#### WEEKEND **EDITION**

January, 29-30, 2005

#### WEATHER



#### INSIDE



**Workforce Network** sets up Job-a-Thon

Telethons help all sorts of people with all sorts of needs. The Big **Spring Workforce** Network has decided to see if they'll work for the unemployed.

Page 5C



Richard "The King" Petty has seen the sport of stock car racing from every vantage.

#### BRIEFLY

#### Should the city help the Settles?

The Herald has started another online poll. The question this week is "Do you think the city should support efforts to renovate the Settles Hotel?

To participate, go to www.bigspringherald.com. You do not need to be a subscriber to vote.

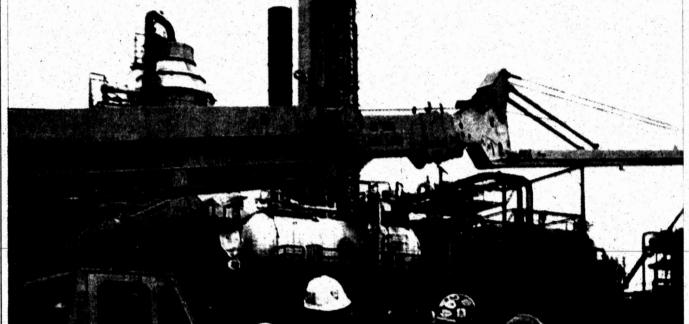
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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan

From left, Roddy Caffey, refinery maintenance manager; Terry Stanley, special projects turnaround planner; Brian Day, construction coordinator; and Ray Nix, supervisor for Nix Construction, discuss the turnaround the Big Spring Refinery. The project is scheduled for completion March 1

# **CLEANING** House

Turnaround gets under way at local refinery

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

which

units we

want to

Equipment is on site, piled everywhere. The planning has been completed down to the minute. Safety training classes are held on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. Nothing has been left to chance.

Still, one can tell that Big Spring Refinery Manager Joe Concienne will

have "We can knot in his stomach until this is all over hopefully March 1. " W e

plan all sorts of things, but what we cannot plan can plan for is the weather or

unforeseen repairs."

Concienne

shut down and when. We can schedule when and where we'll need personnel. We can plan all sorts of things, but what we cannot plan for is the weather or unforeseen repairs," said Concienne. "If those don't hamper us, I think we'll do fine.'

The Big Spring Refinery is in the process of a "turnaround" - an oper-

See REFINERY, Page 7A

# Tax help? Aide program begins Monday

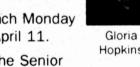
#### AT A GLANCE

What: AARP Tax Aide program.

For: Anyone who needs help filling out their federal tax forms.

When: Each Monday through April 11.

Where: The Senior



Hopkins

Center, 1901 Simler Drive.

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

AARP will begin its annual Tax-Aide program Monday in an effort to help area residents make sense of the tax laws and forms that seem to get more complicated each year.

Gloria Hopkins, coordinator for the annual effort, said the volunteer-based program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides earnings and their 2003 tax free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-tomoderate income," said Hopkins.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms. They also need to bring any forms that show their 2004

returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing.'

Hopkins said the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared by a professional, and the heart and soul of the operation is its volunteers.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and

See TAX AIDE, Page 7A

# Unemployment rates dip for **Howard County**

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

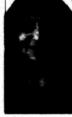
Staff Writer

Unemployment rates in Howard County dipped slightly in December with the civilian labor force taking a

near-100 worker hit, a departure from the expected fluctuations during the holiday season.

According to Virginia

Belew, director of the Big



Spring Workforce Network. Howard County saw a 92 worker drop in December compared to the same numbers posted in December 2003, coming out with a 3.8 percent

unemployment rate. "The civilian labor force decreased November to December, which is unusual because the trend is for more seasonal workers to enter the workforce for those months," said Belew. "Also significant is the 92 less workers in the civilian labor force since the

See JOBLESS, Page 7A

# Threatened, targeted, election workers on frontline of Iraq's democratic transition

#### By MARIAM FAM

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) When Karim Khodeir thinks of Sunday's historic elections, two images

pop into his head: One is a chance to bloodied portrait of car show the bombers ramworld that ming into lines of vot-Iraqis care ers. The other about their is brighter, one of hopeful Iraqis freely casting ballots for the

country." -Karim Khodeir election employee first time in

"This is our

decades. It's that second image that keeps him going.

"We all have to sacrifice for our country," he said. "This is our chance to show the world that Iraqis care about their country.

On Sunday, Khodeir will be among about 200,000 election



KRT photo/Debble Vanstory, ABACA Press

Gilbert Narsa, an Iraqi, gathers and cheers with others after placing his vote at the polling location in Irvine, Calif. Iraqi expatriates are voting throughout the United States in suburbs of Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Nashville and Los Angeles.

employees checking voter IDs. handing out ballots and later counting them. In the war of intimidation that has marred the election process, election workers have been on the front line, facing threats from

insurgents and, in some cases, death.

"We're so used to receiving threats, they've become as common as smoking ciga-

See IRAQ, Page 5A



2004 Lincoln Aviator 4DR Moonroof - 17" Chrome Wheels - Heated/Cool Seats - Much More Sale Price \$35,825

MSRP - \$45,825 Customer Cash - \$6,000 - Dealer Discount - \$4,000

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# **Obituaries**

#### Felipe B. Lucero



A vigil service for Felipe B. Lucero will be said at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. A separate vigil service will be said at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, 2005, at the Sears Funeral Home in Alamogordo, N.M. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Alamogordo with Father Byrant Hasfeld

officiating. Interment will follow at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Alamogordo.

Felipe B. Lucero, 79, was born in Monticello, N.M.,

on Feb. 4, 1925, to Luciano and Carmelita Lucero. Felipe had worked as a rancher and farmer and was an excellent horseman. He was also a construction worker, had worked for the City of Alamogordo water department and the Otero County Sheriff's Office in Alamogordo, N.M. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Felipe loved his family and friends and had a very special place in his heart for the little ones. While in Germany in 1945 on a cold and snowy day, he left the mess hall to see a five year old girl rummaging through the trash looking for food. She had no winter clothing so Felipe took off his coat for her, gave her food and talked with her. He was reprimanded for this great deed, but would have done it again. What a soldier, what a man, what a great Daddy — he was a true family man!

He taught us so much about God, right from wrong, compassion, pride, patriotism and so much more. Let us remember all the good he did for all of us and he'll continue to bring us more love and happiness. Felipe was a great storyteller and would sneak in a funny when we least expected. His hobbies were playing the guitar, singing, especially with his musical family and friends, casinos and let us not forget his Bingo. (Gwen - Beautiful Game X) His favorite quote was "you talk too much and don't say nothing.'

On Friday, Jan. 28, 2005, Felipe went to join our other angels, including his wife, Julia Pena Lucero in 1977; a son, Stevie in 1957; a daughter, Ida Teresa Lucero in 1997; his parents; a brother, Hilberto; and a sister, Cavela Lucero.

Survivors include three sons, Valentin Lucero and wife, Anne of Alto, N.M., David Lucero and wife, Tawnya of Capitan, N.M. and Reuben Philip Lucero of Big Spring; five daughters, Josephine (Josie) Chavez and husband, Tony of Big Spring, Gloria Cameron and husband, Rich of Winfield, W.Va., Rosie Stapp and husband, Bob of Big Spring, Anna Lucero of Bremerton, Wash., and Virginia Franco of Big Spring; grandchildren, Donavan, John Joseph, Timothy Lucero, Leanne Chavez, Madonna Terrazas, Shannon, Natasha and Kevin Korell, Cristina Bright, Robert, Roger and William Stapp, Brenda, Julia and Jennifer Lucero, Marcos, Alicia Correa, Olivia and Kenzie Rodriguez, Dorie, Laura and Melonie, Valentino, Latasha, Ricky Joe and Monica Lucero, Johnny, Stevie and Cecilia Franco; great grandchildren, Samantha and Tyler Stapp, Chasi'D Phelan, Alyssa, Jaycee, Brianna, Hanna, Samuel Stapp, Brook Lucero, Heaven, Daja and Lexia Franco, Trina and Tony Terrazas, Brianna and Tatum Lucero; three brothers, B.B., Hinio and Erasmo Lucero; and three sisters, Maria Montoya, Grace Solis and Cuca Lucero.

Pallbearers will be all grandsons and honorary pallbearers will be Guillermo, Cresienso, Fred and Manuel Pena and Nativadad Montoya.

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

Paid Obituary

# Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-10-13-17-26. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$38,748. Winning tickets sold in: Pasadena. Matching four of five: 125. Prize: \$139. Matching three of five: 4,228. Prize: \$9. Matching two of five: 42,424. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-9-3

# Support groups

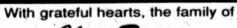
TUESDAY

☐ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m., a new time, the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

☐ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

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



#### Chris Rivera

wishes to express our gratitude to our friends. The food was abundant and wonderful. The flowers were most beautiful. The cards, calls, and inquiries about our well-being were so thoughtful. You, our beloved friends, have made this difficult time in our lives more bearable. We are so grateful and appreciate each of you.

May God bless each of you.

**Brenda Kay Davis** 



Brenda Kay Davis, 57, of Ackerly, died Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2005, at Baylor Medical Center. Services are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005, at First Baptist Church in Ackerly with the Rev. Ken McMeans officiating. Burial will follow in Ackerly Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday.

She was born April 5, 1947 in Lamesa. Mrs. Davis was a nurse at the Big Spring State Hospital for many years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Ackerly and a mem-

ber of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She is survived by her daughters, Jennifer Alvarado of Lamesa and Jill Ware of Big Spring; her son, James Goolsby of Lubbock; her father, Norman Wallace of Ackerly; her sister, MaryAnn Wallace of Big Spring; her brother, Phil Wallace of Seminole; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteers or the American Cancer

Arrangements are under the direction of Branon Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

#### Arnold Ray "Rusty" Combs

Arnold Ray "Rusty" Combs, 71, died on Friday, Jan. 28, 2005, at 12:04 a.m. at the East Texas Medical Center Hospital in Tyler due to a long illness. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at the Southside Church of Christ in Andrews with C.A. Smith, minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Andrews County Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. He was born on Aug. 28, 1933, in Runnels County to Lilly Mary Combs and Barney Albert Combs.

Mr. Combs resided in Big Spring for 30 years, where he was a carpenter.

Survivors include his partner, Jerri Murphy of Big Spring; one son, Barney Robert Combs of Athens; three daughters, Kathryn Sue Chvarak of Mesquite, Linda Sue McRae of Poynor and Mary Oleta Boyd of Lindale; 14 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jimmy Ray Combs; his mother, Lilly Mary Combs; and his father, Barney Albert Combs.

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

# Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m.

 CLORESSA EASLEY, 40, of 1006 E. 14th Street, was arrested Friday on a Gillespie County warrant.

· CHRISTOPHER CLARK, 18, transient, was arrested Friday on a charge of theft.

• CHAUNCEY LAVAR FORD, 24, of 2101 Alabama, was arrested Friday on a local capias warrant. • VERONICA RODRIGUEZ, 18, of 1002 N. Main Street Apt. 16, was arrested Friday on a county war-

· SANDY SHEIKH, 22, of 3304 W. Highway 80 Apt. 23, was arrested Saturday on a Tarrant County war-

THEFT was reported:

- in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane. in the 3300 block of FM 700.

- in the 1800 block of FM 700.

 BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 900 block of Sixth Street.

# Weather

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with chance of showers, possibly a thunderstorm. Highs in the upper 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Sunday night...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain and snow. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs In the lower 40s. North winds 10 to 15

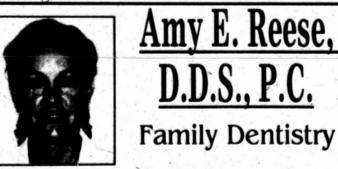
Monday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow and light sleet. Lows in the upper 20s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent

chance of rain and snow. Lows in the lower 30s. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid 40s.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain And snow. Lows in the upper 20s.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower



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# **Bulletin board**

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

#### MONDAY

 Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

 Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

· Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500

S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome. · Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

#### TUESDAY

 Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628. Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the

Howard College Cactus Room.

· A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

#### WEDNESDAY

· Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

· Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

· Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

 Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

 Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

#### THURSDAY

· Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

· Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet

Shoppe. · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard

College Cactus Room, Call 267-6479. · Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

# Take note

☐ HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

☐ LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning Wednesday. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

□ HERITAGE MUSEUM EXHIBIT "TEXAS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY" remains open through Monday. Admission fees are waived for patrons viewing the exhibit. The museum is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

☐ YELLOWDOG DARE DEVILS RELAY FOR LIFE FUND-RASIER offers individual-sized, heartshaped cakes with a Valentine's message for \$4. Order and prepay before Feb. 9. Call the bus barn at 264-4108.

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By THOMAS JE Staff Writer A Big Spr

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By APRIL CAS

Associated Pre HARPER (A cost of transp dents to class from farming homes is often of the money s districts get state to co

expenses. Texas' formi ing school tra hasn't been up gasoline was lar per gallon

It's one of rural supe have as the attempts to public school Many challe schools face sal, such as fi ing money a federal requir some rural di to deal with tions, isolatic ing economi Texas' most r ties.

"You can't pass a law th fits all," Grusendorf, with the T Schools Coali been part of over the yea legislate w schools, for state that's with differen Each area looked at on

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Special to the

District 31 (R-Amarillo) serve as vice Justice Comi In additio was appoin Natural Internationa

and Trade, ar

Affairs and

Install Committees. announceme Gov. David I "I am hone governor's co to do what is

said Seliger. The appoir Criminal Ju worthy due



## **Big Spring man receives** 20-year prison sentence

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man received a 20-year sentence on a burglary charge in 118th District Court this week.

Ben Garza, 50, currently in county jail, was indicted for burglary of a building on Nov. 1, with the charge enhanced to a second-degree felony because of prior felony convictions.

Garza, who was represented by local attorney Don Richard, received 20

years in prison for the July 16 burglary.

According to District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, it took the jury less than 30 minutes to deliver the guilty ver-

The prosecution was lead by Howard County Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr.

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

citydesk@bigspringher-

# Man suspected in slaying of Texas clerk waives extradition, headed back to Tyler

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP) - The man suspected in the kidnapping and slaying of a Texas college student waived extradition Friday, authori-

That clears the way for Johnny Lee Williams, 24, to return to Tyler, where he faces kidnapping and first-degree homicide charges in the death of Megan Leann Holden, 19.

Holden was kidnapped on Jan. 19 in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart store in Tyler where she had worked the night shift, according to authorities.

Videotape from a surveillance camera showed a man forcing during an attempted robbery at an



found was Friday in a ditch near Stanton, some 380 miles west Tyler. Authorities said Holden had been shot.

Her

body

Williams was arrested on Jan. 21 at a Willcox, Ariz., hospital where authorities said he sought treatment after being shot

Holden into RV park store in Bowie. her pickup.

On Tuesday, Williams appeared in Cochise County Superior Court on a fugitive warrant seeking his return to Texas, to face charges in the case but refused extradition.

But on Friday, Williams told a judge that he wanted to waive the formal extradition process and return to Texas.

After signing the waiver, Williams invoked his right to remain silent.

Judge Tom Collins dismissed the attempted armed robbery charge and ordered that Williams return to the county jail to await transfer

# Texas rural superintendents cite concerns in school finance debate

By APRIL CASTRO

**Associated Press Writer** 

HARPER (AP) — The cost of transporting students to class every day from farming or ranching homes is often a fraction of the money small school districts get from the state to cover those expenses.

Texas' formula for funding school transportation hasn't been updated since gasoline was under a dollar per gallon in 1983.

It's one of the worries rural superintendents have as the Legislature attempts to restructure public school funding. Many challenges Texas schools face are universal, such as finding building money and meeting federal requirements. But some rural districts have to deal with tiny populations, isolation and waning economies often in Texas' most remote coun-

"You can't, in Texas, pass a law that's one size fits all," said Bill Grusendorf, a lobbyist with the Texas Rural Schools Coalition. "That's been part of the problem over the years, trying to legislate with Texas schools, for such a large state that's so diverse with different economies. Each area has to be looked at on its own."

The Legislature is under a court order to

funnel more money into miles away. public schools, which are now largely dependent on local property taxes. A group of property wealthy and poor school districts sued the state, saying they don't get enough money to provide an adequate education to Texas

children. Meanwhile, many lawmakers want to give homeowners relief from escalating property taxes.

In Harper, a school district that is 386 square miles in the Hill Country near Kerrville, bus drivers rack up 300,000 miles per year on regular bus routes. The school district spends \$211,368 a year on transportation costs including bus purchases, fuel, maintenance, driver salaries and insurance and last year received \$196,074 from the state for transportation.

"We've got to have safe transportation," Harper Superintendent Pari Whitten, whose district recently spent \$62,000 for a new bus in its 16-bus fleet. "It's difficult and we spend a lot more than we get, but we've got to do it."

Farther west, near the sparsely populated Davis Mountains in Balmorhea, funding daily bus routes isn't quite as costly as carting sports teams to competitions that are sometimes hundreds of

"The transportation to athletic events is not funded at all for us out Balmorhea Superintendent Mary Lou Carrasco said. The district received about 20

"That's been part of the problem over the years, trying to legislate with Texas schools, for such a large state that's so diverse with different economies."

Bill Grusendorf, lobbyist

percent, or \$35,678, of its \$175,233 in transportation

Recruiting and retaining teachers in rural districts can be difficult as well, said Sen. Frank Madla, a Democrat who represents a swath of rural Texas from San Antonio to El Paso.

"I don't know how we can adjust the salary schedule to compensate those individuals that agree to go (to rural Texas) ... and stay there when you look around and there are no malls. there are no theaters,

Madla said. "You may not even have any medical are faced with unique cir-

cumstances." In the Wink-Loving district, a property wealthy district in West Texas built on oil riches, school officials offer to sell a plot of land for \$15 to anyone who will build a house on the land. Many longtime teachers in the school are nearing retirement age, and Superintendent John Benham said he expects few years.

The district boasts racpool and jacuzzis, all built during the oil boom of the 1980s — before the Robin Hood share-the-wealth system of school funding but today it is struggling.

Even though Bennam's district enrolls just 308 students, it still must pay teacher salaries, utility, building costs and other overhead that larger schools can better absorb with larger enrollments because schools get money from the state based on attendance.

This year, the tiny district expects to give about 30 percent of its local property taxes to the state for redistribution under the share-the-wealth system. Last year, the dis-

trict gave back \$1.6 million.

"We're not really care and so these districts against it," Benham said of the current funding system. "We just feel like the percentage of recapture is too high. We don't mind helping those people that need it. We just don't want to be shut down in the process."

One of the options emerging in Legislature as an alternative to the current system is a statewide property tax. The state would colan exodus during the next lect the taxes and then distribute them to school districts. Now, school disquetball courts, an tricts collect the taxes Olympic-size swimming themselves. A portion is sent to the state for distribution, based on a complex formula.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick has said legislators who represent rural areas would statewide tax.

Some rural school officials, like Benham, worry that a statewide property tax would-mean even less local control.

"We're against a statewide prop-

control over our property values," he said. "We feel like it would turn everybody into dependent school districts instead of independent school districts. We'd like to be able to make the best decisions we can for our students."

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Affordable preplan-



# Seliger named vice-chairman of Criminal Justice Committee

Special to the Herald

District 31 State Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) has been appointed to serve as vice-chair of the Criminal Justice Committee.

In addition, Seliger was appointed to the Resources, Natural International Relations and Trade, and Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committees. Making the announcement was Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

"I am honored by the lieutenant governor's confidence in my ability to do what is a very important job," said Seliger.

The appointment as vice-chair of Criminal Justice is especially noteworthy due to the relative short

period of time he has served in the Texas Senate, said Seliger.

"We have some critical issues coming before the Criminal Justice Committee including correctional population growth and the credibility of DNA testing. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to ensure that Texas has the best criminal justice system in the world," Seliger said.

Seliger is the newest member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. "I believe that this committee encompasses the largest number of issues important to the citizens of District 31, including agriculture, water and oil and gas. I hope that the thoughts and ideas I bring from my constituents will be a meaningful contribution to the committee," said Seliger.

### Blood drives set through February

There are several upcoming United Blood Services drives scheduled in Big Spring.

From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday a blood drive will take place in the Rip Griffin Truck and Travel Center.

From 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Feb. 17 a blood drive is set at the VA Medical Center. The last opportunity to donate blood in February is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Wal-Mart Feb. 21.

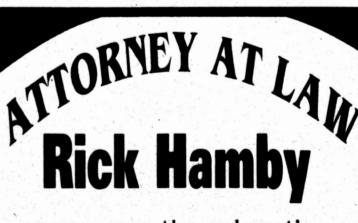
To donate blood an individual must be at least 18 years old or 17 years old with parent's permission and weigh more than 100 pounds. Bring a list of all medications currently being taken to the

For more information, contact Peggy Hards at 432-569-5531.



dance starts at 8:30 p.m

Sun., Wed. and Fri. EAGLES BINGO



announces the relocation of his practice to

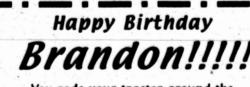
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and over the hill!!! WE LOVE YOU, Daddy, Denise, Neasa, Berkley, Brayden,

Braxton, Lisa, Scott, Grant and McKeely



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"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.

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan News Editor** 

OUR VIEWS

# Not to be a nag but remember, pay your taxes

obody likes a nag, but at the risk of sounding like one, we feel compelled to remind you that the deadline to pay your property taxes is Jan. 31. That's right, the last day to pay property taxes

without penalty is Monday.

These were the taxes we were billed for in the fall and we put off paying in November or December. Now January is almost gone and too many of us still haven't gotten around to doing it. Well, time has just about run out.

Beginning Tuesday, Feb. 1, a 7 percent penalty gets tacked on to the bill. That's seven cents for every dollar or \$7 for every \$100. That means if your bill is \$500 and you don't pay it until February, it'll cost you another \$35.

But that's not all. The penalty keeps climbing each month thereafter. It jumps to 9 percent in March, 11 percent in April, 13 percent in May and 15 percent in June. If you haven't paid it by July 1, the penalty soars to 18 percent and there is an additional 20 percent in attorney's fees.

Make your payment at the county tax assessor/collector's office in the courthouse annex on the east side of the square in downtown Big Spring. The office is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

If you still have the return envelope sent to you with your bill, you can mail it in without penalty as long as it is postmarked Jan. 31 or before. If you lost the envelope and the statement, you can find out what you owe by calling the tax office at 264-2232.

### How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

In person at 710 Scurry St.

By telephone at 263-7331

By fax at 264-7205

· By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.

By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

· Sign your letter.

 Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

· We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

· We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

· Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

· Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, we have a great deal in common with You through prayer.

# European justice: Facing genocide

n 1995, Bosnian Muslims fled to Srebrenica — a designated United Nations "safe haven," but U.N. troops couldn't or wouldn't save them from the Bosnian Serb army. Serbian thugs first divided the men from the women, children and elderly, and then drove them away in separate buses. In the massacre that followed, Serbian troops gunned down some

7,000 to 8,000 Muslim Europe was outraged then at what good people called Europe's first holo-

caust since World War II. Europe and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague today are too busy being high minded to be outraged.

It tells you how . ckless the court has become when it sentences a defendant for aiding and abetting in genocide to a modest 18 years in prison — and the Associated Press describes the sentence as "lengthy."

Specifically, the court found former Bosnian Serb Col. Vidoje Blagojevic, age 54, guilty of aiding and abetting the genocide, murder, persecutions and inhumane acts. The 18-year sentence, if fully served, factors out to less than one day per Srebrenica victim.

The court also convicted Dragan Jokic, a chief engineer in charge of bulldozing over the bodies, for murder, extermination and persecution on racial grounds. His term: nine years. Why are the sentences so short for these heinous crimes?

The tribunal noted that it couldn't prove that Blagojevic knew he was helping the military kill the Muslim males. Still, it found his troops did provide "practical assistance" in separating men and women and busing the victims out of town. He saw the buses, helped in the search operations and, according to the court, "knew of the discriminatory basis upon which the underlying acts of murder, cruel and inhumane treatment, terrorizing the civilian population and forcible transfer were committed."

I don't know all the circumstances of the trial. Maybe 18 years was fitting in this particular case. But in a larger sense, none of the sentences this tribunal metes out are suitable for the slaughter of thousands of innocent people.

Problem No. 1: The United Nations rejects the death penalty. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has had little to fear in his trial on 66 charges, including crimes against humanity. He has used it as a stage to publicly ridicule adversaries and the court — secure in the knowledge that the worst that can happen to him is that he'll get a life sentence, without parole, if the court is in a hanging mood, along with good medical care and protection from the thousands of Bosnian Muslims who lost loved ones during the carnage and would like to kill him.

Problem No. 2: "The court feels like it has to allocate the punishments based on the degree of responsibility," explained Beth Van Schaack, who teaches international law at Santa Clara University School of Law in California. "So individuals high on the chain of command, who are giving the orders, the highest sentences are being reserved for them." That means: If the worst Slobo can get is life without parole, his generals will get a lesser sentence, and their lieutenants should face even shorter sentences.

In the United States, all the top guns would get the top sentence. But thanks to our Betters in Europe and their rigid demand for proportion, a top aide who orders the murder of thousands can expect to serve less than life without parole, because he wasn't king. The Hague's longest sentence to date - for genocide was reduced from 46 years, and an appellate court reduced it to 35 years. As a result, prosecutors won't ask for a sentence exceeding 35 years for any killer of lower rank, even a colonel. How exquis-

And supremely foolish.

Van Schaack said this system guaranteed "higher sentences for the true architects."

If so, it also assures henchmen that they can butcher families and serve as little as three years.

Nina Bang-Jensen, of the Coalition for International Justice in Washington, believes the court does good work in bringing to light the atrocities so that they will not be forgotten. She noted, "Keep in mind that before these trials, or before Nuremberg, you were much more likely to find yourself in jail if you murdered one person than if you killed 10,000." Good point. (To the extent that the tribunal punishes strongmen and tells the story that muted voices cannot, it does good work.)

But when the tribunal trivializes the murder of thousands, it sends the wrong message. The Hague's emphasis on genocide transforms the very personal act of murder into an impersonal act of politics. It changes the focus from the faces of the victims to the frame of mind of the perpetrators. Indeed, the court rulings care more about what the defendants thought than what they did.

European justice is an oxymoron. It's more about the judges, and their need to be painstakingly fair, than the victims. It's more about thought than action. Abraham D. Sofaer of the Hoover Institution summed it up: "The international human rights community tends to view me, because I favor capital punishment for people who commit genocide, as a monster, just as they see (the man who commits genocide) as a monster." Sofaer added, "They have neutered international law. It doesn't have any moral force anymore, the way it should."

Memo to the tribunal: You guys are so busy being fair, you forgot

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.cre-

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# Iran: The Rhetoric and Reality

Te are not going to war against Iran," a senior tration official told me this week. This declarative statement came from an official who is not known for rash declarations and is inclined to guard his

comments. It followed heavy static in Washington about U.S. intentions toward Iran set off by President Bush's second inaugural address.

If Iranian intelligence were monitoring American "chatter" the way the U.S. listens to its adver-

saries, Tehran might well think something was up. A famous investigative reporter claims commandos are working behind the lines in Iran. The president's address seems to proclaim a global crusade for democracy, with Iran a probable target. The vice president goes on an offbeat radio talk show and speculates about Israel attacking Iran.

Yet, as the senior official confirmed, U.S. military action against the Iranians is not a realistic option. Pentagon and State Department sources say a single blow could not eliminate Iran's nuclear capability, and an attempted change of regime in Tehran would entail a military effort the U.S. cannot undertake. The problem of Iran deepens for the world's only superpower when rhetoric outstrips reality.

After Bush's 2002 State of the Union linked Iran with Iraq in the "axis of evil," Secretary of State

Colin Powell behind the scenes warned how difficult it would be to attack Iran. Powell told of Pentagon planning during the early 1990s when he was chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Iran, with four times the land area and three times the population of Iraq, posed a massive challenge to a U.S.-led

Moreover, public support for the Iranian theocracy appears much greater than the popular backing for Saddam Hussein's secular dictatorship. Indeed, U.S. intelligence shows opposition to the rule of the mullahs has declined from a high level just six months ago. Change of regime from within seems most unlikely. The sense of being . threatened by the West may have strengthened theocratic rule.

That threat was heightened by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh's article in The New Yorker indicating U.S. Special Forces operatives are behind the lines in Iran, preparing for possible air strikes against nuclear facilities. Sources have told me highly secret units operate inside Afghanistan and perhaps elsewhere, but not in Iran. Any such information could be gathered more easily inside Iran by Kurdish rebels who often cooperate with U.S. intelligence.

That set the stage for Vice President Dick Cheney's unexpected appearance Inauguration Day on the nationally syndicated "Imus in the Morning" radio talk show, known for ribald and outrageous material and often engaged in Bush-bashing and Cheney-bashing. Don Imus asked Cheney to comment on the Hersh article's suggestion "that you all are up to something in Iran." The vice president did not specifically address Hersh's contentions but asserted

that "Iran is right at the top of the list" among the world's "potential trouble spots." 'Why don't we make Israel do

it?" asked Imus. Instead of laughing that off, Cheney replied that "one of the concerns people have is that Israel might do it without being asked." He said "the Israelis might well decide to act first and let the rest of the world worry about cleaning up the diplomatic mess afterwards.'

Had Cheney used a more respectable venue for speculation, it would have received more attention. Checking with sources at State and Defense, I was surprised that many were not aware of exactly what the vice president said. They told me there was no intelligence to predict an Israeli strike. One official who is on top of the details said Iranian nuclear development is so dispersed around the country that the threat could not possibly be eliminated by a single bombing stroke as Israel did on June 7, 1981, when its bombers took out Iraq's only nuclear reactor.

Apparently, Cheney next thought better of his Israeli prediction and said of the Iranian problem that it would be best "if we could deal with it diplomatically." That is precisely what Powell preached the last four years and what is dictated by military realities. The vision of spreading democracy gives way to the less dramatic goal of negotiating with Iran over nuclear arms.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE. INC.

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# Helico for An

By DAVID KOENIG AP Business Write

(AP) — It's a le Amaril from Washington, bu folks were closely ing Friday's an ment about a ne

dential helicopter The Navy's dec pick Lockheed Corp. and subco Bell Helicopter figures to be an e and confidence Fort Worth and A where Bell plans the aircraft's fra

"We're excit happy," said Teague, vice pre business develop the Amarillo Ch Commerce. "W it's going to brin people here, and ty prestigious to

# School

By BRANDI GRIS **Associated Press** 

AUSTIN (AP) stop at the coffee of joe and the loc get a little mo under an initial finance plan tha state a state sale papers and maga

The proposed le Thursday by Rep Republican from "shell bill" m debate about fix \$30-billion public tem. It calls for property taxes

# IRAQ

Continued from Pa rettes," said Ar al-Yahia, direct electoral com office in easter

province. He said some  $\epsilon$ have received warning them their jobs or be tered." Others 1 told their childr

kidnapped. Al-Yahia hasn any written But attackers ha hand grenade: house and pe with machine twice. The wind shattered and pockmarked. H unhurt.

Al-Yahia said some areas of giously mixed many people willing to wor commission. I mostly those by Sunni Arab ing had been 1 cult and worke be brought in where.

The Sunni A been the least tic about the



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# Helicopter contract a boost for Amarillo and Fort Worth

By DAVID KOENIG

AP Business Writer

(AP) — It's a long way Amarillo from Washington, but local folks were closely following Friday's announcement about a new presidential helicopter.

The Navy's decision to pick Lockheed Martin Corp. and subcontractor Bell Helicopter Textron figures to be an economic and confidence boost for Fort Worth and Amarillo, where Bell plans to build the aircraft's frame.

"We're excited and said John happy," Teague, vice president of business development for the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. "We think it's going to bring a lot of

ing the helicopter for the expected to be finished in president."

Gov. Rick Perry called the announcement "great news for Texas."

The contract will create about 150 jobs in Amarillo and another 150 in the Fort Worth area, said Bell spokesman Bob Leder. The company has about 7,200 workers in Texas.

"We are absolutely thrilled and honored to be selected to be part of this program," Leder said. He said some Fort Worth workers watched the announcement in Washington on cable television.

picked The Navy Lockheed over Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. to build 23 people here, and it's pret- copies of Marine One. its F-16 fighter jet proty prestigious to be build- The first machine is gram.

2009, with all 23 built by late 2014.

The work is small by defense-contracting standards. The initial contract for development and demonstration was valued at \$1.8 billion, a pittance compared to the \$200 billion-plus deal that Lockheed won a few years ago to build the next generation of fighter jets for the U.S. military. Those planes will be built in Fort Worth.

The number of new jobs is also relatively small. Just. this month, Lockheed sent layoff notices to Fort Worth 220 workers and said it could cut up to 1,000 jobs because of reductions in

# Judge: Michael Jackson's accuser will have to testify in open court

By ROBERT JABLON

**Associated Press Writer** SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — The judge in the Michael Jackson molestation case on Friday rejected a prosecution request to close the courtroom when the teenage accuser takes the stand at the pop star's trial.

The defense and a coalition of media covering the case, including The Associated Press, had argued that the testimony should be open. Prosecutors wanted it closed to protect the child from the intense media coverage in the case, proposing that reporters be allowed to hear the testimony through an audio feed.

Judge Rodney Melville also ruled that dozens of adult-oriented books, magazines and DVDs

seized at Jackson's Neverland ranch — one with the fingerprints of Jackson and the accuser - can be used as evidence in the trial. Jury selection begins Monday.

The judge permitted most of the proposed evidence to be used at trial but said the prosecution could not refer to the material as pornography, obscenity or erotic. Instead, the words "adult" or "sexually explicit" can be used, he said.

Prosecutor Ron Zonen said the 50 print and video items that were seized in 2003 included graphic sexual material that was both heterosexual and homosexual in nature. The material also included nude photos of models who may have been 18 but looked much

younger, he said.

The items will show Jackson had a "prurient interest" in boys or was intended for use as "grooming material" to make children more accommodating to sexual advances, Zonen said.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. countered that all the materials seized were legal. In the case of the magazine with the prints, he said evidence will show Jackson took it away from his accuser and locked it up.

Melville ruled that several items could not be used as evidence, including three books seized in 1993 that allegedly show pictures of nude adolescents.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting a 13-year-old

# School finance bill would add sales tax to newspapers, magazines

By BRANDI GRISSOM

Associated Press Writer AUSTIN (AP) - A morning stop at the coffee shop for a cup of joe and the local paper could get a little more expensive under an initial public school finance plan that would reinstate a state sales tax on newspapers and magazines.

The proposed legislation, filed Thursday by Rep. Jim Keffer, a Republican from Eastland, is a "shell bill" meant to start debate about fixing the state's \$30-billion public education system. It calls for slashing local property taxes by a third, increasing the cigarette tax by lion for education the state the exemption because it creat-\$1 per pack and eliminating the state's current franchise tax. which most businesses avoid paying.

Overhauling public school finance is the top priority for legislators. Republican Gov. Rick Perry has declared the item an emergency issue. The state is under court pressure to change the system that many school districts claim doesn't provide enough money to adequately educate all students.

Expanding the sales tax base is just one measure suggested to recoup an estimated \$5.5 bilwould lose if school property taxes are reduced from \$1.50 to \$1 per \$100 property valuation.

According to a report by the State Comptroller's office, state sales taxes on newspapers and magazines would generate about \$30 million.

The bill would repeal a 1981 law that made newspapers exempt from sales tax and a similar 1987 law exempting magazines.

Sales taxes on newspapers were collected in 1980, but the Texas Comptroller's office asked the Legislature to create lisher of the Bryan-College about 10 cents.

ed an "administrative nightmare" for the industry, said Billy Hamilton, deputy comptroller.

Because newspapers use individual distributors, vending machines and a variety of other methods to dispense newspapers, Hamilton said, the collecting the tax is difficult.

Newspapers oppose the sales tax because it is hard to collect and unfair to customers, said Donnis Baggett, Texas Daily Newspaper Association executive committee chair and pub-

Station Eagle.

"It's an unwieldy and difficult tax to administer," Baggett said. "Another element is you don't get taxed for getting information from the television or the Internet. It hardly seems fair to tax readers of newspapers and magazines.'

At the current state sales tax rate of 6.25 percent, a 50-cent newspaper like the Houston Chronicle or The Dallas Morning News would cost at least 3 cents more during the week. Sales tax on more expensive Sunday papers would cost

## IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

rettes," said Amer Latif al-Yahia, director of the electoral commission's office in eastern Diyala province.

He said some employees have received letters warning them to quit their jobs or be "slaughtered." Others have been told their children will be kidnapped.

Al-Yahia hasn't received any written warnings. But attackers have lobbed hand grenades at his house and peppered it with machine-gun fire twice. The windows were shattered and the walls pockmarked. He escaped unhurt.

Al-Yahia said that in some areas of his religiously mixed province many people had been willing to work for the commission. In others, mostly those dominated by Sunni Arabs, recruiting had been more difficult and workers had to be brought in from elsewhere.

The Sunni Arabs have been the least enthusiastic about the vote — an

firm their loss of power with the downfall of will boycott it either out sion employees resigned them. The two others on the table. of fear of attacks from the about four days ago, but escaped. mostly Sunni Arab insurgency or out of conviction filled, al-Lami said. that a vote held in the presence of foreign troops is illegitimate.

By contrast, Shiites and Kurds, eager to affirm their power in the new Iraq, are keen to make the process work. The chief U.N. electoral

official here, Carlos Valenzuela, has described intimidation of election workers as "high and serious." very Commission spokesman, Farid Ayar, said 10 election workers have been killed so far.

Earlier this month, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, the U.S. general responsible for security in northern Iraq, said that virtually every election worker in Nineveh province, which includes predominantly Arab Sunni Mosul, quit because of security fears. On Friday, commission member Adel al-Lami said all the employees had been replaced, but 90 percent had to be

FINANCING &

election expected to con- brought in from outside when three pistol-wield- national duty. But in a the province.

the vacancies had

Even in heavily Shiite areas of south-central Iraq, a region far more stable than Mosul or Baghdad, several election workers were threatened and have resigned, a senior U.S. Embassy official has said.

Perhaps the most brazen of the assaults on election employees was a daylight attack in the heart of Baghdad last month,

**Benny Boyd** Chevy · Chrysler · Dodge · Jeep GMC · Pontiac · Buick · Cadillac 1611 N. Lubbock Hwy. Lamesa, TX 866-236-2693

In ethnically mixed election employees from a unemployment, others

That attack left Noor Qais, a 24-year-old elecemployee in Baghdad, rethinking her job, albeit briefly. "I stopped for a minute, but then I thought: 'The election is a goal. We have to

continue this path to the end." Despite the setbacks, election officials said they were sure there would be no shortage of workers on election day. For some,

the work is seen as a SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER Our Community. Our Hospital. 1601 W. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX

ing gunmen dragged five country plagued with

\$200 for those willing to work the election and the few following days, a generous amount by Iraqi standards.

Employees know the risks, and many try to play it safe.

Since he started working with the commission. al-Yahia, a lawyer, had to hire guards. During one of the attacks on his house, the guards traded fire with the militants.

"I had no relations with

political parties or anything, but since I joined the commission, I started Saddam Hussein. Some Kirkuk, several commiscar and executed three of say it's a way to put food having enemies," he said.

Khodeir, who will be The commission pays working in a Baghdad voting center on election day, doesn't volunteer information about his job to neighbors; they think he works for a company.

Some family members and friends have pleaded with him to quit out of fear for his life. But he says the stakes are too high to bail out.

"It's our chance to express our opinions so that our country can progress."







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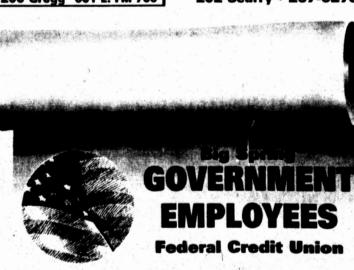
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# SPY

# Is videotaping the baby sitter a good idea?

By PAT BURSON

**Knight Ridder Newspapers** 

To tell or not to tell? That's the burning question for many parents when it comes to videotaping the nannies they bring into their homes to care for their children.

For some, it's a nobrainer - keep mum about it. They validate their decision by pointing to incidents of suspected abuse caught on tape, including a case in November 2003 involving a Long Island, N.Y., couple whose hidden camera revealed their longtime nanny slapping, kicking and attempting to smother their 10-month-old daughter.

Of course, a recent episode of the ABC hit "Desperate Housewives" showed the opposite result: Harried mom Lynette's hidden camera revealed a nanny who did her job so well — and was so adored by the kids that Lynette became insecure about her own parenting.

Of nearly 4,000 moms responding to a 2003 surconducted Parenting magazine and America Online, 82 percent agreed they would secretly videotape their nanny not only if they suspected their children were not receiving proper care and attention but also to protect their caregivers from false accusations of abuse. Some also said they would resort to videotaping only if they suspected abuse. Otherwise, they said, it was unethical to use cam-

While 18 percent of respondents said they objected to using hidden surveillance, some admitted they had videotaped their caregivers - only not in secret.

eras secretly.

The nanny cam is "one of our more sought-after products," says Mike Wilcher, owner of Spy Supply in North Richiand Hills. They're especially effective, he says, now that tiny cameras can be hidden in household items — VCRs, electrical outlets, clock radios, air purifiers — without affecting the way those items operate. And these days, the cost is usually within reach; you can get an adequate covert camera for just a couple hundred dollars.

As video surveillance technology gets smaller, easier to conceal and less pricey, it is becoming a popular way for people to keep an eye on those who are supposed to be watching everything from their kids and homes to their pets and aging parents. So says Richard Soloway, a national expert in security trends and issues. Soloway, who is chief



Fort Worth Star-Telegram photo/W. Matt Pinkney Spy-type gear makes concealing cameras easy to monitor babysitters, such as hiding them in Teddy bears, but should it be done secretly, should caregivers be told they are taped or should taping not be done at all?

executive of Napco nanny, Harold J. Krent, Systems, an Amityville, N.Y.-based electronic security systems manufacturer, says interest has spiked in recent years as cellular phone companies have added built-in cameras and videotaping capabilities and as more places such as cybercafes have opened up "where you can put your computer down on a table and scan the world."

Meanwhile, experts in law, ethics, privacy and electronic surveillance are split over whether it's right or wrong to use such cameras in secret. Some nannies don't exactly welcome a camera watching their every move - or, if one is, they

want to be told about it. Legally, the decision is comes to using so-called nanny cams, says Alec Farr, an attorney in the Washington, D.C., law office of Bryan Cave LLP, who specializes in matters of privacy and technology. "It's your home. It's her workplace you are providing to her. She has no reasonable expectation of privacy in your home,"

he says. While it may be legal to secretly videotape your

dean of the Unicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute Technology and an expert on personal privacy, questions it for other reasons.

"It strikes me as unethical," he says. "I would suggest that people put the shoe on the other foot. What if a camera were focused on you at work? What would your reaction be if your boss decided to record phone conversations or monitor e-mail? Wouldn't you want to know about it ahead of time?

"My advice would be to tell the nanny," he says. "I think it's a matter of respect."

Rhyder McClure, owner of Manhattan-based New York Nanny Cam, is on up to the parents when it the opposite end of the spectrum.

"Ethics, schmethics," scoffs McClure, who started tinkering with video surveillance equipment in 1996, after a burglar broke into his Manhattan apartment. "I don't think ethics is the issue. I think the child's welfare is the issue."

Eric Cline, owner of the Spy Connection in Fort Worth, Texas, says he sells nanny cams "proba-

bly more than you imagine," and they're purchased by parents in all sorts of situations.

"You get both kinds," Cline says. "Some of them are very apprehensive about hiring someone to watch the children and they're going to (use a hidden camera) regardless. With others, you can get a sense that something has triggered it."

Wilcher says it's good to "trust, but verify."

"About half of my customers who are into a product like this suspect some 'abusive' activity," he says. "Most of them say the child just doesn't like the baby sitter. Most of the time, that's just a character difference - a child-management style. But sometimes it's more than that."

A hidden camera can uncover a problem, but it's just as valuable if it merely sets your mind at ease, he says - "I'd rather know . . . than always wonder."

Parents have rights, but so do nannies, says Katy Cardinale, who runs the Nassau branch of Nanny's USA in West Hempstead, N.Y.

The placement agency specializes in offering domestic services, including nannies, housekeepers, elderly companions and nurses for infants.

"Whenever we have a client that comes to the agency, we give them a nanny bill of rights. It says, if cameras are going to be used, to tell the nannies," she says.

tell them to work with the assumption that there are cameras in the home, whether they're told about them or not. A professional nanny has no problem with cameras in the home."

Several nannies, including Cardinale, who worked as a nanny for four years in the 1990s for families on Long Island and in New York City, say they'd like to know for reasons of personal privacy and modesty - not to get away with anything.

For instance, no one wants to get caught on tape doing things scratching themselves, wiping their noses, undressing - that they might feel perfectly safe doing in private.

As a professional nanny for 15 years and current president of the Raleigh, N.C.-based National Association of Nannies, Kristen Kanoski says parents have many other ways of finding out how

their caregiver is doing besides resorting to hightech surveillance.

One of the most important things is "always, always, always check the references," she says.
"There's nothing wrong with checking twice," she adds. them

Her suggestions include: asking the nanny to babysit on a Saturday night as a trial run; taking a week off to observe your child and the nanny together firsthand; inviting the nanny over for a day and observing how he or she interacts with your child; calling home or dropping by unannounced during the day; having a neighbor drop by; and coming home early.

Kanoski also urges parents to look for warning signs, such as the child crying or appearing afraid when the nanny is around, or bruises on the

"It's more an issue of trust than it is necessarily the camera," she says. "As a parent, if you don't feel comfortable with the situation or the person, you should just fire the person."

Kanoski, who still works as a nanny, says that as far as she knows, she has never been taped. But she says she's asked employers about it. "I feel parents should be honest and say, 'We're going to have a camera.'

For some, whether to tell isn't the issue. Diann Kelly, assistant professor at Adelphi University's "As for the nannies, we says she knows parents them in the first place."

experience anxiety about leaving their children alone with a stranger. But, she says, relying solely on nanny cams isn't a good idea.

"You're relinquishing your parenting authority to someone who may or may not care about your child," she says. A better way is to undertake a "rigorous" search for a child-care qualified provider.

"It's not enough that. they bring their references. Family members, grandparents, godparents also should interview that person so that the individual working for the understands family they're not just working for you . . . but they're also responsible to an entire family system."

When it comes to nanny cams, professional ethicist Bruce Weinstein's advice is just don't do it.

"Just think about it: What kind of relationship would you have with someone that would prompt you to secretly record them with your children? The premise of the whole experience is preposterous," Weinstein, who analyzes ethics for CNN, writes the syndicated column "Ask the Ethics Guy" and is author of the forthcoming "Life Principles: Feeling Good by Doing Good,' (Emmis Books, \$14.99).

"If you really take the well-being of the child seriously to begin with, you would get someone who is so trustworthy you School of Social Work, wouldn't need to watch

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### TAX AID

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### JOBLES!

Continued from F

same reportin last year." The civilian l which was re 13,758 for dropped from previous m

December 2003 ian workforce Dropping le point from the posted in both 2004 and Dece the unemployr a stark compa number of jot Workforce Net

#### **SENIOR CITIZ** CENTER

MONDAY - Spi sauce, salad, ga milk, fruit.

TUESDAY -Cheeseburgers, beans, lettuce a toes, milk, buns WEDNESDAY steak, potatoes and cheese, sa rolls, fruited ge

THURSDAY enchiladas, Spa beans, salad, n bread, pie. FRIDAY - Cat

fries, beans, co rolls, fruit.

#### **WESTBROOM**

**BREAKFAST** MONDAY - Fre sticks, Little Sr al, juice, milk. TUESDAY - C cereal, juice, m WEDNESDAY bacon, biscuits juice, milk.

THURSDAY muffins, cerea FRIDAY - Ass toast, jelly, juic LUNCH MONDAY - St

mashed potato carrots hot roll milk.

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#### REFINERY

Continued from Page 1A

ation which basically means a real good house cleaning with repairs and renovations. The first phases began a week ago. Before the entire process is complete, crews will go from unit to unit, inspecting and repairing. The refinery's two primary units — the cat cracker, or fluid catalytic cracking unit, and the crude unit - will be shut down for 15 days.

There's a tight schedule, and a precise one because the units are basically "in-line."

Some equipment statistics:

**224** heat exchangers — 45,000 individual tubes to clean, 68 horizontal drums, 158 valves to replace, 16 towers, 7 process heaters, 153 pipe spools to replace, 125 pressure relief valves to test and reinstall, 800,000 pounds of catalyst.

It's a major operation involving all of the refinery's 160-plus employees plus hundreds of outside contractors. Each step is checked and double checked.

"Any step poorly done means failure. Every step is critical," added Maintenance Manager Roddy Caffey, who has been with the refinery for 31 years.

Time is money. The turn-USA between \$8 and \$10 mil- as

lion. Other refinery improvements implemented in association with the turnaround will be another \$15 to \$20 million.

But there's no question the turnaround is necessary.

"If you don't do this periodically - about every five years is the industry standard - you lose efficiency. And that costs money," said Caffey. "After awhile, things begin to wear out. It's a lot more productive to plan a turnaround than to try and repair things whenever they go down. There's a lot of preventative maintenance we

There are some improvearound itself will cost ALON ments that will be attended to, well. For instance,

Concienne hopes to gain more than just a smoother running refinery. The work includes changing the capacity of the crude unit. The unit averages 62,000 barrels per day currently, and the changes should allow that capacity to increase to 66,000 — a considerable additional output over a year's time.

"It's a good thing," Concienne said of the turnaround. "You just want to get it done and get it done right, of course."

If everything goes as planned, it will get done around March 1. One other note...

While the turnaround is positive for the refinery, it's also undeniably good for the community. Many of the contrac-

tors are from Big Spring, Howard County and the Permian Basin. Others are brought in from the Gulf Coast, where operations such as this are a way of life.

"It's a big boost for the económy of Big Spring. These contractors eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores, stay in our motels," explained Caffey.

Figure in an average of 350 employees a day times a perdiem of \$50, and it doesn't take long to determine that the turnaround means big business for Howard County. The extra inflow amounts to more than \$17,500 a day, and that only takes in the per-diem, not pay-

### TAX AIDE

Continued from Page 1A

deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns," she said.

"These volunteers help people complete and continuing each Monday at those their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

Hopkins said Tax-Aide will continue throughout the tax season.

"We'll begin doing taxes at the Senior Center from 8 a.m. until noon Monday,

same timesa through April 11," said Hopkins. "For those that are homebound and can't get to the center with their tax information, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready.'

The Senior Center is located at 1901 Simler Drive on the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information on the program and volunteering, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

### **JOBLESS**

Continued from Page 1A

same reporting period last year.'

The civilian labor force, which was reported as 13,758 for December dropped from 13,776 the previous month. December 2003 the civilian workforce was 13,850.

Dropping less than a point from the 3.9 percent posted in both November 2004 and December 2003, the unemployment rate is a stark comparison to the number of jobs the local Workforce Network is trying to fill.

"At present we have 74 job openings that we're trying to fill for Howard County employers," said Belew. "Our office continues to get some very good job listings, offering good opportunities for training advancement. Unemployed workers and those that are employed

but looking for other options are encouraged to register for services in office or www.workintexas.com. "It is vital that we give a

true picture of our available labor force. Job creation and business expansion is very dependent on

the number of people registered as job seekers."

The number of people employed in Howard County remained steady, dropping from 13,238 in November to 13,235 in

2003 there were 13,308 jobs filled.

Surrounding counties posted similarly low unemployment percentwith Andrews ages,

December. In December County posting 3.3 percent; Borden County, 2.8 percent; Dawson County, 4.9 percent; Ector County, 4.6 percent; Glasscock

County, 2.4 percent:

Martin County, 3.5 per-

cent; and Midland County with 3.1 percent.

The unemployment rate for the state of Texas was reported as 5.4 percent, with the national percentage listed at 5.1 percent.

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The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Beautiful Beginnings in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.



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# Menus

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS** CENTER

MONDAY - Spaghetti/meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, milk, fruit. TUESDAY -

Cheeseburgers, French fries, beans, lettuce and tomatoes, milk, buns apple crisp. WEDNESDAY - Hamburger steak, potatoes, broccoli

and cheese, salad, milk, rolls, fruited gelatin. THURSDAY - Chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, salad, milk, corn-

FRIDAY - Catfish, French fries, beans, coleslaw, milk, rolls, fruit.

#### **WESTBROOK ISD**

bread, pie.

**BREAKFAST** MONDAY - French toast sticks, Little Smokies, cereal, juice, milk.

TUESDAY - Cinnamon rolls,

cereal, juice, milk. WEDNESDAY - Sausage, bacon, biscuits, cereal, juice, milk.

THURSDAY - Blueberry muffins, cereal juice, milk. FRIDAY - Assorted cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk. LUNCH

MONDAY - Steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots hot rolls, honey,

TUESDAY - Chicken fajitas w/tortillas, cheese and salsa, tossed salad, pinto beans, cornbread, Teddy Grahams, milk.

WEDNESDAY - Barbecue on bun, nacho cheese chips, corn, fruit cups, milk.

THURSDAY - Nachos w/meat, cheese and peppers, tossed salad, corn, pear halves, milk. FRIDAY -Cheeseburgers. French fries, salad fixings. goodie bar, milk.

#### STANTON ISD

**BREAKFAST** MONDAY - Cinnamon roll. cereal, buttered toast, juice, mlk.

LUNCH MONDAY - Barbeque riblet on bun or chicken patty on bun, French fries, sandwich salad, orange slices.

#### **BIG SPRING ISD**

**BREAKFAST** MONDAY - Cereal, cinnamon roll, juice, milk. TUESDAY - Breakfast sausage roll, peaches, milk. WEDNESDAY - Cereal. cheese bite, juice, milk. THURSDAY - Grilled cheese, sliced apples, milk. FRIDAY - Cereal, waffle

stick, syrup, juice, milk.

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS** 

1. Pay off my \_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Save up for \_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Get my \_\_\_\_\_\_organized.

4. Take a trip to \_\_\_\_\_\_. 5. \_\_\_\_\_every month.

6. Finally buy that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Talk to Wells Fargo about\_\_\_\_\_

#### 1st Annual **Glasscock County FFA Varmit Calling Contest**

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Check In: Saturday, February 5

Garden City Wyn-Lor at 9:00 am

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#### By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission. (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies, sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.):

#### Billboard Hot 100: Top 10

(Compiled from a national sam ple of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Let Me Love You," Mario. 3rd

Street. 2. "1, 2 Step," Ciara (feat. Missy

Elliot). Sho'nuff-MusicLine. 3. "Lovers and Friends," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz (feat. Usher & Ludacris), BME.

4. "Soldier," Destiny's Child (feat. T.I. & Lil Wayne). Columbia. 5. "Drop It Like It's Hot," Snoop Dogg (feat. Pharrell). Doggystyle

6. "How We Do," The Game (feat. 50 Cent). Aftermath/G-Unit/Interscope

7. "Disco Inferno," 50 Cent. Shady.

8. "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Green Day. Reprise. 9. "Bring Em Out," T.I. Grand

Hustle/Atlantic 10. "Over and Over." Nelly (feat. Tim McGraw). Curb.

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#### The Billboard 200 Top Albums:

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected. compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1, "The Documentary," The Game. Aftermath. "2. "American Idiot," Green Day.

Reprise. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units) 3. "Encore," Eminem. Shady (Platinum)

4. "Crunk Juice," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz. BME. (Platinum) 5. "Get Lifted." John Legend.

6. "Breakaway," Kelly Clarkson.

RCA. 7. "Confessions," Usher. LaFace. (Platinum) 8. "The Red Light District," Ludacris. Disturbing tha Peace. (Platinum)

9. "Now 17," Various Artists. BMG/Universal/EMI/Zomba/Capitol

(Platinum) 10. "Destiny Fulfilled," Destiny's Child. Columbia. (Platinum) Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan.

**Hot Adult Contemporary** 

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by **Broadcast Data Systems)** 1. "Heaven," Los Lonely Boys.

2. "Breakaway," Kelly Clarkson. Walt Disney

3. "In My Daughter's Eyes," Martina McBride. RCA Nashville. 4. "You'll Think of Me," Keith Urban. Capitol.

5. "Live Like You Were Dying," Tim McGraw. Curb. 6. "Daughters," John Mayer.

Aware. 7. "She Will Be Loved,"

Maroon5. Octone. 8. "This Love, Maroon5. Octone. 9. "I'll Be Around," Daryl Hall

John Oates. dke. 10. "Don't Let Him Steal Your

Heart Away," Phil Collins. Face

#### **Top Contemporary Christian Albums**

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected; compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Beautiful Letdown," Switchfoot. Sparrow. (Platinum) 2. "I Can Only Imagine: Ultimate

Power Anthems of the Christian Faith," Various Artists. INO.

3. "WOW Hits 2005: 31 of the Year's Top Christian Artists and Hits," Various Artists. Word.

4. "Casting Crowns," Casting Crowns. Beach Street. (Gold certified sales of more than

5. "MMHMM," Relient K. Gotee. 6. "Restored," Jeremy Camp.

BEC. 7. "Healing Rain," Michael W. Smith. Reunion.

8. "Arriving," Chris Tomlin. Sixsteps.

9. "Welcome to Diverse City," tobyMac. Forefront. 10. "Nothing Without You,"

Smokie Norful. EMI Gospel

**Mainstream Rock Tracks** (Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems

 "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Green Day. Reprise. 2. "Burning Bright," Shinedown. Atlantic.

3. "Home," Three Days Grace.

Jive. 4. "Scars," Papa Roach. el Tonal/Geffen.

5. "Fall to Pieces," Velvet Revolver. RA 6. "If I Die Tomorrow," Motley

Crue. Island/DJMG. 7. "Let Me Go," 3 Doors Down. Republic. 8. "So Cold," Breaking

Benjamin. Hollywood. 9. "Getting Away With Murder," Papa Roach, el Tonal. 10. "Find the Real," Alter Bridge Wind-up.

#### **Modern Rock Tracks**

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by **Broadcast Data Systems**)

 "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," Green Day. Reprise 2. "Scars," Papa Roach. el Tonal

3. "Cold," Crossfade. FG. 4. "Look What You've Done," Jet. Elektra.

5. "Mr. Brightside," The Killers. Island.

6. "All Because of You," U2. Interscope. 7. "I'm Not OK (I Promise)," My

Chemical Romance. Reprise. 8. "Pain," Jimmy Eat World. Interscope.

9. "Home," Three Days Grace.

10. "Save Me," Unwritten Law Lava.

Touchstone Home Video

**Hot Country Singles and Tracks** (Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by **Broadcast Data Systems)** 

1. "Mud on the Tires," Brad Paisley. Arista Nashville.

2. "You're My Better Half," Keith Urban, Capitol. 3. "Bless the Broken Road."

Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street. 4. "Awful, Beautiful Life," Darryle Worley. Dreamworks. 5. "When I Think About Cheatin'," Gretchen Wilson.

Epic/EMN. 6. "Some Beach," Blake Shelton, Warner Bros. 7. "Nothin 'Bout Love Makes

Sense," LeAnn Rimes. Asylum-8. "Monday Morning Church,"

Alan Jackson. Arista Nashville. 9. "Nothin' to Lose," Josh Groban. Lyric Street. 10. "Back When," Tim McGraw. Curb.

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#### **Top Country Albums**

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Greatest Hits," Shania Twain. Mercury. (Platinum) 2. "Feels Like Today," Rascal

Flatts. Lyric Street. (Platinum) 3. "Greatest Hits 2," Toby Keith.

DreamWorks. (Platinum) 4. "50 Number Ones." George Strait. MCA Nashville. (Platinum) 5. "Here for the Party," Gretchen Wilson. Epic (Nashville).

(Platinum) 6. "Horse of a Different Color," Big & Rich. Warner Bros.

(Platinum) 7. "Live Like You Were Dying," Tim McGraw. Curb. (Platinum) 8. "When the Sun Goes Down," Kenny Chesney. BNA. (Platinum) 9. "Mud on the Tires," Brad

Paisley. Arista Nashville. (Platinum) 10. "Lonely Runs Both Ways," Alison Krauss + Union Station.

Rounder. (Gold) Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan.

Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles and

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports and radio

1. "Let Me Love You," Mario. 3rd Street.

2. "Lovers and Friends," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz (feat. Usher & Ludacris). BME.

3. "Soldier," Destiny's Child (feat. T.I. & Lil Wayne). Columbia. 4. "How We Do," The Game

(feat. 50 Cent). Aftermath/G-Unit/Interscope. 5. "1,2 Step," Ciara (feat. Missy Elliott. Sho'nuff-MusicLine.

6. "Bring Em Out," T.I. Grand Hustle/Atlantic. 7. "Disco Inferno," 50 Cent. Shady/Aftermath/Interscope.

8. "Drop It Like It's Hot," Snoop Dogg (feat. Pharrell). Doggystyle. 9. "Karma," Lloyd Banks (feat. Avant). G-Unit.

10. "Truth Is," Fantasia. J. Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan,

Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums (Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by-

SoundScan) 1. "The Documentary," The

Game. Aftermath. 2. "Get Lifted," John Legend. Good Music.

3. "Crunk Juice," Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz. BME. (Platinum) 4. "Free Yourself," Fantasia. J. (Platinum)

5. "The Red Light District," Ludacris. Disturbing tha Peace. (Platinum)

6. "Urban Legend," T.I. Grand Hustle. (Gold) 7. "Encore," Eminem. Shady. (Platinum)

8. "Destiny Fulfilled," Destiny's Child. Columbia. (Platinum) 9. "Loyal to the Game," 2Pac. Amaru/Interscope.

10. "Goodies," Ciara. Sho'nuff-MusicLine. (Platinum) Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan,

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# Best sellers — video

Home Entertainment

Home Entertainment.

#### By The Associated Press

(AP) - Weekly charts for the nation's most popular videos as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission:

**Top Kid Video Sales** (Compiled from a national sam-

ple of sales reports) 1. "The Land Before Time XI: The Invasion of the Tinysauruses," Universal Studios Home Video.

2. "Dora the Explorer: Catch the Star." Paramount Home Entertainment 3. "Spongebob Squarepants:

Home Sweet Pineapple. Paramount Home Entertainment

4. "The Lion-King II: Simba's Pride," Walt Disney Home Entertainment. 5. "Dora the Explorer: Dora's

Fairytale Adventure," Paramount Home Entertainment 6. "Spongebob Squarepants:

Gift Set," Paramount Home Entertainment 7. "Dora the Explorer: Silly

Fiesta," Paramount Home Entertainment 8. "Barbie As the Princess and the Pauper." Lions Gate Home

Entertainment 9. "Dora the Explorer: Rhymes and Riddles," Paramount Home Entertainment

10. "Leapfrog: Letter Factory Video.," Warner Reprise Video.

#### **Top VHS Rentals**

(Based on data provided by the Video Software Dealers Assn.) 1. "The Village," Touchstone

2. "Without, a Paddle,"

Home Video. Paramount Home Entertainment. "Troy." Warner Home Video.

"Paparazzi," FoxVideo.

Ron Burgundy," DreamWorks

5. "Anchorman: The Legend of

6. "The Little Black Book," Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment 7. "Napoleon Dynamite,"

FoxVideo. 8 "Collateral " DreamWorks

9. "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle. New Line Home Entertainment. 10. "The Manchurian Candidate

(Pan & Scan)," Paramount Home Entertainment Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan,

**Top VHS Sales** (Compiled from a national sam-

ple of sales reports) 1. "The Land Before Time XI: The Invasion of the Tinysauruses." Universal Studios Home Video.

2. "Dora the Explorer: Catch the Star." Paramount Home Entertainment. 3. "Platinum Series: Abs &

Chest of Steel 2000," Warner Home Video 4. "The Village," Touchstone

Home Video. 5. "Spider-Man 2," Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment. 6. "The Princess Diaries 2:

Royal Engagement," Buena Vista Home Entertainment. 7. "Platinum Series: Legs of Steel 2000," Warner Home Video.

8. "Garfield the Movie," FoxVideo. 9. "Spongebob Squarepants: Home Sweet Pineapple

10. "Shrek 2," DreamWorks

### Home Entertainment

**Top DVD Sales** (Compiled from a national sam-

ple of sales reports) 1. "The Village (Widescreen)," Touchstone Home Video.

2. "The Village (Pan & Scan),"

Scan Collector's Edition),' Paramount Home Entertainment. 4. "Troy (2 Disc Widescreen Edition)," Warner Home Video.

3. "Without a Paddle (Pan &

5. "Napoleon Dynamite," FoxVideo. 6. "Troy (2 Disc Pan & Scan

Edition)," Warner Home 7. "Without a Paddle (Widescreen Collector's Edition) Paramount Home Entertainment. 8. "Harold & Kumar Go to White

Castle (Unrated Extended Edition)." New Line Home Entertainment 9. "Paparazzi," FoxVideo. 10. "The Fifth Element (Ultimate

2 Disc Edition)," Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment Copyright 2005, VNU Business Media and Nielsen SoundScan,

#### **Billboard Magazine Chart**

Leaders (Compiled from national retail sales/airplay/rental charts)

HOT POP SINGLE: "Let Me Love You," Mario. TOP POP ALBUM: "The Documentary," The Game. HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLE:

"Let Me Love You," Mario. TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUM: "The Documentary," The Game HOT COUNTRY SINGLE/TRACK: "Mud on the Tires," Brad Paisley

"Greatest Hits," Shania Twain. TOP VHS RENTAL: "The TOP VHS SALE: "The Land

TOP COUNTRY ALBUM:

Before Time XI: The Invasion of the Tinysauruses. TOP DVD SALE: "The Village

(Widescreen) TOP KID VIDEO: "The Land Before Time XI: The Invasion of the Tinysauruses.

#### Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our... **January 2005**

#### January 18 • Tuesday \*Mall Walking - 8:00 am The Board of Directors of the American Heart Association, **Howard Division will meet:** 12 Noon - Brew Pub, South 87 \* Supper Club "Red Mesa" - 5:30 pm

#### January 19 • Wednesday \* Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

January 20 • Thursday \* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

· Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am \* Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am- Howard County Welfare Assn.

January 21 • Friday

January 22 • Saturday

January 23 • Sunday

January 24 • Monday \* Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

January 25 • Tuesday \* Mall Walking - 8:00 am

\* Supper Club, "Cowboys" - 5:30 pm January 26 • Wednesday

\* Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

January 27 • Thursday \* Mall Walking - 8:00 am \* Coffee @ Gale' - 10:00 am

January 28 • Friday

January 29 • Saturday

January 30 • Sunday January 31 • Monday

Games - 2:00 pm -Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

'Anita Cline. 268-4721

Tues.-Thurs.

Donna Mills, RN. Director Of Women's Services

Road To Recovery (Transportation For Cancer Patients) LaWanda Ham.

263-7827

Howard ro sets fund-The How rodeo team third-annua er for The Friday.

The event 1 p.m. and on the Howard C throughout nity. The involves s removing g For mor tion, call He Greg Kern 9477.

CGA annou second me The Ch Association

holding and zational Monday. The meet place at 7 meeting ro A-Rama La For mor tion, con

Sportsmar M1 Garan The Sportsman announced Garand ma

place Sund

Pineda at 2

the Western Club range at 1:30 p.m. It will be match at 20 cost is \$6 rifles inclu Garand, I and 1903 A There wi

loaner rifle for people shoot. For mor tion, conta at 263-1345.

Serena re in Austral MELB Australia Serena Wi ed off six in the fifth second set herself to aching bac 3, 6-0 v Lindsay I the Austr final Satur Williams her winni Melbourne matches a

ing an drought w After a the end w Williams nine straig It was comeback Williams 1 chasing a the openin needed tre the fifth, down 4-1. Later, Wayne Kevin

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final.

Chris Wel points, ir pointer t time, for as the K

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Howard rodeo team sets fund-raiser

The Howard College rodeo team has set up a third-annual fund-raiser for Thursday and Friday.

The event will start at 1 p.m. and take place on the campus of Howard College and throughout the community. The fund-raiser involves sending and removing goats.

For more information, call Howard coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

#### **CGA announces** second meeting

The Chicano Golf Association will be holding another organizational meeting Monday.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at Bowl-A-Rama Lanes.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

#### Sportsman Club sets M1 Garand match

Western The Sportsman Club has announced an M1 Garand match will take place Sunday, Feb. 6, at the Western Sportsman Club range, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

It will be a 30 round match at 200 yards. The cost is \$6 and eligible rifles include: the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and 1903 A3.

There will also have oaner rifles and ammo for people that want to

For more information, contact Vic Coots at 263-1345.

#### Serena records win In Australian final

MELBOURNE Australia (AP) — Serena Williams fended off six break points in the fifth game of the second set, then willed herself to overcome an aching back in a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Lindsay Davenport in the Australian Open

final Saturday. Williams stretched her winning streak at Melbourne Park to 14 matches and captured her seventh Grand Slam singles title, end-ing an 18-month drought without one.

After a shaky start, the end was lopsided. Williams reeled off nine straight games.

It was a stirring comeback after Williams hurt her back chasing a backhand in the opening game and needed treatment after the fifth, when she was down 4-1.

Zimbabwe's Wayne Black and Kevin Ullyett beat American brothers Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4 in the men's doubles

#### Webber's 3-pointer helps Kings in win

HOUSTON (AP) -Chris Webber scored 30 points, including a 3pointer to force overtime, for Sacramento as the Kings defeated

# Tubb's fourth quarter leads Grady past Bearkats

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

LENORAH Grady boy's basketball team captured sole possession of first place in District 7-A Friday after pulling off a convincing 14-point win over rival-Garden City in Lenorah.

Grady (17-8, 6-1) jumped out to a 21-0 lead after the first quarter and weathered a late Garden City (11-14, 5-2) rally to win, 51-

Garden City had 21 turnovers, including nine

in its scoreless first quar- Tubb was too strong down

The Bearkats battled in back quarters and two three and outscored Grady 27-They 16.

cut the lead four points midw a y TUBB through the fourth quarter, but that is

as close as they would get.

Grady freshman Justin

the stretch. He scored 10 of his 17 points in the final frame and connected on eight-of-12 free throws while pulling down 10 rebounds.

Grady senior Andrew Villa scored 10 of his 13 points in the Wildcats' 21 point first quarter. Ben Hirth added six points in the first quarter and finished with 11 points before fouling out.

Garden City was led by senior Chais Goodwin's 12 points and eight

rebounds. All 12 points came in the second half,

as well. The Grady win avenges a loss to the Bearkats back in early January. Garden City and the Bearkat win ended Grady's 21-game district winning streak.

The Wildcats have not lost a district game since and the win Friday moves them into first place in the district. After starting 5-0 in District 7-A for the first time under head coach Cory Richardson. the Bearkats dropped their second straight.

Garden City will host Sands Tuesday, while Grady will travel to That game took place in Klondike.

# **Opportunity lost**

Steers miss 11 FTs in fourth quarter, lose by two

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor Missed free throws and opportunities missed doomed the Big Spring boy's basketball team Friday as the Steers dropped a heartbreaker to rival Andrews at home. 52-50, in front of a large wild and crazy crowd.

The Steers missed 11 straight free throws down the stretch in the fourth quarter and had several opportunities to tie the game in the closing minute, but Big Spring (6-21, 0-5) couldn't take advantage.

"We were hoping it would be a close game," said Big Spring coach Jim Kinnear. "Give our kids credit for fighting until the end though. The only negative tonight was that we were 0-for-11 on free throws down the

The Steers trailed 17-9 after the first quarter and 36-24 at halftime, but a strong third quarter got them back in the game. Sophomore Tannehill took over in the period as his six straight points cut the Mustang lead to six.

Andrews pushed the lead back to 10, but a Kyle Piercefield basket, a Tannehill 3-pointer and a Matt Hilario basket plus the foul trimmed the deficit to three points heading into the final quarter. Big Spring outscored Andrews 15-7 in the third period. Andrews got five offensive rebounds on its final possession of the period, but they were unable to turn any extra shots into points.

"We battled back in the third and made it a game," said Kinnear.

Bad news struck the Steers early in the fourth quarter as Piercefield, a junior, fouled out 30 seconds into the final frame.

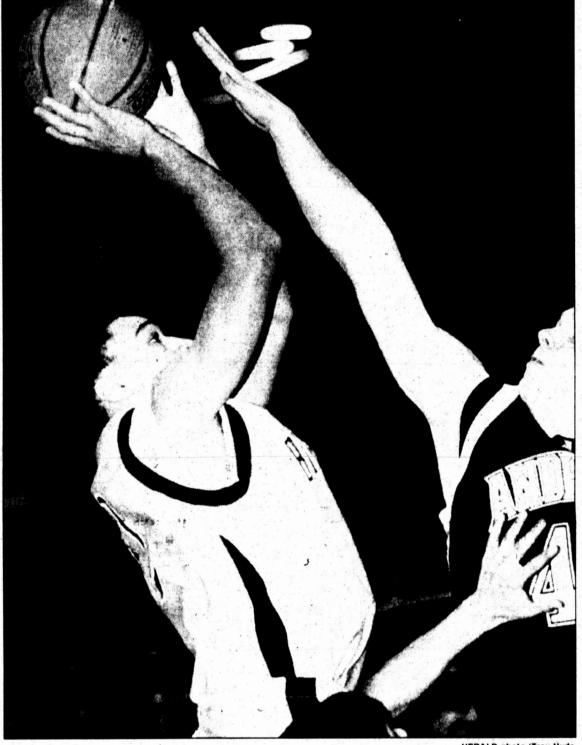
Piercefield's replacement - senior Bobby Newton - provided the Steers with much needed energy and a big spark, however.

"Bobby has accepted his role well," said Kinnear. "He is a good athlete and he showed it tonight.

Newton immediately came into the game and sank two free throws, cutting the Mustang lead to five. Then, a Tannehill layup off a nice pass from freshman Jordan Kinnear and a Hilario layup off a Nathan Teeters steal cut the Andrews advantage to

After Andrews pushed its lead back to three, another unfortunate event happened for Big Spring. Jordan Kinnear fell to the ground and

See STEERS, Page 2B



**HERALD photo/Troy Hyde** Big Spring senior Bobby Newton puts up a shot in the lane just out of the reach of an Andrews defender during second half action Friday night at the Steer Gym. Newton provided a spark off the bench as he pulled down four rebounds. The Steers missed 11 straight free throws in the fourth quarter and lost to the rival Mustangs, 52-50.

# Hirt, Niehues lead G.C. to needed 7-A victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

LENORAH — A strong second quarter and clutch free throw shooting down the stretch was enough for the Garden City girls Friday as they traveled to Grady and defeated the Wildcats in a matchup of two 20-win teams.

Lady Kats The outscored Grady (20-7, 5-2) 13-9 in the second quarter and held off the Lady Wildcats late to earn a 36-29 road victory.

The game was tied at 21-21 three minutes into the third quarter, but Grady went cold from the field after that. Garden City scored the final six points of the quarter and took a 27-21 lead heading into the final frame.

After tying the game at 21 early in the third quarter, the Lady Wildcats went on a scoring drought in which they didn't connect from the Friday moved them into a field until less than five minutes remained in the fourth quarter.

Garden City senior Erin Hirt connected on one of her two 3-pointers with 5:00 to play in the game, putting the Lady Kats up 31-23.

Grady cut the lead to

five with 32 seconds left in the game, but Garden City (24-4, 5-2) capped off the win from the foul

The Lady Kats shot 50 percent from the field and were led by Hirt's 18 points. The other two members of the senior trio also played big roles as Megan Niehues scored 12 points and Lauren Plagens pulled down a team-high

rebounds. Taylor Woolfork led Grady with nine points. while senior Kelsey Tubb, who scored in double figures the first time these two teams met, was held to just five. Freshman Kenzie Madison pulled down five rebounds. Grady went 12-for-35 from the field.

The Lady Wildcats defeated Garden City earlier this month in Garden City. The Lady Kats' win second place tie with Grady in District 7-A. The top two teams in each district advance to the playoffs in February.

Garden City Sands Tuesday, while Grady travels to leagueleading Klondike. Both games begin at 6 p.m.



**HERALD photo/Troy Hyde** Big Spring sophomore Katy Abner looks for an opening to the basket Friday against arch rival Andrews. The Lady Steers lost and remained winless in District 4-4A action.

# **Big Spring** falls apart, drops one in district

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The inability to make shots and 23 turnovers plagued the Lady Steers against rival Andrews Friday as the Big Spring girl's basketball team lost at the Steer Gym, 61-28, in front of a large crowd which included Houston Astros pitcher Andy Petitte.

Big Spring went eightfor-47 from the field and made just 10-of-18 free throws in the game.

"It was the poorest coached team I have ever seen," said Big Spring coach Tim Van Hecke, who didn't have much to say after his team dropped to 0-7 in district play.

The second and third quarters plagued Big Spring as Andrews outscored the Lady Steers 41-13.

Big Spring trailed 9-6 after the first quarter before things got out of hand in a hurry. "We were able to stay in

See LADY STEERS, Page 2B

Coah

**HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler** 

led Big Spring with 10

points and four rebounds,

added six.

two steals.

Sophomore

while junior Codye Burt

Junior Raegan Ritchey

and Chalesa Johnson

pulled down seven and

five rebounds, respective-

ly, and sophomore Katy

Abner came away with

Marquez led Andrews

with 14 points and made

six of her eight shots from

Diandra

Coahoma senior Mendy Morgan puts in two of her team-high 10 points Friday during the Bulldogettes' 41-34 loss to rival Stamford. Morgan also pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds.

quarter deficit turned to a

23-7 Andrews advantage

LEWIS

early in the

second

period.

They then

pushed that

margin to

30-10 with

50 seconds

to play in

the quarter

and eventu-

# Morgan's effort not enough to create win

By TROY HYDE

**Sports Editor** 

Mendy Morgan's double-double effort was not enough for Coahoma's girls Friday at home as the Bulldogettes fell to rival Stamford, 41-

The fourth quarter was the difference in the seven point game as Coahoma (9-19, 4-3) was outscored 12-5.

The Bulldogettes trailed

by three after the first quarbut ter. battled back tie

the score at 21-21 at halftime. teams two remained tied heading into the final quarter, but Stamford's fourth quarter advantage was enough to

win. Morgan, a senior, finished with 10 points, 14 rebounds and three assists, while junior Sterling Gee contributed six points and four rebounds. Senior Sarah Collom added six points and three rebounds, while Drew Wells pitched in with two points, four rebounds and three steals.

capture the District 4-2A

The Bulldogettes made eight-of-12 shots from the foul line, while Stamford hit 11-of-22.

the line. Sophomore Erica Junior Carmen Lewis Rawls added 12 points.

> Big Spring's point guards were responsible for 12 of the team's 23 turnovers

> Big Spring, which dropped to 4-18 with the loss, returns home Tuesday as the Lady Steers take on rival Frenship at the Steer Gym beginning at 6 p.m. The school will honor the team's seniors before the game, as well.



Forsan's Cynthia Becerra applies pressure against McCamey in a previous game. The Lady Buffaloes lost to Wink Friday in Forsan.



Big Spring fans in the student section enjoy first half action Friday at the Steer Gym. The Steers lost to Andrews 52-50.

#### **STEERS**

Continued from Page 1B

apparently got kicked in the head by an Andrews player.

"It was a pretty physical game," said Coach Kinnear. "Jordan lost his balance on a rebound attempt and fell to the floor. Then he got kicked in the head. I am not sure if it was on purpose or not, but plays like that are uncalled for."

No foul was called on the play and Kinnear was forced to bench for treatment from Big

Spring Athletic Trainer Andy Rankin.

thought he was out the for

rest of the game, but Andy told me he was just a little woozy and then said he was ready to go," said Coach Kinnear. Kinnear returned to

the game with 1:52 to play, just in time for a spectacular final two minutes. Andrews pushed the

lead to five before Kinnear's putback got the game back to one possession.

After a stop on defense, Big Spring got the ball back with 30 seconds left and plenty of time to set up a play.

"I wanted to spread things out and let our guards penetrate to the basket and dish off to our 3-point shooters,' said Coach Kinnear.

Mission accomplished. Tannehill did just that and found Teeters, a senior, wide open in the corner for a long range shot that hit nothing but the bottom of the net.

"It was a set play and the kids executed it said Coach Kinnear. "Nathan hit the shot like a senior should. It was definitely a big-time shot."

However, five seconds later Big Spring was called for a questionable foul with 17 seconds to play. Andrews converted from the line and grabbed back its twopoint lead.

Big Spring had several chances on its last pos-

session to win or tie: Tannehill's drive to the basket saw the ball roll off the rim and then Newton had a wide-open look under the basket off the rebound, but missed it. Tannehill got the rebound and was fouled with 3.8 seconds left with a chance to tie. Unfortunately, his first free throw didn't go down. That forced him to miss the second attempt on purpose to set up an offensive rebound attempt.

Tannehill's miss was tipped out to him by Newton and Kinnear, but the sophomore's last second 3-

> pointer, which drew plenty of contact, failed to hit the rim as t i m e expired. "The kids

have been down on themselves because of our recent schedule and losses," said Coach Kinnear. "We proved tonight that we are not a bad basketball team when we're on the same page. They now know they can play."
Tannehill was not the

only Big Spring player to miss free throws down the stretch. Kinnear went 0-for-2 in the final period and Newton missed eight straight after connecting on his first two.

Big Spring as a team went 12-for-32 from the charity stripe on the night. The Steers shot just 33 percent from the field, but outrebounded the Mustangs, 31-24.

Tannehill led the Steers with 14 points, five rebounds and three steals, while Kinnear added a game-high 13 rebounds, three points. three blocks, three assists and two steals.

Piercefield scored nine points and grabbed four rebounds before fouling out, while Teeters hit two 3-pointers and finished with eight points.

Andrews didn't shoot well either, making just 20-of-34 from the foul line. The Mustangs were led offensively by Ryan Roberts and Brett Bailey, who each scored 10 points.

The Steers host Frenship Tuesday, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

# Forsan drops two at home to rival Wink

By TROY HYDE

way."

Sports Editor Both Forsan teams were in action at home against rival Wink Friday and neither team was able to

LADY STEERS

the game in the first quar-

ter because we took care

of the ball against their

press and played great

defense," said Van Hecke.

"And then we didn't do

that stuff the rest of the

The Lady Steers strug-

gled to score in the sec-

ond period as a three

Continued from Page 1B

come away with wins. The Lady Buffaloes lost a close one, 56-50, while the Buffaloes pushed the district's only undefeated team to overtime, but still lost 53-50.

**GIRLS** 

Forsan, which is now 0-6 in District 8-A play, led 11-10 after the first quarter, but Wink's five-point second quarter advantage

sent the Lady Buffaloes into the locker room at halftime down 31-27.

ally led 30-13 at halftime.

The Lady Steers trailed

50-19 after three quarters.

Wink outscored Forsan 8-6 in the third quarter before both teams scored 17 points in the final eight minutes.

Haylea Belew led Forsan with 12 points, while Tessa Montgomery and Cynthia Becerra added nine and eight points, respectively.

BOYS

Wink improved to 6-0 in District 8-A play Friday after pulling out a narrow victory in Forsan Friday.

The Buffaloes jumped out to a 14-10 lead after the first quarter, but Wink took the second quarter 13-9 as both teams entered halftime tied at 23-23.

Wink led by two entering the fourth quarter, but Forsan's 13-11 advantage in the final frame forced overtime. Forsan, however, was outscored 9-6 in the overtime period.

Josh Paredez led Forsan with 16, including four 3pointers, while Adam Bailey turned in 14.

Both teams will travel to McCamey Tuesday.



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# takes of Dis 4-2A I By TROY HYD Sports Editor Coahoma's

boy's baske come another deficit Friday on to claim victory over I rival Stamfor



the Bulldogs

win. Coahoma trailed 14-6 a quarter befor Stamford 15-9 ond period.

Stamford co third quarter advantage, b had enough tank to clain the fourth. Isaac Bi

Coahoma wi with eight co final quarter Darrick S nected on thr and finishe points, wh Posey added

Coahoma rival Stanto The girl's ga 6:30 p.m., wh should tip-o p.m.



# Cubs

By RONALD AP Sports W

**NEW YOR** Chicago Cu to agreemen send unha Sammy S Baltimore O high-rankin officials Associated I

Medical approval fi sioner Bud players' remain un officials night, speal tion of anon The Cubs

substantial \$17 million season, th said. Sosa v void his sal for 2006, the In excha would red baseman J

Jr. and a prospects. Sosa's con Cubs an option in 2 million bu contract sa traded, hi would beco and a 200 would be ac lion with buyout.

The playe previously agent, Ada voiding th

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# Coahoma takes care of District 4-2A rival

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Coahoma's cardiac boy's basketball overcome another second half deficit Friday and went on to claim a four-point victory over District 4-2A rival Stamford (12-12, 2-3).



Bulldogs trailed by four heading into the final quarter, but a 19-11 fourth quarter advantage

T h e

propelled the Bulldogs to a 50-46 win.

Coahoma (17-8, 4-1) trailed 14-6 after the first quarter before outscoring Stamford 15-9 in the second period.

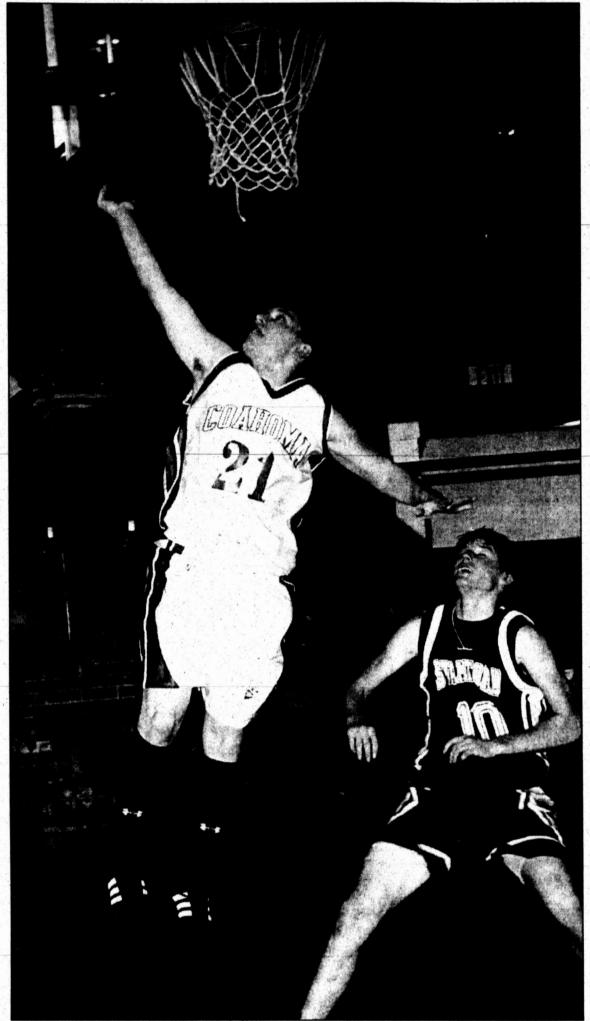
Stamford controlled the third quarter with a 12-10 advantage, but Coahoma had enough gas in the tank to claim the win in the fourth.

Isaac Brewer led Coahoma with 12 points, with eight coming in the final quarter.

Darrick Shifflett connected on three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points, while Daniel Posey added eight points.

Coahoma travels to rival Stanton Tuesday. The girl's game begins at 6:30 p.m., while the boy's should tip-off around 8





HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler Coahoma's Clint Walker goes up for an easy two during action in Coahoma Friday night as the Bulldogs came from behind to defeat rival Stamford, 50-46. The Bulldogs outscored

# Texas native will transfer following rape allegations

PROVO, Utah (AP) - football career at another Wide receiver Antwaun Harris, accused of lying to police investigating rape allegations against other Brigham Young football players, will transfer from BYU, the school announced.

The Garland native had 17 receptions for 149 yards last season.

He and defensive back Billy Skinner, 19, were suspended last month after lesser charges were lodged against them related to the rape investigation. Four other players were accused of rape and were suspended by BYU for one year.

The charge against Harris of providing false information to police is a second-degree felony.

"In response to the new direction this program is taking," Antwaun has decided to pursue his

university," Bronco Mendenhall said.

BYU said Harris is expected to transfer to a Division I-A program, while Skinner plans to play at Sam Houston State University, a I-AA school in Huntsville.

Skinner, 19, is charged with third-degree felony dealing in harmful material to a minor but will plead no contest Feb. 18 to a misdemeanor charge, attorneys said Tuesday. The action clears the way for him possibly to be called to testify in the trial of his ex-teammates.

Prosecutors contend that, four players gave vodka to a 17-year-old girl. They showed the girl a pornographic movie, then raped her after she passed out, the prosecutors allege.



# **Cubs ship slugging Sosa to Baltimore**

By RONALD BLUM

Associated Press.

AP Sports Writer NEW YORK (AP) — The Chicago Cubs were close to agreement on a trade to send unhappy slugger Sammy Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles, several high-ranking baseball officials told The

Medical tests and approval from commissioner Bud Selig and the players' association remain unresolved, the officials said Friday night, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Cubs would pay a substantial part of Sosa's \$17 million salary this season, the executives said. Sosa would agree to void his salary scheduled for 2006, they also said.

In exchange, Chicago would receive second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and at least two prospects.

Sosa's contract gives the Cubs an \$18 million option in 2006 with a \$4.5 million buyout. But the contract says that if he is traded, his 2006 salary would become guaranteed and a 2007 club option would be added at \$19 million with a \$4.5 million buyout.

The players' association previously told Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, that voiding the 2006 salary

**QUALITY BUILT** SERVICE BODIES and 2007 option would not not be reached for combe a problem if Sosa is

their rivals 19-11 in the fourth quarter.

traded. "I haven't spoken with anybody about the particulars, but from what I understand in all conversations what was being discussed was cleared a while back," said Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer.

The teams had not finalized a deal, all the execusaid. Selig's approval is necessary because the trade would involve the transfer of \$1 million or more. Sosa also must waive his no-trade

Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie and vice president Mike Flanagan could not be reached for comment. Cubs spokeswoman Sharon Pannozzo could

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ment and Katz declined to comment.

As late as Friday afternoon, the Cubs also were talking to the Washington Nationals about a deal to send Sosa to the new team in the nation's capital.

The Cubs have been looking for a taker for Sosa since the end of the season, when he skipped out on the finale at Wrigley Field.

Sosa initially claimed he didn't leave until the seventh inning, but the Cubs produced videotapes showing him leaving shortly after the game began and fined him \$87,500 - one day's salary.

Baltimore's intensified after the Orioles lost out on Carlos Delgado earlier this week.

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# Longhorns, Aggies continue battle for state's No. 1 recruit

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

**Associated Press Writer** HOUSTON (AP) - With bitter in-state rivals Texas and Texas A&M in a high stakes recruiting battle for Martellus Bennett, the 6-foot-7-inch Alief Taylor tight end has

gotten used to a certain

amount of publicity. But the two sport athlete and state's top recruit knew how far his fame had reached when his 7year-old sister Ashley scrawled the words "The Famous Martellis" in pencil across the counter in his bathroom.

"All this is crazy," said Bennett, who got a chuckle from his sister's elementary penmanship and the misspelling of his name. "My own sister thinks I'm famous now."

"I don't think of myself like that. I'm just an average guy blessed with talent."

The towering 247-pound Parade All-American and basketball standout will sign with one of the schools on Wednesday. It's the first day high school seniors can sign letters of intent.

Bennett knows where he is headed, but in dramatic style, the nation's top tight end is keeping mum until a scheduled Monday announcement on Fox Sports Net.

"I like the suspense," he said. "I think it's cool that everyone wants to know."

He's visiting LSU this weekend, but all indications are that he'll stay in

Bennett caught 42 pass-

games he had 100 pancake blocks in helping run oriented Alief Taylor to the playoffs.

His rare blend of size and athletic ability is unique at the tight end position.

"Martellus is a hybrid type player," said Matt Malatesta, an analyst for the recruiting Web site Rivals.com. "He's huge but very athletic.'

"He has basketball feet at the tight end position. Plus he's got super soft hands so he can catch anything that comes near him. And when he catches it he could potentially take it all the way."

A former defensive end, the kid with a 38-inch vertical jump, relishes his blocking duties.

"They get to hit me all the time so every time I get a chance I'm going to hit them," he said.

Taylor coach Tom Gerber says his size and work ethic have helped him become an elite play-

"He is a great run blocker," Gerber said. "He's got great agility and feet. He's a kid that can put defenses in a tough bind."

Bennett, who is averaging 24 points and 12 rebounds a game for the 21-8 Lions, is listed by Texas Hoops.com as the 10th ranked basketball friend to his sister to his player in the state.

He only considered schools that agreed to let him play both sports.

"He could do both," Malatesta said. "But the question is if his body could withstand both. It

es for 487 yards and in 11 doesn't happen that often. He'll eventually have to choose."

Bennett thinks playing both sports will get keep him in better shape for football and says basketball is good for his coordination.

"There's not that many tight ends that can move like me," he said.

If he picks Texas A&M, he'll join his brother Michael, a defensive end, in College Station. That and the Aggie's recently improved basketball team have people speculating that the Aggies have the inside track.

He caused a stir on his visit to Texas A&M when he led fans at an Aggie basketball game in a cheer.

But some have their money on UT, since Bennett committed to Miami early but decommitted following his visit to Austin.

Bennett, who fancies himself as a chef and wants to open a restaurant after he's done playing, used his recruiting travels to trade cooking tips with the wives of a couple of coaches.

He said Brown's wife's cookies were the best, but to be fair, he added that Franchione's wife makes a mean chocolate cake.

Everyone from his girldad thinks they know where he's headed.

But it looks like his secret is safe until Monday, since Bennett says the only one who knows is his dog Fluffy. And she's not telling.

# HAWK **HAPPENINGS**

· Listen to "Hawk Talk" on the second and fourth Monday each month at 9 a.m. on KBST/1490. The featured sports are men's and women's basketball. The radio program provides the latest updates on the athletic teams.

 The Hawk rodeo team begins its spring season March 10-12 at Weatherford College.

 The Hawk women's basketball team dropped a conference game this past week against New Mexico Junior College and is 11-10 overall. Howard takes on Odessa College Monday in Odessa before hosting Midland College Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Both games will start at 6 p.m.

 The Hawk men's basketball team got home conference wins against New Mexico Junior College and New Mexico Military Institute last week. The team is currently 17-3 this season and 3-1 in the WJCAC Conference. Howard takes on Odessa College Monday in Odessa before hosting Midland College Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Both games will start at 8 p.m. Midland College has also begun the conference season 3-1.

 Ticket prices ... Adults \$5 and students \$3. All employees, employees' families, students and senior citizens get in free. Sign the pass list in the foyer.

· Hawk Flight Club ... \$25 per individual or \$50 per family. Senior citizen memberships are \$20. (seniors receive free admission to the games).

Howard College Sports Hotline: 264-5169

**Howard College Website:** www.howardcollege.edu/athletics

> WJCAC Website: www.wjcac.com

# (All Prices Have Been Reduced)

2001 Pontiac Grand Prix SE 4-DR. - Silver, V-6, local one owner.

\* \* \* Must Go Preowned Vehicles \* \* \* Cars \* 2001 Ford Crown Victoria - Silver w/leather, one owner w/40,000 miles. Must Go Price \$10,995 Was \$14,995 2000 Ford Focus Wagon SE - Silver, all power. Must Go Price \$5,995 Was \$7,995 2000 Ford Taurus SE - Red, cloth, all power\_64,000 miles. Must Go Price \$6,995 2000 Volkswagen Jetta G Must Go Price \$8,995 Was \$12,995 1999 Pontiac Firebird - White, V-6, T-tops, 60,000 miles. Must Go Price \$7,995 Was \$13,995 1999 Ford Crown Victoria - White, all power Was \$9,995 Must Go Price \$5,995 1999 Nissan Maxima GLE - Green, all power, 69,000 miles. Was \$13,995 Must Go Price \$9,995 1997 Mercury Tracer GS - Green, automatic, air Was \$5,995 Must Go Price \$3,995 1996 Mercury Cougar - Green w/tan top Was \$6,995 Must Go Price \$4,995 1996 Oldsmobile 88 4-DR. - Pewter, all power. Was \$6,995 **★ Vans/SUVs ★** 2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver w/cloth, one owner w/37,000 miles. Must Go Price \$17,995 Was \$22,995 2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, all power, one owner w/61,000 miles. Was \$19,995 Must Go Price \$16,995 2001 Ford Explorer Sport 2-DR. 4X4 - Blue w/cloth, all power, one owner 56,000 miles. Was \$14,995 Must Go Price \$11,995 2001 Ford Explorer 4-Dr. XLT - White w/cloth, one owner w/72,000 miles. Must Go Price \$11.995 Was \$17,995 Must Go Price \$10,995 \* Trucks \* 1997 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab - Tan, 3500-8, new tires. Was \$9,995 Must Go Price \$5,995 \* \* \* Program Cars \* \* \* Sale Price \$14,995

2004 Mercury Sable GS - White, all power, 19,000 miles. Sale Price \$14,995 2004 Ford Taurus SES - Tan, all power, 17,000 miles. 2004 Ford Taurus SES - Tundra, all power, 24 valve V-6, 16,000 miles. 2004 Ford Taurus SES - Black, all power, only 9,000 miles. Sale Price \$14,995 Sale Price \$14,995 2004 Ford Focus SE 4-DR. - White, all power, 15,000 miles. Sale Price \$13,995 d ir, local one owner w/20,000 2003 Nissan Sentra GXE Now \$10.995 owned. 2003 Ford Mustang - Black, V

Was \$13.995 Now \$12,995 2002 Nissan Altima 2.5 r, moonroof, w/34,000 miles. Now \$16,995 2002 Nissan Sentra GXE ner w/44,000 miles. Was \$10,995 2002 Oldsmobile Alero GL - Silver, local one owner w/54,000 miles. Was \$10.995 Now \$9,995 Was \$31,995 2002 Buick Century Cus Was \$10,995 2002 Honda Accord EX V-6 Coupe · Beige w/leather, moonroof, all power, local one owner w/21,000 miles. 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Arizona beige w/maroon carriage top Was \$15.995

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NOW \$8,995 2001 Nissan Maxima GLE - Tan, leather, moonroof, all power, locally owned w/41,000 miles. Was \$17.995
2001 Ford Mustang V-6 - White, w/cloth, automatic, all power, locally NOW \$16,995 2001 Oldsmobile Alero GL - Red, one owner w/62,000 miles NOW \$8,995 2000 Lincoln Town Car - White w/leather, all power, one owner wned w/58,000 miles. NOW \$5,995 w/only 31,000 miles. NOW \$18,995 2000 Nissan Altima SE - Brown w/cloth, moonroof, all power, nice one owner car w/46,000 miles. NOW \$11,995 1999 Buick Regal LS - White, cloth, all power, local one owner w/71,000 miles. NOW \$7,995 Must Go Price \$4,995 1999 Chevrolet Prism 4-DR. - White, one owner w/61,000 miles NOW \$5,995 1999 Nissan Maxima GXE - Tan, w/cloth, all power, local one owner w/44,000 miles NOW \$11,995 NOW \$4,995 ll power, local one owner 1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue w/61,000 miles.

> NOW \$4,995 1990 Lincoln Car Signature - Tan w/leather, nice car NOW \$3,995 2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/silver, 5.4 V-8, all power, local Was \$20,995 NOW \$24,995 w/54,000 miles. 2003 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT - Black w/cloth, V-8, all power,local Was \$19,995 2003 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White/tan, cloth, 5.4 V-8, all power, one NOW \$19,995 2002 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Blue/tan tutone, 4.6, V-8, all power, one owner w/41,000 miles NOW \$20.995 miles.

Was \$8.995
1995 Ford Taurus GL - Tan, all power, local one owner w/75,000 miles.

1998 Nissan Altima GXE - White, one owner w/51,000 miles.

2002 Chevrolet C1500 S leather, one owner, loade NOW \$16,995 all power, 5.4 V-8, one owner 2002 Ford F150 Supercab 2001 Ford 150 XL - White, V-8, 75,000 miles. NOW \$9,995 2002 Chevrolet Suburban L.S. - Blue w/cloth, all power, dual air, local one Was \$10,995 2000 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE Ext. Cab - Maroon, V-8, all power, locally owner w/18,000 miles. Was \$15,995

**★ 3/4 Tons & 1 Ton Pickups ★** 2004 Dodge Ram 3500 Quad Cab HO-T Diesel Dually - Red, all power, Was \$17,995 very nice diesel dually, one owner w/13,000 miles. NOW \$34.995 Now \$9.995 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Diesel - Gray w/leather, short wheel base, extra clean one owner w/19,000 miles. all power, local one owner 2002 Ford F350 C/C Lariat Diesel 4X4 - Black/silver w/leather, one owner. Was \$25,995 NOW \$9,995 2001 Ford F350 Supercab Dually XLT- White w/silver, clean, 67,000 miles. NOW \$19.995 4 Diesel - Leather, loaded, local Was \$20,950 2001 Ford F250 C/C Plants ly owned, beautiful 4X4 1999 Ford F250 Supercab Diesel XLT - Maroon w/cloth, clean diesel

\* \* \* Small Pickups \* \* \* 2002 Ford Ranger XLT F Was \$10.995 owner w/53,000 miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995 1998 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Sierra Gold, 4 cyl., 5 speed, air, one owner w/42,000 miles. Was \$9,995

1997 Chevrolet S-10 - White, 4 cyl., automatic, V-6, one owner w/63,000 NOW \$3,995 1994 Ford Ranger Su w/72,000 miles. NOW \$6,995 1993 Isuzu P/U W/Shell - White, nice economic pickup.

NOW \$4,995 \* \* \* SUV's. Vans. Motorcycle \* \* \*
2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 S - Tan, cloth, dual air, local one owner w/17,000 NOW \$22,995 2003 Yamaha R6 YZF - Silver/black, only 3,000 miles.

2003 Chevrolet Avalanche Z-66 - Charcoal metallic, cloth, XM radio, 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/leather, loaded, one owner 2w/45,000 miles. Was \$24,995 15,000 miles. Great Buy!!! 2002 Cadillac Escalade AWD - Sandstone w/sandstone leather, fully loaded,

local one owner w/40,000 miles. 2002 Chrysler PT Crui - I w/leather, moonroof, all power local one owner w/34,000 to NOW \$13,995 2002 Mercury Mountaineer 4X4 - Blue w/leather, all power, local one owner w/40,500 miles. 2002 Mercury Mountains w/54 000 miles.

NOW \$18,995 2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - White/beige tutone, all power, local one NOW \$21,995 owner w/51,000 miles. NOW \$17,995 2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver, cloth, dual air, 3rd seat, local one owner 2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver, cloth, all power, one owner w/31,000

LT Z71 4X4 - Pewter, On-Star Was \$22.995 2002 Ford Explorer Special Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995 2002 Toyota 4 Runner SR5 - Pewter, loaded, local one owner w/37,000 miles NOW \$18.995 Was \$23,995 NOW \$22,995

2001 Nissan Pathfinder SE - Green, GPS, DVD, very nice, one owner

w/53,000 miles. NOW \$16,995

2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, fully loaded, dual air, 3rd seat, local one owner. Was \$19,995 2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, one owner. NOW \$18,995

2001 Lincoln Navigator - White/tan leather, loaded, we sold it new -talk to the customer Was \$20,995

NOW \$24.995 2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Slate green/beige, leather, dual air, 3rd seat, all power, local one owner w/59,000 miles. NOW \$18.995

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267-7124

By Karen Uhlen (KRT)

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Weekend Edition, January 29-30, 2005

# When losing is everything One woman's story

By Karen Uhlenhuth

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — For the first 14 years of their marriage, Michele and Ed Hopkins celebrated their anniversary with a weekend in Kansas City. There were picnics with cheese and wine. They shopped for after-Christmas bargains at Williams-Sonoma, taking home boxes of chocolate-peppermint bark. And they ate Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

"We'd get 'em when they're hot,' Michele said. "They take them straight out of the oil and plop them in your box, and they melt in your mouth.'

Their 15th anniversary that January would be different.

Michele, now 43, was about to say goodbye. Goodbye to the old Michele, goodbye to the food she loved - the Krispy Kremes, the chocolate-covered cherries, the wonderful Hollandaise sauce.

For a woman who was passionate about food, this breakup promised to be the most wrenching one of her life. She prayed that it would stick. Michele was

tired of living as a fat lady. Since her late teens, it's what she'd known. About a year ago, the 5-foot-5inch Topeka, Kan., woman had weighed 274 pounds, and she wasn't enjoying life like she should. She skipped the second part of "The Lord of the Rings" because it hurt too much to squeeze in between the theater-seat armrests. If she didn't ice down her swollen knees and lie down for 10 or 12 hours after exercise, she couldn't walk the next day.

She'd tried to slim down.

"I went to the Weight Loss Center," Michele said.

"I went to Jenny Craig. I went to my doctor numerous times. He always said, 'Eat less, exercise more.'

"I did the Cambridge diet. I did five or six herbal things, multilevel things that my friends were involved in. I did Richard Simmons, Suzanne Somers, the Pritikin diet. I did the Weigh Down Diet through my church. I did 'Free to Be Thin' through my church. I went to Overeaters Anonymous. I did Atkins, Scarsdale, I did Dr. Whitaker's diet. The grapefruit diet. The cabbage soup diet. I tried Dexatrim.

"I tried a thing called AYDS gum. That was for your appetite. I tried Metabolife. I did fen-phen. Mixed berry fruit drink. I did Medifast and NutriMed. Seven hundred calories a day. And that was besides any diet I found in Family Circle or Woman's Day. I would do it for an extended time and do a lot of exercise."

After all that, she asked her husband, Ed. "Are you sure I tried hard enough?" Hard enough to chuck the pills and diets and meal replacements? To try one last, drastic measure? To walk away

from one of the great loves of her life and have her insides rearranged? Gastric bypass surgery — arguably a complicated, risky procedure - was

what she had in mind. If that didn't help her, she said, "There isn't anything else.' Treating the problem surgically was far from risk-free. Both Ed's and

Michele's parents opposed the procedure at first, having heard and read about complications and deaths. Ed, now 59, feared he might be left to raise three young boys alone.

The boys worried that even if she survived, she'd be a different person, maybe too busy at the gym to spend time playing with them.

Michele prayed for wisdom and eventually arrived at "a real peace that this was the right thing to do.'

In 2003, she began to plan for gastric bypass surgery, one of several surgical treatments for obesity. She went to three support groups for obesity-surgery patients. At Truman Medical Center in a room full of people weighing 400, 600,

800 pounds, she felt almost trim. Seeing so many people on down the road that she herself was traveling was chilling.

She settled on the Bariatric Center of Kansas City, in Overland Park. Physicians Stanley Hoehn and Thomas Hitchcock did their first bariatric surgery in 2002 and their 240th procedure just recently. Demand has grown steadily here, as across the country. An estimated 40,000 bariatric surgeries will be performed in the United States this year, double that of five years ago.

Women who exceed ideal body weight by 20 percent double their risk of breast cancer. Attempts to lose weight using diet and drugs fail in 95 percent of cases. One in 200 gastric bypass surgery patients across the nation die from the operation. On average, people lose 75

percent of their excess body weight after gastric bypass. After the procedure, in which about 90 percent of the stomach and a section of the small intestine are removed, the tiny "pouch" that remains in place of the stomach can accommodate only a couple tablespoons of food.

"But you can stretch it if you try," Hitchcock told the group.

Michele knew she'd have to change her mindset. In fact, she already knew what she'd do and had even begun tinkering with recipes to tailor them specifically for people who've had gastric bypass surgery.

Thirteen

before the surgery, getting psyched for "the big game" was what Michele was doing during lunch at a Chinese restau-

days

"This rice, I'm not going to eat rice two weeks from now because it will swell up. And crab rangoon, I won't be eating that," Michele said. Ditto for Baskin Robbins ice-cream cake. Soda of

any kind. And chocolate. "I'm having a hard time saving goodbye to chocolate." Gastric bypass surgery is far from risk-free. Estimates of the death rate vary from the widely accepted one in 200 to several times that. It depends on the surgeon and hospital. Gastric bypass patients are at relatively high risk of death and major complications because they are, almost by definition,

unhealthy. Hoehn, Michele's surgeon, said none of his office's 250 weight-loss surgery patients has died. Although Michele and Ed were confident during surgery preparations that all would go well, tension built up in the days before.

Three days before surgery, Aaron, then 5, had said to his mother, "Good morning. I don't think you're going to die from surgery, but Matthew does.

Michele, too, had had her doubts.

"Three days ago she was real nervous about it and second-guessing herself." Ed said moments before Michele would be wheeled into the operating room. "But you have to ask yourself, 'If not this, then what?' " Ed kissed Michele three times, and she was taken away.

Michele swallowed her first mouthful of food 24 hours after surgery. A couple of spoonfuls of broth and sugar-free gelatin were all she could handle. The menu was repeated the next day, and the next, and the next.

A week after surgery she had a poached egg. No salt, just the egg.

"The best egg I ever had in my life," Michele said. Halfway through it, she was stuffed, couldn't eat another bite.

Nine days into her new life, Michele went in for her first check-up with Hoehn. It was weigh-in time, always the first item on the agenda for the office's bariatric patients. A small crowd gathered around for the first week's results, usually a dramatic point in this monthslong process.

"Moment of truth," Michele mumbled as the red digital numbers flashed into triple digits, into the 200s, 250s, 255...256.

"Who's ever lost 17 pounds in a week?" a voice piped up. Sitting on the examining table,

Michele shared her fear with Hoehn, her surgeon. "I'm afraid it will stop."

"It'll slow down," he assured her.

Extremely rapid weight loss generally means losing water and sometimes muscle in addition to fat. It can lead to imbalances in electrolytes such as sodium and potassium.

IT'S GO, GO, GO If Michele Hopkins never sees Winnie

the Pooh again, it'll be too soon. The same for Mickey Mouse. For

decades, she'd worn cartoon characters emblazoned across her chest. Big women seem to be sentenced to a term of public humiliation wearing what Michele calls "the most God-awful clothes in the world.'

But at long last, she has been sprung from the prison of cartoon attire, and everything that went with it, like the debilitating knee pain, the insulin-resistance problems and the derisive looks



KRT Photo/Tammy Ljungblad After loosing 100 pounds, Michele Hopkins displays her size 26 jeans that once were a staple in her wardrobe.



KRT Photo/Tammy Llungblad

After loosing nearly 100 pounds, Michele Hopkins is happy to sit for a new family portrait. Michele sits with husband Ed Hopkins, and sons Aaron, center back, Michael, right and Matthew, lower, front.



Michael Hopkins, 11, gives mom Michele a' big, all encompassing hug the day after her gastric bypass surgery while Matthew smiles.

from teen-age girls.

Everything about her life had been in a state of mostly marvelous upheaval. Today, a year since 90 percent of her stomach and 40 inches of her intestine were cut away, hers is a new life. She's 172 pounds and her sons have noticed. Michael, 12: "She's a lot more ener-

Matthew, 9: "She plays with me more.

People treat her nicer, friends and people she meets.'

Aaron, 6: "She looks nicer." And Ed, her husband: "She's happier now. Even when there is stress, she has

more joy and more peace." The word "energy" has new meaning in Michele's post-surgery vocabulary. By 5:30 or 6 in the morning, she's out of bed and "ready to do something." At first light she's usually out for her fourmile hike. Bedtime isn't until 11 p.m. or so, two hours later than before her oper-

ation. With a 102-pound weight loss behind her, Michele has begun to let go of the image of the old Michele, and started to imagine someone new, possibly even dressed in something sexy. She gave Ed a picture of herself standing in a park with her hands in her pockets. It doesn't sound remarkable, but it was.

"It's the only time I've given him a picture of just me," Michele said. "I wasn't embarrassed. And that's the first time." Michele also appreciates being able "to get up and down like normal," to jump

during a basketball game and to lay

down on the floor for marbles. "My boys say, 'We're so glad you got that surgery.' Michael said, 'I can tell you've lost weight. I can put my arms all the way around you and hold my

wrists.' Gastric bypass patients on average shed 75 percent of their excess weight. Michele passed that point in early October when she weighed about 181 pounds. Somewhere between 12 and 18 months after surgery, two trend lines converge and the weight loss stops. As people get smaller, they burn fewer calories. At the same time, their new gas-



On a visit to the Moon Marble Company in Bonner Springs, Kansas, Michele Hopkins gets down on the floor and shoots a marble as best she can despite her obesity.

trointestinal systems stabilize and they learn to eat more. Eventually they're eating as much as their bodies use, but it's hoped no more.

Michele keeps a rough tally in her head of what she has eaten so she doesn't exceed her self-imposed limit of 700 calories a day. Michele understands the impulse to cheat.

"I was eating carbs for a while," she said. "Chips and salsa when we went out. Then I'd eat the taco shell. I was eating cheese and I got tired of its so I ate some crackers. I thought, 'I'd better quit that.'

Even weighing a respectable 172 pounds, even though she's developed a healthier way of eating and a happier way of living, Michele fears the weight she's lost will find her again.

The fat woman of her dreams is never going away.

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# Big Spring State Hospital

ommunity volunteers rallied during the busiest time of the year to provide holiday magic for our patients at Big Spring State Hospital. Our ALON USA Refinery

workers arrived during crunch time, and their leader, Verna Davis rallied the troops and directed the sorting and wrapping of



gifts, filling fruit bags, writing and stuffing holiday cards and delivering more than 600 gifts.

ALON USA has helped us for four years, but our friends from Ackerly and Lubbock have been providing holiday music at our holiday parties for more than 30 years.

As a side note, the Williams Family and Friends band were recognized as this past year's Friends of the Hospital during the annual **Employee Awards** Ceremony.

Gifts and music are essential for any holiday activity, but our patients need food to make the party festive, and a big thank you goes out to the Ackerly Baptist Church and the Lion's group who show up faithfully each Christmas to help serve refreshments and make sure everyone receives a bag of goodies.

A project as enormous

as this doesn't hum along without proper planning and Suzanne Markwell and Dorothy Sheppard deserve the largest heaping of praise for chairing this wonderful project and shopping for our 150 patients.

If you ever think your Christmas shopping is a chore, you should take lessons from these two ladies as they shopped for more than 150 patients, making sure each patient received two gifts Christmas morning and received the correct size.

But that wasn't enough for Dorothy Sheppard she decided the patients needed something a little early, so she chaired a new project which provided each patient with a package of Christmas cards and \$5.

Of course she wanted it to be extra special so she and volunteer Shirley Bodin showed up one Saturday morning to personally visit with the patients and deliver the early gifts.

There's no way to adequately express how much of a difference these volunteers make and how much they give to help our patients.

The first in a series of Volunteer Donor Luncheon and Tours was Thursday in the Allred Building Auditorium. We are scheduling these in small groups so you can take an in-depth tour of the facility; our administration can properly "thank you" for all your work and thirdly, show you what volunteer

funds have made possi-

We hope the tour will answer some of the questions you might have on patient care, diagnosis, treatment and services.

Our Valentine's fundraiser is well underway, and we have 15 outstanding items offered at terrific prices. Stop by the **Community Relations** Office, Citizens Federal Credit Union, First Bank of West Texas (Big Spring and Coahoma), and Howard College to view the items. For more information call 268-7536 or 268-7533.

The ever-popular singing telegrams will be delivered Feb. 14. Rumor has it Stacie Barr is assembling a group of singers. I challenge you to join in the fun. There's bound to be something you'd enjoy doing, whether it's singing, creating or delivering valentines. Call the office if you'd like to help

Any business or individual not using a supply of 2005 calendars can donate them to our patients.

Wish someone would enjoy your magazines after you're done? We would. Bring them to the **Community Relations** office for our patients to enjoy. We ask that they are published within the past six months and the content is appropriate for our population.

It's also time to look under the beds and in the storage area and make good use of that extra luggage that's been getting in the way. Bring it by the hospital or The

Chalet Resale Shop. Our patients desperately need luggage to put their belongings in when they are discharged.

A reminder: The Chalet Resale Shop has relocated to 115 E. Second St, across the street from Alberto's Café. Come and check out the bargains and the bi-monthly silent auction item. We welcome your donations, especially household items and furniture. This little shop generates more than \$20,000 annually to help with patient needs.

A special word of gratitude to volunteers Jay and Judy Jarmes for all their diligent work as hospital volunteers. They recently resigned their duties to take on the role of new grandparents. Congratulations on the upcoming arrival of two new grandchildren, but it sure is tough around here without you two.

We were excited to recruit Lucy Griffith as chair of our Family Lodge and Ann Russell, who took over birthday party sponsor duties two spots Judy had faithfully chaired. As the old saying goes, you don't realize how much someone is doing until they are gone. Jay and Judy left many holes to be filled. You are missed and we hope that you will soon find time to come back and help.

(Billie Christie-Morgan is director of community relations at Big Spring State Hospital).

# **Engagement**



Gene Laroy Leonard II and Jessie Kelsay

# Kelsay, Leonard engaged

Herbert and Debra Stonewall Head Start in Kelsay of Fredericksburg Fredericksburg. announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Jessie to Gene Laroy Leonard II, son of Gene Leonard and Juanita Ballard of Big Spring.

Jessie is a 1999 graduate of Fredericksburg High School. She received her bachelor of science degree in agricultural development from Texas A&M University in 2002 and her master's of education degree in agricultural education, also from Texas A&M University, in 2004. She is currently employed the

Gene is a 1999 graduate of Big Spring High School. He received his associate of science degree in sociology from Howard College in 2001 and received his bachelor of science degree in agridevelopment cultural from Texas University in 2004.

currently He is employed by Spearman & Watts Builders Inc. in Kerrville.

The couple will be married March 19, 2005, in Fredericksburg at Tatsch House in Lady Bird Johnson Park.

# Club News

#### **Permian Historical** Society

The executive committee of the Permian Historical Society met recently at the Petroleum Museum in Midland to make plans for the annual spring meeting.

The spring meeting is April 23 at the Petroleum Museum, beginning with "happy hour" at 9 a.m. Happy Hour includes biscuits cooked in a Dutch oven, over an open fire, by biscuit man, Gary Elliott of McCamey.

President McSwain of San Angelo called for a moment of silence for the two longtime members who died in December, Dr. Warren Gardner, editor and Betty Orbeck, board member.

Vice President of programs Bud Lindsey, of Stanton reported he has lined up musical entertainment for the meeting. Vice President of membership Peggy Kelton, of McCamey said that past presidents will be honored and recognized.

Secretary Sue Ann Damron of Big Spring presented the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer Sherry Phillips of McCamey gave a report on the fall meeting and current finances.

Damon Archivist Kennedy of Midland sub-Betty Orbeck on the rafts. board. Longtime member Julia Cauble Smith has calmed the frightened

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SUBWAY

present were Richard Cummins, curator of the Parker House Museum and a member at large of Donna Bell of Rankin.

Each member took a job for the spring meeting and will keep in touch via e-mail to bring it all together.

#### American Legion 19th District

The 19th District will be holding a Four Chaplains Memorial Service at 11 a.m. Feb. 5, 2005 at the American Legion Post 6628 W. 575, Lubbock. The public is invited.

The American Legion 19th District will celebrate a memorial service in honor of the four Army chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save others during World War II. The service is sponsored by the American Legion Post 575 of Lubbock. Officiating will be Post Chaplain Thomas Diebel.

February 3,1943, a German U-Boat sank the USAT Dorchester. As it sank, Coast Guard cutters rescued some 230 soldiers and crew. The troops, many of them badly injured, panicked in the rush to get into overmitted a name to replace crowded lifeboats and

These four chaplains

& Washer - Dryer Conn.

2-3 Bedroom

agreed to take the job of men, distributed life jackeditor. Other members ets to those who had left their own behind and blessed the soldiers as they went over the side. When the life jackets PHS and board member were exhausted, they removed their own and gave them to four soldiers who lacked life belts. . song. They were last seen, arms linked, heads bowed in prayer, on the deck of the ship as it sank beneath the freezing waves. Many of the 230 troops who survived owe their lives to the selfless heroism of the four chaplains.

June 18, 1961, Congress authorized, and the President awarded, a posthumous Special Medal of Honor for Heroism to the four brave clergymen. The nation still honors their gallantry.

An offering will be collected and all proceeds from the collection will be sent to the Chapel of the Chaplains in Four Philadelphia, Pa. For more information, contact the local American Legion Post or 19th Commander District Eldon Erickson at 806-761-4465 (work) or 806-763-5121 (home.)

#### TOPS TX 21

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Leader, Donna Menges called the meeting to order and voiced the opening prayer when Take Off Pounds Sensibly TX 21 met Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehab Center, 306 W.

Third.

All members repeated the TOPS pledge and then the four Keep Off Pounds Sensibly (KOPS) present repeated the KOPS pledge. Shirley Jenkins then led the club in singing the fellowship

Shirley Jenkins read the chuckle of the week titled. "We Must Stop This Immediately." Two inspirational readings were given. Joyce Chelette read, "Special Courage," and Donna Menges read, "The Place That 1 Call

Home."

Gladys Russell read the minutes of the previous meeting and Genay Bertran called the roll. Ten TOPS weighed in and answered with the loss or gain for the week. Cruz Cruz was the best loser of the TOPS and Gladys Russell was the KOPS best loser.

Menges read a letter inviting the six KOPS of this club to attend the area KOPS Honor Society in Coleman in February. Shirley Jenkins reminded members of the State Recognition Days in April

attending. TOPS TX 21 will have a male member graduate and will also be representing the club as their king.

In lieu of a program, members just enjoyed visiting and casual conversation.

For more information about TOPS, call 1-800-392-8677 or locally 263-0391 or

#### Midland/ Odessa **Christian Women's** Club

Midland/Odessa Christian Women's Club will have its monthly luncheon 11:15 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at Green Tree Country Club, 4900 Green Tree Blvd. in Midland. Mary Lou Cassidy, popular book reviewer, actor and public speaker will review one of Erma Bombeck's books. Cassidy has been practicing law for 25 years and was one of five local recipients of the 2004 Jefferson Medallion for Public Service. She is one

in San Angelo and several of the founders of members have voiced Maverick Players, a thetheir enthusiasm in ater group in Midland. Guest speak will be Bob Ramey of Montgomery. Cost of the luncheon is

> \$11, payable at the door. A free nursery is provided at a local church and mothers are asked to bring a sack lunch for their Midland/Odessa Christian Women's Club is nondenominational and

has no membership or dues. All interested women are invited to attend. For luncheon and nursery reservations, call Dean at 263-7456 or Linda at 432-694-7014.

#### Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter, NSDAR

The Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter of the National Society of the Daughter's the American Revolution met Jan. 15 in the home of Regent Katie Lara for its annual business meeting. Those attending

Anne Witherspoon was elected as the delegate to

See CLUB NEWS Page 3C



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**Koby John Nichols** 

oby John Nichols, a boy, was born Jan. 5, 2005, at 5:01 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are John Paul and Kristen Nichols. His grandparents are Wesley and Betty Thixton and Bob and Pam Nichols.

lexis Chere Smith, a girl, was born Jan. 18, 2005, at 6:27 a.m. weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces and 11:26 a.m. weighing 7 was 21 inches long. Her parents are Lauren and Zach Smith. Her grandparents are Kim Carroll of Cleveland and Gail Smith of Colorado City. Pat Her great-grandmother is Carnahan of Coahoma Susan Lawhon-Kraynik and Steve and Judy Park and her great-great of Forsan. grandmother is Margaret Lawhon.

arbara Wittrein, a girl, was born Jan. 16, 2005, at 1:45 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches long. Her parents are Patricia Sullivan of Garden City and David Wittrein of Riverside, Calif. Her **L** was born Jan. 19,

Tanva Beck.



**Nolan Tate Park** 

olan Tate Park, a boy, was born Jan. 8, 2005, at pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long. His parents are Dave and Stacey Park of Forsan.

His grandparents are Jennifer and

His great-grandparents are Theda Carnahan of Coahoma, the late W.C. Irene and Ruby Clanton and the late Henry and Estill Park. He was welcomed home by his sister, Alex and brothers, Ian and Walker.

Faith Arriaga, a girl, grandparents are Robert 2005, at 2:23 p.m. weigh-

and Ila Sullivan and ing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Sonia Leos and Manuel Arriaga. Her grandparents are Eva Leos, Carlos Leos, Alicia Morales and Fernando Arriaga, all of Big Spring. She was welcomed home by Isaiah Manuel Leos.

> Lea Estrella, a girl, was born Jan. 23, 2005, at 10:27 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 1/2 ounce. Her parents are Esequiel Estrella and Christina Kistler. Her grandparents are Paul and Carla Kistler of Big Spring and Joel and Carmen Estrella of Coahoma.



Ryan Seth Payne

yan Seth Payne, a boy, was born Dec. 29, 2005, at 3:04 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long.

His parents are Jennifer Jane Payne and Jason Wayne Carey.

His grandparents are the late Regina Ann Payne, Yvonne Qualls and the late Billy Payne.

# Who's Who

#### Raney, Griffin

Brittney Raney from Big Spring and Daniel Griffin from Coahoma have been named to the Dean's Honor Lists for the fall 2004 semester at South Plains College.

Students named to the Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college-level work with no failing grades.



Steven Daniel Barraza

#### Steven Daniel Barraza

Steven Barraza, 2004 graduate of Sands High School, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Steven maintained a 4.0 grade point average for the fall term. He ran Cross Country last fall for ASU and will run track this spring semester.

Steven is the son of Robin and Debbie Barraza of Ackerly and

the grandson of Joaquin and Mary Barraza of Ackerly and Irene J. Perez of San Angelo.

#### **Brandon Tant**

Brandon Tant of Big Spring has been named a finalist for the 2005 Texas Christian University Youth Texas Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Presented by the Neeley Entrepreneurship Program at TCU, the award recognizes high school entrepreneurs for their successes in business.

Tant is part of the three-member Christian rock band Crimson Soul. The band anticipates the release of a new album in the summer of 2005, with plans to showcase the release to major record labels.

#### Lucciola Gonzalez

Luccila Gonzalez of Garden City was awarded a bachelor's degree in business administration from Sam Houston State University in December 2004. Sam Houston State University is located in Huntsville. For information about the university, please www.shsu.edu.

#### Cassandra Joy Willis

Cassandra Joy Willis of Big Spring has been selected as a scholarship recipient at McMurry University. She is the

Scott Willis of Big Spring. Founded in 1923 by the United Methodist Church and offering bachelor's degrees in the fine arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, business, education and nursing. A senior at Big Spring High School, she was recently featured in Who's Who Among American High School Students for the third

daughter of Joyce and

#### Matthew Andrews

mentary education.

Matthew Andrews of Big Spring was named to the Fall 2004 Honor Roll at Oklahoma State University. A total of 4.240 students were named to the Fall 2004 honor rolls.

time. She will study ele-



Cassandra Joy Willis

# boy, was born Jan. 13, 2005, at 6:47 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. His

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parents are Brittany Escanuela and Ted Martinez. His grandparents are Linda Gonales and Alex Franco, Alex Escanuela Jr., Abram and Barbara Zuniga and Thelolo Diaz.

**Ted Tony Diaz** 

Paid announcemen

#### Club met Jan. 14 with about 60 Nobles, Ladies and guests.

Club president James Hughes opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Treasurer Jack Taylor posted the financial report on the board.

Potentate-elect Dave Smelser talked about the upcoming Potentates Ball Feb. 12 at the Holiday Inn in Midland. The theme is Mardi Gras.

presented Smelser Noble Howard Smith with his 50 year pin.

The Signal Peak Shrine Golf Classic is July 15-16 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The next meeting for the club is Feb. 19.

#### **Teachers Association** The Texas Retired

Teachers Association, District XVII will host a Pre-Retirement Seminar for all teachers and school personnel in the TRS system Feb. 5 at the Abell Junior High School in Midland. This seminar is designed for those planning to retire within the next five years. Resource speakers include TRS representatives, a Social Security representative, investment, legal assistance and insurance speakers.

For additional information, contact Janice Bond,

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# **Club News**

Continued Frm Page 2C

the upcoming 106th annual state conference. Mary Schuelke, Sara Tipton, Carole Lawson and Sue Ann Damron were elected alternates.

The members voted for Librarian Lora Mae Pollard to purchase books for the genealogical section of the Howard County Library in memory of members Doris Lanham and Kathaleen Elliott and member Lola Kelley's husband, Altus Kelley.

Janie Harrison was admitted as our newest member.

The chapter was invited to attend the Armed Service Award Ceremony at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo Jan. 25th.

Members were asked to bring anyone who is interested in becoming a member to our February meeting.

Julia Cauble Smith will be giving a program about the past uses of cloth sacks titled, "Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do or Do Without."

The meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. in the Big Spring Country Club Feb.

#### **Big Spring Shrine Club**

The Big Spring Shrine

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# Wedding location, invitation should reflect bride and groom

hree of the most parks department to let green areas or totem important words for a soon-to-be bride and groom are location, location, and location. And then it's time to move on to invitation, invitation, and invitation. A poorly chosen location can turn the wedding of your dreams into a nightmare: One episode of "Wedding Disasters" will confirm this. Careful planning and lots of help from reliable friends and relatives are probably the best ways to avoid ending up with a very exciting wedding video, but some equally traumatic memories of that special day. In an around Big Spring, our wonderful weather leads many people outdoors afterwards. when it comes time for nuptial ceremonies. And some of the local parks are obvious choices for both a beautiful - and

affordable - setting. "Whatever makes people happy," said Terry Telchik, of the city of Big Spring parks department. The city keeps a rose trellis in Comanche Trail Park just for special occasions, and couples should call the

them know if you want to use it. There is no charge. Similarly, there is no fee for the very popular historic spring site that has lent local flavor to countless weddings. But call and let the city know your plans to avoid doublebooking and ensure maintenance work or trash won't mar your ceremony. Got a larger event in mind? The Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater will hold a crowd. It should be reserved in advance, and it costs \$200 plus a \$200 deposit. Book the nearby Old Settlers Pavilion for only \$25, a location suitable for the wedding and reception

The new Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring, which has a covered area in case of rain, is free, as are all the neighborhood parks such as Jefferson Park,

Telchik said she has heard of weddings being held in many other locations throughout the including Railroad Plaza and

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poles inside the park. Few if any have chosen the golf course, but who knows - for a couple who met on the greens, what more perfect spot to marry?

"Each person chooses their own place, and that's how it should be," Telchik said.

Ron Alton wishes more people would consider Big Spring State Park as a potential wedding location.

"We,ve got an incredible view and all the facilities they need," he said. The view from the top of the bluff is spectacular and unique - and the price is right: Rental of the pavilion at the top is only \$25 for all day. Of course guests without park entrance passes would need to pay an entry fee, but estimate your guest list and Alton will arrange to let you pay as a group in advance.

and reserved, then its on to other important things, such as how to let people know your plans. How you announce the event sets the tone for the entire

wedding, a local expert not anymore."

"From casual to formal, tions might include a

Rebecca Jean Woods C

Current wedding invita-



X Joseph Dale Zimmer

request the honour of your presence at their marriage

on Saturday, the twenty-third of June Two thousand and seven at four o'clock in the afternoon

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Dr. Morgan, ABC and Once you've got the you can tell as soon as Birdwell parks. location nailed down, you see that invitation," said Stacy Barr, whose business By Invitation Only is located inside Elrod's Furniture. "And there are really no limits to the invitation now. There used to be, but

picture of the bride and groom. They might contain embellishments such as ribbons, metallic accents or even feathers. And the most formal might be edged with rich velvet. The most avant-garde couple today might send out DVDs instead of the traditional paper.

Whatever method you use, you should have it chosen about six months ahead of the wedding date, Barr said.

Planning a wedding in Vegas, Aruba or even a Colorado ski resort? Whatever your destinaplenty of time by send. Staff Writer)

ing out "Save the Date' notices three or four months ahead. The wording might read as simply as "Save the Date. We're planning our wedding in Jamaica. Invitation to follow." Barr said the idea is to let people know what's coming so they can make plans. Then the wedding invi-tation will follow about six weeks before the wedding.

Weddings are not just one event, and Barr doesn't stock just one type of invitation, either. There are a myriad of gatherings, from showers to rehearsal dinners to bachelor parties to barbecues that might go along. And each event has its own. unique guest list, and needs its own invitation.

Perhaps you need a casual western-themed invitation for the barbecue, but your mother wants a more formal notice for the bridal luncheon. Let each invitation speak for the event it announces.

And above all, remember, the invitation should say something about the couple and their wedding.

"It is their wedding, and they should have what they want," Barr said, "not what anyone else thinks is right for them." For a look at dozens of invitation styles, contact Barr at Elrod's, 267-8491.

(This article was contributed by Debbie Jensen former Herald"



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reception dinner, you want it to be perfect. It should be delicious as well as beautifully presented.

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By STEVE REA

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Staff Writer

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See BRIGAD

# BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

Page 5C

Weekend Edition, January 29-30, 2005

# Job Inon

# Workforce Network to go 'on the air' for unemployed

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Telethons help all sorts of people with all sorts of needs. The Big Spring Workforce Network has decided to see if they'll work for the unemployed, also.

The local workforce network and other members of the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board will partner with KWES-TV (channel 9) on Thursday evening for the first-ever Job-A-Thon.

The event, which will run from 3 p.m. to 10:30, is an attempt by the workforce regional agency to connect jobseekers with prospective

employers, said Mary Gregg, assistant area manager for the local workforce office.

"We're trying to reach job-seekers, but we're also trying to reach employers, as well," Gregg said.
"We're really encouraging employers to list their openings with us so we can get that information out there for them."

More than 70 job listings are available in the Big Spring area alone, said Carla Gross, business service representative for the local office.

During the telethon, jobseekers can call, seeking information on specific jobs in specific areas.



Mary Gregg, assistant area manager for Big Spring Workforce Network, left, goes over a list of job postings with Business Service Representatives Adrian Calvio and Carla Gross. The Big Spring branch of the Texas Workforce Commission will advertise the openings during its first-ever Job-A-Thon, slated for Thursday from 3 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. on KWES-TV Channel 9.

"You tell them what area." area you're looking in -Stanton or wherever you're looking for," Gregg

Before calling, job-seekwhether it's Big Spring or ers need to register on the workforce's and what type of work (www.workintexas.com). That can be done either at said. "And we'll be able to home, or at the local tell you if we have any workforce office at 310 jobs available in that Owens St., Gregg said.

If representatives have an available listing, they will refer the job-seeker to the specific center which has posted the opening. No confidential information will be released over

the phone, Gregg said. For more information ald.com

on the Job-A-Thon, contact the local workforce office at 263-8373.

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

# Texas Brigades youth camps seeking recruits

exas Cooperative Extension's Texas Brigades is sounding the call for cadets to participate in this year's summer camps. "Our core curriculum for all the camps stresses leadership development and conservation of our natural

resources," said Dr. Dale Rollins, Extension wildlife specialist and originator of the camps. "We fashion these skills into fun and interesting activities that focus on a particular game species at each camp. The game animals form the nucleus of the camps, which typically involve 30 youth ages 13-17 years

YEATER

old." This year's camps are:

— The "Bass Brigade," June 5-9 at, McKinney Roughs near

— "South Texas Buckskin Brigade," June 12-16 at La Bandera Ranch near Carrizo Springs;

 "Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade," June 18-22 at Krooked River Ranch near

Lueders: "South Texas Bobwhite Brigade," June 26-30 at 74 Ranch at Pleasanton; "North Texas Buckskin Brigade,"

July 17-21 at Stasney's Cook Ranch near Albany; and

— "Feathered Forces Brigade," July 24-28 at Pineywoods Conservation Center, Lufkin.

"This marks our 13th year of the Brigades camps, and the level of enthusiasm and commitment among our various camp committees continues to impress me," said Rollins.

'There's a lot of kids out there today contemplating a career in wildlife management. These camps offer such youth a great introduction to what's involved in such a career. The camps also introduce them to a network of wildlife professionals who can be helpful to them on down the road.

While we involve hands-on activities that include hunting and fishing skills, our core message is one of getting today's youth to appreciate or judge with heightened awareness our state's natural resources," Rollins said.

See BRIGADE, Page 6C



KRT photo/Mark Blalek, Detroit Free Press Bert and Theresa Sherman pose in their East Grand Rapids, Mich., home. The couple quit their jobs four years ago and spent 16 months crisscrossing North America.

# Sabbatical proved what they needed: each other

By JOE GUY COLLIER

**Knight Ridder Newspapers** 

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -Bert and Theresa Sherman sit at the kitchen table in their Grand Rapids home Domino's pizza spread across the counter; their dog Shadow, a Lab mix, sprawled out on the linoleum floor.

"He goes everywhere with me," Theresa says. "If I'm in the car, he's in the car."

A few years ago, the Shermans, now both in their 30s, were too busy to take care of a dog. Bert was running his own engineering company. As a manager at Ford Motor Co., Theresa was gone most weeks visiting car dealerships.

With the stresses of daily life mounting, the Shermans decided to take a break. They quit their jobs, sold their house and hit the road, with no set agenda, in a Ford pickup truck and 19-foot camper. They created a sabbatical from work and real

"I wanted to get my priorities

straight," Theresa says. "I wasn't really happy. I loved Bert. I loved success. I loved doing well. But I was never with my husband. I thought. 'I don't want to do this for the rest of my life."

The Shermans aren't the only ones who needed a break. Formal sabbaticals are rare outside the academic sector, but experts say more people in the business world are seeking time to reassess their lives.

They're working longer hours, moving up in their careers and not feeling satisfied, says Mary Lou Quinlan, author of "Time Off for Good Behavior" (Broadway Books, \$23.95). The book tells the stories of 37 women who took time off from work.

"In this modern world, what we're talking about is a remedy so you can get your mojo back," Quinlan says.

When the Shermans decided to take their sabbatical, friends and family told them they were

See SABBATICAL, Page 6C

# Protecting Texas businesses from unfair regulations

by JOSEPH SHEPARD

West Texas small businesses and related associations will have an opportunity Monday to comment on unfair or excessive enforcement actions taken by federal regulators at a Regulatory Fairness Board Hearing in Lubbock.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Regulatory Fairness Board and National Ombudsman will receive comments at Texas Tech University. The public hearing will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Animal and Food Sciences Building, Room 101.

Small businesses are invited to express their concerns and experiences about the

costs and frustrations of complying with federal regulations. Comments from previous hearings have included examples of oppressive inspections, excessive fines, unwarranted penalties, retaliatory behavior, redundant audits and unfair actions taken by federal agencies. After receiving testimony and comments at the hearing, the Ombudsman's Office will perform a high-level review of all substantiated claims. An annual report will also be sent to Congress grading, from A to F, each federal agency's responsiveness to the comments received from the Ombudsman's Office. Congress uses the report to help it monitor the relationship between small businesses and the federal agencies

that regulate them.

The Small **Business** Enforcement Regulatory Fairness Act (SBREFA) of 1996 created the independent Board and Ombudsman. Through this legislation, the President and the United States Congress have authorized the Board and Ombudsman to oversee federal regulatory enforcement activities on small businesses. Congress passed SBREFA because of the vital role small businesses play in creating jobs and growing the American economy.

Improving the regulatory environment in which small businesses operate is heavily dependent on small businesses providing comments about their encounters with federal agencies. To achieve a fair balance between necessary and excessive regulatory enforcement, small business owners must share their experiences, concerns and ideas. If necessary, Congress can then use its lawmaking authority to change excessive enforcement practices that may threaten jobs growth.

To register for the hearing. contact Kay Lewis at the SBA Lubbock District Office by telephone at (806) 472-7462 or e-mail Phyllis.Lewis@sba.gov.

This is the only hearing scheduled in Texas during 2005.

more information For about Board hearings or the SBA Ombudsman's Office. visit www.sba.gov/ombudsman or call 888-REG-FAIR.

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### SABBATICAL

Continued from Page 5C

crazy. People said they would last three months, six months tops, away from the corporate world.

The Shermans held out for 16 months. Today, three years after the trip. their lives are still affected by the time away. They learned how to get by on less money, make more time for each other and slow down long enough to enjoy what's around them.

"Our quality of life right now is 100 times better than it was before." says Bert, who wrote a book about the journey with his wife, "Goodbye Careers Hello American Adventure" (iUniverse, \$14.95).

In 2000, before their adventure, life looked good for Theresa and Bert. Both Michigan State University graduates, they met in East Lansing in 1994 and married four years later.

They had good starts on successful careers. They had moved to the Kansas City area and bought a house.

Bert ran his own oneman engineering consulting firm. Theresa was in charge of retail development at Ford for about 200 Kansas City-area Incoln-Mercury dealerships.

The couple was so busy, they seldom saw each other.

"There were plenty of weeks where Monday morning would come, she'd leave and I wouldn't see her again until Friday night," Bert says.

In March 2000, over dinner one random Friday night, Bert suggested they take a sabbatical. His father, a Michigan State English professor, had taken a sabbatical when Best was a child. Why bey do the same thing?

"I just started laughing," Theresa says. "I thought he was joking."

But in a few weeks, they were convinced it was something they needed to do. They told their families about their intentions over Easter weekend.

On May 1, they put their home up for sale; it sold the same day. They bought a camper and adopted 5-month-old Shadow from a neighbor. They had wanted a dog before but hadn't had time to take care of one.

They set aside \$25,000 for travel; they would go as far as that would take them.

In June 2000, they pulled out of Overland Park, Kan. Not long into the trip, reality returned. At the first stop, about 150

miles into the trip, Bert returned to the truck cab. stunned by rising gas prices. They'd spent \$45 and barely gotten into Missouri. He told Theresa he wasn't sure if they had thought this trip through.

"I about fell out of the truck," Theresa says.

· Their concerns soon eased; their lives wound down. They kept journals. They chatted with locals and fellow travelers. They took Shadow on walks through the woods. They have scrapbooks and albums filled with mementos and photos of their journey — prairie dogs in Nebraska, elk in South Dakota, whales off the Alaskan coast.

They traveled cheaply and simply — stopping at grocery stores to stock up on food and camping mostly at state and national parks. They learned that Wal-Mart parking lots also provide a friendly place for overnight stays.

Along the way, they visited friends all over the United States — Ohio. Montana, Michigan, Alaska and North Carolina. Before the trip was over, the Shermans had crisscrossed North America, heading first up to Alaska, then south along the West Coast. They crossed the continental United States to Florida and drove along the East Coast for fall.

"Every day we would wake up and say, 'Where do you want to go?"" Theresa says.

After a year on the road, the Shermans landed in Wyoming and decided it was time to find work again. "We felt fulfilled," Theresa says. "We were ready to come back."

They also were running out of money in their travel fund.

Grand Rabio ing firm, where he still works.

Theresa landed a job in marketing and customer service with a furniture maker in Grand Rapids. Three months after getting the job, she quit.

"It was structure and I didn't like that," Theresa says. "I wanted to be outside. I wanted to be with Shadow."

On a typical day now, Theresa takes Shadow for a walk, cleans the house, goes to the grocery store and prepares their meals. She takes care of the errands that used to fill their weekends and weeknights.

She also takes art lessons from a neighbor and attends a weekly scripture and current affairs class at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

# PUBLIC RECORDS

Hot Checks/Warrants issued: Javier Alcantar, 1513 Scurry Street,

Lisa B. Aleman, 306 W. First Street, Stanton Roseann Arcidez, 325 Tanglewood, Midland

Colt Arnold, 4505 Cloudcroft, Midland Lorie Avina, 603 Steakley, Big Spring Kerrie Lea Bhuiyan, 538 Westover Road Apt. 257, Big Spring

Stephanie Breckenridge, 1700

Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. O.

Douglas Lee Brown, 205 W. 14th

Wayne V. Carpenter, 3766 Patriot

Stormi Dale Chandler, 309 N.

Bryan/217 N. Bryan, Garden City

Maria Campos, 751 Agua Pesada, El

Mart R. Clem, 10911 Wood Meadow

Andrea Coxey, PO Box 1042, Sterling

Anna Martina Cruz, 2516 Chanute,

James Ditto, 501 W. 17th Street Box

Johnnie Lou Dry, RR 11 Box 156,

Kathi Duke, 337 Greeson Street,

Shannon Fonda, 910 N. Runnels or

Christopher George, 215 S. Third

Kenneth Galindo, 6830 El Paso Drive

Frank Gibbs, 1102 Highway 176, Big

Billy J. Gonzales, 1212 S. Hannah

Martha Graham, 2135 Mossy Creek

Timothy Edward Hansen, 1310 Park

Jeremy Royce Harman, 6713 E.

Charles Henricks, 3710 Connaly

Irene Jimenez Hinojosa, 3910 E.

Sharon Annette James, 1311 W.

Raelynn Jennings, 1904 E. 25th

Tricia Jernigan, 4715 W. Wadley,

Danny Ray Johnson, 2601 N. Lynn,

Erica Marie Letnex Johnston, 3100

Donald Lee Jowers, 3205 E. 11th

Andres Lee Juarez, Rt. 3 Box 389.

Ryan Kendrick, 1425 E. Sixth, Apt.

Robert P. Landrum, 310 E. Palace

Jonathan Lee Lanham, 3708 28th

Diana Marie Luna, 715 Shinnery

Tracy Martin, 3198 Fruitland Farm

Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Road,

Caldera Blvd Apt. 2314, Midland

Erin Jean Hernandez, 2901 Runnels

John A. Hernandez, 4405 N. Garfield

Jonathan Jarrell, 2804 Williams Road.

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Second Street, Big Spring

Big Spring

**Big Spring** 

Lamesa

Rooobinson, Stanton

They spend less money. They drive used cars, a 1997 Mercury Villager and a 2001 Ford F150. They live in a smaller house, a 1,900-square-foot Cape Cod-style home, in a smaller city, Grand Rapids. And they don't bother keeping up with

Theresa does temp work

Shermans decided they

could get by on one full-

Before the trip, they had

a combined six-figure

income. They're making

half what they were

before, but they say they

enjoy their lives more.

time salary.

times, but the

"I wear a lot of T-shirts and sweats," Theresa says. "Jeans is dressing up for me."

the latest fashion trends.

The Shermans spend more time together. Bert comes home for lunch Theresa most days. makes them cold-cut sandwiches. She usually has dinner in the oven when Bert comes home from work, so they have time for an evening walk. They order pizza at least once a week, although Theresa has become picky lately about toppings: She's in the early stages of pregnancy with their first child. Now a plain cheese pizza is most palatable to her.

A pot of fresh flowers sits on their kitchen table. Bert brought them home the other day as a pick-me- up.

The Shermans say they're glad they took the sabbatical. "Now, just having a roof over my head and having a wife and dog and a baby on the way, that's all I need," Bert says.

Theresa says she never thought she'd want to be a stay-at-home wife or mom, but she's changed her outlook on life. "I In the fall of 2001. Bert don't want to go back to applied for a jeb at a the high-stress, fast-paced Wagning Medina, 4000 W. my goal is to do what

makes us happy."

Esiqueio Moreno, 508 SE First Street,

Arthur Ortega, 607 Bristlewood Cove, Cedar Park

Dandra C. Ortega, 2300 Camp Dr. Erica Elaine Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring

Javier Payen, 604 Elgin Street, Big Spring Elva L. Perkins, 2414 N. Anderson Road, Big Spring Zachery L. Phillips, 1300 Parker,

Odessa Lori Ann Pichon, 62159 Sylve Street, Lacombe, La. Nina Powell, Highway 103 East,

Karla Quimby, 1005 W. Debeca, Hobbs, N.M.

Salome Adolph Rios, 2511 Albrook, Big Spring" Mercie Robles, 3702 Hamilton, Big

Spring Evelyn Rodriguez, PO Box 2942 or 5402 Lancaster, Odessa Veronica Rodriguez, 2609 Wasson Road Apt. 9, Big Spring

Jennifer A. Roth, 2630 Dow, Big Debra Ruth, 1311 Mobile Street, Big Wally Shifflet, 6901 Tumbleweed No.

Alexandra Silva, 2700 Ave. G, Snyder Cory Smith, 2101 E. Ninth Street, Odessa Allen Stanford, 774 E. 8th Street,

5. Odessa

Colorado City Karen Stearns, 613 Glenn Apt. 133,

Stephanie B. Street, 2611 Ryan Pl. Dr., Fort Worth Tonya Conner Taylor, 406 Goliad, Big Spring Tracy J. Thompson, 8406 S. Service

Road, Big Spring Terri Lynn Ward Trevathan, 1003-2 County Road 402, Seminole Jacob Unger, County Road 402, Seminole

Myron Dewayne Westmoreland, 2615 Chanute, Big Spring Georgianna Williams, 907 E. 1-20 Apt. 24, Big Spring Richard Wren Jr., 3303 91st Street.

Lubbock David Yanez, 2507 Gunter, Big

Anthony Yates, 1807 1/2 Johnson, Big Spring James Dean Zeigenbein, 9413 University, Odessa Shuang Cheng Zhang, 1201 Gregg Street, Big Spring

District Court Filings: Nicole Marie Gibson vs. Ronny Gerald Gibson, divorce. Connie Lou Flores vs. Daniel Vera Flores, divorce.

Mary Elizabeth Ruiz vs. Chris Ruiz, divorce Mario Linn Grant vs. Judith Michele

Grant, divorce

Carrie Ann Rahat vs. Mohammad Rahat, divorce Amy Lynn Pollock vs. Charles Errol

Pollock, divorce. Sue Ann Ramirez vs. Andrew A Ramirez, divorce.

Centex Home Equity Company vs. ori Borchardt, accounts, notes and

Ervin, accounts, notes and contracts. Linda Michelle Molina, 1545 Locust, In Re: Juanita Marquez vs. In Re.

Was \$25,495.

accounts, notes and contracts Colorado City Debra Montez, 103 N. 18th Street, Big Spring Hospital Corp. dba Scenic Mountain Medical Center vs. Great-West Brigido Moreno, 1330 Powell, Life and Annuity Insurance Co., accounts, notes and contracts.

Marriage Licenses Jimmy Wayne Post, 46, and Didget Lagrita Edwards, 38, both of Big Spring. Cody Eugene Pennington, 19, and Tiffany Ann Emerson, 18, both of Big

Ray Deleon 19, and Joann Dawn Cuellar, 18, both of Big Spring.

Warranty deeds: Grantor: Jesse Garcia Grantee: Elizabeth Garcia Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 18, Washington Place Date Filed: Jan. 18, 2005

Grantor: Steve J. Girby Grantee: Ann Wood Property: Lot 3, Block 16, Monticello Date Filed:Jan. 18, 2005

Grantor: Gay Nell Morgan

Grantee: Gerald Harris Property: The W/2 of the SE/4 of Section 21, Block 33, T-1-N T&P RR Co. Survey Date Filed: Jan. 18, 2005

Grantor: Clyde Montgtomery and

Augusta Montgomery
Grantee: Wally I. Boardley and Carol A. Boardley

Property: A tract out of Sectgion 33, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date Filed: Jan. 19, 2005

Grantor: Toby Hooser and Callie Hooser Grantee: Christopher Lopez and Codie Miller

Property: Lot 9 and a portion of Lot 8, Block 6, Amended Central Park Addition Date Filed: Jan. 19, 2005

Grantor: Julia Jay Grantom Grantee: James Malcolm Grantom II Property: Lot 26, Block 8, Suburban Date Filed: Jan. 19, 2005

Grantor: Loy D. Hahn and Kathryn Grantee: Toby Clanton and Cassie

Clanton Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 5,

Clawson Subdivision Date Filed: Jan. 19, 2005 Grantor: Mary Kuykendall and

Grantee: Steven Dickson

Property: Lots 11 and 12, Block 24, **Boydstun Addition** Date Filed: Jan. 20, 2005 Grantor: Steve Prater and Judy Prater Grantee: Ruth Allredge

Property: Tract 8 out of a 30 acre

subdivision known as the Blackshea addition Date Filed: Jan. 20, 2005 Grantor: Michael D. Towne

Grantee: Floyd Pringle Property: Lot 2, Block 10, Suburban Date Filed: Jan. 21, 2005

Grantor: Adams Legacy Group and Adams Heritage Group Grantee: Stanley Kendall Smith and Christy A. Smith Section 37, Block 34, T-3-N T&P RR

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# BRIGADE

Continued from Page 5C

"One of the inspirational quotations we recite at the camps is the idea that 'one generation plants the tree, and another enjoys the shade.' We like to think we're planting trees."

Five other states currently field similar camps patterned directly from Texas' award-winning camps, Rollins said. The camps are also

sponsored by: the Texas Wildlife Association, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural **Resources Conservation** Service, Quail Unlimited. the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Texas Deer Association, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, private businesses and landowners.

Tuition is \$300 per cadet per camp, but Rollins said cost shouldn't deter applicants.

"We don't want financial hardships to stop any potential cadet from participating in any of these camps," he said. "We have sponsors ready and willing to provide financial aid whenever they are needed."

Applications are available at www.texasbrigades.org and are due by April 15. Mail applications to: Helen Holdsworth, Texas Brigades executive director, 401 Isom Road, Suite 237, San Antonio, TX 78216.

For further information contact Rollins at (325) 653-4576 or e-mail him at d-rollins@tamu.edu or contact Holdsworth, at (800) TEX-WILD or (210) 826-2904, or h\_holdsworth@texaswildlife.org .

Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard

#### \* CARS \*

January Used Car Clearance

2001 Mazda 626 LX - Stk# D132A, Automatic, Power Windows, Doors & Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Dual Front Air Bags, Rear Spoiler.

Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Alloy Wheels. Was \$11.025 2002 Ford Focus ZTS Sedan 4D - Stk# D256, Power Windows and Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels.

1999 Mazda Miata MX-5 Convertible - Stk# D71A, 4-Cyl., 1.8 Liter, 5-Spd. Manual,

Was \$12,115. 2000 Ford Mustang Coupe 2004 Chevrolet Impala Sedan - Stk# D174, Power Windows and Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD,

Power Seat. 2004 Chevrolet Classic · Stk# D145, D224, Automatic, Tilt/Cruise, Power Windows, Locks and Mirrors. 2 To Choose From! NOW \$10,995



Locks and Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995. 2004 Dodge Intrepid SE Sedan 4D - Stk# D114, V6 2.7 Liter, Auto., FWD, A/C, Power

Equipped, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Alloy Wheels. 2003 Pontiac Grand Am- Stk# D163, GT, 4 door, Ram Air, White, Sunroof, Loaded, One Owner, 12,000 Miles! Was \$15,995 NOW \$13,995

1993 Cadillac Allante' - Stk# D122, Red, Black Convertible Top, Only 45,000 One Owner Miles. Was \$18,995 2004 Chevrolet Impala Seda 4 Liter, Auto., FWD. Power Steering/Windows/Door Lock D, Dual Front Air Bags. Was \$18.950...

Power Windows, Doors & Locks, CD w/Premium Sound Was \$19,995. 2003 Cadillac CTS Sedan 4D - Stk# D198A V6, Auto., Power Windows/Lock, CD,

OnStar, Leather, Power Seats. 2004 Cadillac DeVille Sedan 4D - Stk# D222, Brown, Automatic, FWD, Bose Premium Sound, OnStar, Leather, Dual Power Seats, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Dual Power Seats.

#### \* SPORT UTILITY \*

2003 Dodge Durango · Stk# D113, V8, 4.7 Liter, Auto., 2WD, Power Steering/Windows/Door Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Alloy Wheels. 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe - Stk# Da tic, CD, OnStar, Third Seat, Running Boards, Towing Pkg.

\* SPORT UTILITY \*



2003 GMC Yukon - Stk# D233, V8 5.3L Bi-Fuel, CD, Leather, Power Seat, Third Seat, Privacy Glass, Running Boards, Towing Pkg. Was \$29,495.

2004 Nissan Pathfinder Armada SE SUV 4D - Stk# D197A, V8, 5.6 Liter, Auto., 2WD, A/C. Rear Air, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, CD, Dual Front Air Bags, Alloy Wheels. NOW \$28,995 2003 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 SUV - Stk# D244, V8 5.3L Bi-Fuel, Auto., 4WD, Power

Steering/Windows/Door Locks, Tilt/Cruise, OnStar, Towing Pkg. NOW \$31,495 Was \$38,115... \* PICKUPS \*

2001 Nissan Frontier Supercharged Crew Cab - Stk# D216A, V6, 3.3L Supercharged,

2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LS - Stk# D142, V8, 5.3 Liter, Automatic, Power Equipped, CD, Dual Power Seats, Towing Pkg.

Auto, 2WD, A/C, Power Steering/Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Bed Liner.

A/C, Power Steering/Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Dual Power Seats, Alloy Wheels. 2000 Chevrolet Silverado V8, 5.3L, Automatic, 4WD,

2001 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab Short Bed - Stk# D258, V8 5.3 Liter, 2WD,

2001 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Ext. Cab - Stk# D140, V8, 8.1 Liter, Power Windows/Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Roof Rack. Was \$20.995

2000 Dodge 3500 Pickup - Stk# D196, 6-Cyl., Turbo Diesel, Tilt/Cruise, AM/FM Stereo, Cassette, Sliding Rear Windows. Was \$21,995 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab- Stk# D218, Red, V8 6.0 Liter, 4 WD,

CD, Dual Power Seats, Running Boards, Bed Liner, Grille Guard, Towing Pkg. Was \$26,010... 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# E003, V8, 5.3L, Automatic, 4WD, Z71 Suspension, Power Equipped, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels. Was \$26,495.

D254, V8, 6.0L, Automatic, 4WD. Power Equipped, CD w/Pre 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Ext. Cab- Stk# D236, White, V8, 6.6L Turbo Diesel, Automatic, 2WD, Work Truck, Tllt/Cruise, CD, Towing Pkg., Alloy Wheels.

Was \$32,995. NOW \$28,995 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 Crew Cab - Sth# D211A, White, V8 6.6L Turbo Diesel, 4WD, LS, CD, Running Boards, Bed Liner, Grille Guard, Towing Pkg. NOW \$31,995

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Call **Retail Advertising** 263-7331

SPRING HERALD

NEEDED: \*FULL TIME RN

'RN/LVN TO DO PRN VISITS

Home Hospice is growing and expanding. Come join our Big Spring team of caring

professionals, providing end-of-life care in the home setting.

Contact Debbie Read, RN, CHPN (432) 264-7599 fax resume to (432) 264-7597

Competitive salary **Excellent work** environment

an opportunity for you that offers:

Earning potential of \$2500 + per month

Fantastic 401K Plan (150% match)

\$250 training completion bonus

Insurance benefits (medical, dental, and life)

Center, located at 310 Owens St., in Big Spring.

**Operation & Maintenance** 

of Specialized Railway Maintenance Equipment

Loram Maintenance of Way, Inc., a leader in the railway maintenance

industry, is seeking people to operate and maintain its sophisticated rail-

road maintenance equipment. If you have mechanical ability, an interest

in the railroad, and enjoy working with large equipment, Loram may have

Along with having a mechanical aptitude, all applicants must take and

pass a pre-employment physical/drug and alcohol screen. A high school

diploma/GED and a current/valid driver's license is preferred, but not

required. Interested applicants should contact the Texas Workforce

Loram Maintenance

of Way, Inc.

An Affirmative Action/EEO Employer

M/F/V/H

**Employer Paid Ad** 

100% Nationwide travel, Operators will work approximately

6 weeks on the road followed by a 2-week time off period.

Time and a half OT pay -20-30 hours of OT per week

Business related travel and lodging paid by Loram

Equipment

Help Wanted

BUSY MEDICAL Office seeking high energy employee with multi. tasking skills and a self starter. Loves working with patient's and has a caring attitude. Come by 1707 Lancaster, Warren Chiropractic.

STOP & SHOP- Looking for Cashier. Must be able to work nights & weekends. Apply @ store, 1506 East FM 700. No Phone Calls, Please!

**Drivers & Owner Operators** 



All the Miles You Want Many Regional Run Options New Big Pay Increases! Hiring for All Divisions \*Low Cost CDL Training\*

1-866-333-8801 EOE El Paso, TX www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com

HELENA CHEMICAL is now **Concrete Mixer Truck Drivers** Class A CDL. DOT Medical Cards, Drug & Alcohol Screens \$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE Chemical, Stanton, Texas.

Midland International Airport. La Clase concreta de Camineros de Batidora **UN CDL. Las Tarietas Medicas** PUNTEDADAS, la Droga & Alcohol Investiga

Help Wanted

N.C. Sturgeon, LP

Apply in person

2800 Windecker at

\$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE N.C. Sturgeon, LP Aplica en la persona 2800 Windecker en Aeropuerto internacional de region central.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now hiring spray applicator driver; class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful. Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena Chemical, Stanton, Texas.

**West Texas Centers for MHMR** 

proficiency within two years.

Clerk: High School Diploma or GED required. Duties include

maintaining files of confidential materials and avoiding reference

of confidential information, tact in receiving visitors, and judg-

ment in assembling information. Benefits. Salary \$7.28-\$7.71 hr.

\$15,132.00-\$16,044.00 annually. Salary dependent on experi-

ence. Applications may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling

ALONUSA

**Operations Trainee** 

The Alon USA Refinery in Big Spring, Texas has an

Operations Trainee position available. Applicants should pos-

sess one of the following: (1) 60 hours of college credit (2)

completion of a Chemical Process Technician or similar pro-

gram or (3) five years of relevant work experience. All new

hires will be required to progress through a level certifica-

tion program and achieve a minimum Level III certification

Qualified applicants should mail or fax a resume to:

Alon USA

**Human Resources Department** 

P.O. Box 1311

Big Spring, Texas 79721

Fax # 432-263-9366

Equal Employment Opportunity - M/F

Job line at 1-800-687-2769 or www.wtcmhmr.org. EOE

Help Wanted

hiring for a warehouse management position. Some computer and office skills helpful. Excellent benefits, excellent pay. Apply in person to Helena

**Heavy Equipment Mechanic** 2 yrs plus Experience. Welder (must be able to

fabricate) 2 yrs plus Experience. Call Vernon at (432)332-5070 Belly Dump (1yr plus Experience preferred). Valid Class A CDL. Apply in Person. Salary D.O.E.

E.O.E. Jones Bros. Dirt and Paving 1401 S. Grandview Odessa, Texas 79761

IMMEDIATE OPENING for clerk/cashier/cook. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700, Neighbors Convenience Store.

Help Wanted **ROUTE SALES!** 

Books Are Fun is looking for a Independent Contractor Route help in this area. Must own a van & computer. Comguarantee mission \$500/week with potential to increase to \$1000/week in the first year. For info. please visit:

www.booksarefunltd.com (Enter Req# 1121BR) Call: 800-966-8301, x2405

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE Now Hiring LVN's or RN's

Very Competative Starting \* Excellent Benefits including Health Insurance, Retirement Plan, and Vacation

\* Friendly, Family-like environ-Please apply in person @ 2009 Virginia Ave.

NEEDED LVN'S/ RN's for Pediatric hourly case in Big Spring. Full time/ part time positions available. Benefits and Complete competitive pay.

Health

(432)570-8899 or come by

2402 West Wall, Midland.

Home

Help Wanted

America's Air Force Jobs available in over 150 careers plus:

\*Enlistment bonuses for certain careers \*Up to \$10,000 student loan repayment

\*Up to 100% tuition assistance \*High tech training High school grads age 17-27 call 1-800-432-USAF

AIRFORCE.COM

U.S AIR FORCE **CROSS INTO THE BLUE** 

**NEED MACHINE** maintenance person with hydraulic and electrical basic knowledge. Person needs to work with schematics. Competitive salary and bene-Fax resume 432-354-2669.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone

**NURSING PROFESSIONALS NEEDED** 

Care,

Registered Nurse

 Licensed Vocational Nurses Certified Medication Aides · Certified Nurses Aides

We offer an excellent salary and benefits are available. If you are a person dedicated to providing quality care please send a current resume or contact:

Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation, L.P. 1100 West Broadway, Stanton, TX. 79782 PH: (432) 756-2841 FX: (432) 756-2190

For other job opportunities please visit our website at www.daybreakventure.com

**AUTOMOTIVE TECH -**Earn up to \$23.50 per commission hour

Based on ASE Certification + Monthly Bonus Plan LINE TECHNICIAN OPENING

·Paid Sick Leave

**Excellent work environment** Benefits: ·Medical Insurance ·Prescription Card ·Paid Holidays

-401K Plan Call Lynetta Pape 1-800-992-8788, Ext. 443

·Paid Vacation

or 505-397-2411 1501 N. Grimes · Hobbs,

Automation Technician - Andrews, Texas

Lead Field Tech responsible for all aspects of design, installation and maintenance of field automation equipment. Strong knowledge of PLC programming, installation and troubleshooting end devices, radios, pneumatic instrumentation, and installation and maintenance of production equipment required. Please send resume to: atech@umcautomation.com

Applications Engineer - Andrews, Texas

Prepare quotations, estimate material and labor cost, and delivery time for Vapor Recovery Units and Compressor Packages. Calculate compressor and horespower requirements for each project based on customer specifications. Supervise drafting department and oversee design of mechanical, electrical, and structural design of various types of compressor packages. Prepare Bills of materials for purchasing and fabrication. Work with customers and engineers to insure proper design and fabrication of equipment. Please send resume to: appeng@umcautomation.com

Electronics Assembler - Andrews, Texas

Responsible for board level assembly of electronic devices. Requires detailed soldering, handling and identification of electronic components. Please send resume to: eleca@umcautomation.com

**PRODUCTION** 

**FOREMAN** 

Samson, a large, aggressive, independent energy company with both domestic

Job responsibilities include supervision of construction projects and performance

of facilities maintenance, as well as responsibilities for production operations in

Samson offers an attractive compensation and benefits package. Qualified candidates are invited to apply online at www.samson.com or send their resume

SAMSON

Dept. HR - GP 1/05 Two West Second Street

Fax: (918) 591-1704

Email: samsonhr@san

Samson is an equal opportunity employer and promotes a drug free environment. Due to ever reasing required record-keeping and reporting requirements, our policy is not to accept unsolicit applications or resumes or applications or resumes that do not meet minimum qualifications.

Unsolicited applications and resumes and applications and resumes that do not meet minimum

For information about other employment opportunities please call Samson's Job Line at 918-591-7500.

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3103

Web Site: www.samson.com

and international operations, is seeking a Production Foreman for its Midland

Looking for motivated team players. Great benefits including 401(k), paid vacation & holidays, and medical/dental/life insurance.

Email preferred, but may FAX resumes to: 432-897-4203 or MAIL: PO Box 113 · Andrews, Texas 79714

5+ years general field production experience

Surface production and equipment experience

Workover rig and hydraulic fracturing experience a plus

the District.

Qualifications include:

Field supervision experience

· Good math and mechanical aptitude

Good driving and safety record

AUTOMATION

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Payroll Savings

"Sign on Bonus to the right person"

The fastest growing #1 volume Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, **GMC, Cadillac Store in West Texas** 

Call Bob Bolin 866-836-2693

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**Automotive Sales** 

\*Top Pay

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#### Help Wanted

Driver JOB FAIR Land Span Inc. Team Specialist expanding fleet size in the El Paso area. Hiring Experienced OTR. Company and Contraactor TEAMS

Please call our recruuiters at: 800-695-9643 for information on this up coming event.

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Mystery shoppers wanted in your area. Only experience needed is ability to shop. FT/PT Make own hours. Valid Email required. (800)454-0486.

#### Instructional

**XRAY TRAINING** Midland, Texas T.D.H. Registered

LEARN HOW TO PERFORM BASIC XRAYS AND BECOME AN N.C.T. RADIOLOGY TECH. THIS IS AN '8' WEEK STATE APPROVED COURSE. AFTER COMPLETION OF THESE COURSE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM BASIC XRAYS. THIS IS 125-HOUR COMPREHENSIVE COURSE **REGISTRATION IS** UNDERWAY SCHOOL STARTS: MARCH 19, 2005 DAYS -- SAT. / SUN.

TOTAL COST OF COURSE \$1000 A \$500. NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF APPLICATION. FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: BECKY BRALY, RADIOLOGY DIRECTOR WK. 806-675-8729

TIME -- 9AM-5PM

#### AFTER 5PM CALL 806-470-5051 Items for Sale

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR-\$1200.00, high porch ramp-\$800.00, electric scooter-\$500.00, and threshold ramp. All items for handicapped. Call (432)394-4675 or 270-8330.

We Finance

997 1500 Shortwide

#### Jobs Wanted

WILL SIT with the Sick or Elderly. Need transportation to the job sight. Call (432)264-6092 or leave message.

#### Miscellaneous

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarious. 10% Discount on Arches, Candelabras, florals w/cake order. Grishams (432)267-8191.

#### National Ads

\$\$ FREE MONEY \$\$ for 2005! Private-Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay. Live Operators. Approx. \$49 billion dollars unclaimed 2004. 1-800-410-2613 ext. 31

**GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILD-**LIFE / POSTAL \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience Necessary. Toll Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100.

#### On the Farm

WANT TO buy or rent farm land- Martin, Howard, Glass-Midland counties. 30+ years experience. Jerry Hollo-(432)459-2499 way, (432)559-3664.

WANT TO rent farmland in Howard or Glasscock County. (432)398-5271 270-5001.

#### Pets

Full Blood. 3 Males, 6 weeks old, with shots. Just looking for a good home. \$250.00 each. Call (432)264-9026.

**BOSTON TERRIER** puppies-

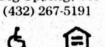
#### Real Estate for Rent

1102 SYCAMORE. One bedroom, one bath. No pets. Call (432)267-3841, 517-0642.

> 1,2&3 **Bedrooms** Rent Based on Income

#### NORTHCREST **APARTMENTS**

1002 North Main Big Spring, TX (432) 267-5191



WHY PAY RETAIL WHEN YOU CAN BUY WHOLESALE DIRECT

Wholesale Auto Brokers

403 W. 4th · Big Spring · 432-267-2285

Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark

1998 Ford Ranger - Ex. Cab, V-6, Automatic, 65K.

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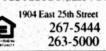
#### Real Estate for Rent

#### Caaaaaaaaaaa LOVELY **NEIGHBORHOOD** COMPLEX

Swimming Pool Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen

Discounts, 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths

#### Unfurnished KENTWOOD **APARTMENTS**



Connector BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD Swimming Pool Private Patios Carports

 Most Utilities Paid Senior Citizens Discount

Appliances

•1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE

**APARTMENTS** 263-5000

1400 Sycamore- 3/1 bath. \$475. month \$250. deposit 407 1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath. \$275. month \$150. deposit Both have CH/A. Call (432)267-2296.

1410 HARDING Street. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, w/game room, carport, large fenced-in backyard. No inside pets. \$425. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)267-6667.

1505 TUSCON. Four bedroom, two bath, CH/A. (432)270-3848.

1903 GREGG St. for rent. Great office or retail space. \$375/month plus deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

#### Real Estate for Rent

2106 Nolan. Two bedroom, one bath, \$225. month, \$150. deposit. Also 1204 Lamar. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$285. month, CH/A. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2600 CARELETON. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Central Heat/Air, appliances furnished, fenced backyard. Nice Neighborhood. \$450. month \$300. deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

2604 ENT. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, New paint/ carpet. References. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. accepted. (432)267-7449.

3/BEDROOM brick, fenced, air, view. \$325.00. Zero pets. Non smoking. Nice home for less rent. Good credit background required. McDonald Realty, (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

3/2 WITH garage. Gourmet kitchen with built-ins. Forsan ISD, 2406 Cheyenne. \$650. month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

3904 HAMILTON, 3 Bedroom 1-1/2 bath, CH/A. \$400. month. deposit.

#### (432)267-7449. 623 CAYLOR

Possible 4 bedrooms, 2 bath Stove & Refrigerator furnished Washer/ Dryer connections Fenced backyard Deposit \$100. Rent \$450. Call (432)267-2112 Leave message.

900 SCURRY. 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. \$385.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681

CLEANEST 1 Bedroom in town. \$300. Month, \$150. deposit. No pets. References re-Carport. auired. (432)213-2319.

CORNER LOT 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, freshly painted, fireplace, CH/A, dishwasher, fenced front & back yard. Very Nice. Call (432)263-4528, (432)296-0277.

#### **CORONADO HILLS APARTMENTS** (432)267-6500 801 W. Marcy

Big Spring, Tx 79720 **During Months of** December and January. Move in for \$199.00 or \$299.00.

FOR RENT: 800 1/2 Nolan. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

**HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 403** 

E. 8th Street. Spacious 1 Bedroom's. Furnished & Unfurnished. All bills paid. \$400.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2771. MIDWAY AREA 2 bedroom, 1

Fenced yard. Deposit and refrequired. 1 Call (432)267-5952. RENT TO OWN 4 bedroom, 2

bath mobile home. Private lot.

bath, fenced yard. Washer & dryer hookups. 1508 Wood. \$1.500. down, \$289. month.

538 Westover

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

**Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options** 

\$299 Such As ALL BILLS PAID
MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. Such As ALL BILLS PAID

**OPEN SATURDAY** 

ng Assistance Accepted

#### Real Estate for Rent

SPECIAL DISCOUNT to qualified tenants on long term lease. 902 Birdwell, newly remodeled, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, stove/ refrigerator furnished, fenced yard, washer/ dryer hookup. \$550. month. Lease to Own an Option. Call (432)270-5001.

> SUNSET RIDGE (432)263-2292 Near SWCID, Scenic Mt. & Cornell Facilities Call Today

#### Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1002 BIRDWELL Brick House: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, large kitchen with self cleaning electric stove, large closets, storage. Near Washington School. \$52,000.00. (432)394-4675, 270-8330.

1612 BLUEBIRD. Owner Financing. Buy for \$277.00 month or Rent \$375.00 month. Call (432)264-9907.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set for Doublewide. 45K. \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. Call (817)312-6322.

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath house on 40 acres for Sale, w/barn and work shop, in Coahoma School District. \$224,000.00 For appointment call (432)263-0658 or 816-9565.

I'M MAD ... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EM-PLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORT-(254)947-4475. www.homeland46.com

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call (432)263-3461.

RENT to OWN. 4 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer and Dryer Connection with fenced yard. 1516 Wood. \$1500. down, \$289. month. Call (432)264-6611.

SMALL PARTIAL land for sale. 5 miles south of Big Spring & 1,3/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance Veterans. Texas (432)263-8785.



home. 2150 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, office, 2 living areas, ash cabinets, fireplace. Gazebc. 2 storage bldgs:, 3/4 acre, secluded. Lovely yard. \$105,000. Call (432)263-4080.

TWO BEDROOM, one bath home. Large backyard. New roof & siding. Close to VA. Call (432)267-3564

#### Real Estate for Sale

USE YOUR TAX REFUND. 2405 Main Street. 2/1.5/1 New carpet and plumbing. Newly remolded bath. CH/A. \$1400.00 Down, \$321.00 month for 30 years. FHA. Owner pays closing. Call (432)264-7969.

#### Vehicles

'04 Freestar Vans \$6000 Available Rebates **Bob Brock Ford** 500 W. 4th 267-7424

1992 CHEVROLET 1500 V6, 5 speed manual. AM/FM stereo w/CD player, power windows, cruise control, step-side short \$3,750.00 OBO. Call (432)394-4106.

2004 CHEVROLET Z71 crewcab, 11,000 miles, grill guard, steps, bedliner, tinted windows. (432)398-5271

FOR SALE, handicap van. 1998 Ford Conversion E-150. Wheelchair lift, hand controls, remote door opener. More information call (432)264-7884.

#### Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING 310 Nolan Street Big Spring, TX 79720-2657

(432)264-2513 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 7, OF THE BIG SPRING CITY CODE, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 6-146 (A), (B) AND (F): INCREASING AN-NUAL GREEN FEES AND REVIS-ING TWILIGHT DISCOUNT RATES AT THE COMANCHE TRAIL GOLF COURSE; PROVID-ING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR PUBLICATION. TAMI MATTHEWS

ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY #4443 January 30 & February 6.

#### NOTIFICATION

Sealed proposals, address to Sandra Waggoner, Assistance Superintendent for Business, Big Spring Independent School District, Business Office, 708 Eleventh Place. Big Spring, Texas 79720 for "Electrical Upgrades At Bauer, Goliad And Washington Schools" will be received up to and no later than 2:00 pm local time, February 22, .2005. At this time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Quoters may obtain co of Contract Documents at the Big Spring ISD Maintenance Office. 3600 East 11th Place, Ext., Big Spring, Texas 79720.

As set forth in the Texas Education Code, Section 44.031(b) the following Criteria may be used to determine the award of the con-

2. The qualification and reputation of proposer. 3. Quality of the contractor's pro-

posal. 4. The extent to which the goods or service meeting the school district's

needs 5. The Proposers past relationship with the school district. 6 The technical aspects of goods

and services in the proposal. The total long-term cost to the District to acquire the goods or

8. Any other relevant factors that a private business entity would consider in selecting a vendor.

The Big Spring Independent School District has the right to reject any or all bids. #4439 January 30 & February 6.

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# FOR SALE

# **No Down Payment**

**OWNER FINANCING** 

**Bad Credit O.K.** 

2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes

**Call Beverly 263-3461** 

# **Ponderosa Apartments**

- A Nice Place For Nice People
  - All Utilities Paid
- One Bedroom 820 sq. ft,
- Two Bedroom One Bath 1080 sq. ft.
- Two Bedroom Two Bath 1280 sq. ft. • Three Bedroom Two Bath - 1800 sq. ft.
  - 1425 E. 6th 263-6319

#### Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch-off games will close on March 2, 2005. You have until August 29, 2005, to redeem any tickets for these #446 WEEKLY games: GRAND (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.56, #453 TRIPLER BINGO (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.05, #454 \$35,000 CROSSWORD (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.12, **#474 VEGAS NIGHTS (\$10)** overall odds are 1 in 3.29, #477 LIFE IN THE CASH LANE (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.07, #490 WILD 8'S (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.77. In addition, #499 SET FOR LIFE (\$10) with overall odds of 1 in 3.49 will close March 14, 2005. Players have until September 10, 2005, to redeem any tickets for the SET FOR LIFE game. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed

Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service 1-800-37-LOTTO or visit the

Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch-off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. Play Responsibly. Remember, it,s just a game. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education by contributing to the Foundation School Fund.

#4437 January 30, 2005

#### BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Ask not what the body of human knowledge can do for you; ask what you can do for the body of human knowledge. A day spent dreaming, scheming and inventing is a day well spent while Mercury transits through Aquarius. Contributing to the intellectual fabric of society starts by solving the simple problems in your own life!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do what you must to feed your romantic life. This should feel more like fun than work, but either way, it's important to just do it. When you're not expecting a response, you'll get the best one ever.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's still more studying to do, but what you already know will begin to pay off in some way, too. You'll be asked to give a repeat performance. If you do, you shine even brighter than before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Work will call to you, but

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

IN THE NAME AND BY THE

AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF

TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY

if living, and if any or all of the

above named Defendants be dead.

the unknown heirs of the unknown

heirs of said above named per-

sons, and any and all other un-

known owners or persons, includ-

ing adverse claimants, owing or

having or claiming any legal or eq-

uitable interest in or lien upon the

following described property delin-

quent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes,

Lot Three, the North half of Lot

Four, and the West half of the

South half of Lot Four, Block 12,

Jones Valley Addition, City of

Big Spring, Howard County,

Which said property is delinquent

to Plaintiffs for taxes in the follow-

ing amount: \$2,929.73, exclusive of

interest, penalties, and costs, and

there is included in this suit in addi-

tion to the taxes all said interest,

penalties, and costs thereon, al-

lowed by law up to and including

You are hereby notified that suit

has been brought by Howard

County, et al as Plaintiffs, against

JUANITA SANCHEZ as Defen-

dant(s), by petition filed on the 26th

the day of judgment herein.

**GIVEN AS FOLLOWS** 

to wit:

Texas.

TO: JUANITA SANCHEZ

# don't answer that call - you

Tomorrow's Horoscope

need your rest more. Keep understanding loved ones close by. Low-key fun will be restorative. Laughter is your spiritual retreat.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Powerful people surround you, but unless you can connect with them mentally and emotionally, you won't be able to tap into their mojo. So make an effort to get on the same wavelength with your fellow man.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your approach to getting your life together today includes so much wishful thinking, you may as well be rubbing Aladdin's lamp in hopes that a genie will pop out. Lucky for you, magic does really happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). See the positive side of selfindulgence. Cravings or obsessive thought patterns are a sign-that a basic need has yet to be met! If you satisfy the need, your symptoms finally abate, and you can get back to giving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

The list of things that must be done today is endless. If you really took the time to write it out and look at it, you might be paralyzed in a state of wondering what to do first. So wing it for a few hours before you make a for-

mal plan. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The creative well is dry. You need inspiration as much as you need food and air. Go into the world in the form of a sponge ready to soak up any entertainment, intellectual stimulation and artistry you encounter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're on a cosmic timeout - not so much a punishment as an invitation to reflect on the events of last week. Regrets? You have a few, "then again, too few to mention.'

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your body has something to tell you and could be retaliating from a bad habit of yours. Don't punish yourself; just make new choices. It's easier to tame the monster while the monster is still small.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Style, glamour and aesthetics are of interest. You are looking for something fresh as you hone the way you present yourself to the world. Cut out pictures of people who exude the kind of success you'd like to have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Rally to get more supporters for your pet cause. A phone drive, an e-mail list or a contest of some sort helps you make a splash. Avoid friction between friends - it's just not worth it. FORECAST FOR

Aquarian energy surges this

The

WEEK AHEAD:

week as four luminaries light up with enchanting Aquarian qualities. The sun, Mercury, Neptune and, on Wednesday, Venus are visiting the realm of Tomorrowland, and many areas of our lives are touched by the futuristic energy. Though the phrase for Aquarius is "I know," this phrase is a paradox. What can we really know when the fabric of knowledge is always changing? The most knowledgeable among us must constantly retract parts of his or her knowledge to accommodate new discoveries and theories. To understand Aquarian energy, think of the prevailing genius of our time, Stephen Hawking (a Capricorn with Venus in Aquarius), working out a theory of quantum physics and, in doing so, finding out

that what he discovered five years before was only partially correct. The Aquarian energy of "I know" is best served by being open to what we don't know, for therein lies the spirit of possibility that drives innovation forward. This week, you can take advantage of the astral vibes by considering that what you thought you knew about yourself, your relationships, your job and your world may be wrong, or it may be only the tip of the iceberg. Find out more.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in

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#### Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Frank Luera, and his wife, Sandy Luera

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and any and all other unknown owners or persons, including adverse claimants, owing or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property delinquent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes, to wit:

Lot Five, Block Three, Indianola Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$2,117.52, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest. penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against Frank Luera, and his wife, Sandy Luera. as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the 26th day of January, 2004, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. FRANK LU-ERA, and his wife, SANDY LU-ERA, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 04-01-4649 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judg-

ment herein, and the establishment

and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law

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

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 7 day of March, 2005 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of

this 18 day of January, A.D. 2005. Priscilla Ginnetti

Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District #4435 January 23 & 30, 2005

vene herein, together with all interjudgment herein, and all costs of Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas,

#### Legals

suit styled Howard County, et al vs. Rosario Sanchez, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is T-4652 that the names of all taxing units which assess and col-

to this suit, are NONE. Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as

lect taxes on the property hereina-

bove described, not made parties

provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings day of January, 2004, in a certain now on file in said causes by all

those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property. You are hereby commanded to ap-

other parties herein, and all of

pear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 7 day of March, 2005 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by

this suit. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 18 day of January, A.D. 2005. Priscilla Ginnetti Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas.

law up to and including the day of

judgment herein, and all costs of

118th Judicial District #4436 January 23 & 30, 2005

#### Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY

TPDES PERMIT RENEWAL FOR WASTEWATER PERMIT NO. WQ10069002

APPLICATION AND PRELIMI-NARY DECISION. City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TPDES Permit No. 10069-002, which authorizes the discharge of treated filter backwash. water at a daily average flow not to exceed 125,000 gallons per day. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on November 8, 2004.

The facility is located at 16th Street and Virginia Avenue in the City of Big Spring in Howard County, Texas. The treated filter backwash water is discharged to Big Spring Draw; thence to Beals Creek; thence to the Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are no significant aquatic life uses for Big Spring Draw. The designated uses for Segment No. 1412 are high aquatic life uses and contact recreation.

The TCEQ executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory require-The permit application, statement of basis/ technical summary and executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Big Spring City Hall, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas.
PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting

is not a contested case hearing. Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of the notice. OPPORTUNITY FOR A CON-

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

A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. Issues that are not The TCEQ may act on this application to renew a permit without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if cer-

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

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/ or (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ team be found at our web site www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Big Spring at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Todd Darden (432)264-2500. Issued: January 20, 2005

#4446 January 30, 2005.

### Legals

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

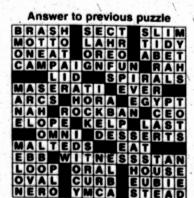
The Big Spring Area Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) is soliciting applications from federated groups, charitable organizations or a combination thereof, interested in being considered to serve as the Principal Combined Fund Organization (PCFO) for the 2005 campaign. A legal notice has been published in The Big Spring Herald announcing this solicitation for a PCFO. The applicable CFC regulations are:

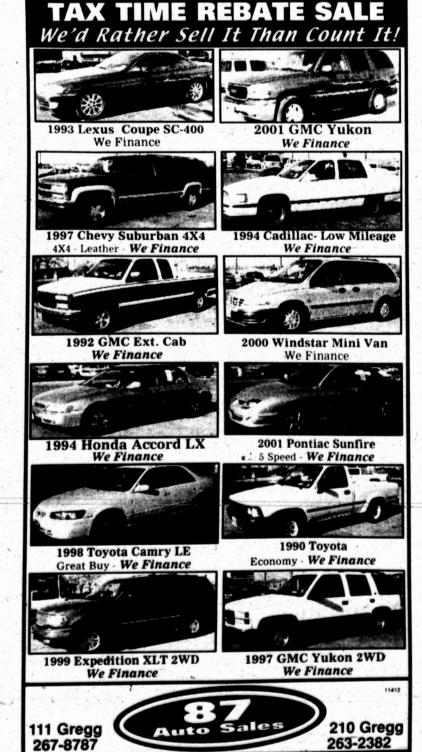
Title 5. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950.104 authorizes the LFCC to solicit applications from federations, charitable organizations, or combinations thereof to serve as the PCFO; and to select a PCFO to act as its fiscal agent and campaign coordinator for the CFC.

Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950.105 outlines the responsibilities of the PCFO. In addition, § 950.601 provides additional requirements governing the release of contributor names. The primary responsibility of the PCFO is to support the federal government in managing a comprehensive local workplace fundraising campaign while ensuring the fiscal integrity, accountability, and transparency of the process. A primary goal of the PCFO is to conduct an effective and efficient campaign in a fair and even-handed manner. Only federations, charitable organizations or combinations thereof may serve as the PCFO.

All application proposals submitted for consideration must be received by the LFCC postmarked no later than February 15, 2005. Applications may also be hand-delivered. Interested organizations should submit their application proposals to the LFCC, c/o Lou Ann Atkins, West Texas VA Health Care System, 300 Veterans Boulevard, Big Spring, TX 79720. Only application proposals addressing all of the key elements and deliverables will be considered for review by the LFCC. to receive copy of key elements & delivery, Contact Cynthia Scott, at (432)267-5201 uway@apex2000.net

#4447 January 30 & 31, 2005







email: classifieds@bigspringherald.com