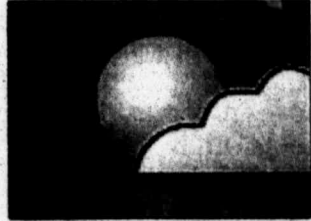


MONDAY

February 7, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 38°-42° TOMORROW 62°-64°

BRIEFLY

Symphony to play encore Feb. 26

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, presents, "An Encore Performance" at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Auditorium. Cynthia Bauhof-Williams returns as guest pianist. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the symphony office, 808 Scurry or at the door.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.bigspringsymphony.com or e-mail bssa@bigspringsymphony.com.

A&M scholarship applications taken

Texas A&M scholarship applications through the Howard County A&M Club are being accepted for the 2005-2006 school year. Requirements include residence in Howard County and an acceptance letter from Texas A&M. Academic and scholarly achievements, community based extracurricular activities, sports participation and financial need are all considered when awarding scholarships. Applications may be picked up from Mike or Jeanne Niklasch at A&M Composites, 1409 E. Hwy. 350 or by calling the Howard County A&M Club president, Dr. Tom Dawson, at 267-7911, ext. 216.

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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 from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Enrollment decreases seen on area campuses

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

Three out of four Howard County school campuses have experienced a drop in enrollment from this time last year. And while the drops are not large, percentage-wise, they are still a cause of concern to area educators. Big Spring Independent School District experienced the biggest drop in enrollment among the Howard County campuses. As of

"we feel it's more a matter of us losing a large senior class last year ... rather than a loss of students who moved out of the district"

Randy Johnson, FISD Superintendent



Jan. 28, 3,725 students were enrolled, a drop of 4.3 percent from the previous year. Forsan ISD also experienced a drop in enrollment from this time last year, reporting 655 students as compared to 681 in 2004. "It's certainly a concern for us, because state funding is tied to the number of students we

have," Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "But we feel it's more a matter of us losing a large senior class last year ... rather than a loss of students who moved out of the district." Over a five-year period, Forsan enrollment has remained remarkably stable. In May 2000, the district reported an enrollment of 669 students, compared to 676 in May 2004, Johnson said. Also experiencing a drop in

See DECREASES, Page 3A



Chase Billings, in front, and Brent Wright collect canned food during the local Boy Scouts Good Turn for America Food Drive Saturday morning. Food items were collected door-to-door by the scouts, or left at a central drop-off point at the local Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Scouts brave chilly weather during Saturday food drive

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

It was not exactly optimum weather to be cruising in the back of a pickup. While temperatures Saturday were safely above the freezing mark, a brisk north wind let people know that spring was definitely some weeks away. So, a couple of young gentlemen like Brent Wright and Chase Billings definitely had better things to do Saturday morning than avoid frostbite, right? Well, no, actually. Brent and Chase were part of

a veritable brigade of Boy Scouts who fanned out around Big Spring Saturday morning, collecting canned goods as part of the Scouts' Good Turn for America Food Drive. For four hours Saturday, Scouts drove through local neighborhoods collecting donated foodstuffs, or manning the central drop-off location at the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Local Boy Scout leader David O'Neill said the food drive was an important part of being a scout and learning the ethics and morals that come so heavily into play with the national organization. "It just goes to show the boys are out there doing a good turn and trying to help others. Those are things they live by on a daily basis, so we want to make sure they practice that in some way. This has been a good project for us in the past and has been sort of a tradition for the past few years, so we wanted to continue it." It was a message not lost of 11-year-old Brent Wright. "I like this," he said of the food drive. "It helps out people, and it makes you feel good, too."

Bush sends Congress \$2.57 trillion spending plan

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget plan today that seeks deep spending cuts across a wide swath of government from reducing subsidies paid to the nation's farmers, cutting health care payments for poor people and veterans and trimming spending on the environment and education. The budget would eliminate or vastly scale back 150 government programs. It will spark months of contentious debate in Congress, where lawmakers will fight to protect their favored programs. The spending document projects that the deficit will hit a record \$427 billion this year, the third straight year that the red ink in dollar terms has set a record. Bush projects that the deficit will fall to \$390 billion in 2006 and gradually decline to

"This budget is part of the Republican plan to cut Social Security benefits while handing out lavish tax breaks for multimillionaires. Its cuts in veterans programs, health care and education reflect the wrong priorities and its huge deficits are fiscally irresponsible."

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. Senate Democratic leader

\$233 billion in 2009 and \$207 billion in 2010. Bush's 2006 spending plan, for the budget year that begins next Oct. 1, counts on a healthy economy to boost revenues by 6.1 percent to \$2.18 trillion. Spending, meanwhile, would grow by 3.5 percent to \$2.57 trillion. Outside defense, homeland security and the government's huge mandatory programs such as Social Security, Bush proposes cutting spending for the rest of government by 0.5 percent, the first such proposed cut since the Reagan administration battled with its own soaring deficits. Of 23 major government agencies, 12 would see their budget authority reduced next year, including cuts of 9.6 percent at

Agriculture and 5.6 percent at the Environmental Protection Agency. In his budget message to Congress, Bush said, "In order to sustain our economic expansion, we must continue pro-growth policies and enforce even greater spending restraint across the federal government." Democrats complained that Bush was resorting to draconian cuts that would hurt the needy in order to protect his first term tax cuts that primarily benefited the wealthy. "This budget is part of the Republican plan to cut Social Security benefits while handing out lavish tax breaks for multimillionaires," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Its cuts in veterans programs, health care and education reflect the wrong priorities and its huge deficits are fiscally irresponsible."

Northside pact on city agenda

5:30 p.m. Monday in council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Among the items on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council is a contract between the city and Northside Community Center, which was tabled two weeks ago because of possible problems with the agreement's language. The council discussed the project, which would include the construction of a new building on the existing property and the removal of the current facility, and the existing 10-year lease between the city and the community center, during its Jan. 25 meeting. "The Northside Community Center has been in operation for 22 years," said Larry Steward, president of the Northside Community Center Board of Directors. "We currently have a 99-year lease with the city. I keep hearing talk of a 10-year lease come up, but we've been there since 1983. With the new building I would like to see a new lease agreement reached, regardless." Mayor Russ McEwen, who pointed out the difference between the lease on the land and the lease on the building, told Steward the council was in agreement on the project and pending contract with J. Phillip Furqueron Architectural Firm, and felt approval of the matter should be tabled until the contract and its language could be looked at more closely. "We're in complete agreement," said McEwen. "You're not going to find anyone on this council that's not in complete agreement with you." Steward also went on to express concern over several other parts of the pending contract, which is currently being reviewed by City Attorney Jean Shotts. The council is also expected to accept reports from several local agencies, including Moore Development for Big Spring and the Howard County Appraisal District

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

Obituaries

Mary Jo Hartley



Mary Jo Hartley, 82, of Big Spring, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, in a local hospital with her family by her side. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Ralph Anderson, minister of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on March 6, 1922, in Des Moines, Iowa, and married Clarice W. Hartley on Jan. 20, 1947, in Columbus, Kan. He preceded her in death on Sept. 15, 1977.

Mary Jo had worked at the Webb Air Force Base BX until it closed in 1977 and then worked for K-Mart and retired when it closed down. She loved traveling, gardening, working crossword puzzles and her grandchildren.

She was a longtime member of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ and dearly loved her church family. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who will be greatly missed by her children, family and friends.

Survivors include her children, son and daughter-in-law Weldon J. and Wannah Hartley of Kermit, daughter and son-in-law Linda and Dale Patterson of Big Spring and son George W. Hartley of Weatherford; six grandchildren, Denoyah Leigh Phillips and husband, Kyle of Lubbock, Brandon Weldon Hartley of Lubbock, Melanie Sneed of Big Spring, Brian Patterson and wife, Amanda of Big Spring, Michelle LeAnn White and husband, Jim Bob of Big Spring and Casey Wayne Hartley of Weatherford; seven great grandchildren, Felicia and James Miller, Destiney Patterson, Erica Hartley, Preston White, Aaron Salazar and Haley Patterson; two sisters, Maxine Womack of Oswego, Kan., and Betty Jean Hunt of Tulsa, Okla.; two brothers, William W. Wilkinson of Tulsa, Okla., and Ed F. Wilkinson of Del City, Okla.; one sister-in-law, Edna Hayworth of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her parents, Charles W. and Florence Mae Wilkinson; and four brothers, Homer, Charles, George and James Wilkinson.

The family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association's Midland office, 10 Desta Drive, Suite 220E, Midland 79705.

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

Melba Dean Rees James

Melba Dean Rees James, 84, of Omaha, died Feb. 4, 2005, at her residence. Services were held today, Feb. 7, 2005, at Rocky Branch Baptist Church with interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Mt. Pleasant.

Melba was born Dec. 17, 1920, in Mt. Vernon. She married L.W. "Doc" James and was married for 58 years. She was a member of the Rocky Branch Missionary Baptist Church and the Ladies Sunday School Class.

She is survived by her husband, L.W. "Doc" James of Omaha; a daughter, Janet Sue Tucker of Omaha; two sisters, Jessie Lee Brush of Mt. Pleasant and Ruby Charlene Forester of Granbury; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were under the direction of Alexander Funeral Home in Naples.

Juanita Ford

Juanita Ford, 86, of Longview, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday morning, Feb. 7, 2005, in Longview following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Carole Michelson

Carole Michelson, 61, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Tressie E. Denton

Tressie E. Denton, 87, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005, in an Austin nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light and variable.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Thursday — Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs around 50.

Thursday night — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s.

Friday — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s.

Friday night — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid 50s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday — Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Police blotter

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

- FELICIA LEONE ULRICH, 30, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on local traffic warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- DORTHY MAY SMITH, 41, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on a Taylor County warrant.
- TERRY LYNN HAGLER, 54, of 100 Lockhart, was arrested Sunday on a Potter County warrant.
- JORGE PEREZ, 18, of Coahoma, was arrested Saturday and held for INS on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- RAUL ALEJANDRO BOLANOS, 23, of Mexico, was arrested Sunday and held for INS.
- MICHAEL ALLEN RICHTER, 30, of 708 Lorilla, was arrested Sunday on local traffic citations.
- JIMMY MCDONALD, 56, of 4313 Gail Highway, was arrested Sunday on charges of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- CHARLES DOMINGUEZ, 30, of 1311 Canary, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JASON COY LOPEZ, 28, of 2702 Navajo, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson Road.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1000 block of 15th Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 1000 block of S. Birdwell.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1500 block of Oriole.

Sheriff's report

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

- MARY LOU ALFARO, 28, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check - two counts.
- SERGIO CALDERON-CRUZ, 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ROD LEE PUGA, 42, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear and contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.
- ROGELIO JOSE PERCHES, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- SALVANO AGUILAR IPINA, 37, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- PAUL RUSTOM RAMIREZ, 39, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
- GARCIA DANIEL ZAVALA, 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of no driver's license.
- KIRBY D. BAILES, 34, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- AMIE CASTILLO, 29, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- STEVEN RAY CROFT, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a San Saba warrant for issuance of a bad check.
- IVAN HERNANDEZ VELASQUEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BRANDIE JETTON, 28, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- KELLY BRIDGE MONROE, 46, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- CRISTY ANNE LARUE, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- ANTONIO TORRES MARTINEZ, 55, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JEFFERY DON CATE, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- JAMES CURTIS HAYES, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- MELISSA M. ESCANUELAS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- RAUL MARTINEZ, 47, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on an El Paso warrant for injury to a child/elderly/disabled with intent to cause bodily injury.
- BILLY WAYNE HALLFORD, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ENRIQUE MARTINEZ, 35, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and warrants for failure to yield the right-of-way, open container and failure to appear.

Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- 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.
 - Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
 - 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 north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
 - Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
 - Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
 - Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
 - 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.
 - Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.
 - Big Spring Assembly No. 211 Social Order of Beauceant meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.
 - Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-18-22-43. Bonus Ball: 38. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$7 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-18-22-31-36. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 9-7-8

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4600 block of Wasson Road at 10:12 a.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad at 12:56 p.m. Friday. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium at 3:11 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson at 5:59 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Donley at 11:44 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of Westover Road and FM 700 at 6:22 p.m. Friday. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N. Aylesford at 12:41 p.m. Saturday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Morrison at 6:10 p.m. Saturday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 8 p.m. Saturday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue at 12:30 a.m. Saturday. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of N. Runnels at 1:44 a.m. Saturday. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Wasson at 8:26 p.m. Sunday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street at 7:32 p.m. Sunday. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Wood at 12:12 p.m. Sunday. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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BIG SPRING HERALD

Jury selection to begin in smuggling deaths trial

By JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Jury selection in the trial of a New York man accused of taking part in a smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants was set to begin after numerous delays.

But a pending appeal by prosecutors could halt today's anticipated start of the trial, the second connected to the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

The case had been put on hold last month after attorneys for Tyrone Williams asked the U.S. Supreme Court to make public specific details about why he is the only one of 14 indicted defendants in the case who faces the death penalty.

Craig Washington, the truck driver's lead attorney, has accused the federal government of seeking the death penalty because Williams is black.

Prosecutors have said Williams, 34, was singled out because he alone had the power to release the illegal immigrants in his trailer. But they have argued that specific details of their decision-making process is privileged information.

Prosecutors say

Williams, from Schenectady, N.Y., was hired by a smuggling ring to transport more than 70 immigrants in his hot, airless tractor-trailer from South Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston, after the immigrants began succumbing to the heat. Seventeen immigrants were found dead inside. Two died later. Authorities said the temperature reached 173 degrees in the trailer.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore granted a request by Williams' attorneys to allow the case to proceed while the high court makes its ruling by having two juries in the trial.

One jury would decide whether Williams is guilty or innocent of any of the 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants he faces. If Williams were found guilty of any charges that carry a possible death sentence, another jury would be chosen for that decision.

But federal prosecutors have asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Gilmore's decision.

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Report finds Vo won November election

AUSTIN (AP) — Newly seated Democratic Rep. Hubert Vo of Houston defeated his opponent, veteran Republican Talmadge Heflin, by a slim margin in November, a lawmaker overseeing the election contest reported Monday.

Rep. Will Hartnett, who was named "master of discovery" in Heflin's House challenge of the race, found that Vo's margin of victory was reduced from 33 votes to 16 votes.

Hartnett's report will move Tuesday to a legislative committee appointed to hear the election challenge. Ultimately, the case will go before the full Texas House, which could declare a winner or call for a new election.

"I appreciate the careful and thorough job my colleague Mr. Hartnett has done under intense pressure and in difficult circumstances," Vo said in a prepared statement Monday morning.

Heflin's attorney, Andy Taylor, claimed that illegal ballots led to the November election outcome, with most improper voting coming from people living outside the district. He also claimed some people voted twice, didn't register, had questionable signatures or weren't U.S. citizens.

A refugee from Saigon, Vo became the first Vietnamese Texan legislator when he was sworn in last month.

Judge says courts will suffer without pay hike

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston judge who is quitting the bench to return to private practice says Texas is on the brink of a judicial crisis.

State District Judge Bruce Oakley said the Legislature needs to give judges raises.

"We will not retain the best and the brightest if the state continues to pay them less than first-year (law firm) associates," Oakley told the Houston Chronicle for a story in Monday's editions.

Oakley said money wasn't a factor in his decision to quit the civil bench. He said that he wanted to return to advocating for clients.

"Being the referee is very interesting, but I want to be the one in the game taking the shot," Oakley said.

His focus will be on industries, including energy and finance, as a partner in Pillsbury Winthrop's office in Houston. His resignation is effective Feb. 15.

Judges statewide have received one pay raise since 1989 after the Legislature tied judicial pay to lawmak-

ers' pension rates, the Chronicle reported. Four counties, including Harris, were allowed two years ago to supplement judicial salaries through 2007.

Harris County judges make \$128,000 a year, more than state Supreme Court justices.

"It sounds like a lot of money, and it is," said state District Judge Mark Davidson, who is chief of Harris County's civil courts. "But any of us can resign the bench and instantly double our income."

He said that Harris County civil judges were resigning at a rate of 20 percent a year before the supplemental income order was approved. Many cited the low pay for the resignations.

"If the public wants the judiciary to be a place where lawyers come for a few years and then move on, there is no need to give judges a pay raise," Davidson said. "I think the public deserves better than institutionalizing inexperience."

Two killed while changing flat tire

ARLINGTON — A Fort Worth man and his son-in-law died when they were struck and killed as they finished changing a flat tire along Interstate 20 in Arlington.

Ernesto Martinez, 41, and Miguel Rodriguez, 25, died in the Saturday night accident. Police charged Michael Bradley Bazilewich, 18, of Grand Prairie with two counts of manslaughter. He was released from jail on \$20,000 bail.

Vanessa Rodriguez, her husband and her mother-in-law were en route to Jacksonville to visit relatives when they had a flat. She called her father to help because her husband didn't have some needed tools.

The two men and another relative had just finished changing the tire and Rodriguez and Martinez were hit as they tried to remove the jack. "I saw it, but like a flash," Salvador Martinez said.

Child dies, father injured in crash

ARLINGTON — A 2-year-old boy died and his father was in critical condition Sunday after their pickup truck left a road and sank in a pond near Six Flags Over Texas, authorities said. Two firefighters suffered hypothermia during rescue attempts.

Police identified the child as Melvin Velasquez and his father as Denis Umanzor, 24. Umanzor has a history of seizures and authorities say that may have been a factor in the accident.

Umanzor was driving home after having dropped his wife off at work when the accident occurred.

Divers from the Arlington fire-rescue unit found Umanzor and his son unconscious in the vehicle.

State officials eye probation solutions as prisons fill

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — As inmate populations near capacity in the Texas prison system, state officials are considering using more probationary sentences as an alternative to building new prisons.

However, some top state lawmakers say the state's probation system suffers from its own problems that would require millions of dollars in state funds to fix.

The biggest problem is that caseloads carried by probation supervisors is already too high, and those sentenced to probation tend to violate their requirements and go to prison anyway.

"Probation is so broken that we literally have some defendants plea-bargain to go to prison instead of probation," state Sen. John Whitmire

told the San Antonio Express-News for a story in Monday's editions.

Texas probation officers now supervise about 150 offenders each, meaning less individual supervision and greater reliance on measures such as drug tests.

About 25,000 Texas offenders were sent to prison after their probation were revoked, the Express-News reported. More than 14,000 of those committed no new crimes, but they failed to meet the terms of their probation.

Those violations can range from failing a drug test and missing payment of a fine to showing up late for a meeting with a probation officer.

Paying the fines can be difficult for those with low incomes, while drug addicts have trouble stay-

ing drug free, said Keith Hampton, a lobbyist for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

"There are those who would say, 'Hey, I just want to get this over with. Just let me do my time, because I can't handle probation,'" Hampton said.

A recent report to the Legislative Budget Board said that if current trends hold, the state's 150,000-bed prison system will have about 500 more inmates than it can house by late this summer. It also said the system could be 5,000 inmates over capacity by 2008.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice, which runs the state's prisons, has requested \$62 million in the next state budget to lease space in county jails.

State Rep. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie, estimates that making the needed improvements to the state's probation system would cost \$100 million, but the Texas Department of Criminal Justice has asked for less.

"Finding even that money will be a tough sell in a legislative session that has made priorities of public-school financing and protecting children and senior citizens.

"There's no question it is, but we don't have any choice in criminal justice because the courts are sending us the people. So we have to accommodate them," said Whitmire, D-Houston and chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

Gov. Rick Perry's office said it was premature to know how much money the prison system can

expect in the 2006-07 state budget.

"Like any family's budget, there's a limited amount of money coming in, and priority decisions are always made," said

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt. "The governor's confident that criminal justice issues will be addressed, and public safety will be maintained in the process."

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Board of Directors, as well as the city's traffic and planning and zoning commissions.

New business on the agenda includes emergency reading of an ordinance calling for an election to be held May 7. The District 1 seat on the Big Spring City Council, currently held by Stephanie Horton, and District 3 seat, held by Jo Ann Staulcup, will be up for grabs.

Today is the first day to

file to run for either seat. The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Juanita Ford, 86, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

DECREASES

Continued from Page 1A

enrollment was the Howard College Junior College District, which reported 49 fewer students from this time last year.

Of Howard's 2,701 overall enrollment, 1,192 students were reported at the Big Spring campus, 1,215 were at San Angelo, with the remainder spread between Southwest College Institute for

the Deaf, Lamesa and the Federal Correctional Institute.

Amy Burchett, vice president for educational programs, said Howard's enrollment usually depends on the health of the general economy. As times improve, college enrollment decreases, she said.

Interestingly, Howard College's contact hours — the actual number of hours students spend in classrooms or labs — is up this year, Burchett

reported. That figure is important because state funding for the college depends in a large degree on its number of contact hours.

Along among Howard County schools, Coahoma ISD reported an increase in enrollment. CISD superintendent secretary Judy Dobbs reported 802 students enrolled as of Feb. 1, an increase of 17 students from this time last year.

Other area schools reported the following

enrollment figures:

- Stanton ISD — 747 students, a drop of 5 from last year.
- Glasscock ISD — 303 students, an increase of 14 from this time in 2004.
- Sands CISD — 226 students, an increase of 10 from this time last year.
- Grady ISD — 234 students, a decrease of six from this time last year.

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

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Good news!

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Howard College rodeo team members D.J. Allen, left, Tyler Davidson and Paul Young, along with Ryan O'Donnell, present the baby goat, Bodacious, Friday to Big Spring Herald publisher, Suzanne Reed. The goat traveled to various locations as a fund-raiser for the rodeo team. Anyone blessed to receive a goat was able to return it to its owner for a \$10 fee.

Preservation of Texas' pure bison herd rests with bulls donated by Ted Turner

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK (AP) — The rumble from stampeding bison used to shake the earth as thousands of the majestic animals thundered across these parts centuries ago.

That sound has faded almost entirely now, and the fate of one of the last pure herds in North America — begun by famed cattleman Charles Goodnight — rests with a trio of bulls donated by media tycoon Ted Turner.

The herd, once 250 strong, has dwindled to 53, and more than a century of inbreeding threatens its survival. The herd's average age has increased by three years — bison typically live between 12 to 15 years — and the number of calves has dropped in recent years. Nine were born last year.

With the donation of Turner's bulls, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas A&M University's College of Veterinarian Medicine hope to strengthen the herd and preserve an animal that symbolizes the American West.

"We don't know exactly what the outcome will be," said James Derr, an associate professor of veterinary pathobiology at Texas A&M. "We do know the outcome if we do nothing. This herd will become extinct."

The Texas herd was started in the 1870s with five bison calves captured by Goodnight, one of the most prosperous cattlemen in the American West, with more than 1 million acres of ranch land and 100,000 head of cattle at his peak.



His wife, Mary Ann, urged him to save the bison, also known as buffalos, because hunters were killing them by the hundreds of thousands for their hides and meat, and to crush American Indian tribes who depended on the animals for food and clothing.

The herd was donated to the state in 1997 and moved to 330 acres of Caprock Canyons State Park, which was once part of Goodnight's JA Ranch between Lubbock and Amarillo.

While doing pregnancy tests on the herd in fall 2001, researchers found that 15 of the 18 adult females were pregnant. However, by spring, when the females were due, only five calves survived. The rest were either not born or did not survive long after birth.

Disease and genetic problems,

such as chromosomal defects, were ruled out. As part of another project, Derr and another researcher already were sampling the DNA from the federal bison herds throughout the United States. They knew how much genetic variation there should be in an "average" bison, and they found the Texas herd "had significantly less genetic variation" than any of the federal herds and most of the state and private herds, Derr said.

Researchers concluded the herd suffered from inbreeding depression. Since the herd was confined on the Goodnight ranch and then the state park, no new genes had entered the herd in 120 years. A computer model showed the herd would probably die out in 50 years if nothing was done to diversify

the gene pool.

Still, researchers were reluctant to tamper with the herd too much, Derr said.

Since the herd originated in the Texas Panhandle, it is probably the last genetic example of what was called the Southern Plains bison, said Danny Swepston, a state wildlife district leader who oversees the herd.

When the Transcontinental Railroad was built across the United States in the 1800s, the bison — which are believed to have numbered in the tens of millions — were split into what was known as the Northern and the Southern herds. The Southern herds were made up of animals from Texas, eastern New Mexico, eastern Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and southern Nebraska.

Derr said the best option was to try and find a herd with a historical link to the Texas bison and a lot of genetic variation, but not hybrids of cattle and bison, or infected with contagious diseases.

They found their link with Turner's herd in New Mexico. So in 2003, wildlife representatives, along with Texas A&M

researchers, traveled across the Texas border and chose three 1 1/2-year-old bison bulls.

Turner owns the largest private bison herd in the world with about 40,000 head on 13 ranches in seven states. He is interested in rebuilding the country's bison population, which currently is about 250,000. He also raises bison to supply meat at his Ted's Montana Grill restaurant chain.

"We obviously are committed to the conservation of bison as a keystone species," said Russ Miller, general manager of Turner Enterprises, which oversees Turner's herd. "We were glad to be contributing partners to the effort."

In June, one of the Turner bulls will breed with as many as five females, Derr said. The females will be kept in an area separate from the rest of the Texas herd, which will continue its regular breeding cycle.

Researchers will check the DNA of the calves in December 2006 to gauge the amount of genetic variation brought to the Texas herd, and then use the other two bulls for breeding over the next two years. It will take about seven years to see if the breeding experiment is a success, Derr said.

Pat Bierschwale, president of the Texas Bison Association, said the project is just the latest step in a preservation effort started more than 130 years ago by Goodnight.

"What's the alternative if the herd is destined to be extinct?" he said.

"Are we doing any less than Mr. Goodnight did by trying to save them?"

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With Laura Bush looking on, President George W. Bush signs a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

Guidelines for improved health

Making wise lifestyle choices can greatly reduce the risk of heart disease, certain types of cancer, diabetes, stroke and osteoporosis.

Good diets can reduce major risk factors for chronic disease such as obesity, high blood pressure, and high blood cholesterol.

Here are some ways to improve health and well-being.

Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, whole grain

bread, cereals, beans (lentils or kidney beans); low-fat milk and dairy products (cheese, yogurt).

Eat lean meats, seafood, low-fat cheese, peanut butter or textured vegetable protein.

Eat more fiber foods which may help lower cholesterol and aid in digestion and weight control (fruits, vegetables with skins, whole grain foods).

Eat small portions, especially if you need to lose weight.

Order lunch size or kid's size portion when eating eat.

Limit sweets, which have no nutritional value (candy, desserts, jelly, syrups and regular soda). Also limit high-fat foods (butter, fatty meats, cheese, ice cream).

Exercise at least three times a week for 30 minutes a day.

Don't smoke. Smoking can lead to lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other illnesses.

Regulators study supplements' claims of 1-step weight loss

By LISA MUNOZ
Orange County Register

This year, you swear it will all be different: You'll lose weight. You'll get healthy. You'll shape up.

If you're also up late watching television or surfing the Web, you're just the kind of consumer that infomercial and spam hucksters love.

Until recently, CortiSlim was one of the products touted as a "breakthrough" in weight loss, hawked late at night just when viewers might be parked in front of their television or computer screen helping themselves to a leftover slice of pumpkin pie.

This was the product, the infomercial hosts claimed, that longtime dieters were looking for: "The missing piece of the diet puzzle."

But the Federal Trade Commission saw it another way.

In August, the agency sued Window Rock Enterprises, in Brea, Calif., the manufacturer of CortiSlim, and its Anaheim, Calif., advertising partner Infinity Advertising, alleging that the only thing the product helps consumers drop is dollars.

The case against Window Rock is just one of nearly a dozen ongoing lawsuits that form the backbone of the agency's crackdown on the makers and marketers of dietary supplements.

In the past two years, the FTC has sued the sellers of pills, patches, potions and other aids that promise consumers they can help them shed pounds, pump up various body parts or spice up their sex lives. Those companies have brought in about \$1.5 billion, according to the agency.

As the health risks of prescription drugs such as Vioxx and Celebrex and popular over-the-counter medicines such as naproxen make headlines, regulators and consumer advocates warn that hundreds of products in the marketplace are not subject to the scrutiny prescription drugs are.

The makers of those products may not have household names such as Merck, Pfizer and Aleve, but they also pose health risks, said Dr. Tod Cooperman, president of ConsumerLab.com, a New York consumer group whose testing on dietary supplements is used by the government, HMOs and supplement makers.

"Economically there's a concern with these products, but with CortiSlim too, there's no evidence that it's going to help you," said Cooperman. "It could help, but the bulk of the benefit is going to come from lifestyle change, in my opinion."

Cooperman said many supplement makers,

including CortiSlim, have "cleaned up their act and changed their ads and their Web sites." But he said he still had concerns about the product, which his company has tested. They found that it contained everything it claimed.

Weight-loss supplements in particular hurt those struggling with their weight by steering them away from proven methods such as proper diet, nutrition and exercise.

"But does (CortiSlim) work? I doubt it," said Cooperman. "Like most weight-loss products, they throw everything (in) but the kitchen sink. They try to come up with the sexiest ingredients that have had anything to do with weight loss." He also said it contains bitter orange peel, an ingredient "that should be of concern to anyone with cardiac history."

Heather Hipsley, an assistant director with the FTC, estimated that Window Rock had \$50 million to \$60 million in total CortiSlim sales when the agency sued. That figure is likely higher now because the company is not prohibited from doing business while the lawsuit continues.

In 2002, Stephen F. Cheng, Gregory S. Cynaumon and University of Utah biochemist Dr. Shawn M. Talbott set up Window Rock to market CortiSlim, which they claimed controlled the stress hormone cortisol.

Limiting this hormone, not proper nutrition and exercise, was the key to weight loss, according to the company. Taking two CortiSlim tablets a day could help users drop up to 50 pounds, or 4 to 10 pounds a week, for just \$49.99 a month, the company said.

That sounds appealing, but nutritionists, the Food and Drug Administration and the FTC warn that there are no shortcuts or breakthroughs when it comes to weight loss.

In its suit, the FTC alleged that Window Rock and Infinity Advertising made claims about CortiSlim and its partner supplement, CortiStress, that "fly in the face of reality."

Total dietary supplement sales were nearly \$20 billion in 2003, with \$1.7 billion just in weight loss products. In November, the FTC launched what it calls Operation Big Fat Lie to specifically target companies that deceptively advertise weight-loss products.

The health benefits of many herbal supplements have been acknowledged by regulators and many doctors. Many people take St. John's wort, for example, to combat minor depression problems or echinacea to fight off a cold or flu.

But regulators and consumer advocates say many dietary supplements do more harm than good to consumers by promising something they can't deliver.

Weight-loss supplements in particular hurt those struggling with their weight by steering them away from proven methods such as proper diet, nutrition and exercise.

"The products that are marketed directly to consumers (through infomercials and the Internet) are the ones that tend to have the overblown claims," Cooperman said.

A lot of companies run into problems when they "push the boundaries," said Rosario Vior-Quintanilla, spokeswoman for the FDA in Irvine, Calif.

In August, the FDA sent a letter to Window Rock stating it found "serious violations" of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in its review of the CortiSlim labeling and product literature the

company provided to consumers. It also stated that claims the company made about CortiSlim's weight-loss and general health benefits "are not supported by reliable scientific evidence."

The FDA does regulate supplements, but it doesn't require preapproval like drugs and food. But under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, the burden of proof is on regulators to prove that a supplement is unsafe.

Manufacturers have only to refrain from making unsupported health claims. Still, according to the FTC, that hasn't stopped dozens of supplement makers and marketers from making claims that cannot be supported by science.

Anyone watching or listening to the latest CortiSlim commercials will notice a "substantial change in the claims," said Marc Ullman, a New York attorney representing the Window Rock and Infinity Advertising.

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Page 1B
Monday, February 7, 2005

IN BRIEF

Coahoma's softball 'Alumni Day' set

Coahoma head softball coach Robby Dickenson has announced that the annual Alumni Day softball game will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Coahoma softball field.

The game will feature this year's upcoming team against past Coahoma softball alumni.

For more information, contact Dickenson at the Coahoma ISD at 394-4536.

Coahoma to host 'donkey basketball'

The Coahoma PTA will be bringing "donkey basketball" to the high school gym Saturday with two games scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

The first game will feature students and/or faculty from Coahoma, while the second, which will begin at 7 p.m., will feature members from the sheriff's department, fire department and city of Big Spring.

Advance tickets will be \$5, but spectators can purchase tickets at the door for \$6. Tickets may be purchased at the Coahoma High School, Coahoma Junior High, Coahoma Elementary, chamber of commerce (open during lunch), KBST or by calling Laura at 267-8660 or Neasa at 399-4443.

For more information, contact Laura Martin at 263-8421 or 464-1950.

Iowa State ends long streak in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Tashedd Carr scored 13 points in overtime and Iowa State ended its 28-game conference road skid with a win over Texas, 92-80.

Iowa State (11-8, 3-5) hadn't won on the road in the Big 12 since beating Kansas State Feb. 21, 2001. Three days later, the losing streak started when Texas thumped the sixth-ranked Cyclones 94-78.

Daniel Gibson scored 23 to lead Texas (15-6, 4-4) and Brad Buckman had 20 points and 15 rebounds.

But Buckman missed a free throw that would have given the Longhorns a three-point cushion with 49 seconds left before Will Blalock's tying shot with 37 seconds left in regulation.

Texas Tech takes down Oklahoma

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Jarius Jackson scored 32 points, Devonne Giles added 17 and Texas Tech upset No. 14 Oklahoma, 88-81, to snap the Sooners' 14-game home winning streak.

Jackson scored 19 points in the first half as Tech (14-5, 6-2 Big 12) built a 14-point lead and never lost control.

Taj Gray had 20 points and 15 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season and Lawrence McKenzie scored 16 for Oklahoma, which has lost two of three after winning 10 straight.

Patriotic Dynasty

• Patriots win third Super Bowl in four years

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Dynasty? Definitely. The New England Patriots don't have to proclaim greatness. The NFL record book does it for them.

The Patriots won their third Super Bowl in four years Sunday, 24-21 over the Philadelphia Eagles, and now they are challenging history.

It was their ninth straight postseason victory, equalling Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers. It was coach Bill Belichick's 10th playoff victory in 11 games, one better than the great Lombardi. And it matched Dallas' run of three championships in four years in the early 1990s.

"We've never really self-proclaimed ourselves anything," said Tom Brady, who is 9-0 in the playoffs. "If you guys say we're great, we'll accept the compliment."

This one wasn't overpowering, and at times it was downright ugly. But not even Belichick seemed to care about that.

"To me this trophy belongs to these players," Belichick said. "They met all comers this year, a very challenging year. We're thrilled to win. These players played great all year, their best in the big games and they deserve it, they really deserve it."

With MVP Deion Branch tying a Super Bowl record for receptions with 11, Brady efficiently running the offense and Rodney Harrison sparking a smothering defense, the

Patriots (17-2) didn't need a last-second field goal from Adam Vinatieri this time.

But his kick — a 22-yarder with 8:40 left — provided the points that made the difference.

This time, the Patriots sealed it with a stop.

Philadelphia (15-4) got the ball back at its 4 with 46 seconds remaining. It was hardly enough time and far too much territory to cover against such a formidable foe.

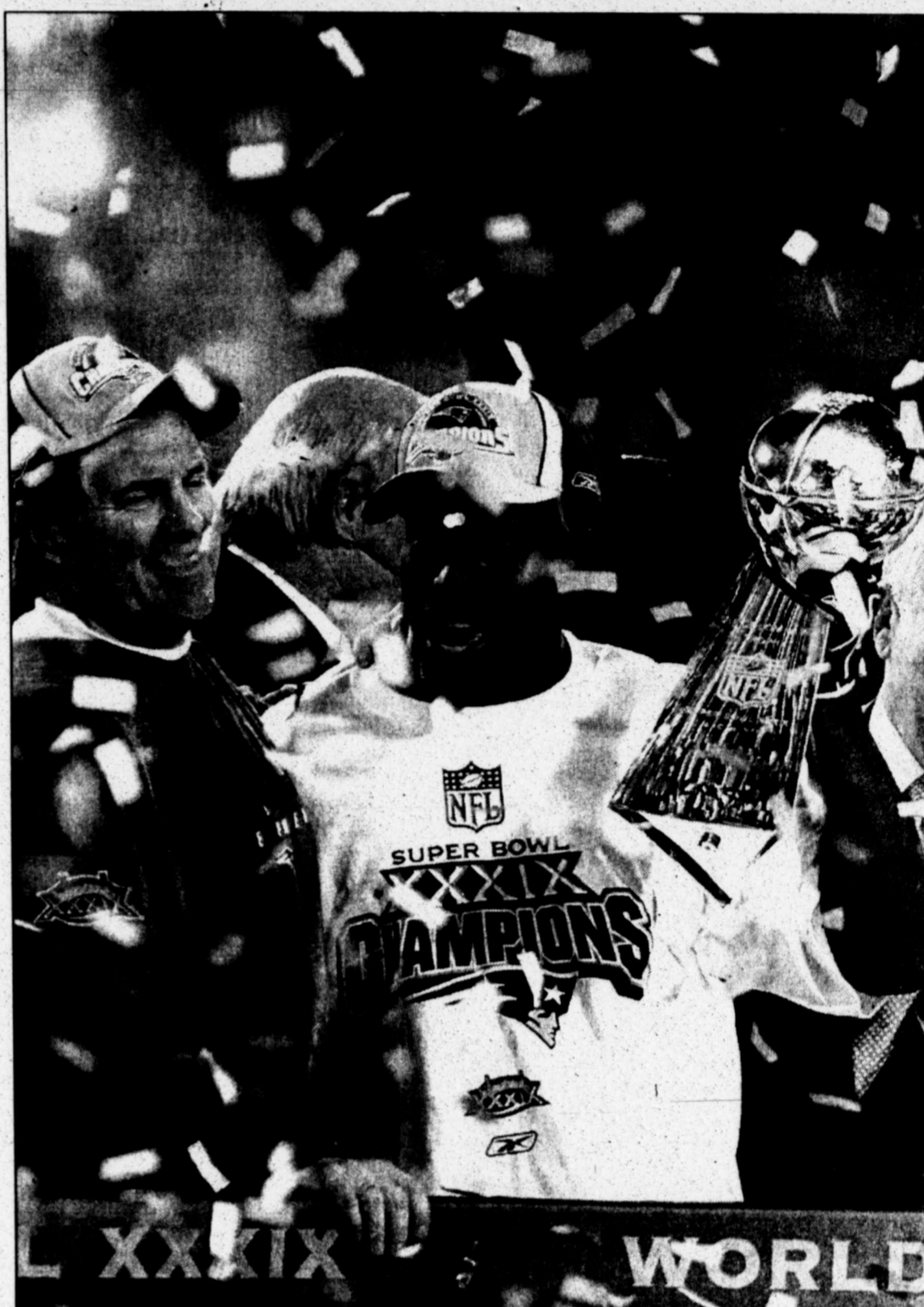
Harrison got his second interception with 9 seconds remaining to end it.

Playing before a sea of mostly green jerseys in the crowd of 78,125, the Patriots ended Philadelphia's chance of heading north with its first pro sports title since 1983. Indeed, it's been 45 years since the Eagles won the NFL crown. And even though they made it to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1981 — after three straight conference championship flops — their sparkling season still ended in disappointment.

"We were too sloppy to win," receiver Terrell Owens said. "It was great to get back, but we made too many mistakes. We could have won and that hurts."

Corey Dillon, a newcomer to the championship game, scored the go-ahead points on a 2-yard run early in the fourth period. And when Branch wasn't catching passes, the Patriots flaunted their versatility by again using linebacker Mike Vrabel to find the end zone.

Vrabel has caught TD passes in two straight Super Bowls and has five



Game MVP Deion Branch of New England holds the Lombardi Trophy with head coach Bill Belichick after a victory over Philadelphia in Super Bowl XXXIX Sunday.

TDs in as many career catches, not bad for a linebacker — or anyone else. "Brady wasn't as fluid as he was when he won the MVP awards in the 2002 and 2004 games, but he was 23-for-33 for 236 yards and two TDs.

"It doesn't matter who gets what," Branch said of taking the MVP away from his quarterback.

When the offense bogged down or turned over the ball, Harrison and his mates forced four turnovers, including a goal-line interception by the veteran safety. The Patriots also had four

sacks, making Donovan McNabb look ordinary, even skittish at times.

And while Owens' return from a seven-week injury layoff was an individual success — he had nine catches for 122 yards — it was not nearly the star turn that Branch made.

Branch was most instrumental on the opening drive of the second half, which set the tone for New England's 57th victory in its last 74 games.

While New England handled frequent blitzes, Branch caught four passes for 71 yards on the

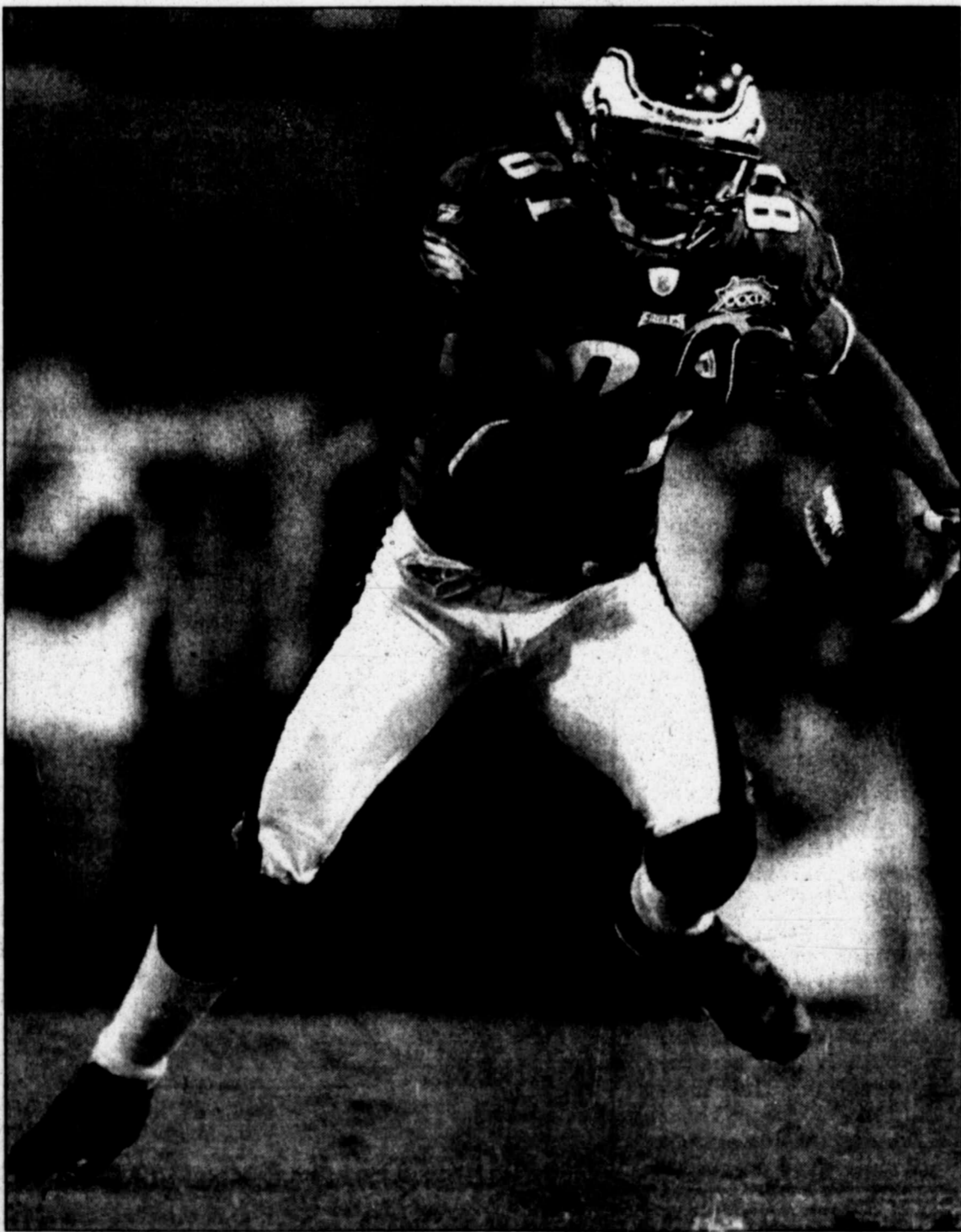
series that ended with Vrabel's TD.

"We did a great job of adjusting during the game," Branch said. "It was physical; a lot of guys were bumped and bruised."

The Eagles responded with a 74-yard drive. McNabb whipped a 10-yard pass over the middle between two defenders to Brian Westbrook for the TD.

Still, as winners always do, the Patriots reasserted themselves, effectively using screen passes

See DYNASTY, Page 2B



Philadelphia receiver Terrell Owens makes a run after catching a pass against New England in the second half of Super Bowl XXXIX Sunday.

Howard College

Baseball results (Howard starts season 3-1)

• Friday, Feb. 4, at Cowboy Field in Abilene vs. Hardin Simmons University JV — lost 7-6 vs. North Central Texas College — won 8-5
• Saturday, Feb. 5 in Big Spring vs. Lubbock Christian University JV — won 7-0 vs. Lubbock Christian University JV — won 12-2
next games: @Tyler Junior College Tournament, Feb. 10-12

Softball results (Howard starts season 0-6)

Yuma Arizona College Classic
• Friday, Feb. 4
Dixie State College (Utah) — lost 4-3
Central Arizona College — lost 9-2
Mesa Community College (Arizona) — lost 7-1
Arizona Western College — lost 6-0
• Saturday, Feb. 5
Snow College (Utah) — lost 5-3
Chandler Gilbert Community College (Arizona) — lost 10-2
next game: @Ranger College (doubleheader), Feb. 11

SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL
Monday: Howard men/women @Midland College (6 p.m./8 p.m.)
Tuesday: Big Spring boys/girls @Plainview (6 p.m./7:30 p.m.)
Coahoma boys/girls @Colorado City (6:30 p.m./8 p.m.)
Garden City boys/girls vs. Klondike (6:30 p.m./8 p.m.)
Forsen boys/girls @Wink (8:30 p.m./8 p.m.)
Grady boys/girls @Dawson (6:30 p.m./8 p.m.)
Stanton boys/girls @Stamford (6:30 p.m./8 p.m.)
Thursday: Howard men/women @Frank Phillips (6 p.m./8 p.m.)
Friday: Big Spring boys vs. Lake View (7:30 p.m.)
Coahoma boys vs. Hawley (7:30 p.m.)

Tennis
Friday/Saturday: Big Spring tennis @B.S. Tournament (8 a.m.)

Golf
Friday/Saturday: Big Spring golf @B.S. Invitational (TBA)

Friday/Saturday: Big Spring camp meet @Lubbock (TBA)

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FOUR SPACES at Trinity Memorial Park. Choice lots, Garden of Olivett. Value \$1,380 each. Sell all for \$5,000. Call (325)653-5160 or 325-944-0813.

Help Wanted
BIG SPRING STATE HOSPITAL
Currently has opening for Direct Care Workers
All shifts
Beginning Salary up to \$8.42/hour
Our benefit package includes:
Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Holidays, Insurance, Retirement and Nursing Educational Stipends.
Contact Human Resources
432-268-7256
Big Spring State Hospital
1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720
CLERICAL POSITION available at Best Home Care. Computer experience required and must be very detail oriented. Please apply at 111 East 7th, Suite C.
KEYHOLDERS / SUPERVISORS
Burke's Outlet in Big Spring 6 mos. Retail Exp. Required Great Benefits, FT/PT, EOE Call 800-683-8039 ext. 6027

The Basin's Bank, a strong and growing independent bank, is seeking professionals to join us in our growth and success. Our current opportunities include:

Personal Banker
Seeking a Personal Banker with a minimum of 1 year of new depository experience providing personalized banking services to customers in a courteous, professional and efficient manner. Will be responsible for customer inquiries and other clerical duties assigned. Must be able to cross sell bank products to customers; open new customer accounts; generate leads, referrals, and process transactions. Must have excellent communication and customer service skills, along with competent computer knowledge.

Fax resume to 432-617-1347.
email hr@westernnb.com or come by any Western National Bank Branch to fill out an application.

StarTek

WE OFFER

- ◆ Paid Training
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- ◆ Benefits
- ◆ Friendly Work Environment

Apply in person - 501 Birdwell Lane Suite 30
Big Spring, Texas / (432-264-2700) phone
or email: jhurt@startek.com

(Grade 12 Diploma is mandatory, must be 18 yrs. of age)

Come join a winning team!!!

Bilingual*

Help Wanted
BEST HOME Care has position available for Certified Nurses Aide. Please apply at 111 E. 7th., Suite C. No phone calls please.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE
Now Hiring
Certified Medication Aides
• Very Competative Starting Pay
• Excellent Benefits including Retirement Plan, and Vacation
• Friendly, Family-like environment
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BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

FEB 07 2005

<p>CARPET</p> <p>Bring Samples To Your Home NAME BRANDS Kenny Thompson 270-0548 263-4548</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>MARQUEZ FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates Benny Marquez-Owner 267-5714</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES Chico and Sons Concrete (432) 267-4044 (432) 268-6322 621 Sgt. Parodez Big Spring, TX 79720</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Concrete Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 213-4882 Cell (432) 263-2116 Res. 108 E. 11th PLACE Big Spring, TX. 79720</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>C & J Construction • Residential & Commercial Repair • Remodeling • Custom Homes (432) 270-8252 (432) 213-3444 (432) 394-4805</p>	<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>
<p>FENCES</p> <p>FENCE CONSTRUCTION AUTOMATIC GATE OPENERS METAL BUILDINGS Agricultural • Residential Commercial SPRAYBERRY AG. FABRICATION (432) 535-2396 Office (432) 556-5530 Mobile Specializing in custom built gates, fences, and buildings for all your needs.</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>CHARLIE METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1013 • 1-800-828-1388 1000 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>FENCE</p> <p>J.T. West Texas Fence & Welding Garden City, Texas Wood Fence Metal Fence Pipe Fence Pipe Corral Barbed Wire Fence Hot Wire Fence Free Estimates Home (432) 354-3813 Mobile (432) 495-1718 Big Spring (432) 263-4888 Starling City (325) 378-3877</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE</p> <p>HAVING A GARAGE SALE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-267-3349</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances Installed 816-3030</p>
<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Carports • Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing & Exterior Wallpaper Hanging • Ceramic Tile Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance Quality Work You Can Trust Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Russ Crain (owner) 432-270-2686</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>HANDY MAN Home Repair, Remodeling, Maintenance, Yardwork, Painting, Etc. Concrete Work, Driveway, Patios, Sidewalks, Etc. Evenings - 267-7889 Pam - 263-5772</p>	
<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>MOWING • WEEDEATING TILLING • TRASH HAULING TREE TRIMMING CALL 432-267-5460 LEAVE MESSAGE 816-6150</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Duplexes 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms For rent/sale 700 E. 12TH 902 E. 12TH 1206 DENTON 1102 E. 5TH</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-6430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 432-267-8317 432-268-6406</p>	<p>TAX SERVICES</p> <p>FAST CASH On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels Houses From Bargain Mart CALL (432) 264-8134 "So Heble Espanol" With RIA Approval</p>
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Concrete Mixer Truck Drivers
Class A CDL. DOT Medical
Cards, Drug & Alcohol Screens
\$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE
N.C. Sturgeon, LP
Apply in person
2800 Windecker at
Midland International Airport.
La Clase concreta
de Camineros de Batidora
UN CDL. Las Tarjetas Medicas
PUNTEDADAS,
la Droga & Alcohol Investiga
\$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE
N.C. Sturgeon, LP
Aplica en la persona
2800 Windecker en
Aeropuerto internacional de
region central.

DANCER/ COCKTAIL waitress
needed. Must be 18 yrs. old.
Call San Francisco Bar & Grill
(432)267-1767 leave message.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.
Coastal Transport is a leader in
transport of LPG Asphalt & Pet-
roleum Products. Coastal
serves high profile accounts &
needs dedicated professionals
to join our growing team in Big
Spring. Quality 25 with class A
& One year driving experience.
Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

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.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now
hiring for a warehouse man-
agement position. Some com-
puter and office skills helpful.
Excellent benefits, excellent
pay. Apply in person to Helena
Chemical, Stanton, Texas.

IMMEDIATE OPENING
for roustabout pushers and help-
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Oilfield Service Co. Inc. in
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- LVN**
Earn up to \$2,706 per month
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- RNs**
Earn up to \$4,825 per month
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Our benefits package include:
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Retirement and Nursing
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Contact Human Resources
432-268-7256

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720

**SOLID COMPANY NEEDS
DRIVERS.** Competitive hourly
pay, lots of overtime! Paid
travel, per diem, and motel.
Home one week every month!
Oil field labor along with driv-
ing. Medical and life insurance!
Requires 2 years Class A CDL
experience and good driving
record. Call 1-800-588-2669.

SURGERY CENTER in Mid-
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an Administrator. RN preferred
w/management experience in
the OR setting required. No
Call and no weekends. Competi-
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Safe driving record, Class A
CDL w/Tanker/Hazmat endorse-
ment. Drug and alcohol testing.
Health/Life insurance, retire-
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Midwestern Vacuum Truck Co,
1146 North College Ave, Sny-
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WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
person needed to move furni-
ture. Must be motivated. Good
driving record required. Must
be 21. Paid vacation & holi-
days. Apply in person, Credit
World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone
Calls!

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ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR
\$1200.00, high porch ramp-
\$800.00, electric scooter-
\$500.00, and threshold ramp-
items for handicapped. Call
21394-4675 or 270-8330.

Items for Sale

FOR SALE Golf clubs Wilson
Deep Red Fat Shafts 4-9, PW,
SW \$300.00. Call
432-264-0908

WOOD ARM chair with cane
seat, cabinet, two swivel bar
stools, airpurifier, small firebox.
Call (432)268-1481.

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FREE PUPPIES to good
homes. Call (432)-263-7042.

LOST AUSTRALIAN Shep-
herd, brown and white, blue
eyes, answer to "Misty" lost in
Tubbs Addition. Reward! Call
(432)264-6287.

LOST MALE Australian Shep-
herd & collie mixed. Air Base
area on Monday, 1-31-05. Call
(432)263-0607.

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Any condition for private collec-
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CAKES: Wedding, Anniversa-
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count on Arches, Candelabras,
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Processing Simple E-mails On-
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Guaranteed Paychecks! Amazing
Employment Opportunities!
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\$\$\$ FREE MONEY \$\$\$ for 2005!
Private-Government Grants for
Personal bills, School, Busi-
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Operators. Approx. \$49 billion
dollars unclaimed 2004.
1-800-410-2613 ext. 31

\$\$\$ UP TO \$529 WEEKLY!
Mailing letters from home.
Easy! Any Hours!
Full/part-time. No experience
necessary. U.S. Digest
1-888-389-1790 24 hours

\$\$\$OLDER GUITARS
WANTED! FENDER, GIB-
SON, MARTIN, GRETCH,
ETC. ALSO BANJOS AND
VIOLINS. PLEASE CALL
1-800-451-9728

\$0 DOWN HOMES!
NO CREDIT OK! GOV'T
& BANK REPOS. \$0 TO LOW
DOWN. FOR LISTINGS.
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 7372

\$2,500.00+ WEEKLY Income!!
Now Hiring Envelope Stuffers.
11 Year Nationwide Co. Needs
You! Easy Work From Home.
Free Postage, Supplies Pro-
vided. Written Guarantee! Free
Information, Call Now!
1-800-242-0363
Ext. 2500

\$25,000 FREE CASH
GRANTS! 2005! FOR PER-
SONAL BILLS,
SCHOOL,BUSINESS, ETC.
NEVER REPAY! LIVE OPERA-
TORS! APPROX. \$49 BILLION
LEFT UNCLAIMED 2004.
1-800-410-2613 EXT. 35, 7
DAYS.

\$2500.00 MONTHLY POSSI-
BLE growing gourmet mush-
rooms for us. Guaranteed con-
tract. Be independent, control
your future security and in-
come. Proven Production.
Free Details. SPARETIME
ENTERPRISES
1-800-910-3086

\$500! POLICE IMPOUNDS!
Hondas/ Chevys/ Fords/ Jeeps.
Cars, trucks, SUV's from \$500!
Listings: 800-749-8116 xA148

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Jobs \$17.50-\$59.00/hr.
Paid Training. Full Benefits.
No Exp. Nec. Green Card OK.
Call 1-866-895-3696 Ext. 6116

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Jobs \$17.50-\$59.00/hr.
Paid Training. Full Benefits.
No Exp. Nec. Green Card OK.
Call 1-866-895-3696 Ext. 6116

National Ads

\$525.00 INCOME POSSIBLE
mailing our Company Letters
from Home. No Experience
Necessary. FT/PT. Genuine
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Call 1(708)536-7040 (24 hours)

\$525.00 WEEKLY INCOME
possible mailing sales letters
from home. Genuine offer. No
selling. Supplies provided. Call
24/7: 1-(708)536-7040;
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\$750.00 WEEKLY Income
Possible Mailing Our Sales Let-
ters From Home. Free
Supplies & Postage. No Sell-
ing/Advertising.
Call 24hrs. 1-630-786-6633

\$990 -\$2,320 WEEKLY POS-
SIBLE! Mailing our letters from
home. FREE INFO. 100% Satis-
faction Guaranteed. Call
Now! 1-800-679-6844 24 hrs.

*****\$ FREE CASH GRANTS!**
\$** As Seen on T.V.! Never
Repay! Gov't Grants For Per-
sonal Bills, School, Business,
etc. \$47 billion left unclaimed.
Live Operators!
1-800-574-1804 ext. 712

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NOW HIRING For 2005'
POSTAL JOBS
\$16.40-\$59.00/HR.
Paid Training. Full Federal
Benefits. No experience nec-
essary. Green Card OK. Call
1-800-606-5059 Ext #4000.

****ANNOUNCEMENT****
NOW HIRING For 2005 Postal
Jobs \$17.50-\$59.00/hr.
Paid Training. Full Benefits.
No Exp. Nec. Green Card OK.
Call 1-866-895-3696 Ext. 6116

AN EXCLUSIVE DRINK &
SNACK VEND MACHINES
W/GREAT LOCATIONS
\$5995. MUST SELL BY
2-19-05 1-866-823-0264
(7days) AIN #B02410.

ARE YOU making \$1,710 per
week? All cash vending routes
with prime locations available
now! Under \$9,000 investment
required. Call Toll Free (24-7)
888-466-4200

AS SEEN ON TV \$25,000
FREE Cash Grants-2005! Per-
sonal bills,School, Business,
etc. Approx. \$49 billion left un-
claimed-2004! Never Repay!
Live Operators/1-800-410-2613
ext. 36

CASH GRANTS - 2005! Pri-
vate, Government grants for
Personal bills, School, Busi-
ness, etc. Approx. \$49 billion
dollars left unclaimed 2004.
Never Repay. Live operators.
1-800-410-2613 ext. 32, 7
days.

DIRECTV FREE 3 ROOMS
SYSTEM installed & delivered
free. Say goodbye to cable for-
ever + 3 months FREE
HBO/CINEMAX. Call
1-800-694-8644.
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DRIVER TRAINEES A Great
Career! Excellent Pay/Benefits
C.R. England Needs CDL
Driver Trainees! Company Paid
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Earn Up To \$600 WEEKLY
Helping the government
part-time. No Experience. A lot
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Now Hiring! Earn \$12 - \$48 per
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Full Benefits / Paid Training
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\$0 DOWN, NO CREDIT OK!
\$0 TO LOW DOWN!
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NEED A Loan?
Problems Getting Approved?
All Credits Welcomed!
Fast Results! No Application
Fees! 888-513-6973 x801

NEED AFFORDABLE
HEALTHCARE?
\$59.93/month. per Family. No
Limitations! All Pre-Existing
conditions OK. Call Provider
Select Family Healthcare!
1-800-550-2768 sc. W-1009

NEED JOB? CRST TRANS-
PORTATION Truck Driver
Training \$400-\$700/week No
Credit Check, No Mthly
Pymnts. 1-877-443-8289

NO RENT!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN!
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9811

NO RENT!!!!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN.
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9821

National Ads

FIRE YOUR Landlord!!!
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No Rent! Tax Reposes & Bank-
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1-800-501-1777 Ext. 8351

FOR SALE
\$10! COMPUTERS, Video
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COVER WATERLESS WE
STOPPED DOING DINNER
PARTIES! 17-PC., 7-PLY
SURGICAL STAINLESS
STEEL SETS LEFT! WERE
\$2000, NOW \$695! FIRST 7
CALLERS BUY SET FOR
\$368! 1-800-434-4628

FOR SALE
SAWMILLS \$2,595.00 - Lum-
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& LumberLite-24. Norwood In-
dustries also manufactures utility ATV At-
tachments, Log Skidders, Portable Board
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woodindustries.com
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SAWMILLS \$2,595.00 - Lum-
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dustries also manufactures utility
ATV Attachments, Log Skid-
ders, Portable Board Edgers
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FORECLOSED GOV'T
HOMES! \$0 OR LOW DOWN!
TAX REPOS & BANKRUPT-
CIES! OK CREDIT FOR LIST-
INGS! CALL 1-800-501-1777
EXT. 9813

FREE CASH GRANTS! 2005!
Approx. \$49 billion left un-
claimed 2004. Private, Govern-
ment Grants for Personal bills,
School, Business, etc. Never
Repay! Live Operators!
1-800-410-2592 ext. 33

GOOD WEEKLY INCOME!
Guaranteed earnings +BO-
NUSES! National company
needs Reliable people in this
area to prepare/mail sales bro-
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provided! Call:
1-800-357-1170

GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILD-
LIFE / POSTAL \$16.51 to
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Paid Training. Call for Applica-
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Experience Necessary. Toll
Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100

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\$17.50-\$59.00+/Hour. Full
Benefits. Paid training/Vacations.
No experience. Green
Card OK! 1-866-329-0801
ext.1070

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Meter!!! No Cost Diabetes Sup-
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FREE Membership! FREE
HOME DELIVERY! 1-800-287-
1737. Qualify NOW!

MYSTERY SHOPPERS
NEEDED! Earn While You
Shop! Call Now Toll Free
1-800-467-4422 Ext. 13134

NEED A Loan?
Problems Getting Approved?
All Credits Welcomed!
Fast Results! No Application
Fees! 888-513-6973 x801

NEED AFFORDABLE
HEALTHCARE?
\$59.93/month. per Family. No
Limitations! All Pre-Existing
conditions OK. Call Provider
Select Family Healthcare!
1-800-550-2768 sc. W-1009

NEED JOB? CRST TRANS-
PORTATION Truck Driver
Training \$400-\$700/week No
Credit Check, No Mthly
Pymnts. 1-877-443-8289

NO RENT!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN!
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9811

NO RENT!!!!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN.
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9821

NO RENT!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN!
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9811

NO RENT!!!!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN.
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
1-800-501-1777 EXT. 9821

NO RENT!!!!
\$0 DOWN HOMES! GOV'T &
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FOR LISTINGS, CALL
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BANK REPOS! NO CREDIT
OK. \$0 TO LOW DOWN.
FOR LISTINGS, CALL
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National Ads

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Positions \$17.50 - \$59.00
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Work! \$500-\$7500/mo PT/FT
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CASH Grants!
For Personal bills, School, Busi-
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Never Repay! Live Operators!
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days.

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VISIT - singles.com

SIMPLE WORK/TOP PAY -
Honest Homewokers Needed -
Assemble Refrigerator Magnets.
Serious Homewokers
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Have fun meeting eligible sin-
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BUILDING SALE! We'll Beat All
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Trainees Needed. No experi-
ence necessary! 16 day train-
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Wanted-Best Pay and Home
Time! Apply Online Today
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Great with kids! Serious inquir-
ies only! Call (432)267-5478 or
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1407-1/2 SETTLES. Clean two
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Great office or retail space.
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Vehicles

1995 Ford Van. 2 choose from! Power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. In house financing available. WAC

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6 automatic, red, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM CD. \$7,950.

2001 Daewoo Leganze SE, 4 cylinder, power doors, locks, power windows, tilt, cruise, low miles 43,000. Financing available. WAC

Jimmy Hopper
1607 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX. 79720
(432)267-5588

1998 Chevy regular cab, short-bed, 2 choose from V-6, automatic, AM/FM cassette, tint glass. \$7,950.

1998 Chevy Silverado extended cab, 3-door Z71, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. \$10,900.

1999 Chevy Silverado regular cab, short bed, V-6, automatic, 92,000 miles. \$8,950.

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1999 Chrysler LHS, V-6, maroon leather seats, power seat, power windows, doors, locks, tilt, cruise, miles 64,000. \$7,950.

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6, green convertible, automatic, fully loaded, dual pipe, after market tail light. One owner. 40,000 miles. Very nice ride!

2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser Limited. Silver, fully loaded with power sunroof. 64,900 miles. \$10,900.

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2002 Dodge Neon SE, power windows, power doors, locks, AM/FM CD. Still under factory warranty. \$6,900.

2001 Nissan Frontier SC crew cab supercharge V-6, blue, automatic leather seats, sunroof, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, aluminum wheels, CD. \$14,900.

2001 Ford F-150 supercrew XLT, red, tilt cruise, power windows, power doors, locks. Very nice! \$14,900.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Local Employee Committee (LEC) of the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) is accepting applications from (IRS 501(c)3) Health and Human Service Charitable Organizations, including federations of such organizations, desiring to participate in the Midland-Odessa 12-county campaign area of the 2005 SECC. Call the current campaign manager at (432)685-7709 for application kits. Application kits will be provided automatically to organizations that participated in 2004. United Way (or comparable federation) member or service provider agencies must submit applications to the respective United Way/Federation by March 23, 2005. Deadline for other charities' applications and for United Way/Federation applications is April 6, 2005, to the SECC/LEC. #4452 February 7 & 8, 2005

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4TH, BIG SPRING, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:
The owner of Block 5, Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12, Highland Park Addition, located at Locust and 11th Place, 1103 East 11th Place has requested a Specific Use Permit for the proposed use of a restaurant. #4453 February 6 & 7, 2005

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The moon enters Aquarius, joining the planetary soiree going on in the sign of societal unity. Rub elbows with all kinds. The more open you are to communication, the more you learn, which is the point now. Building the intellect will in turn build society. You don't have to be serious about it, though. Much of the learning comes through osmosis!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The light bulb of innovation clicks on for you, brightening your outlook and helping you see your path more clearly. Don't be surprised if it leads you to another country! Your wanderlust is paging. Will you answer?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A steamy interlude is in the works when an intriguing someone sparks your interest, causing you to take bold action. A relative or business person could make you a financial offer you can't refuse. Think it over first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Feeling ready to take the next step in a relationship or business partnership? The mood is right to make your intentions known. Unattached Gems who've been holding back are inspired to jump into the dating game again.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Implement positive changes in your daily routine to help you do your work faster and live healthier. Small improvements like a software upgrade or drinking more water make a big difference in your ability to accomplish goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Admit it, you're dying to sink your lion fangs into a sumptuous new creative project. Why are you waiting? The stars are shining in your favor. Just don't forget to make time for your sweetheart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whether you mean to fully renovate your home or just buy a new comforter for your bed, you will benefit by changing the look and feel of your environment. If you can envision it, you can achieve it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Overcome a communication impasse by trying a different approach. If you're not having any luck getting your calls returned, try sending an e-mail or fax -- maybe

even show up in person. Or take the Zen approach, and drop it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't give up if your New Year's resolution is proving harder to keep than anticipated. Forgive yourself for backsliding, and simply vow to try harder. Financial commitments are particularly slippery.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If something in your life that used to bring you joy now feels like excess baggage, set plans into motion to change your situation. Creative brainstorming with a friend helps you see exciting alternatives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may be harboring hidden resentment of which even you are completely unaware. If you're feeling defensive, pay attention. This is a valuable clue to help you unlock your psyche and release toxic stress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Fight for your right to party! While you're out there saving the world with your political or humanitarian causes, you're no doubt having a rockin' good time. You may even meet someone who alters the course of your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no time like the present to make that big pitch or presentation

and launch your career into the next dimension. If signing contracts, make sure you're happy with the terms -- this deal will have long-term staying power.

ASTROLOGICAL BABY SPECIAL (PART ELEVEN OF TWELVE). The Adventurous Baby Sagittarius is born between Nov. 22 and Dec. 21. This pioneering spirit comes with a quest -- to reach into the beyond and embrace it until it is familiar. And so Sagittarius brings his or her parents the gift of exploration. The parent may think he or she is observing a baby who is discovering the world, but what is occurring simultaneously is that the parent is coming to a new understanding of the world due to baby's investigation. The Sagittarius child is always pushing the boundaries and breaking the rules and because of this requires parents to be constantly on alert. But this sign usually gives back the attention it demands -- though often in an indirect way. As lucky planet Jupiter's chosen sign, Sagittarius has a famous abundance mentality that attracts more than enough of any desired thing and will share the wealth. Manifesting lucky relationships is

another specialty of social Sagittarius, and often, parents of this child find that their social life blossoms because of Sagittarius' influence. Though happy to make new friends, Sagittarius is a fiercely independent child at heart and requires a certain degree of privacy and freedom in order to feel totally balanced.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aquarius is the great social egalitarian of the zodiac! Case in point: Garth Brooks, the down-home megastar who has invented a way to stay one of the guys and still be a respected boss calling the shots. He takes on the persona "Mr. Brooks" when he's the boss, and his people know that when he's speaking as that persona, he means business. Otherwise, he can have fun with his band, crew and staff.

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

Dear Annie: I am a 35-year-old woman with four children, an advanced degree and no serious health problems, but I have compulsively and secretly been eating crayons for months. I don't mean chewing on a crayon here and there. I mean eating an entire 64-count box, and doing it several times a week. I can't stop, and I don't know why I'm doing this.

I am too embarrassed to tell my doctor, because I know he'll think I am crazy. The box says the crayons are non-toxic, but I'm really eating a lot of them. And this is a really dumb question, but are they fattening? Why am I doing this? Am I crazy? Please help. -- Crayon Freak

Dear Crayon Freak: We have no idea how many calories are in a 64-count box of crayons, but that's the least of your worries. You may have pica, a disease that involves eating non-food substances (dirt is the most common). Pica is usually caused by a nutritional deficiency, often iron or zinc, and it can sometimes occur dur-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

ing pregnancy. There is apparently something about the contents or texture of crayons that you crave.

While crayons are considered non-toxic, they are not intended to be eaten, especially in such large quantities. You are not crazy, but you do need to see your doctor and ask to be tested. Don't wait until you finish the next box.

Dear Annie: I have been with my boyfriend, "James," for three years. Last year, we moved in together with the understanding that we would

become engaged shortly. (We're both nearly 30.) I was fully expecting that ring. A few months ago, I mentioned that I thought it was time we made definite plans. Somehow, James' mother got wind of it and freaked out. She called me, saying marriage is no guarantee that he won't walk out on me someday. (James' parents had a rather nasty divorce when he was young.)

Last night, James told me I might not be getting a ring at all. I was shocked, hurt and angry. He claims he still wants to marry me -- he just can't say when. I think it all comes down to his mother. She told him it would kill her if she heard news about a marriage. I suspect he would propose if it weren't for her. I don't know what to do. I've asked him to go for counseling, but he refuses. Should I wait this out and hope he comes around? I love him, but I want kids someday, and I'm not getting any younger. -- Lovesick

Dear Lovesick: James is tied rather tightly to Mom's apron strings. She undoubtedly "got wind of" your marriage plans because he told her. Decide right now if you want to stay with someone whose mother will always come first, because that's the way it's going to be.

Dear Annie: We have a big problem in our small office. There are seven people working here. One of the senior partners has a body odor problem. Most days it is so bad that it permeates the whole office. Even clients have recognized this horrid smell.

This partner will not allow us to burn candles, so we have no way of dealing with the odor. We have talked to the other partner, and he refuses to approach this man and says we'll have to live with it. We won't say anything directly for fear of losing our jobs. What should we do? -- Legal Assistant
Dear Legal Assistant: There are dozens of air fresheners available that

will mask or neutralize the odor. Place a few around the office and use as needed.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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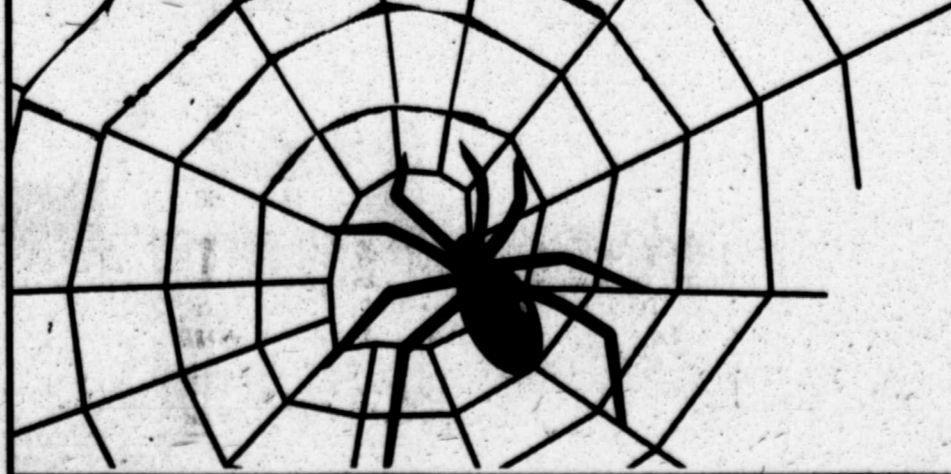
Discover
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World,
Read!
You never
know
what you
might find.

The Spider

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

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

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



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MONDAY

FEB. 7

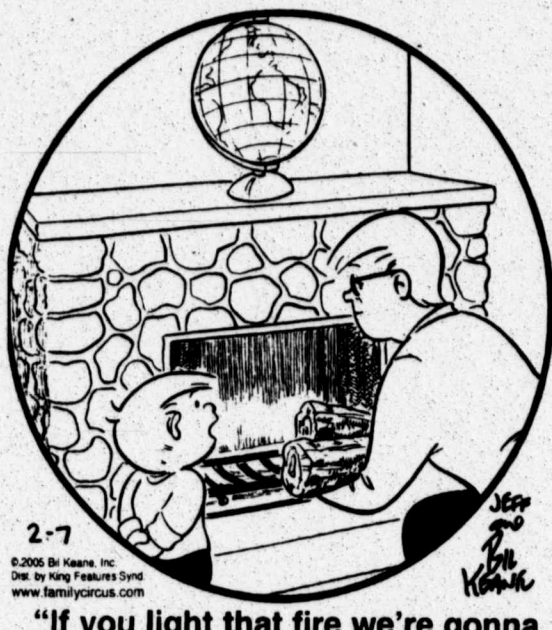
TV schedule table with columns for station (WFAA, KMDI, UNI, etc.) and time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30).

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WE WERE WONDERIN'... DO MOMS GET OVERTIME PAY?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you light that fire we're gonna have global warming."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2005. There are 327 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 7, 1812, author Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. On this date: In 1904, a fire began in Baltimore that raged for about 30 hours and destroyed more than 1,500 buildings. In 1936, President Roosevelt authorized a flag for the office of the vice president. In 1944, during World War II, the Germans launched a counteroffensive at Anzio, Italy. In 1944, Bing Crosby and the John Scott Trotter Orchestra recorded "Swinging on a Star" for Decca Records in Los Angeles. In 1964, The Beatles began their first American tour as they arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. In 1971, women in Switzerland won the right to vote. In 1974, the island nation of Grenada won independence from Britain. In 1984, space shuttle astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered space walk. In 1986, Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule. In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah. Ten years ago: Ramzi Yousef, later convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was arrested in Islamabad, Pakistan, after two years as a fugitive. Five years ago: With an astonishing comeback to win the Pebble Beach

National Pro-Am, Tiger Woods gained his sixth straight PGA Tour victory, becoming the first player since Ben Hogan in 1948 to win six in a row. Today's Birthdays: Country singer Wilma Lee Cooper is 84. Author Gay Talese is 73. Actor Miguel Ferrer is 50. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 46. Actor James Spader is 45. Country singer Garth Brooks is 43. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 43. Comedian Eddie Izzard is 43. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 39. Actor Jason Gedrick is 38. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 27. Actress Tina Majorino is 20.

Answer to previous puzzle: FORECASTERS, TAKES ABATING, THRILLAINMANILA, URGE NET SPAS, BOOSTS CREEDS, ANN BUSHMAN ATE, SEE SCHOOLS TOT, COURT, OKS MOONSET BIP, NAT ARTDECO ENE, ERECTS HOPSTO, ARNO TSE AMEN, LACROSSEPLAYERS, SIERRALEONEAN, LABORLEADER

Newsday Crossword SCHOOL SUBJECTS by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Hollywood award 6 Scorch 10 Window section 14 Concise 15 Seldom seen 16 Scored 100 on 17 Golf hazards 18 Curved lines 19 Guys-only party 20 Not at work 21 Social worker's record 24 Travels with the band 26 Reaches across 27 Friendly ghost of comics 29 Ceremony 31 Arthur of tennis 32 Forget to include 34 Louisiana cuisine 39 King of beasts 40 More sensible 42 Mystical message 43 Run out, as a subscription 45 Jules Verne captain 46 Division word 47 Singer Loretta 49 It's north of California 51 Artist Picasso 54 One of the senses 55 Player's motion to assist the ball 58 CPR pro 61 Table extension 62 Darling 63 Bicker 65 Jane Austen novel 66 One of the Great Lakes 67 In (fashionable) 68 Cold War rival: Abbr. 69 Cincinnati baseballers 70 Macho males DOWN 1 Director 2 Medieval worker 3 Hobbyists' hangout 4 Poisonous snake 5 Save from harm 6 Rude 7 Long-eared hopper 8 Foot feature 9 Don't go quietly 10 Penne or ziti 11 Follow, as advice 12 Gets closer to 13 Anxious 22 Cupid's missile 23 On (without a contract) 25 Unlocks 27 Ring up 28 China's continent 29 Ascended 30 Agenda detail 33 Wisc. neighbor 35 Disney mermaid 36 Playground apparatus 37 "Do others..." 38 Sign gas 41 Hotel offerings 44 Vogue rival 48 Over there 50 Go over again 51 "The Raven" and "Annabel Lee" 52 Washington's successor 53 To a great degree 54 Fathers 55 cheese dressing 56 Richard of Chicago 57 -back (easygoing) 59 Stubborn animal 60 New driver, often 64 Numbered hwy.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for words.

Come Alive in 2005!



ANNUAL
CHAMBER
BANQUET
TUESDAY,
FEB. 8, 2005
6:30 P.M.
DOROTHY
GARRETT
COLISEUM

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

A special supplement to the Big Spring Herald,
Monday, Feb. 7, 2005



Speaker at the forefront when it comes to developing positive economic strategies

As the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce prepares to look at the road ahead during its annual banquet, economic development will most likely be on the mind of the event's guest speaker, David P. Rumbarger.



Rumbarger is serving as president and CEO of the Community Development Foundation for Tupelo and Lee counties in Mississippi — a position he has held since August of 2000.

The CDF was organized in 1948 in the Blue Room of Hotel Tupelo by community leaders who saw the need for a unified

effort to coordinate the economic and community development activities of the region. CDF is a membership organization governed by a 65-member Board of Directors, elected by the members, with a 15 member Executive Committee, composed of officers, division leaders and other professionals.

Mr. Rumbarger completed his undergraduate studies at Auburn University, where he received a bachelor's of science degree in public administration in 1982. He completed Duke University's advanced management program through Fuqua School of Business in 1999 and holds a designation of certified economic developer from the International Economic Development

Council.

His professional awards include designation as a Top Ten Developer by "Triangle Business Journal" in 1997, Top 40 under 40 by "Mississippi Business Journal" in 1995, Hattiesburg Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year in 1995, Top Young Developers by "Expansion Management Magazine" in 1995 and Top Deals in U.S. and Top 20 Area Development Partnership by "Site Selection Magazine" in 1994.

Mr. Rumbarger is married to the former Donna Adkinson of Auburn, AL. He is a deacon and is active in the First Baptist Church of Tupelo. They have two children, Rudy, age 16 and Mary Larkin, age 10.

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Walter Brumley
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2005-2007



Ronnie Wood
2005-2007



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Your chamber, working for you

What is the chamber?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce: 1) it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and 2) it renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and to the area as a whole.

How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their choice.

The goal of the program is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed

to work on active committees to get the job done.

Who is the chamber?

Members — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.

Board of directors — Elected by the membership, these individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber. Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board decisions.

Officers — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The officers provide direction and leadership to the board.

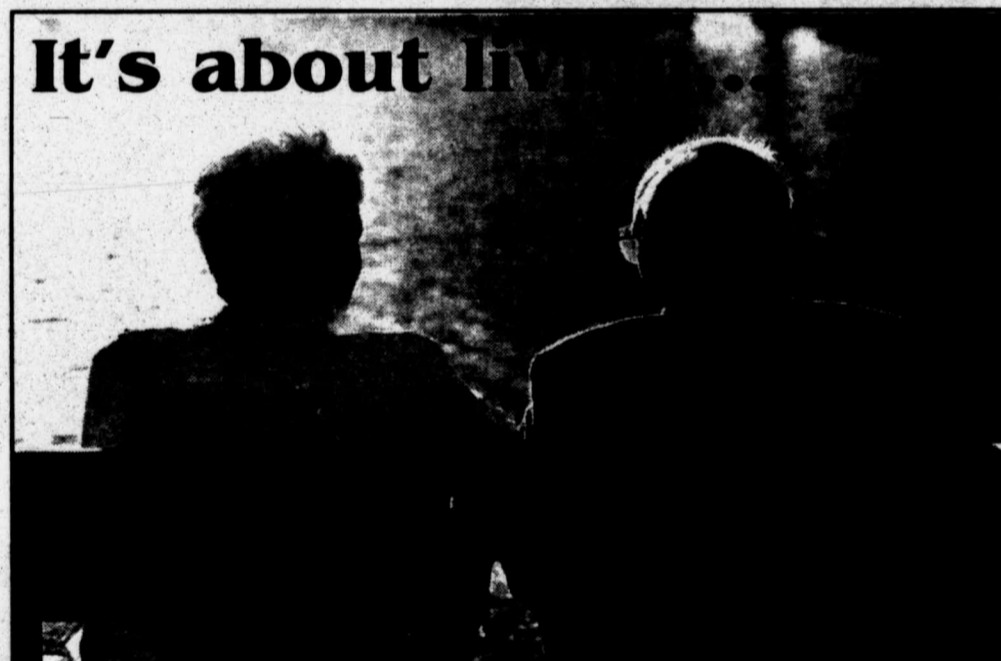
Staff — The executive director is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for employing and managing the staff.

Committees — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

See **CHAMBER**, Page 12



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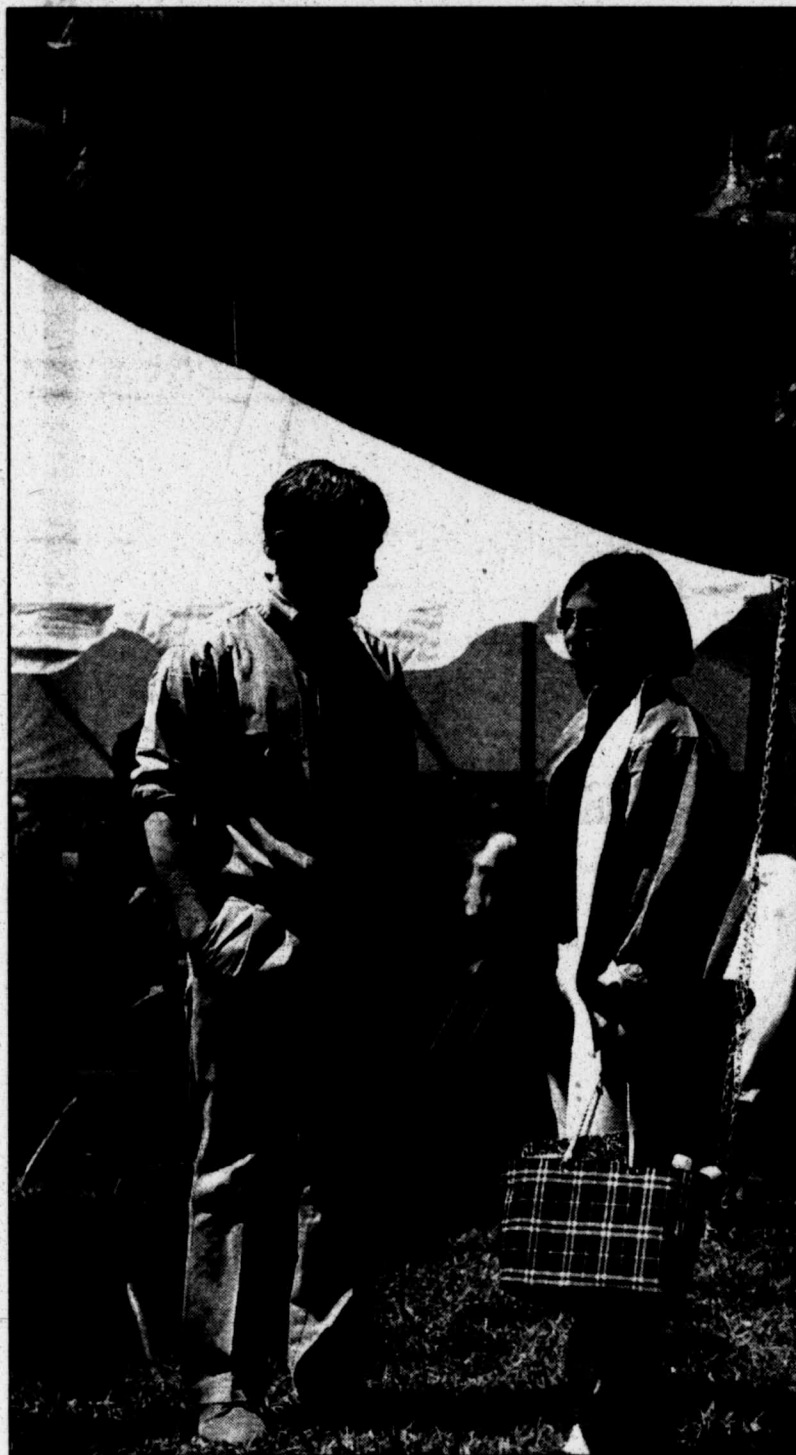
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Home Hospice

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Join us for our day in Austin



One spring day every two years, hundreds of Big Spring area residents descend upon the state capitol ready to remind Austin politicians of the city's vital importance to the state economy.

"Big Spring Day at the State Capitol is important to show not only our appre-

ciation and support for our state legislatures for the job they do in Austin but it is also a time to remind them about rural Texas and Big Spring," said Pam Welch, coordinator for the event.

In April 2003, more than 160 Big Spring area residents made the five-hour

trip to play host to capitol workers by handing out free Cokes from Western Container and ice cream from Blue Bell at the Big Spring tent located on the east lawn of the capitol grounds.

This year, Big Spring Day in Austin will be held April 27.



**THE
BIG SPRING
GIN**



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**Western
Container**

Big Spring Plant

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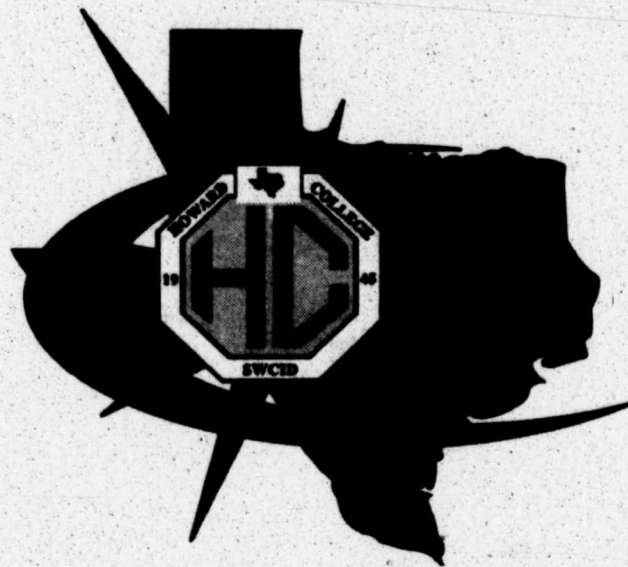
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Brad Mikeska, the 2003 Agri-Business Person of the Year, takes time out from the handshakes and pats on the back during the Annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon and Expo. With Mikeska are his wife, Missy Mikeska, left, and 2002 award recipient Sherry Wegner.



2003 Ag Producer of the year Rob Haney takes time to enjoy the moments following the award presentation with son Paul, wife Suzanne and daughter Sarah. Haney is a third-generation farmer and a graduate of Tarleton State University.

Taking time to honor our ag industry

Each year the Chamber of Commerce takes time to thank the farmers, ranchers and all the agriculture community for their continuing role in the local community.

In a few months, it will be time for the annual West Texas Ag Expo and the Ag Appreciation Luncheon, honoring farmers and ranchers in the community.

"Agriculture is a part of the Big

Spring Area," said Debbye ValVerde, Chamber of Commerce executive director. "We host the luncheon because we want to thank the area farmers for doing their business in Big Spring. All the contributions from area businesses come because those businesses want to thank the farmers for doing business with them and in Big Spring."

Each year, tickets to the appreci-

ation lunch are free to local farmers and ranchers. The lunch is also open to the public for a nominal fee and the event draws from 400 to 500 people.

Usually taking place at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, the Expo features exhibits, seminars, food and the highlight — naming of the producer of the year.

"The Expo allows different entities and business in Big Spring

who would like to see farmers as potential customers to set up booths," said ValVerde.

Some of the seminar topics from past Expos included row spacing, boll weevil management, drip irrigation and worker protection standards, farm chemicals, laws relating to agriculture and even improving the home landscape.

As yet, the date for the 2005 Ag Expo has not been set.

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Chamber helps build community leaders

Leadership Big Spring, now in its 23rd year, is a Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce program that allows members of the community to have a first-hand look at all the businesses and services available locally.

The leadership class meets once a month for 10 months.

While involved in the class, the group tours various businesses and industries within the community, attends board meetings of various entities and generally gets a broad overview of everything Big Spring has to offer.

Leadership Big Spring classes also offer workshops on leadership, an additional bonus for those enrolled. Other areas of interest that the class tours are agriculture, utilities, communication and law enforcement.

Participants are required to attend three board meetings of a local government entity, ride in a patrol car with a Big

Spring police officer and must also take part in a community group project.

The Chamber also offers a senior course of Leadership Big Spring. The course, a less intense version of the original, gives seniors an opportunity to learn more about the community while touring local businesses and entities.

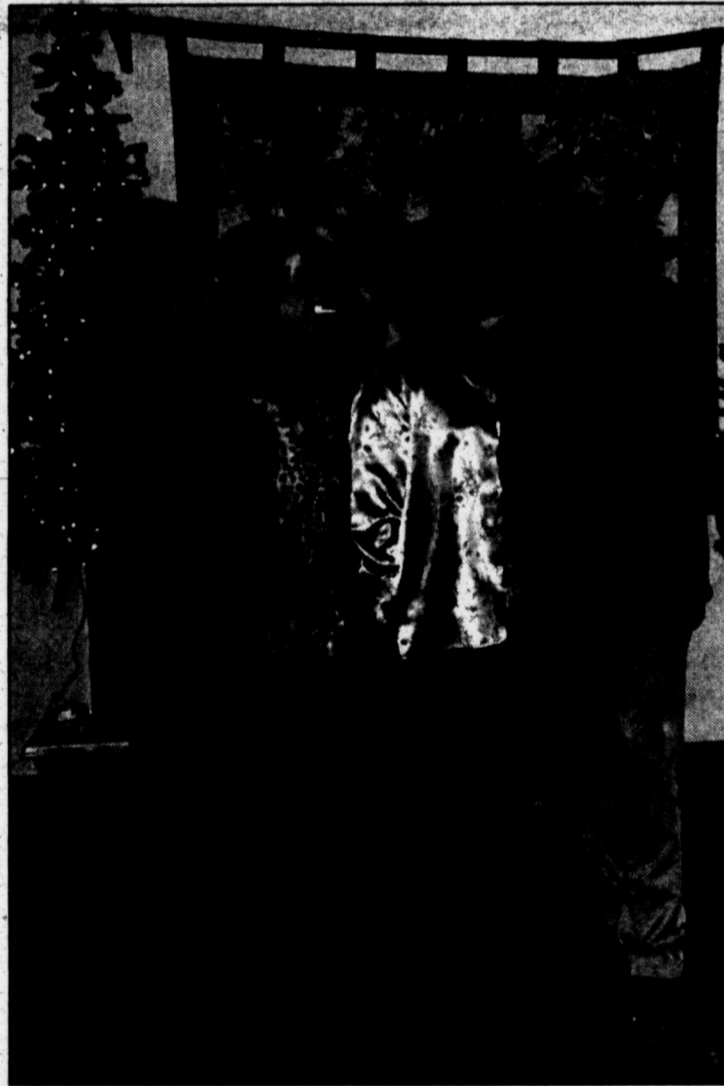
The course lasts about 12 weeks and participants meet once every two weeks during the mornings. It is offered free to seniors.

In addition to the Leadership Big Spring program, the chamber also offers a junior leadership program.

Big Spring Junior Leadership is

available to high school juniors and is actually conducted by the Howard County Extension Agency.

The program lasts for one semester. Faculty in area high schools recommend students for the program.



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Business After (or Before) Hours is fun, informative

Promoting area business, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce offers a number of annual events for its members.

One of the activities is Business After Hours, a function which spotlights one business quarterly. Held in the early evening, Business After Hours is a come-and-go reception which not only displays a particular business but also allows merchants, civic leaders and other an opportunity to interact on an informal basis.

Last year, the Chamber also began having Business Before Hours, an event identical to Business After Hours except for the time of day in which it is held — early in the morning.

The host usually sends invitations to its clientele while the Chamber sends invitations to its members.

Every new member of the chamber has a ribbon cutting ceremony, which is attended by members of

**The next scheduled
Business After Hours
is Feb. 24 at Comanche
Trail Nursing Center.**

the Big Spring Ambassadors and photographs are taken.

During the holiday season, residents and businesses are encouraged to light up the town for the annual lighting contest sponsored by the chamber.

The chamber also sponsors a number of large events in the community including the Taste of Home Cooking School, Taste of Big Spring, the Ag-Expo, Treasure Trails, community luncheons, Pops in the Park, the Health Fair and Big Spring Day in Austin.

The chamber conducts membership drives throughout the year and is a focal point for visitors to learn more about Howard County.



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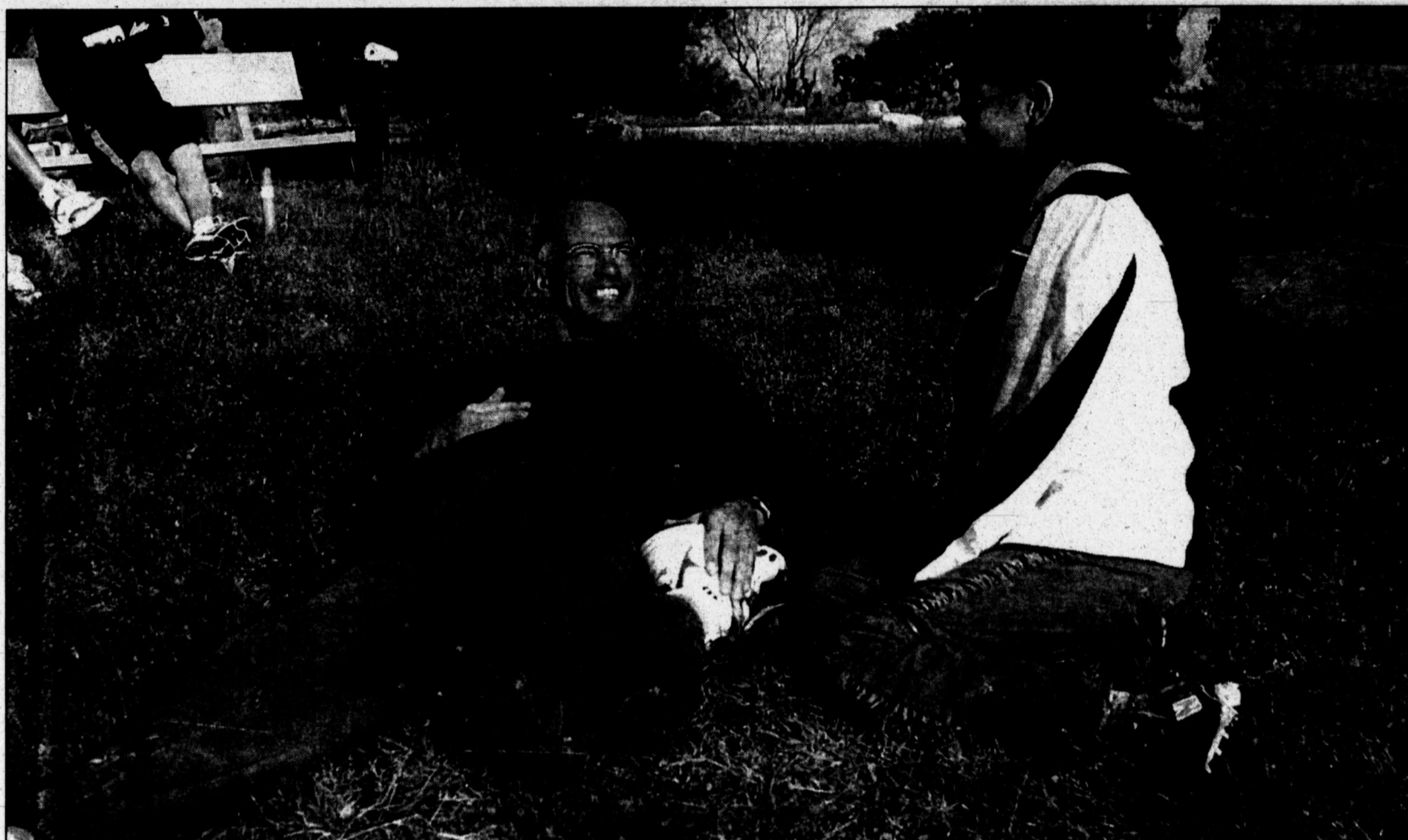
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Chamber promotes healthy living through annual fair

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce takes an active role in promoting health services and products by sponsoring the annual Big Spring Health Fair.

Thousands people attended last year's five-hour event at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. They took

advantage of free health screenings for prostate cancer, depression, bone density, skin cancer, body composition, stroke risk, blood sugar and more.

Exhibitors often come from local medical clinics, equipment sales and rental businesses, doctor's offices and other health-related

services.

Information is available on such topics as Alzheimer's disease, rehabilitation programs, rabies outbreaks and safe use of prescription drugs.

Fitness programs have conducted demonstrations in the past, while free

ultrasound tests and glaucoma screenings were popular offerings.

In recent years, senior citizens have been encouraged to take advantage of the File of Life, which keeps health information available in case of an emergency.

Related activities have occurred in conjunction with, or on the same day, as the fair. They include the "Master the Mountain" Fun Run/Walk at Big Spring State Park.

Mark your calendar. This year, Health Fair 2005 will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 16.



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First and foremost, we need to represent and promote our members

It is a distinct honor to serve as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce president in 2005. To follow recent presidents John Weeks, Terry McDaniel and Cheri Sparks, who are long-time leaders in Big Spring, is a challenge.

My vision for the Chamber this year is not complicated. As I told the Chamber Board of Directors at our start-of-year workday in late January, we need to first and foremost represent and promote our members.

Everything we do as a Chamber should pass the test of: Is it meaningful and beneficial in some way to our members, be it retail, industrial, agricultural or service. So goal one is to represent our members and represent them well.



An important way the Chamber represents its membership is to be active and involved

in community and economic development initiatives. Examples of such initiatives are: 1) The Rural Community College Initiative, 2) recent Moore Board projects and 3) the "Keep Big Spring Beautiful" group.

A second key goal is excellence in execution. The Chamber in 2005 has a dedicated and energetic group of directors. The Chamber has a full calendar of events for 2005, as we do each year, each designed to highlight,

promote or celebrate some segment of our business community. We must dedicate ourselves to strive for excellence in carrying out this year's Chamber work.

Goal 1: Represent our members extremely well.

Goal 2: Strive for excellence in all our Chamber work.

JOE CONCIENNE
CHAMBER PRESIDENT

Striving to Serve — Promote — Protect our members

Come Alive in 2005!

What does that mean to you? To me it means that we as a community will either be powerful or powerless. Chambers of Commerce and similar business associations are the most powerful, powerless organizations ever created. Our real power comes from the number of members we represent. We are members of this great community and we need to start



putting back into it what we can. For some it may mean giving to charitable organizations, but for many others it may mean getting involved and volunteering. Whether it is picking up trash during the Texas Trash Off, delivering meals on wheels, reading at the schools, greeting or putting up lights at the Festival of Lights,

or being a part of a Chamber committee. We as a community need to show our next generation how to take pride in what we have and who we are. Come Alive Big Spring! Let's make OUR community a place where other people will want to come visit and maybe stay awhile.

2004 was a challenging year for Big Spring and Howard County. Once again we came together in support of our state hospital and MHMR facilities. On a bus bound to San Angelo for a Texas Health and Human Services Commission Hearing, our community leaders, small business owners and concerned citizens put Big Spring on the map. Chamber President John Weeks and Mayor Russ McEwen did a tremendous job in getting community leaders together to help present our case. To all who made the trip to San Angelo — kudos! Together we met the chal-

lenge and hopefully we have conquered.

The Chamber will continue to work along side the city of Big Spring, the county, Moore Development and other entities in our community along with Howard College through the RCCI (Rural Community College Initiative) program to become catalysts for economic and community development and to improve the access to education. As a team we have come a long way this past year and as a team we will better our community.

The Chamber, through its projects and the vice presidents who oversee these projects, hope to encourage more of our members to get involved with us as well as the residents of this community.

A special thank you to our outgoing president, John Weeks, for his guidance and support. His goal was to focus on community

development and our members and with his direction we are striving to reach that goal. To our members who continue to give me their support and encouragement, thank you.

I look forward to working with incoming president Joe Concienna and the entire Board of Directors in 2005. The Chamber always focuses on its members. We try to offer more incentives, educational seminars and ways to get businesses to network with each other. This year we will continue to do just that and maybe more.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce strives to Serve — Promote — Protect its members.

DEBBY VALVERDE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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CHAMBER

Continued from Page 4

What are the benefits?

- Refers businesses to visitors and callers,
- Helps promote a business of the chamber,
- Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state and federal level by coordinating with

the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber,

- Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally,
- Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information and networking,
- Offers support and awareness of all areas of art,
- Works to increase growth of

tourism in Howard County and support local attractions and events,

- Advertises businesses in the membership directory,
- Works with city, county, Moore Development and other entities for the betterment of the community,
- Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings,
- Offers promotion and links to

business through a Web site.

Membership investment
Membership investment for small businesses is \$200 per year.

For more information
The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or, to learn more about the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, contact Debbye ValVerde at (915) 263-7641 or write P.O. Box 1319.



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