing their grandparents. This job is also a good opportunity for me to impact future generations of athletic trainers.”

-By Steve Reagan



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Elvira Conner gets moving with Zumba

Elvira Conner got her start as one of the Big Spring YMCA's fitness instructors by complete accident.

"It was a fluke really," laughed Conner as she described her YMCA career. "I was a participant in a fitness class and when our instructor didn't show up, I got up there and started teaching. And that was eight years ago."

And Conner's dedication has paid off. Over the last eight years, she has become somewhat of a staple in the Big Spring fitness community. Best known for her Zumba classes, Conner leads high-energy aerobic exercises disguised as something everyone

loves: fun.

"Zumba is my favorite class to teach," said Conner. "It is a cardio class, but you don't feel it because you are just out there having fun."

Zumba is an exercise class that mixes low and high intensity moves in an hour long dancing class. Basic exercise moves such as squats and lunges are paired with dance techniques such as hip-hop, samba, mambo, and the salsa.

"Anyone can Zumba, whether you can dance or not," explained Conner. "I always show off modifications for those who are new or who have trouble. And then we have our 'Zumba goddesses' that stand in the front. They

are awesome and know every move."

Conner is a licensed Zumba instructor and is able to teach Zumba Gold, which is geared towards active older adults and those looking for low impact exercise, and Aqua Zumba, which Conner is hoping to get going again in the summer.

"It's hard to get people to want to go in the water during the winter," joked Conner.

Conner is also licensed in Zumba Toning, Zumba Sentao, Zumba Kids and Zumba Kids Jr. Although Conner is primarily a Zumba instructor, she can be seen leading almost every exercise class the YMCA offers including

kickboxing, step, Power Pump, yoga and spin. Conner also plans on starting a Zumba 101 class in the near future, where beginners can learn the basic steps of Zumba and start out slow learning salsa, which is used frequently in Zumba.

"If you think you can't dance, then this class is definitely going to be for you," said Conner. "It is for those who want to take Zumba but haven't tried it yet. It'll definitely be a learning class."

But Conner's passion for fitness long exceeds her time at the Y. According to Conner, her passion for staying fit started in high school.

"Athletics and staying fit is very important to me," said Conner. "I played basketball and did track in high school. After a career in high school athletics, I started taking step aerobics classes during my freshman year at Texas Tech."

Conner continued taking exercise classes well after she graduated from the university and into motherhood. But although she has been with the exercise game for some time, she is still welcoming to those new at getting fit.

"If someone is looking to start exercising, I would encourage them to come to a group fitness class," said Conner.

"I will be able to explain the exercises to you and create modifications if necessary. I've seen people come to Zumba with absolutely no dance experience and come out looking awesome. People go from clueless to awesome salsa dancers."

Conner has about 12 regular attendees to her Zumba classes, but insists that anyone can try it. Conner teaches Zumba on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 as well as a Power Pump class beforehand.

"I have a lot of people that stay for both classes," said Conner. "For those who stay for both classes, they wind up burning over 1000 calories."

One of those regular attendees,

Angela Lance, can testify to just that.

"Elvira is just so motivational and has so much energy," Lance said, explaining what keeps her coming back to Conner's classes. "She is really committed to keeping us all pumped up throughout the entire class."

Not only is Conner committed to pumping her crowds up, but she is committed to accommodating as many as possible, regardless of age.

"We have kids as young as seven coming and dancing and participating with their parents," said Conner. "We have both the young and old!"

The passion that Conner has for her classes is obvious in each individual class she is teaching, according to YMCA fitness director Brooke Atkins.

"She's hard, but that's a good thing," laughed Atkins. "She keeps her crowd coming back. She has such high energy that people just want to keep coming back."

For those interested in trying Conner's Zumba, Power Pump, or any other of her numerous classes, you can come experience them for \$5 a day at the YMCA if you do not have a membership, according to Atkins.

"I love Zumba because you can just let your inhibitions go," explained Conner. "You can really just let the music take you. We definitely have a cult, but absolutely anyone can do it!"

-By Amanda Elston



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Callum Hurst is raising the bar

The word “scrawny” isn’t typically an adjective you’d use to describe one of the state’s best powerlifters, but Coahoma powerlifting coach Coley Dobbs said that’s how Callum Hurst started out.

“He was scrawny. He could hide behind a stop sign pole,” Dobbs said. “When he started out he weighed 86 pounds, and the lightest boys weight class is 114. He could’ve gained nearly 30 pounds before he got out of the class.”

Starting high school at Coahoma, powerlifting wasn’t quite on Callum Hurst’s mind. He hadn’t really ever even worked out prior to high school. His sister, Megan Hurst, a former powerlifter at Coahoma who graduated in 2014, was determined to change that.

“They have summer workouts you can go to before football season to get in shape before high school sports start, and she told me they were mandatory,” Callum said. “She told me I had to go to them, and I went. I went to them and I was kind of curious as to why no one was there really, but I went and I got workouts in and I started to like it, and I think that’s what got me into it. It was probably my sister that got me started in powerlifting.”

The workouts were, in fact, not mandatory. A simple white lie has taken Hurst from being scrawny to being one of the region’s best powerlifters. Hurst is a senior at Coahoma High School, and is the best 123-pound powerlifter in his region in Division 3. He’s ranked second in Division 3, and ranked ninth in the entire state, all divisions and regions combined. He lifted in the 114-pound weight class through his sophomore year, then made the jump to the 123-pound class his junior year.

“I tried to eat more, but I couldn’t really,” Hurst said. “Pretty much back then I would just lift a bunch and I guess I just packed on a bunch of weight that year because I went from high 80s my freshman year to 107 my sophomore year. Now I’m at around 130 but I compete in 123.”

A big part of Hurst’s success has been his dedication to the sport away from school. He has weights at his house to use when the school gym isn’t open, but more importantly, spends a lot of time learning the ins and outs of weight lifting by reading.

“I probably spend about an hour a day reading some form of an article for powerlifting, just trying to figure out the best workouts. Like what’s best for gaining strength, what’s best for getting straight muscle, and things like that,” Hurst said.

That dedication and work ethic have made a positive impression on Dobbs.

“He’s quite learned in how the body works. He knows what exercises are going to hit the smaller muscles that are required for some of the more minute movements,” Dobbs said. “Here at the school, we hit the big muscle groups, and then after school it’s usually about the smaller muscles and fine-tuning those things.”

Fine-tuning his muscles and his core have made him one of the best in powerlifting, but also dramatically improved his performance in track. His ability to go from competing in cardio-based events to events that require more strength, like the 100-meter dash, are an added benefit of adding strength to his body.

“He does a lot of core work. His core is extremely strong, which helps him with everything else,” Dobbs said. “He runs track, and I’m sure his times his freshman year weren’t what they are now. He has an excellent quarter time, and that’s due completely to his strength training. Strong people run faster. And they’re hand in hand because powerlifting has made him better in track, and track has made him a better powerlifter.”

Hurst likes competing in track, but says it was just an avenue to get better at powerlifting.

“I enjoy track. I did it because it actually helped me get in better shape, and now I’ve actually become competitive in it, too,” he said. “But powerlifting is my passion. Track I’m just good at.”

Hurst has seen a 200-pound improvement in his best meets each year of his high school career. Right now, he can triple his body weight in squats, and his best powerlifting meet saw him lift 1055 pounds. He squatted 405, bench pressed 230, and dead lifted 420, all highs in the region.

“His muscular endurance is good because during a meet he doesn’t wear out. But he also knows to get off his feet and take care of himself,” Dobbs said. “He approaches it cerebrally. He’s very smart in how he approaches his lifts, it’s not just ‘throw this on the bar.’ He had his openers figured out for the regional meet before the season started. He’s a thinking man’s lifter. He’s very strong but he also has a mental plan when he goes in.”

Hurst placed first at the regional meet with a total weight of 970 pounds, and qualified for state in the process. He’s finished in first place in each meet he’s competed in this year, and has been named the best lifter, regardless of weight class, in three of the four meets. He says his mental approach is what helps him do so well.

“If you’re in a close competition with someone, you need to know if you need to get a certain lift to beat them, or if you need to tell yourself that you don’t have the strength for that lift, and to save your strength for the next one. Things like that help because then I can know the best shot for me.”

Hurst will be competing in the final meet of his high school career, the state meet, on April 2 in Abilene. After that, he plans to attend Angelo State University, where he’ll major



in exercise science to start his path to become a strength and conditioning coach. He’ll also join Angelo State’s powerlifting club, where he will continue to compete in the sport.

And even though his sister lied to him to get him to pick up the sport, he’s glad she did.

“She’s always there for me supporting me and always tells me how I’ve taken over her hobby,” Hurst said.

Dobbs, whose team placed third in regionals, said Hurst is a big reason why the Bulldogs are doing so well this year.

“We have a good team, and we have a good team leader,” Dobbs said. “Callum does a great job of being a team leader and leading by example.”

The state meet starts with the doors opening at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, April



2 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene with a \$5 admission. Opening ceremonies will be at 8:30 a.m. and lifting will start at 8:45 a.m.

-By Drew Williams



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Heart of the matter

Big Spring woman undergoes surgery to end cardiac arrhythmia

For Merri Etta Rodriquez, doing everyday things like walking, spending time at a park with her children, or even taking a shower were always things that tended to generate a bit of anxiety for her. Simple things that everyone else takes for granted, often led to agonizing hours of pain and discomfort and years of medications.

Life with cardiac arrhythmia – having a heart that either beats too fast or too slow – was always a heartbeating, or a few hundred of them in rapid succession, away from a trip to the hospital.

“It’s kind of terrifying,” said Rodriquez, a 2001 graduate of Big Spring High School who was diagnosed in 2007 with tachycardia, a form of cardiac arrhythmia in which the heart, at times, beats too fast. “When it first happened to me, I thought I was going to have a heart attack and die. You don’t have to be doing anything, just watching television or getting ready to take a shower and all of a sudden, your heart just starts beating fast like you were running the 200-meter dash or a marathon.”

“It’s scary as hell,” she said, noting cardiac arrhythmia patients face elevated risks of stroke, heart failure and early death. “It feel like your heart is going to explode in your chest.”

Fortunately for Rodriquez, cardiac arrhythmia may be a thing of the past for her. After years of cardiac arrhythmia episodes and taking medication twice a day to help control the condition, she decided to correct the condition by undergoing an atrial fibrillation ablation procedure at the Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas. The invasive procedure to block the trigger points inside the heart and, ultimately, alleviate the condition.

And so far it has.

“I told my mom, I feel like a child again because I have so much energy,” she said. “My main goal was to stop taking the pills and I have been

able to do that since the surgery. I believe God was on my side.”

According to national figures, more than 5 million Americans suffer from cardiac arrhythmia, whether it is tachycardia or bradycardia, or a abnormally slow heart rate. Any heart rate that exceeds 100 beats per minute under normal conditions is considered tachycardia, while a measure of 60 beats or lower in a minute is considered bradycardia.

During the 2-hour operation in March of 2015, physicians inserted an ablative catheter through an incision in her groin. From there, they used cryothermic energy to create a series of small incisions to “melt away” the atrial fibrillation points in her heart as a way to prevent cardiac arrhythmia.

Her prognosis, according to doctors, looks optimistic.

“The doctor said he got the rhythm of my heart to normal,” she said. “He told me once they had finished the surgery, they (the doctors) tried to shock my heart into cardiac arrhythmia, but that it stayed normal.”

It took about six weeks as her heart healed from the procedure for Rodriquez to really see the effects.

“Probably around last June I really started to lose some weight. Before when I worked out, I would be out of breath and flush. Now, I am hot and tired but my heart slows down after I work out instead of racing. I am happy I got it done.”

After being diagnosed with tachycardia in 2007, she said she had to take several pills every morning and every evening, including 100 milligrams of Metoprolol to combat chest pain and hypertension. The medication, though helpful, sometimes caused side effects that include blurred vision, chest discomfort, dizziness, light-headedness, shortness of breath, sweating and a lack of energy.

“Really, I just wanted to get off the medication and try to get it done,” she said. “When I went to my doctor, I told him I really wanted to try and get off the medication. “When I told



him that, he told me the other option was to try this operation. He referred me to another specialist who did an echocardiogram to see if I was a candidate for it. That doctor told me the surgery would likely help me, so my husband (Junior) and I talked it over and decided to have it done.”

Rodriquez, who has a son (Taylor Christian) at Big Spring High School and a daughter who attends Goliad Elementary, was put into contact with the doctors at Baylor following the specialist’s diagnosis.

The rest, she was told, was up to her.

“It was basically up to us to take the next step,” she said. “I went to Dallas and visited with the surgeon. He told me everything looked good, and that he could do the surgery as soon as I wanted.”

It could not have happened soon enough for Rodriquez, the youngest daughter of Raymond and Mary Christian of Big Spring.

A nine-year employee of Home Hospice in Big Spring, Rodriquez said physicians have told her she likely had cardiac arrhythmia when she was born, but that the condition didn’t become life-altering until later.

Her first episode happened several years ago when she was pregnant with her daughter, Marissa. During that spell, she said she was about to climb into the shower when her heart rate jumped to in excess of 120 beats per minute. After rushing to the hospital, doctors put her on medication to lower her heart rate.

The medication seemed to work for her, she said, until 2009, when a second episode occurred and sent her heart rate to in excess of 190 beats per minute – or the equivalent to a normal person running a 200-meter dash.

A third major incident

happened about two years later. In that instance, her heart rate climbed to almost 300 beats per minute.

Following that episode, she said, her doctor upped her medication again – but couldn’t guarantee that another incident – with worse effects – wouldn’t happen.

“It is a really tough thing to live with,” she said. “You don’t have to be doing anything, and all of a sudden you heart begins racing and beating fast. I was pretty sure I was going to have a heart attack and die. Then, with every episode, it just seemed I was taking more and more medicine. I didn’t want to live like that. When we heard about the a-fib operation, I just knew I wanted to try it.”

Since the operation, Rodriquez has been able to stop taking all her medicine except her daily aspirin and she hopes soon to hear the news from her doctor even that pill is unnecessary.

“At my six-month check up, the doctor told me ...that I look like a candidate to not have to get this done again,” she said.

— By Tommy Wells
Lyndel Moody
contributed to this article



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Staying healthy in mind, body and spirit

A lot of people in Big Spring know who Adrian Calvio is. He is an insurance agent for State Farm and can be found at many of the fundraisers and activities going on around Howard County when he isn't busy working at his office.

Recently, Calvio was named as president for the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce when Amy Jacobs' time as president came to an end.

Calvio can be found playing the guitar and singing at the First United Methodist Church on Sundays, reading books to children at the schools for Dr. Seuss' birthday, helping the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club raise funds for its local civic activities and popping up all over Big Spring trying to make the community pull together and come alive with each others help.

But another activity that keeps Calvio busy is participating in different types of athletic activities.

During Calvio's four years at Big Spring High School, he represented the Steers in baseball.

"I would have loved to play soccer, but we didn't have a local high school program," he said.

Calvio has been a pretty active person most of his life with sports, but a new world was opened up to him when he was living in Austin and working for REI.

"I started running and riding mountain and road bikes when I lived in Austin. I lived with some

guys that rode semi-professionally and it got me pumped to do it," said Calvio.

Calvio has carried that interest with him into his day-to-day life. He has participated in the Comanche Warrior Triathlon twice in the past and in 2015, Calvio participated in the Kids Sprint Series with his son, Atticus. Atticus was 8 at the time, and father and son worked hard to complete the swimming, biking and running portions of the triathlon.

"He (Atticus) had a blast, but was very tired," Calvio explained.

Calvio enjoys being active and has encouraged his children to be active as well. He has helped coach different sports for kids, mainly soccer and baseball.

"I am not much of a basketball player, but I will fill in when needed. I have coached Atticus and Adlae and am now coaching August (his children) in tee ball and soccer this year. It is so good for the heart," explained Calvio.

To help with the 2015 Relay for Life fundraising, Calvio set up a run that began at the First Baptist Church - Big Spring that led runners through the Comanche Trail Park and back to the church for the finish.

"I worked with Manny Negrón and Craig Felty to achieve a great event that raised \$1,000 for Relay for Life. We met three or four times to get it all together. Thank goodness for Craig. He does these races all of the time so he was a huge help when

it came to the logistics. Terry Telchik at the Convention and Visitors Bureau helped us get the route approved and we were off and racing," said Calvio. "This year's race will be in conjunction with Relay for Life at the beginning of that Friday night. It will be at the Howard College."

On March 20, 2016, Calvio participated in the Rock-N-Roll Dallas Half-Marathon with his wife, Amanda and two nieces, Tori and Breanna.

When asked how being active helps him personally, Calvio responded, "Mind, body, spirit. I really feel like the discipline it took to train for my two full marathons and four half-marathons has helped in my professional life as well as my spiritual life. You have to really stay on target so that you don't get hurt and so that you are prepared physically, but more importantly, mentally."

Calvio recently accepted the position of president with the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce. During his acceptance speech, he explained that his hope for Big Spring during his time as president was inspired by a song he was listening to while running.

During the song, "Do Something", by Matthew West, a person is talking to God and asking why he isn't doing something about all of the problems in the world, and God responds, "I did,

I created you."

So Calvio expanded on that to Big Spring. "This message is meant to encourage the individual, the business owner, the teacher, the preacher, the musician, the artist, the runner, the employed and the unemployed to simply, 'Do something.' Challenge yourself in 2016 to get uncomfortable. I learned a few years ago that comfort often leads to stagnation and not growth. In turn, you almost always have to get uncomfortable and sometimes fail in order to succeed and experience growth. Now get up and do something," said Calvio in his speech.

"I feel like, if you surround yourself with active people, you are more likely to achieve you're active goals and stay active," said Calvio. "I am not saying this is absolute, but there is a big correlation in any aspect of life that you are likely to become who you hang out with."

- By Julie Bass



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It's never too late to get healthy

It took a rude awakening during a doctor's visit for Melinda Hernandez to make her embrace a healthier lifestyle. But now, Hernandez is committed and ready to extol the benefits of making wise choices each day.

"I wasn't feeling well," Melinda said. "I had retired but little, simple things that I would not get tired over like carrying a jug of water into the house, I would get tired. I would get out of breath. I thought 'Something is wrong' because I am used to being very active."

It had been years since she last saw a doctor, but thought a trip was in order. It was during her second visit to review the results of her last blood tests, Melinda came to a life altering moment.

"Thank the good Lord I was sitting down," she recalled. "The doctor came in and had my file in one hand and said, 'Well...' I thought that didn't sound good. He started telling me about my cholesterol levels. I heard good cholesterol and bad cholesterol and numbers and I said 'OK.' He said 'But Melinda, you are riding that fence for diabetes.' When he said that it really scared me because it runs in my family."

According to the American Diabetes Association website, the disease causes the blood glucose levels to rise higher than normal. Unchecked over time, it can cause severe damage to the body's vital organs and inner workings of the body. Type 2 diabetes — the most common form — is when the body does not use insulin properly.

Diabetes can leave a person more vulnerable to a wide variety of serious health issues such as heart

and kidney disease, amputation of limbs and blindness.

With multiple family members on both sides of her family diagnosed as diabetics, Hernandez knew first hand the serious health issues awaiting her if she didn't make a major lifestyle change right then.

"It runs in my dad's side and my mom's side of the family," she said. "I've seen heart attacks that are related to diabetes. Five of my mom's sisters have glaucoma. I have relatives who have to take insulin. My dad had his leg amputated because of diabetes."

A tall, slender man, Melinda's father was a long-time smoker and diabetic, both issues that led to poor circulation of blood throughout his body.

"He had a little sore on his foot and it wouldn't heal, so we took him to the doctor," Melinda said.

It was two weeks from when the family noticed the sore until it became worrisome enough for her father and the family to make a visit to the doctor about this issue.

"They said that it didn't look good," Melinda said. "They were talking about amputation. My sister said 'Let's go to Mexico City because there are some good surgeons there.' We flew to Mexico. They talked about bringing in a team to transplant some of the veins from his arms to his leg to help with his circulation. But years of not taking care of his diabetes, his veins were not good."

At that point, doctors believed the only viable option was to amputate part of his leg from below the knee.

"I remember — I used to be a smoker — I was sitting outside, smoking a cigarette

and I saw the team coming in at 2 in the morning. My dad's doctor saw me and said 'What are you doing out here?' I said, 'I am so worried.' He said, 'Melinda, it's simple.' He raised one hand, 'It's his life or his leg.' My dad accepted it and decided he didn't want to have it here (in Mexico City) so we went back to Big Spring."

Melinda called hearing the news that she was borderline diabetic an "eye opener."

"I am one who has been on every fad diet in the world," she said. "I have lost weight and gained it right back but this is a life change. I said I am going to do it."

"This is the longest I've committed to something," she continued. "It's going slow but everyone is seeing results. People say retirement is agreeing with you but it's not retirement. It's eating healthy and exercising."

Each morning Melinda starts off with a breakfast consisting of a protein, a grain and a piece of fruit. She cut salt out of her diet, a drastic change that took some effort, she said, and began walking everyday at the VAMC outside on the walking track.

"At first I couldn't even walk 20 minutes," she said. "I was out of breath because my weight was impacting my knees. Today I can do over an hour. At garage sales I've found a good

Gazelle and a good stationary bike. I am sad to say they hadn't been used before I bought them. Now if I don't get an hour in at the track then I can do it at home."

Although Melinda said the first month was difficult for her after years of bad choices, she said each day has become easier in her new lifestyle.

"It's never too late," she said. "I want my last years to be good. I've seen what it does. You think at 63, 'I am not going to commit to exercise', but it feels good and

the more you do it the easier it gets."

Even though she is retired from her profession, Melinda still understands the strain of finding time to take care of herself as she is a caregiver for two of her family members.

"You have to make time. That is what I didn't do," she said. "You park further in the parking lot and make the walk. Baby steps. You have to get in the right frame of mind."

-By Lyndel Moody



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Not just for the kids anymore

No kindergartners allowed: Grownups find that coloring books can be a relaxing way to while away the hours

While recovering from a surgery last year, Debbye ValVerde turned to filling out adult coloring books to help pass the time. A year later, she has filled pages and pages of colorful creations and readily extolls the healthy benefits of joining a growing trend of adult coloring fanatics.

"I had surgery in March (2015) and I was out for six weeks. I thought, 'what am I going to do,'" queried Debbye, whose job as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce rarely

leaves her with much down time to fill. "I read about coloring and saw it on TV and on various Facebook pages. When you hear about adult coloring you think 'mmm' but then I started to look into it," said Debbye. "I looked at some of the books you can get, then I found some pages on Pinterest where you can get all sorts of pages to color. I started with some pages and a few color pencils and it just went from there."

Adult coloring has become a growing hobby across the nation that doesn't look to lose favor in the near future. Helping to nurture the trend is social media such as Facebook and Pinterest, according to media reports. The actually therapeutic benefits from coloring are still being debated by professional therapist but for Debbye it has proven to be a true stress reliever.

"When you get home it relaxes you," she said. "You are concentrating on how pretty you want it to be or how detailed you want to go into it. You let go of the day's issues, worries, troubles. I can sleep a whole lot better (after coloring). I love it."

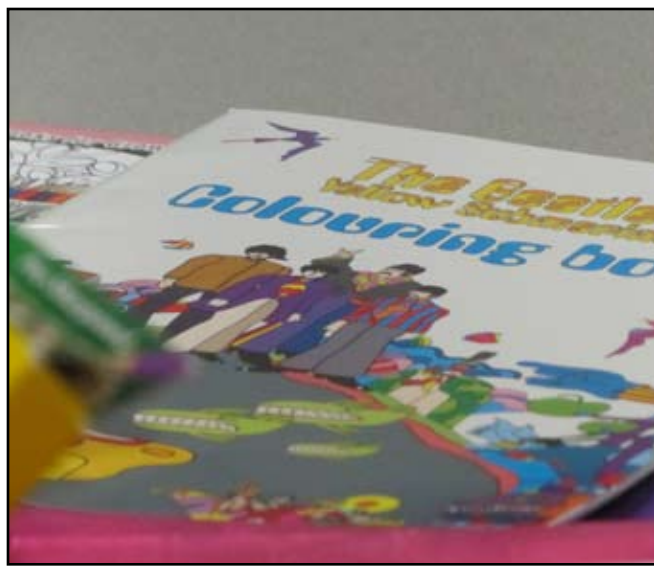
Adult coloring books are beginning to pop up in national stores like Walmart or craft stores like Michaels.

Many varieties can be found at Amazon.com including TV-related themes. Even local stores like the Heritage Museum gift shop keeps the books on hand and sell them regularly.

"This really does help me relax and it is fun," Debbye said. "I have bought several books, but you can find several patterns on Facebook

or Pinterest pages. Just type in adult coloring."

Over the past year, Debbye has gathered a collection of different coloring mediums to highlight various part of the design pattern or create a certain



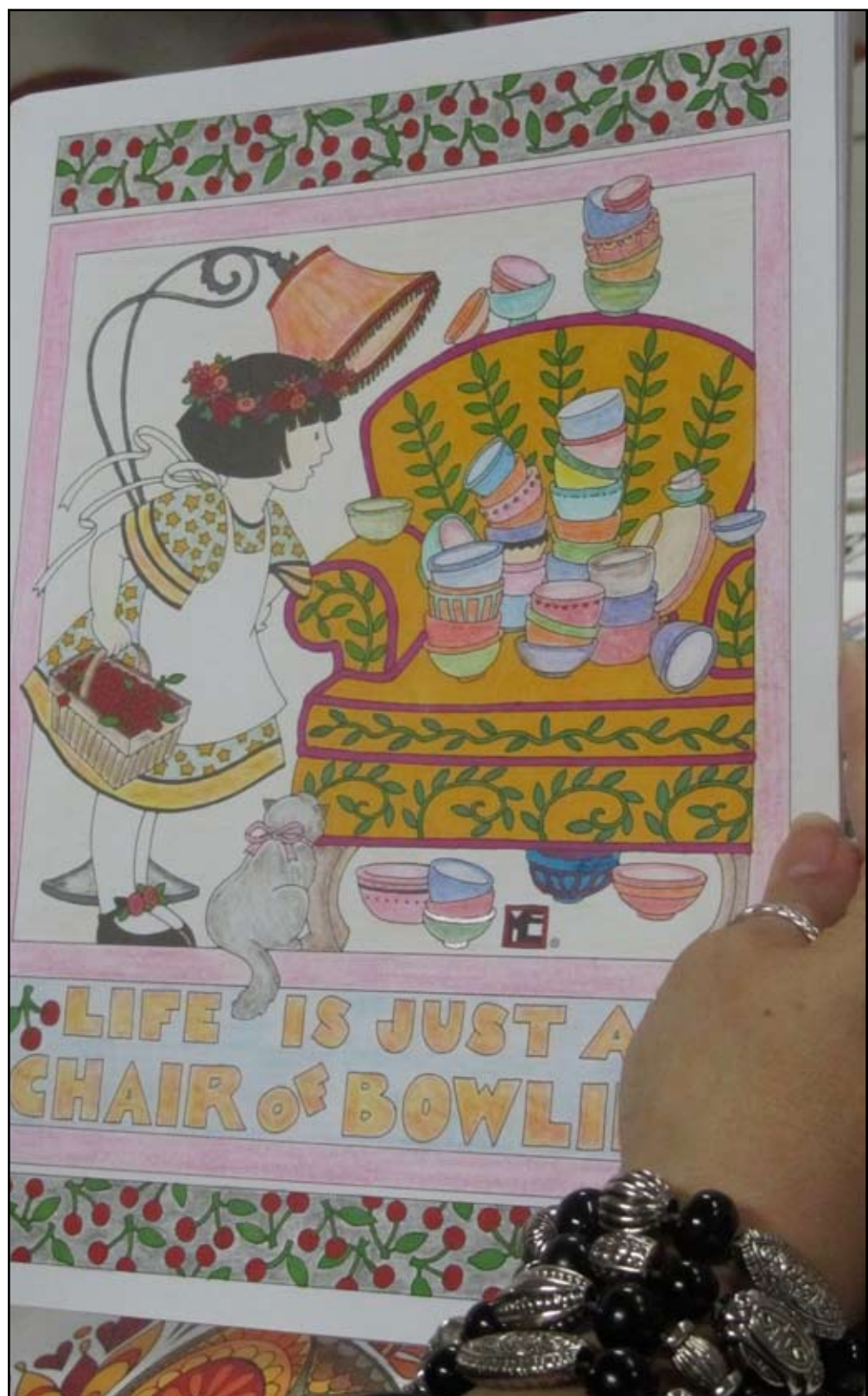
look.

"People have said to me 'Gosh, you take it so seriously,' because how my pages look, but I really don't," she said. "I keep a scrap sheet of paper to scribble a color on to see how the color looks or how some colors go together. It's all what you want to do and what you feel. If color pencil is too light for color I want, I will go with a Sharpie. I am still working on blending. One of the tips I learned from some of the social media pages is to use a little Vaseline to lighten the color. Put a little Vaseline on a color pencil and it lightens it up a bit. You don't have to go expensive. Just buy a box of crayons."

In the past year, Debbye said several of her friends have picked up or had already taken up the hobby and encourages anyone considering to jump right in.

"Just try it," she said. "You don't have to be a Picasso to do coloring. You can pick up a kid's coloring book. I have one. Every once in a while you just have to let go. There are no mistakes. If you color outside of the lines, it's OK. We all tend to color outside of lines in life anyway."

— Lyndel Moody



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Letting their hair down

How a heavy metal band from Big Spring is rocking the West Texas music scene

The West Texas music scene is on the rise, and Big Spring's own Violent Vendetta is leading the charge. A five-piece heavy metal outfit that has toured with the likes of Mushroomhead, Bless the Fall, and soon, Asking Alexandria, Violent Vendetta is made up of five twenty-somethings who are in it to be a voice and an outlet for those who need one. "You go to school and you go through all the oppression that comes with everyday life, but when you take 45 minutes out of your day to go see a rock concert ... it's totally relieving," said vocalist Armando Alaniz. "That's kinda why I started the band. It was to become one of those 45-minute outlets for kids to come check us out so they don't have to be down at home in the dumps."

A Big Spring native and self-proclaimed "band nerd", Alaniz started Violent Vendetta after he went to one of those "45-minute outlets" in Lubbock back in early 2011.

"It was just so cool to see how these bands can interact with a crowd, all the while the crowd is so into the band," said Alaniz.

Alaniz, along with bassist Aaron Mendoza, became a sort of cover band after Alaniz's encounter with the rock scene in 2011. But when drummer David Haro was added the next year, the band found its pace.

"I met David through local musicians here in town," said Alaniz. "The band kind of molded together into what it was going to be when David and I met."

The following year, guitarists Frank Trevino and Rick Nunez were auditioned and brought on. With Trevino, Nunez, and Mendoza knowing each other since childhood, the group meshed well. The original five have been together ever since.

Taking notes from different genres is what has brought Violent Vendetta its raw heavy metal vibe. With influences ranging from Rob Zombie to EDM, each member brings their own musical background.

"What's cool about our band is that we have influences from all across the spectrum," said Alaniz. "Frank is very influenced by punk music. Bands like The Misfits and Social Distortion. We all like bands like Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth and Slipknot. Rick and Aaron also DJ and are really into electronic dance music. So the inspiration is everywhere."

Everywhere, including right here at home. Amidst the "red dirt country" that Texas boasts, pockets of hardcore and metal have been popping up in the most unexpected places.

"We have gotten to be pretty good friends with Crafting the Conspiracy, a metal band from the Kermit/Odessa area," said Alaniz. "We kinda help each other do business as far as making connections and making new contacts and stuff like that. It's been very beneficial for the both of us."

So beneficial, in fact, that the band found a management group with help from Crafting the Conspiracy — Brace Yourself Management, out of Detroit. In addition to the band's management group, Violent Vendetta recently found a sponsor in Kerry King, otherwise known as the guitarist for Slayer.

"We are sponsored by a whiskey company called ColdCock Whiskey out of LA, founded by Kerry King, the guitarist for Slayer," said Alaniz. "What



the company was made to do was endorse active artists that were willing to help flash the name while in return they send tour money, tour support and things to help you out. It's gonna be big for us, especially us being from a small town. It's gonna be really cool to see what will come along with it."

Soon, however, Violent Vendetta will be leaving the small town of Big Spring, accompanied by friends Crafting the Conspiracy, on a 11-day, 10-show tour this June. With stops in places such as Austin, Houston, and Dallas, Alaniz hopes "they can get something going for a longer run this fall" after the summer tour.

Before the group heads out in their newly purchased van this summer for Texas' big cities, Violent Vendetta has one major show here at home to play.

"We are opening for Asking Alexandria in Odessa in March," said Alaniz. "It's huge for us. This will probably be our biggest show to date because it's expected to sell out. The building holds 2,000-plus people."

Asking Alexandria is one of contemporary metal's most popular acts. With four studio albums, an Independent Music Award for best metal/hardcore album and over 5,000,000 "likes" on Facebook, opening for the group might be the break Violent Vendetta has been waiting for.

"The thing about our shows is we have been fortunate enough to play with national bands or bands that are known globally," said Alaniz. "So that's worked out for us. We haven't played many shows but when we did it was to a lot of people. This will be the year that show count starts to go up, for sure."

One tally on the band's show count this year will be right here in Big Spring on Friday, April 15 at the Legacy. Coupled

with the band's seven track, debut album "Deception" for sale, the band also has merchandise for sale at each show. Not ones to bide their time, Violent Vendetta is already working on album number two and according to Alaniz, it is "as original as it gets."

While the future looks bright for the dark-sounding metal band, Violent Vendetta won't soon forget its roots here in West Texas.

"We are the only ones of our kind out here," said Alaniz. "I find it such a blessing to come from a small town."

— Amanda Elston



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Finding his fit

Nick Tyerman's journey has taken him from California to Big Spring; his mission is to turn the BSHS basketball team into a powerhouse

First-year Big Spring High School head basketball coach Nicholas Tyerman has come a long way.

Born in Palm Springs, Calif., Tyerman was raised in Joshua Tree where he learned the value of hard work.

"My father didn't graduate high school. He dropped out when he was 16 and worked in the nursery for a lumber company," Tyerman said. "Now he's the president of the company."

Tyerman witnessed firsthand how powerful hard work and determination can be, as his father would leave at 4 a.m. and sometimes not return until 8 p.m.

"I was taught to work my tail off," said Tyerman.

Interestingly enough, Tyerman did not play basketball in college. In fact, he didn't even make it past freshman year of high school. Tyerman quit playing because he knew his best chance at a college scholarship was through track and field. "I knew I wanted to

go to college because none of my immediate family had gone," said Tyerman. "I wanted to get an athletics scholarship. I solely concentrated on cross country and track, and got a scholarship to run for Cal-State San Marcos."

It was in college that Tyerman met his wife Christina, who got into graduate school in Texas. Tyerman got a job in the Crowley Independent School District, where by chance he got the opportunity to coach basketball.

"The middle school coach got injured and they asked if anyone would volunteer," Tyerman said. I jumped at the opportunity."

After a couple of years of "working [his] tail off," at H.S. Stephens Middle School, Tyerman was promoted to an assistant on the varsity team, a rare promotion at the 5A level. He started as an assistant for Crowley High School in 2009, and was the top assistant for the last three years.

Tyerman knew he wanted to be a coach since his freshman year



in high school, when he coached his younger brother in a recreational league.

"He was in seventh grade and I was coaching him up, though he was the better of the two of us in the end at basketball," said Tyerman. "That's when I knew that I wanted to coach. I wasn't sure if it would be basketball or track, but I knew that's what I wanted to do."

Tyerman was contacted in May by former Big Spring Athletic Director Phillip Ritchey to come in for an interview.

"I applied to a couple places always after doing some research

on the program," said Tyerman. "Everything I read and saw about Big Spring was that there was a lot of talent and tremendous school spirit."

Tyerman could have taken other offers before he was contacted by Big Spring, but he was taught not to just jump at any head coaching job.

Tyerman met with Ritchey and Big Spring ISD Superintendent Chris Wigington, where he was asked if he was just taking the job because it was a head coaching position.

"I loved how honest



See **FIT**, Page 5



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Gone fishin'

Catching a trout is only part of the attraction for children and their parents at the Greater Rotary Club's annual fishing derby



Every March, taunting trout swim through the water of the Comanche Trail Park Lake, waiting for children to come and pluck them out of the water during a fishing contest.

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club has hosted a fishing tournament for boys and girls ages 17 and under for eight years.

Each year, the derby has drawn more and more children, along with their friends and family members.

The event itself is free through the assistance of local businesses and the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club. The prizes for the different first place categories as well as the door prizes are mainly provided through donations, with Rotarians purchasing a few things to fill in the gaps.

"The Big Spring Visitors Bureau donates a lot of the prizes for the fishing contest," said Mike Richardson, spokesman for the event.

The derby provides prizes for first caught fish, biggest fish caught and most fish caught by noon. There are also a number of door prizes, so almost all of the participants leave with something.

Prizes in the past have included fishing poles, tackle boxes, camping/fishing supplies and other miscellaneous items.

"Last year we had almost 100 kids enter the fishing contest. They bring their friends and it is a great opportunity for parents or grandparents to go fishing with their kids," Richardson said.

Organizers said this year's event had a record-breaking number of kids show up.

It is a great opportunity for children — and the adults in their life — to spend some wholesome, qual-

ity time together. While sitting on the banks of the lake, it is easy to pass the time with small talk. It is a good time to teach children lessons about life and connect with them in a relaxed manner. If nothing else, it is a good time for some silly jokes and good laughs.

It's no accident the event is held in March, Richardson said.

"We hold the fishing derby in March because trout need to be in cold water," he said. "The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocks the lake each year in mid-January. This year, they released around 4,000 fish in the lake for the kids to fish."

This is a way for the fish to make their home in the Comanche Trail Park Lake and give the people some good fish to catch.

Matt Woodall with TPWD was at the derby to explain rules and regulations about fishing, talk to children about animal conservation and answer questions the children might have.

"We had a good number of kids show up this year," Woodall said. "Lots of kids with their parents. Well over 100 right away."

An important job of the TPWD conservation team is to make sure that people obey the laws when it comes to hunting and fishing; but a mission just as important is they have is to educate others about how to preserve the wildlife in the area.

The Rotary Club and TPWD offer suggestions for better results while trout fishing, including:

- Trout are bottom dwellers and are best caught by fishing off the bottom of the lake. Some of the better baits to use include corn, salmon eggs or a variety of power baits.

- Small rooster tail and super duper lures work well too depending on the time of day, the weather and water conditions.

The children appear to have fun each year as they spread out around the lake, spending time with friends and family, waiting for that moment when their fishing pole line gives a sudden tug to alert them that a fish has taken the bait.

The littlest children who go out to fish don't worry too much about the pole. While their parents set up the fishing rod and bait the hook, they are quick to jump around, find twigs on the ground to play with and watch other people fishing.

"He doesn't get all worked up or worried about the fishing. He just loves being out here and playing," said one mother of her son's efforts at this year's derby.

As any angler can tell you, fishing can be very relaxing and help a person to unwind and commune with nature.

When fishing alone, a person can spend time self-reflecting and getting to know themselves better. When fishing with a group, it is nice to get away from all of the technology and connect with others again in a simple and quiet way.

The Rotary Club's fishing tournament also gives children a chance to spend time with others while learning a fun and safe hobby.

"If kids are out here fishing with their friends, it means they aren't out there getting into trouble and doing something they shouldn't be," Woodall said. "It is a great activity to get kids interested in."

— Julie Bass



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