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Commissioners to continue work on next budget

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will continue to hammer out details of a new budget when they hold their regular meeting at 10 a.m. Monday in the county courthouse.

This is the second in a series of meetings in which commissioners will discuss the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

While budget planning is still in the preliminary stages, County Auditor



Olson

Jackie Olson said some increases from the current fiscal package are being considered.

"It's still very early in the process, but we are looking at some increases in expenditures," Olson said. "One of the items we'll look at is the sheriff is proposing a different pay structure for his department (which would amount to salary increases),"

Olson said, adding that the amount of the possible salary increases are unknown at this time.

Also, increases in health insurance costs are expected to add \$100,000 to the new budget and an as-yet undetermined across-the-board pay raise for county employees is being discussed, as well.

Overall, Olson said commissioners are considering about \$800,000 in total increases, but stressed that things were still very much in the

preliminary stages.

On the debt service side of the budget, the county is expected to make payments of \$945,000, \$800,000 of which is targeted to begin paying off the new county jail.

The current budget, which expired at the end of August, features \$14.4 million in expenditures. The current tax rate is 57.8652 centers per \$100 property valuation. The rate is

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Hangar 25 Kid's Klub scheduled for Aug. 2-6

Herald Staff Report

Hangar 25 Air Museum is now accepting registration for the 2010 Kid's Klub Summer Workshop, new Administrator Joy Hays announced.

Kid's Klub at Hangar 25, the facility's annual summer youth program, will be held Aug. 2-6 and is open to children ages 8 to 12.

Space is limited to 20 participants, and registration by phone or in person is required, Hays said.

Each year, Hangar 25 sponsors the Kid's Klub as a patriotic summer activity teaching about men and women who have and who are serving in the Armed Forces. Children learn through hands-on craft projects, fun activities and talks from visiting veterans.

The theme for this year's Kid's Klub is "Remembering." The focus will be on learning about the patriotic holidays and how we observe them.

Craft activities will center on the Poppy Flower as a

See **KLUB**, Page 3A

INDEX

Business 4-5C, 11-12C

Classified 6-10C

Life 1-3C

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-4B

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REMOVING STORAGE TANK



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Workers remove one of four 50,000 storage tanks that held water for Howard College's old heating and chilling system. A new heating and chilling loop, part of the \$21 million campus renovation project, was recently completed, college officials said.

WTCMHMR evaluating budget cuts

Special to the Herald

A governor-directed 10 percent reduction to the state's mental health budget will force West Texas Centers for MHMR to see fewer adults and children in their 23-county service area and force people who need hospitalization to go without necessary care.

West Texas Centers for MHMR is the local mental health authority for 23 counties in rural West Texas. More than 350 employees provide counseling, therapy, medications and medical care for more than 2,000 individuals each month through 15 mental health centers.

"We believe we will have to reduce our caseload by more than 180 people to meet the cuts directed by the governor," West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said. "With the



Smith

suggested reduction of about \$600,000 to our budget, we will be forced to see 150 fewer adults and 30 fewer children each month. And we already have 90 people on waiting lists. The impact is devastating."

This summer Gov. Rick Perry and top state leaders ordered all state agencies to reduce current budgets by 10 percents for the 2012-2013 budget. Proposals must be submitted by the start of the next legislative session in January.

One of those departments facing a 10 percent cut is the Department of State Health Services, which funds West Texas Centers for MHMR and Big Spring State Hospital. Both mental health systems are funded by the Department of State Health Services.

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides mental health care in the community, referring individuals with intensive needs to the state hospital for

inpatient treatment. Any reduction in funding to the state hospital system would cripple West Texas Center's ability to refer patient who need treatment.

"It's a difficult task to find state hospital and private hospital beds when needed," Smith said. "Big Spring State Hospital, which is our regional hospital, has been on constant diversion causing law enforcement from our 23 counties to drive longer distances in hopes of finding a bed at another hospital. We all recognize that the current bed allocation is woefully inadequate. The 10 percent reduction for the state hospital system will result in the loss of approximately 200 beds throughout Texas. This would be devastating for our entire state and would further accelerate the deterioration of the public mental health system."

See **CUTS**, Page 3A

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Lady Steers stay busy with camp



File Photo

The Lady Steers are back on the court this summer with a team camp at South Plains College in Levelland, which begins today.

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

The Lady Steers are staying busy on the court this summer, even though tip-off seems ages away.

The reason? Head coach Mike Warren believes it's time for his girls to improve even more than they have this offseason and they might have a chance to do that at a team camp that begins today at South Plains College in Levelland.

"I want us to go ahead and start making a statement for next year if we can," Warren said. "This past year, one of our main words we hope to learn to do is compete. I think we did that. We talked to the girls the other day and they're ready to go to another level and that is to start winning some games and not just competing, but being successful and really start getting after people."

The Lady Steers competed in a summer league earlier this season with a handful of area teams, the Harold Davis West Texas Shoot-out against teams packed with top-notch players from other schools, and now this camp at South Plains College.

Warren wasn't modest about the competition his girls will see, either. He said Smyer, the defending 1A state champions, and Levelland are two other teams participating in this camp.

If his players haven't seen top competition yet this summer, Warren said they'll find it here.

"Panhandle basketball is a little bit different from West Texas basketball, just living here for a while. It's juts a passion up there. Girls basketball up there is big, just big

See **CAMP**, Page 2B

Jones expects special season for Cowboys

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones seemed to be trying to temper the obvious expectations he has for his team.

Not so easy when the next Super Bowl will be played in his own stadium, and the Cowboys could legitimately be in position to play in that game next February.

"There's just not a whole lot of things not to like about the upcoming season," Jones said Friday. "But we all know the game and the journey we have ahead of us."

The ever-optimistic Jones has constantly reminded his players since the end of last season, and even before that, that they could be the first Super Bowl host team to actually play for the title. He beams with pride when talking about his \$1.2 billion stadium that opened last season.

Yet, on the day before the Cowboys open the NFL's longest full-squad camp this year, Jones talked about how the defending NFC East champions ended last

season. After winning their first playoff game in 13 seasons, against Philadelphia at home, they lost 34-3 at Minnesota the following weekend.

"We have got a lot to make amends for, but that's not all bad," Jones said. "Where I think that I won't be going is spending a lot of time talking about, 'Well, we're having the Super Bowl in the Super Bowl stadium, the expectation is to play the Super Bowl there.'"

Yet, clearly that is what he wants to happen.

Instead of a spending spree in an uncapped salary year, Jones emphasized continuity with a group that has had success — though still hasn't reached the pinnacle the owner experienced by raising the Lombardi Trophy three times in a four-year span in the mid-1990s.

A slimmer coach Wade Phillips (he has lost about 40 pounds since last year) goes into his fourth year with a 33-15 record in Dallas and a playoff victory to his credit as head coach.

Phillips has also settled nicely into the dual role of head coach-defensive coordinator. His 3-4 defense led by Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware last year allowed the fewest points in the NFC, with consecutive shutouts to end the regular season.

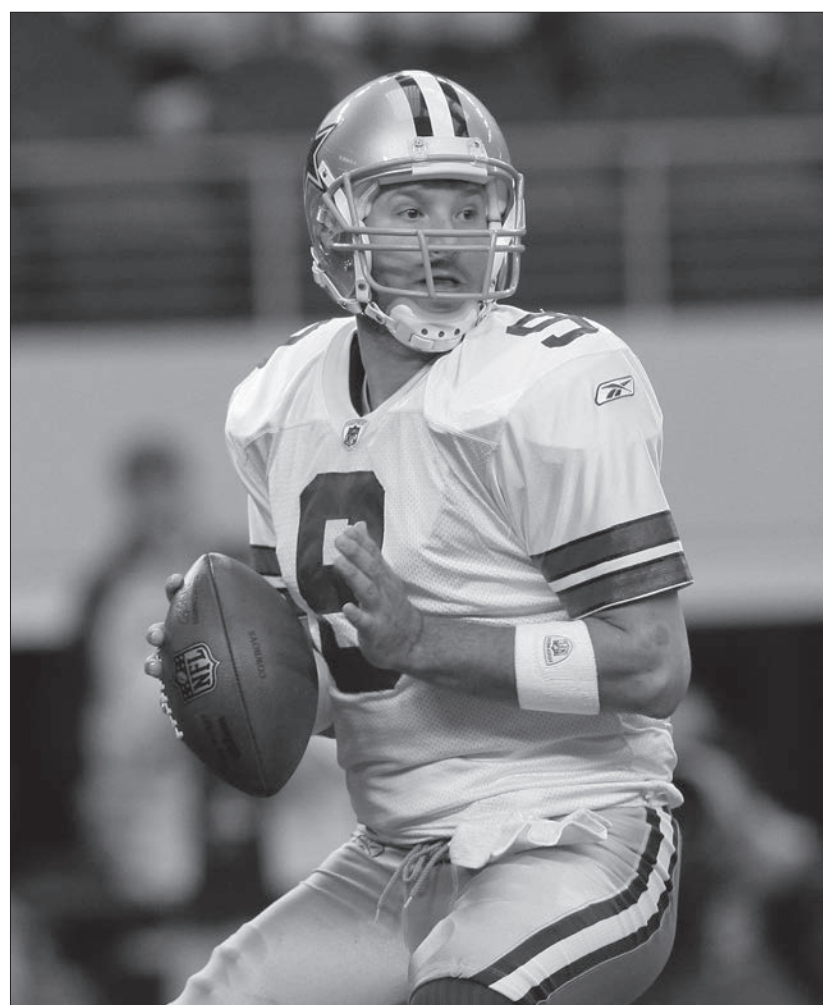
Jason Garrett is still calling plays for Tony Romo, who is coming off a record-setting year in which he also threw a career-low nine interceptions.

Jones said having that continuity "is a big deal. ... We have got a lot of continuity in what our players are going to be asked to learn and execute."

The only significant changes came after Dallas cut expensive former Pro Bowl players Flozell Adams, their offensive left tackle the last 12 seasons, and safety Ken Hamlin.

"We do have a lot of starters coming back," Phillips said. "We have a lot of starters who played well and are

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B



AP Image

If the Cowboys want to get to Super Bowl XLV, quarterback Tony Romo will lead the charge.

Brad Childress says he knows Brett Favre better now

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Brad Childress sat forward in his chair and, in his scratchy, out-of-key baritone, started an old Rodgers and Hammerstein show tune.

"Getting to know you. Getting to know all about you," Childress sang, the melody barely detectable.

This was the Vikings

coach's unique explanation of his first season with Brett Favre, the behind-the-scenes back-and-forth that helped frame the man behind the helmet and all those NFL records.

"I don't profess to be a Favre-istorian or anything like that," Childress said.

The education hasn't stopped for Childress,

whose recently returned from his second visit this year to Favre's home in Mississippi. Childress didn't return to Minnesota with a better idea about his starting quarterback for the season, he said, but he did bring back an even stronger understanding of Favre's way of life and his way of thinking.

"The deep south is dif-

ferent, and he'd be the first to tell you that," Childress said on Friday afternoon in an interview with The Associated Press at team headquarters.

The coach recalled his drive to Hattiesburg from New Orleans, bewildered by all the bugs hitting his windshield.

"I felt like it was raining," Childress said.

"He goes, 'That's the deep south, Brad.'"

Recovering from left ankle surgery and working out with the local high schoolers, Favre has yet to declare his intention for 2010. Childress said the situation was "all quiet," a week before training camp starts.

Continuing to speak in uncertainties about

Favre's return, seen around the football world as a foregone conclusion, Childress said the time spent with Favre has given him more clarity about the 40-year-old's thought process related to continuing his career. He also said those conversations and observations

See **FAVRE**, Page 3B

Sports in brief

2-Person Low Ball

The Big Spring Country Country Club invites the community to participate in this event, which takes place July 24 through 25. The entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes barbecue on the course July 24. Field will be flighted by the first round score.

Number of flights determined by number of entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Youth Basketball Tournament

The 2010 San Antonio Youth Basketball Championships will be conducted Aug. 6 through 8. This tournament is for boys and girls, third through 12th grade. Visit www.otcybc.com, email rising-stars07@yahoo.com or call (979)417-3721 for more information.

Co-ed Softball Tournament

There will be a co-ed softball tournament Aug. 7 in Ozona. The entry fee is \$125 per team and the deadline to enter is Aug. 2. There will be prizes for

first, second and third place winners. For more information call Chris at 325-763-6630 or e-mail him at CARDENAS_CHRIS@YAHOO.COM.

Big Spring Football Season Tickets

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

Athletic Physical Exams notice

Athletic physical exams are required by the University Interscholastic League for all athletes entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades. This also includes any new person to athletics who has never completed a physical exam. Forms can be picked up at the Athletic Training Center. Once completed, the physical form must be turned in to coach

Campbell in the training room or to Kay Cook, the athletic secretary. Prior to Aug. 2, equipment will not be checked out until physical is complete and on file in the training room. For more information, call 264-3662.

Over 80 Scramble

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

City Golf Championship

Any Howard County resident and anyone that is currently an annual member at the Big Spring Country Club or at the Comanche Trail Golf Course can play. The event takes place July 31 and Aug. 1. and the entry fee is \$40. That does not include the cart. Call the Comanche Trail Pro Shop 264-2366 for complete details.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Green YOUR CLEAN

FAMILY FEATURES

More people than ever are looking for more natural ways to keep their homes clean and free of harsh chemical fumes and residues. But there is still plenty of confusion about the best way to do that. With so many products making vague claims, it can be hard to make an informed decision. What works? What’s truly natural?

This guide to greening your clean will help you make smarter, more natural cleaning choices for your home.

The Problem

Many families today are looking for ways to minimize their exposure to harsh chemical fumes and residues. But as they look for new alternatives, they are not looking to compromise on the performance they have come to expect from all sorts of home products.

Understanding Label Language

There are a lot of product labels that use words like “eco-friendly,” “organic,” and “nontoxic.” Unlike the food world, when it comes to cleaning products, these terms are largely unregulated, so they can be misleading.

Read past the vague claims and take a closer look at the product’s label. Here’s what to look for:

Plant-Based Ingredients. Look for plant-based ingredients rather than petroleum-based ones. For example, citric acid, which is derived from citrus fruits like lemons and limes, acts as a soil remover in natural cleaners.

Know Your Buzzwords. Organic is well-defined for food, but less so for home care products. The USDA’s National Organic Program, which regulates the national organic standards, does not currently regulate home care products.

Credible Seals. Look for products that have one or more certifications or seals from credible sources such as Good Housekeeping, the Natural Products Association and the Environmental Protection Agency.

■ *Natural Products Association (NPA) Natural Home Care standard:* The NPA has developed a natural standard for home care products. This means that the NPA has reviewed the product’s ingredients and manufacturing processes, and determined that it meets the organization’s rigorous guidelines. This easily identifiable seal will help consumers discern which products meet the organization’s standard of natural. www.npainfo.org.

■ *Green Good Housekeeping Seal:* Introduced in 2009 by Good Housekeeping magazine and the Good Housekeeping Research Institute (GHRI), the seal helps consumers sift through the confusing clutter of “green” claims on hundreds of products on store shelves today. www.goodhousekeeping.com.

■ *Environmental Protection Agency’s Design for the Environment program:* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created the Design for the Environment (DfE) Program to evaluate products that are made with safer chemistry methods. This logo on a label means that the review team has screened the manufacturing process for the product for potential environmental effects. www.epa.gov.

How to Clean Green

Clearing the Air. Dust harbors pollen, pet dander, bacteria, mites, mold and mildew. To control dust:

- Use electrostatically charged dusters or damp rags frequently.
- Use vacuums with HEPA filters that trap fine particles.
- Change your home’s air filters every month or two.
- Remove your shoes before entering the house to avoid tracking in dirt, dust and pollen.
- Use kitchen and exhaust fans to increase ventilation and reduce exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that get released into the air.

Doing Laundry. Some detergents and fabric softeners can contain ingredients that can irritate sensitive skin. Look for products that are made with plant-based cleaning ingredients and have been dermatologist-tested, such as Green Works Naturally Derived Laundry Detergent.

- Try fragrance-free variations for those who are sensitive to strong perfumes and scents.
- Soften fabric by adding one-quarter cup baking soda or one-quarter cup white vinegar to the wash cycle.

Cleaning Kitchens and Bathrooms.

- For an all-natural way to clean the oven, try using a nonabrasive scrubbing pad and baking soda. Make a thick paste of baking

soda and water and apply to the stove. Leave it overnight and rinse with water the next day.

- Prevent the build-up of mold in the bathroom by regularly running an exhaust fan. Keep in mind, the easiest way to clean is to avoid the mess in the first place.
- Cut back on chemical fumes and residues with plant-based cleaners, such as Green Works Naturally Derived All-Purpose Cleaner. It contains no ammonia or phosphorus and is made of plant- and mineral-based ingredients. For more on green cleaning products, visit www.greenworkscleaners.com.

Stay Informed

Find out more about creating a greener, safer environment in your home:

Sierra Club: Learn how to create a more energy efficient, environmentally sustainable and healthy home environment with the help of The Sierra Club. www.sierraclubgreenhome.com.

Environmental Protection Agency: Learn about the chemicals in your home with an interactive house tour at www.epa.gov/kidshometour.

Natural Products Association: Find out about the NPA’s programs for home care and personal care products. www.npainfo.org.

More About Ingredients

Want to know just what is in your cleaner? Here’s a glossary of common natural ingredients and what they do in home care products.

Ingredient	What is it and where is it from?	What does it do?
Alkyl Polyglucoside	Cleaning agent made from coconuts.	Cleans — helps lift dirt, grease and other messes.
Lauramine Oxide	Cleaning agent derived from coconuts.	Helps penetrate stains and removes soil.
Potassium Carbonate	Stabilizing agent derived from earth-based minerals.	Prevents changes in a product’s acidity.
Glycerin	Dissolving agent derived from plants.	Allows for uniform drying and allows product to be more stable at lower temperatures.
Citric Acid	Softening agent made from citrus plants.	Helps remove soils.

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Obituaries

Ruth Madison



Ruth Madison, 99, of Midland died Thursday, July 22, 2010, in a local nursing home. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, July 26, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Dudley Mullins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Kermit, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 25, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

She was born April 12, 1911, in Rubottom, Okla., to Arlander and Jessie Thompson and married Paul Madison on April 29, 1929, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Dec. 1, 1989.

Ruth was a sweet, Southern Baptist who loved working in her yard and listening to the birds sing. She was a self-taught organist, who played the harmonica and loved to sing. She adored all God's creatures great and small with a special love for cats. Ruth was an avid bingo player, an amazing cook and loved her family above all else.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Cecil Earnest of Midland; one daughter-in-law, Deloris Madison of Granbury; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and 17 great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Gene Madison; two daughters, Mary Thomas and Wanda Bradford; one sister, Mary Ellen Webb; two grandchildren, Rocky Bradford and Peggy Parten; two great-granddaughters, Kimilee Papasan and Ava Hart; and one great-grandson, James Bradley Parten.

The family suggests memorials be made to a charity of your choice.

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

Paid obituary

Marjorie Hollingsworth

Marjorie Hollingsworth, 90, of Big Spring died Friday, July 23, 2010, in a local hospital. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring.

Take Note

• The Salvation Army will take applications for its annual school supply program from Aug. 2-6 at the Army's headquarters at 811 W. Fifth. Application times are from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 267-8239.

• Youth at the Spring Creek Fellowship are conducting a shoe drive for Shoes for Orphan Souls through Aug. 1. Shoes for Orphan Souls is part of Buckner International and has distributed more than 2 million pairs of shoes to vulnerable children in the U.S. and to orphans in 69 countries. Shoes collected in the drive will be taken to Rock the Desert, set for Aug. 5-7 in Midland. Drop off boxes are located at Faye's Flowers (1013 S. Gregg) or Slaton Insurance (205 W. 15th). The drive accepts new shoes, socks and shoe strings. For more information, go to www.shoesfororphansouls.org or rockthedesert.com.

• New hours for the Chalet, Big Spring State Hospital's volunteer-run resale shop, are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 2 p.m. Saturdays. The Chalet is located at 110 East Second St. Sales from the shop are used to support patients during their stay at the Big Spring State Hospital. Donations of items are welcome.

• Each Saturday there is free admission to the Heritage Museum at 510 Scurry St. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 267-8255.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• If you were laid off between December 2008 and March 2010 and are interested in training, contact the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin office in Big Spring at 263-8373 or 1-800-749-8373. Training dollars are available to assist those affected by the layoffs and ultimate plant closure.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55

children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help! A class is forming in Howard County and we need at least 27 volunteers to fill this need. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

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

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• Attention military personnel and dependents: The Salvation Army currently has funding for Texas military personnel now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members or dependents may apply at the Salvation Army Office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., or call (432) 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- CHRISTOPHER LEE VASQUEZ, 28, 2516 Ent, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID JOE VILLAREAL JR., 23, 1105 E. Third, was arrested on a warrant charging driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
- JUAN GONZALES, 39, 1513 Wood, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- NICHOLAS GONZALES, 28, 903 Creighton, was arrested on a warrant charging assault by contact,

juvenile curfew violation and two counts of failure to appear.

- ANTONIO LIMON IBARRA, 21, 1504 Kentucky, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and failure to identify.
- JODY WAYNE DAWDY, 46, 1501 Sycamore, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and failure to identify.
- JAMES WESLEY GIBSON JR., 29, Abilene, was arrested on a warrant charging theft by check.
- BRYAN LOPEZ MATA, 17, Midland, was arrested on a warrant charging no driver's license.
- TERESA LORENE LANG, 27, 538 Westover No. 153, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 800 block of Sixth.

- ASSAULT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 3300 block of W. Highway 80, the 1500 block of Sycamore, the 200 block of N. Gregg and the 400 block of Fourth.
- HIT AND RUN was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1000 block of Third.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of N. Lamesa Highway and 1700 block of Purdue.
- BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED MACHINE was reported in the 3200 block of Rickabaugh.
- THEFT was reported in the 1000 block of 21st.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 16-19-39-44-49, Mega Ball: 26.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 20-25-1-3-13. Number matching five of five: None.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night, in order: 9-6-5-6. Sum It Up: 26.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night, in order: 2-0-1. Sum It Up: 3.

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Ariz. talks Haren trade with Yanks

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona president Derrick Hall has confirmed that the New York Yankees are among “a few teams” in discussions with the Diamondbacks about a possible trade for right-hander Dan Haren.

But Hall told The Associated Press on Friday night that there is no front-runner and other clubs have made offers that are “of at least equal value” to what the Yankees are proposing. He said no trade is imminent.

Haren has emerged as one of the most sought-after starters as the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline approaches. He is in the second season of a four-year, \$44.75 million contract with a club option for a fifth

year.

Though their deep rotation has been a strength all season, the Yankees seem intent on trying to acquire a front-line starter. They came close to landing lefty ace Cliff Lee two weeks ago before Seattle traded him to AL West-leading Texas. Since then, 38-year-old New York lefty Andy Pettitte went down with a groin injury and is expected to be sidelined until at least mid-to-late August.

Sergio Mitre is set to take Pettitte’s spot in the rotation — for now.

The Yankees, who have the best record in the majors, want to limit young right-hander Phil Hughes’ innings this year and might be thinking about return-

ing him to the bullpen in the postseason. Hughes flourished as a setup man last season and Joba Chamberlain has struggled in that role this year.

New York also could be concerned about starting A.J. Burnett and Javier Vazquez in pressure-packed games. Both have struggled badly at times this season. And the big-budget Yankees certainly don’t want the best available pitchers on the trade market going to their top American League competitors.

Haren’s name was off his locker and most of his gear was gone before Friday night’s game against San Francisco, but it turned out to be a practical joke.

Finch shuts out Japan

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jennie Finch’s farewell tour at the World Cup of Softball first featured a display that she can still knock the ball out of the park. Then she showed that she can still pitch with the world’s best, too.

Finch took a no-hit bid into the fifth inning in one of her final starts for the U.S. national team, Kaitlin Cochran homered in her second straight game and the Americans beat top rival Japan 5-0 Friday night at the World Cup of Softball.

“I love having the ball in my hand, I love being in that circle, I love getting my team back in on offense as soon as possible. It was fun tonight,” said Finch, who announced this week that she’ll retire from international softball after the World Cup

ends Monday. “It was great working with the defense, working with (Lauren) Lappin behind the plate.

“This is what the game is all about, and this is what I love about it.”

Finch played first base in the Americans’ World Cup opener against Canada (0-3) a night earlier and hit a home run in her first at-bat after the big announcement.

Then, given one of her last chances to pitch for Team USA, she retired 14 of the first 15 batters she faced before losing her no-hitter with two outs in the fifth. Maki Tanigawa lined a single off the glove of third baseman Andrea Duran, and made it to first when shortstop Natasha Watley picked up the deflected ball and threw wide.

Cochran later threw out a runner at home

from right field to preserve the shutout after Finch allowed three straight singles in the seventh.

“A shutout against the No. 2 team in the world, that’s not too bad,” U.S. coach Jay Miller said. “I thought she did a great job on the mound.”

Finch, who was backing up the play, hopped and pumped her fist when Lappin blocked the plate and tagged out Satoko Mabuchi to end the game. She and Lappin then ran to the pitcher’s circle, where they greeted Cochran with high-fives.

“She’s done so much for our program and she’s done so much just for the sport of softball. To be able to play behind her for the last time and be on the last team that she’ll ever play for for Team USA, it means a lot,” Cochran said.

CAMP

Continued from Page 1B

time. So we’re playing teams where some of those schools, they don’t have volleyball

and that’s just all they do. They’re in the gym all year long.”

Warren said the schedule will be interesting to play, too.

The Lady Steers will play about 10 games in three days.

This camp also should give the coaching staff a better idea of which five to put on the court next season. Warren said he is specifically looking at the point guard position as probably the one up from grabs as this point. He also

pointed out some of the all-district standouts from last season he expects to contribute this year, such as Cerbi Ritchey in the post.

Warren also said the team is looking forward to its competition next year in 3A and

getting back in the playoffs, but it might be tougher to do so with only three spots available this time.

“We can’t be sneaking in by the skin of our teeth,” he said. “We’re going to have to go beat some people.”

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

coming into the prime of their careers.”

Regardless of what happens, this is going to be a special season for the five-time Super Bowl champions, who are marking 50 years as an organization. For the first time, Dallas has the highest all-time winning percentage in NFL history at .580, just ahead of Miami (.579), after the Cowboys won their last three games of the 2009 regu-

lar season.

Emmitt Smith, the NFL’s career rushing leader, is being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in two weeks, and the Cowboys are playing in the preseason opener that weekend in Canton, Ohio. Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin, teammates with Smith for those three Super Bowl championships under Jones, are already in the Hall of Fame.

With the extra preseason game, the Cowboys are the first full squad to open camp. Rookies of some other teams are already reporting, but no

other full squads report until Wednesday.

Dallas has all of its drafted rookies under contract after linebacker Sean Lee, the second-round pick, agreed to a deal Friday. First-round pick Dez Bryant on Thursday agreed to a five-year deal.

After the Cowboys went 13-3 in Phillips’ debut season, there were big expectations the following year. But they went 9-7 and missed the playoffs in 2008.

Jones remembers what the coach told players before the start of training camp two years ago — that everybody

was saying all they had to do was pick up where they left off and the next stop would be the Super Bowl. But the coach reminded them then they were still 80 players and not yet a 53-man team.

What did Phillips plan to tell the Cowboys before their first workout Saturday?

“We’ve approached it, it’s not the Super Bowl at our place, it’s this next practice for us, that’s the most important thing for us, and then the progression from there,” Phillips said Friday. “We’re going to take a right-now approach.”

Phillips described the team as confident but realistic. The coach said the Cowboys want to draw from their great tradition and “made some strides” last season.

“We have some players on this team that have had some close experience in maybe knocking on the door of the Super Bowl that are going to play major important roles for this team,” Jones said. “I don’t even know that they need to be reminded that close doesn’t count. We all know we have an opportunity. It’s easy to see that it doesn’t sit there for you forever.”



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Weddings

Davis-Robinson

Dr. Lesley Robin Davis and William Chad Harrison were united in marriage Saturday, July 10, 2010, at 7 p.m. at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Gail Williford. Following the ceremony, a reception with dinner and dancing was hosted by the bride's parents at the Crystal Ballroom at the Rice Hotel.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William K. (Bill) Davis of Houston and the granddaughter of Ruby Fowler of Big Spring, and the late Mr. and Mrs. George R. Davis. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Harrison of Clear Lake.

Presented in marriage

by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore an elegant vintage style couture gown designed by Audrey Hart. The scooped neckline of lace with crème satin underlining featured an empire waist bodice beautifully embellished with silver embroidery detailing, crystals and beading, which continued into the softly flared skirt. The scalloped skirt and train were also embroidered with silver accented with crystals and beads. The bouquet of white stem roses was hand tied and wrapped with satin ribbon.

Lesley wore the blue garter worn by her mother and carried a handkerchief which belonged to her great-

grandmother, the late Mrs. J.J. Langford.

Natalie Davis Mueller, of Frisco, sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Anita Merz of London, England, and Dr. Tara Winkleman of the Woodlands. The bridal attendants wore navy blue gowns designed by Amsale. Each carried a hand tied stem bouquet of soft pink roses.

The best man was Robert Baker of Friendswood. Groomspersons were Richard Holt of Houston and Carey Stevenson of Richmond, Va. Serving as ushers were Bryan Mueller of Frisco and Sharad Malhaura of Houston.

The bride is a 1999 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. In 2003, she graduated from Texas Tech University with a Doctor of Medicine degree. In 2007, she completed a four-year residency program in obstetrics and gynecology at St. Joseph Medical Center and The Methodist Hospital in Houston. She is now in private practice in Houston.

The groom is a 1998 graduate of Texas A&M University where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance and Bachelor of Arts in international studies. In May, 2010, he graduated from the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University, with a Master of Business Administration. He is employed by Ernst and Young in Houston.

Following their honeymoon in Antigua, the couple will reside in Houston.



Dr. Lesley Robin Davis Harrison

Carlile-Tilley

Camie Rae Carlile and Stephen Tilley were united in marriage at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 16, 2010, in an outdoor ceremony at the groom's aunt's home. Doug Shelley of Big Spring officiated as the couple exchanged vows.

The bride is the daughter of Donna and Tom Marlow of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Elton and Vada Carlile of Colorado City and the late Grady and Claudine Gaskins.

The groom is the son of Tommy and Saletta Tilley of Big Spring and grandson of the late Mary Frances Osburn.

Keeley Rae Tilley, the couple's daughter, served as flower girl.

Both attended Forsan High School. The groom



Camie and Stephen Tilley

graduated in 2000, and the bride graduated in

2003. They will reside in Big Spring.

Who's Who

Kelly Stevenson, 43, of Big Spring, a freshman pursuing a mortuary science degree from Garden City (Kan.) Community College, will receive a \$300 Mary (Mae) Rooney Scholarship during the 2010-2011 school year. He was a 1984 graduate of Utopia (Kan.) High School.

...

The Dean's List for the 2010 spring semester has been announced by Angelo State University in San Angelo.

The honorees from

the Big Spring area are: Sarah Bartlett, Amanda Cooper, Lanny Hall, Courtney Hanson, Meghan Harp, Whitney Kellermeier, Sloan Kelly, Addison Long, Mathew Posey, Christie Rich, Ian Ritchey, Travis Roberts, Anthony Rodriguez, Halie Schaefer, Lindsey Schaerd, Macy Schwartz, Kayla Spence, Charlene Stanley, Laci Sterling, Haylea Stuteville and Miguel Teveni.

...

Several Crossroads area students were among those receiving more than \$207,000 in scholarships from the Permian Basin Area Foundation Thursday night in Midland.

From Big Spring, the recipients were DeAnn Martinez, Association of Energy Service Companies Scholarship; Hannah Weber, Cindy B. Jenkins Scholarship; and Claudia Jones, Jordan Martin and Linzee Yarbar, West-Tex Telephone Cooperative Scholarship.

Coahoma recipients were Judson Chevalier, Cap Rock Energy Scholarship and Marie Hall Scholarship, and Ashley Martin, Marie Hall Scholarship.

Garden City's Adriana Ramirez received a Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Scholarship, while four stu-

dents from Lenorah received awards. Those four were: Maxwell Kennady, J. Alex and Ruby Haggard Scholarship; Samuel Harryman, Bob and Bobbie Hill Scholarship and the Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative Scholarship; Justin Tubb, Grace Loveless Jones Scholarship; and Meagan Blocker, Johnny Peugh Memorial Scholarship.

Lauren Robinson of Tarzan received the Clayton Welch Henson Memorial Scholarship.

Stanton had 13 receive scholarships. They included Brennan R. Harp, Jonathan Ireton, Kelsey Jones and Rachel Simpson-Ritchie, John Connell Scholarships; Angelica Moreno, Bob and Dorothy Deavenport Scholarship; Naomi DeLaO, Marie Hall Scholarship; Stephen Reyes, Marie Hall Scholarship and Clayton Welch Henson Memorial Scholarship; Taylor Turner, Leona Hightower Memorial Scholarship and West-Tex Telephone Cooperative Scholarship; Donald Fulton, Grace Loveless Jones Scholarship; Joe Bryand, Jimmie and Dorothy Mashburn Scholarship; Robert Noland, Dan and Billye Saunders Scholarship; and Eva Dyck, J.M. Yater Memorial Scholarship.

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AGES 3 & UP

The Forsan All-School Reunion is scheduled for August 7, 2010 in the Forsan High School Cafeteria.

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Expert: Man charged in beheadings wasn't psychotic

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

EDINBURG — A forensic psychiatrist testified Friday that a south Texas man charged with beheading his common-law wife's three young children knew that what he was doing was wrong, concluding two weeks of testimony in the man's retrial.

John Allen Rubio has pursued an insanity defense, and Friday's testimony contrasted starkly with that of defense experts who earlier in the week said that Rubio suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

For days, jurors listened to testimony and viewed gruesome photographs from po-

lice and pathologists about the scene where three beheaded children all under age 4 were found on March 11, 2003, in a squalid Brownsville apartment. The victims were 3-year-old Julissa Quesada, 14-month-old John E. Rubio and 2-month-old Mary Jane Rubio. The youngest was Rubio's biological daughter.

But as Rubio's attorneys conceded in their opening comments, there was no claim of innocence. Rubio's defense rested on a determination of his mental state at the time.

Dr. Michael Welner, who testified for prosecutors Friday, interviewed Rubio for 14 hours over the course of two days last month. He found Rubio, 29, to be of average in-

telligence, but engaging and familiar with the narrative of his case.

"(Rubio) has a very interesting, vulnerable charm," Welner said. "You're really taken in by him."

Unlike schizophrenics, who Welner said he has found to be guarded, Rubio seemed to enjoy social contact and with the exception of some topics, such as his homosexual experiences, very open, he said.

Welner said he found "no evidence in our interaction of any delusional thinking."

Rather, Rubio's explanations for the killings evolved over time as he became more aware of the finer points of an insanity defense, Welner said. Rubio initially told in-

vestigators the children were possessed. Later he spoke of being the "chosen one" who needed to save the world.

Rubio had blamed the children's mother, Angela Camacho, who pleaded guilty and is serving a life sentence in prison. He "was calculating how to deflect blame from himself," Welner said.

Rubio attempted to clean up the crime scene, hide the bodies and contemplated suicide — all signs that he recognized what he had done, Welner said. After killing two of the children, he insisted Camacho have sex with him, saying that it would likely be their last chance.

When the first police officer discovered the scene, Rubio

held his wrists out and said "arrest me."

Dr. Raphael Morris, a forensic psychiatrist who testified for the defense, reached a different conclusion.

Where Welner saw a well-socialized young man with friends and girlfriends, Morris saw a depressed man who spiraled down after an earlier break up. Morris noted that Rubio was the only one of his brothers who graduated from high school, yet before the slayings he had fallen into just sitting around playing video games. He found no evidence that Rubio had planned the killings, noting that he cared for the children and took them to a soup kitchen for meals.

Recent appointee hopes to change foster care system

CORRIE MACLAGGAN
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — When people find out that Gigi Edwards Bryant grew up in the Texas foster system, they tell her they're amazed that she's successful. That she made it.

With the State of Texas watching over her, Bryant often thinks in response, "Why shouldn't I have made it through?"

But Bryant, a small-business owner, mother of three and civic volunteer, understands why people say that. She understands because the system failed to protect her. And she's heartbroken over the way she believes it failed

her brother. She doesn't want it to fail anymore.

As Gov. Rick Perry's recently appointed chairwoman of the Department of Family and Protective Services Council, Bryant hopes to use her experiences to help shape a system that she says struggles with many of the same problems as it did decades ago.

"We're still looking at the same process that breaks children, stopping children from dreaming to be the best they can be," Bryant said. "I never stopped dreaming."

Texas officials think she's the first former foster child to lead the council, which advis-

es the state agency on issues ranging from protecting children and elderly or disabled adults to rules for day cares.

"Her personal journey will really help us to be more in tune, to be more aware, to be more understanding and to just make sure we're always putting in the forefront what we'd want for our own children and families," said Joyce James, deputy commissioner of the department.

Bryant says that through the advisory council, she'll work to address the overrepresentation in the foster system of African American children, who also stay in the system longer than other chil-

dren. And Bryant says she wants to see a foster care system in which children make it because of the experience, not in spite of it, as she did.

"When 'foster' is added in front of a child's name, certain things happen that would not happen if it was your own child," Bryant said. "It's not a title a child asks for."

Bryant, 52, is a fifth-generation Austinite. She entered the foster system at age 6 with her three siblings after their mother was arrested for killing a man.

Bryant, her brother and two sisters, still in blood-spattered clothing, were taken from home.

Their mother was placed in a state psychiatric hospital, where she received electric shock treatment and was never herself again, according to Bryant. She didn't get her kids back. Bryant never knew her father.

Meanwhile, the children were separated and placed in foster homes.

For Bryant, that was the start of living in some 20 homes, mostly in the Austin and Corsicana areas, by the time she left the system at 18. Her school and church changed every time she moved. She's been Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran and a member of the Church of Christ.

CUTS

Continued frm Page 1A

The Department of State Health Services proposed reductions totaling \$90 million to mental health services, \$4 million to substance addition services; and \$44 million to the state hospital system totaling \$138 million to proposed cuts to the public mental health system in Texas.

The Texas Council of

MHMR Centers believes more than 20,000 Texans will lose access to mental health care if legislators adopt the health department recommendations.

Smith has been pouring over budget projections and corresponding with the 23 county judges she works with to prepare them for the impact it will have on their communities and arm them with information they need to share with their elected offi-

cials and constituents.

Texas is the fastest growing state in the nation with a population that faces many of the same problems other states face but at a faster clip, Smith said. Texas already is ranked 49th in funding for mental health in the nation.

"It is just discouraging to take a step backward when the mental health community is introducing innovative programs to help people living with mental ill-

ness," Smith said. "The legislature made huge investments the past two sessions and reducing funding at this time is not in the state's best interest."

The state's investment has more than paid for itself by reducing demand on more costly treatment systems.

"The earlier we can intervene and begin treatment, the better it is for the individual and the better it is in terms of cost to the govern-

ment," Smith said.

Cutting mental health services at this time would drive increased demand for our public systems, she said. Coupled with those problems is the number of people in prison with mental illness.

"It's still early in the process. The state is under pressure to cut expenses and nothing will be finalized until the legislative session finishes its session next year, Smith said."

"We are hopeful that state leaders will recognize the detrimental effects of cutting \$138 million from the state's mental health system," Smith said.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

expected to increase this year, if for no other reason than to accommodate increased

debt service obligations, Olson said.

Commissioners are expected to continue fine-tuning the budget through August, she noted.

In other business Monday, commissioners

will consider:

- A resolution concerning West Texas Centers for MHMR.
- The 2010-2011 Health and Employee Benefits Pool.
- Personnel matters, invoices and purchase

requests.

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KLUB

Continued from Page 1A

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We are pleased to announce Leslie Berry, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, has joined our office family.

Leslie has been in Big Spring for many years now. She was employed with Scenic Mountain Medical Center while receiving her Advanced Nurse Practitioner certification at Texas Tech University. We are very excited to have Leslie with us.

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File Photo

The Steers' Ben Merworth and Michael Felton team up to make a tackle during one of Big Spring's games last year. Two-a-days are around the corner, with the Steers taking the field Aug. 2. They will practice for the next four days after that from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Athletic Training Center. Then there is an intra-squad scrimmage for the freshmen, junior varsity and varsity teams at Blankenship Field at 8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 10 a.m., respectively.

Koby chasing big leagues in Rocket's glare

FRISCO (AP) — Koby Clemens smiled wide as he described his favorite memory of his minor league career so far, the night he played third base while his superstar dad was on the mound as his teammate.

"We were throwing the ball around the horn before the first pitch of the game and I flipped the ball to him," Koby said. "I'll never forget that moment."

OK, Koby, but how about a highlight that's strictly yours?

He thinks for a moment, then picks the final game of last season. He was walking to the batter's box when it was announced that he was coming out of the game — and that he'd just won the California League batting and RBI titles; in fact, he drove in the

"He's chasing his dreams, he's loving it. Obviously, he's keeping a real close eye on his buddies who are moving up through the ranks."

Roger Clemens,
Former MLB pitcher

most runs in the entire minor leagues. A standing ovation followed.

"That was pretty awesome," he said. "It's something that's mine and can't be taken away ever."

Put those scenes together and you've got a full picture of 23-year-old Koby Clemens.

Koby is Roger's kid, and darn proud of it. No, he's not a pitcher, and while he's a legitimate pro prospect, he's not the phenom his dad was. He's OK with that, and so is his famous-turned-infamous father.

Koby is built stocky like his dad, but at 5-foot-11 he's about five inches

shorter. They have the same desire and work ethic, though. It shows in Koby's willingness — eagerness, even — to change positions. Since breaking in at third base, he's been a catcher and an outfielder. This season, he's learning to play first base for the Corpus Christi Hooks, the Double-A affiliate of the Houston Astros.

His glove and arm are good enough. It's his lively bat that has him on the parent club's radar. With a right-handed, uppercut swing, Koby is among the home run and RBI leaders in the Texas League, proving his breakout last

season was no fluke.

"He's chasing his dreams, he's loving it," Roger Clemens said. "Obviously, he's keeping a real close eye on his buddies who are moving up through the ranks. He wants to get up there and help the team win."

Roger was the age Koby is now when his career as "The Rocket" took off.

He went 24-4 for the Boston Red Sox in 1986, earning his first Cy Young Award and his

only AL MVP trophy. He started the All-Star game in the city where he grew up (Houston) and was the game's MVP. The Red Sox came within an out of winning the World Series, too.

About six weeks after that slow grounder went between Bill Buckner's legs, Koby was born.

He was the first of four kids for Roger and Debbie Clemens. All are boys, and all their names start with K, the scorecard symbol for a

strikeout.

Roger never pushed any into baseball.

When Koby got serious about the game, Roger understood the mound wasn't his favorite place.

"I enjoyed competing, trying to get guys out," Koby said, "but I liked playing the field and hitting more than anything."

Roger warned his kids at an early age that opponents in any sport "are going to give you their best just because of your last name." Koby learned to have fun with that, make it part of the challenge.

It became more chal

See **KOBY**, Page 4B

- Thank You -

The 2010 AM Crew & Sylvia Rodriguez and family would like to say Thank You to all our sponsors, The Big Spring Herald, the community and all those that played in the tournament. With your help our efforts raised \$3,904!

Thank you for another successful tournament.

212574

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Ray-Cagle

Gwen and Pat Ray Jr. of Big Spring announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Melissa Ray of Amarillo, to Wayne Allen Cagle of Amarillo, the son of LeRoy and Tricia Cagle of Midland.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Clema Ray of Big Spring and the late Pat Ray Sr. and the late C.J. and Jean Sullivan. She received a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology from Angelo State University in 2006 and is currently a physical therapy assistant student at Amarillo College. The prospective groom is the grandson of Sue Day of Midland, the late Allen Day, LeRoy Cagle Sr. and Naomi Cagle of Midland and Mary and Al



Hampson of Midland. He is a 2001 graduate of West Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

The couple will be married at 3 p.m. Sept. 4, 2010, at the Midway Baptist Church in Big Spring.

West-Matusevich

Edward and Nikita West of Victoria, formerly of Big Spring, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kaci West of Victoria, to Justin Matusevich, son of Wade and Deborah Matusevich, all of Victoria.

The couple will marry Aug. 28, 2010, at Raisin L Ranch.

Kaci is the granddaughter of Wanda McMurray of Big Spring and the late Edman McMurray, Elnora West of Stamford and the late R.D. West.

Kaci is a 2003 graduate of Forsan High School and a 2007 graduate of Victoria College with an associate's degree in science and associate's degree in arts. She is employed by TSC of Victoria.



Justin is the grandson of Neldene Matusevich of Victoria and the late Steve Matusevich, Harold Connally of Victoria and the late Carlita Connally. He is a 2000 graduate of Victoria High School. He is employed by Patterson UTI and is also self-employed as a contract welder.

Is human trafficking a punishable crime?

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

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

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

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

Do human trafficking victims qualify For benefits?

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

They may be eligible for:

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

For Help and Resources in Texas

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

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

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

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

Federal Trafficking-Related Links

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

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

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

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

Victim Services of Big Spring 263-3312

www.vsofbigspring.com



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What is human trafficking?

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



What is the prevalence of human trafficking?

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

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

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

2 Ibid.

3 Ashcroft, 2004

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

5 Ibid.

How To Identify a Trafficking Victim

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



Is there a state law prohibiting trafficking?

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



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

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

EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Leadership really an opportunity to help community

It's that time again, time to apply for one of the really impressive programs the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce provides our community — Leadership Big Spring.

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

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

A new class of the Leadership Big Spring program — the 27th — will begin Aug. 20 at the Dora Roberts Community Center's Lake Room.

Chamber officials are currently accepting applications for the class, giving local citizens until July 31 to sign up for the program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, our judgment is better than usual.

Amen

Restoring a vibrant middle class

Imagine joining friends for a late-night game of Monopoly, but in this game, there's a twist: At the start of the game, one player gets an entire side of the game board, from Pacific Ave. to Boardwalk, including the Short Line railroad.

Instead of pondering easy questions like whether to be the shoe or the thimble, you're now grappling with a more important question: Do you even stand a chance in such a lopsided game?

As you ponder the fairness of this board game, Congress is debating the very real future of our federal estate tax, a tax on inherited wealth designed in part to prevent one player from owning most of the board before the game even begins.

Recently, a new proposal was introduced in an effort to break through the stalemate that has led to the current tax holiday for the super wealthy. Because of the inability of Congress to reach agreement back in December, the year 2010 is slowly passing as the first since 1916 with no estate tax. Billions of dollars are now being transferred tax-free, while our national deficit grows.

The heirs of the late Texas billionaire Dan Duncan stand to inherit, free of any estate tax, more than the average American earns in 4,000 lifetimes. No one questions the right of parents to pass on a legacy to their children, but how much is enough?

Despite its kitchen table status today, the Monopoly board game

can trace its roots to Lizzie Magie, who created the game in 1903 as an educational tool to help people understand that free market economies, absent rules to ensure otherwise, naturally move toward monopoly control as wealth is increasingly concentrated into the hands of the few.

It takes public policies, from anti-monopoly rules to progressive tax systems, to protect free markets from this self-destructive tendency. The fact is: any economic system is effective only to the extent that its more extreme aspects are reined in.

Our progressive tax system, including the estate tax, helped guide our economy and fuel the broadly shared prosperity our nation experienced during the post-war period.

However, that progressive tax system came under a 30-year assault which began in the early 1980s. We've seen the consequences of this backsliding and the misguided tax cuts for the wealthy. Instead of the promised trickle-down, we got stagnant wages for most Americans and the widest disparity of income our nation has seen since 1928, just before the Great Depression.

It's time to recapture the core values that made our economy work, beginning with the preservation of a strong estate tax.

The importance of this proposal cannot be overstated. Transfers of wealth from generation to generation impact every aspect of our economic landscape, even the persistent racial wealth divide.

While we've made significant strides at closing the income gap in the half-century since the great Civil Rights victories, the gap in actual wealth is much

harder to shake because wealth transfers forward.

Even today, African-Americans have only 10 cents of net wealth for every \$1 of net wealth that whites have. Latinos have 12 cents. Without a strong estate tax, the inequalities of the past will forever haunt our nation, leaving the Monopoly board permanently tilted.

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark) and other estate tax opponents are wrong in trying to weaken the estate tax.

Congress should instead work to preserve a strong estate tax for the benefit of all Americans.

This estate tax proposal represents the kind of commonsense solution that balances the desire to protect small businesses and farms with generous deductions, while ensuring that the super-wealthy give back to support the country that made their prosperity possible.

Even in a game — like Monopoly — we can see the need for rules to ensure that opportunity continually circulates throughout our economy to create a broadly shared prosperity for all, not just a select few.

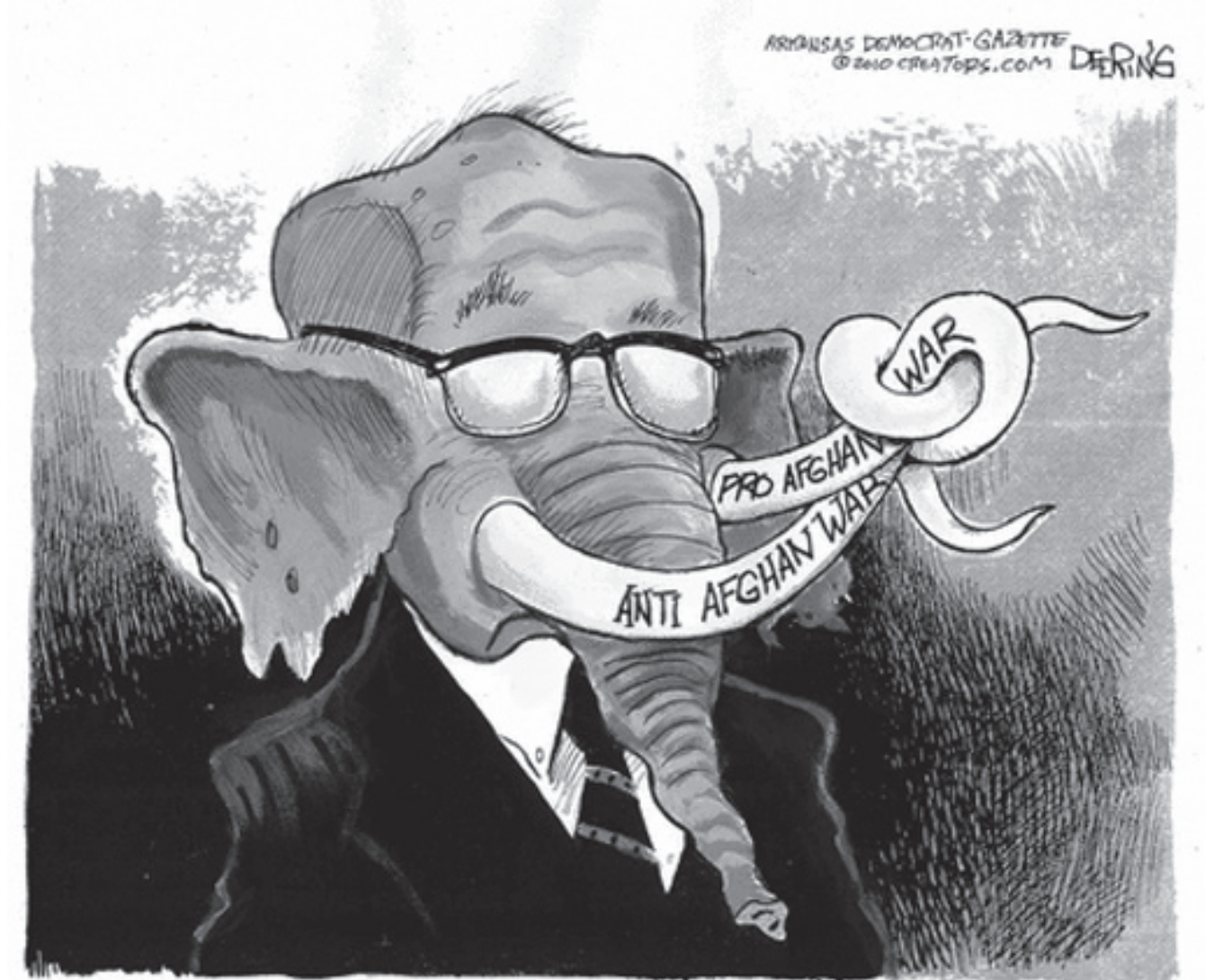
Preserving a strong estate tax is essential to ensuring that each subsequent generation has a chance to achieve the American dream.

Without it, we have to ask ourselves, is the game hopelessly stacked?

Should we even bother playing?

Brian Miller is executive director of United for a Fair Economy, online at www.faireconomy.org

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The Pops in the Park Committee would like to thank the Big Spring Herald for being a “presenter” again for this year’s Fourth of July celebration. The Herald does so much for our community and we appreciate that you choose to support Pops.

What can I say about the coverage Pops received in the Herald, except WOW! The outstanding job you all did in reporting and promoting this event helped insure its overall success. Please convey our thanks to all those who helped in preparing for this year’s celebration.

Unfortunately, the inclement weather this year forced us indoors for the first time in 13 years.

Thankfully, we were able to move indoors to Howard College’s Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Even though attendance was down due to the weather, we still had a very nice, but different Pops 2010.

We rescheduled the Pops fireworks show for July 16 at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

We are anxiously looking forward to a more traditional outdoor Pops celebration in 2011.

Major community events such as Pops could not be held without contributions such as yours. Thank you for your continued support of this important patriotic event.

JAN HANSEN
POPS CHAIRPERSON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I attended this past Tuesday night’s city council meeting as a concerned citizen and as a resident who lives close by what was the proposed site for the senior citizen apartment complex.

I was not surprised at the number of other concerned citizens who showed up and were given a chance to voice their views and opinions on the complex as well.

Before Mayor Duncan opened the discussion portion of the public hearing, Councilwoman Gloria McDonald asked to make a statement.

As I sat in my seat trying to hear what she was saying, I was shocked at what she was having to clarify due to “false and senseless” rumors that had traveled across Big Spring.

It is truly a shame that our

elected officials must make such a statement to denounce such rumors, to you Councilwoman McDonald, I am truly sorry that you and your husband were targeted for such rumors.

Sitting on the same row as I, were two members of the Concerned Citizens for Big Spring group and I will not mention any names for you know who you are and the way you acted.

To have sat in your seat and made such rude remarks during her statement; to stoop so low as you felt the need to, I guess, draw attention to yourself from those sitting around you; well, you got my attention and I have no use for you or your group if that is the way you conduct yourselves.

Then to label yourselves “concerned” is so far from the truth that all you did that night was not only embarrass yourself, but the organization you are supposed to represent. Thanks, but no thanks!

I truly feel that you two members owe Mrs. McDonald a sincere apology and I would truly hope and pray that if you attend future meetings that you

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Keselowski: Penalty for Edwards OK

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Carl Edwards and Brad Keselowski are content with the hand-slapping they received from NASCAR this week for their latest on-track altercation.

That's about the only thing the feuding drivers agreed upon Friday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Keselowski insisted he did not intentionally hit Edwards' car — it was a mistake, he said — as he moved the leader out of his way on the final lap of last weekend's Nationwide Series in St. Louis.

Edwards wasn't buying it, though.

"I believe that he did not make a mistake," Edwards countered. "I'm telling you that as a race car driver, and any other race car driver will tell you, that that wasn't a slip-up, and if it was a slip-up, which, hey, he might convince himself that it's a slip-up, you have a little bit of insurance that you leave yourself when you go down in the corner like that.

"I believe he's not being completely honest that that was a mistake. He's too good of a race

car driver, and I know that."

And so it went in the latest round between a pair of drivers who have tangled on the track dating to last season. Although most of their incidents went largely unnoticed in the second-tier Nationwide Series, it's escalated of late into a several spectacular crashes.

Keselowski sent Edwards' car flying into the Talladega catchfence in a Sprint Cup Series race last year, and Edwards' intentional wrecking of Keselowski at Atlanta this spring sent Kesel-

owski's car airborne.

Then came Saturday night at Gateway, when Edwards refused to allow Keselowski to take the win away from him. He admitted to wrecking Keselowski as payback for moving Edwards moments before and was unapologetic in Victory Lane.

But that wreck collected multiple other cars, and after mulling it over for several days, NASCAR decided the antics of Edwards and Keselowski had to be punished because of the other drivers who were caught in the carnage.

For that, Edwards, who was docked 60 points and fined \$25,000, was apologetic.

"There are unintended consequences to that, and the torn-up cars that weren't mine or Brad's, that's a bad result," Edwards said. "It really struck home for me."

Beyond that, Edwards seemed unrepentant for anything he did at Gateway and held firm in his belief that Keselowski's history of hard racing against him warranted the payback.

"I will not be walked on. I won't be stepped on," he said. "It's not

OK to move me out of the way. If somebody else wants to let people move them out of the way for the win, that's OK with me. I can't allow myself to be run over like that."

Keselowski, who like Edwards was placed on probation through the end of the year, was somewhat grateful for the NASCAR punishment because it eliminated the speculation that he'll have to retaliate this weekend. He will race against Edwards twice, first in Saturday night's Nationwide event.

Ron Hornaday wins at O'Reilly for fourth time

CLERMONT, Ind. (AP) — Ron Hornaday and his team had made things too complicated while trying to regain their edge.

The most successful driver in NASCAR Truck Series history had made subtle changes in his approach, and his team had been tinkering with his truck while trying to pull him out of a winless streak that had reached 22 races.

The familiar version of Hornaday surfaced on Friday.

He led 129 of the 200 laps to win the Trucks Series race at O'Reilly Raceway Park for the third time in four years.

"I'm just back to my 'Come to the race track and try to kick butt,' and it seems to be working," he said.

Hornaday, who qualified fifth, became the first driver to win four major NASCAR races at O'Reilly. He also won the trucks races in 1997, 2007 and 2009.

"We just kind of went back

to what we call our basic package," crew chief Ernie Cope said. "We've had people come in and try to do their own thing. I know everybody wants to make an identity for themselves, but it wasn't working, and we just went back to basics with Ron and let him drive the truck. You're going to win a lot of races when you do that with Ron Hornaday."

Kyle Busch finished second after pestering Hornaday

throughout the race.

"I wish we had a little bit more for him," Busch said. "I gave it all I had. I burned both fronts and both rears off that thing. There was nothing left."

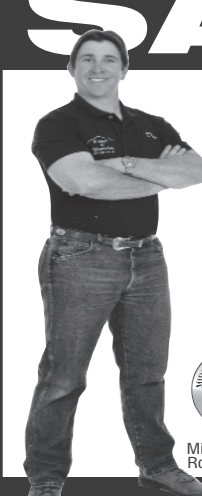
Matt Crafton finished third, and pole-sitter Timothy Peters finished 10th.

Points leader Todd Bodine was seventh after qualifying sixth on the short 0.686-mile track. Bodine has nine top-five finishes in 12 starts, but

his worst three finishes — seventh at ORP, 30th at Martinsville and 17th at Iowa — have come on short tracks.

Hornaday's win last year set a record for consecutive truck series wins with four. He then won the next race at Nashville to push the record to five, but hadn't won since. He was relieved after Friday's victory.

"It's just a great day," he said. "Hopefully, it keeps everybody a little bit quiet."



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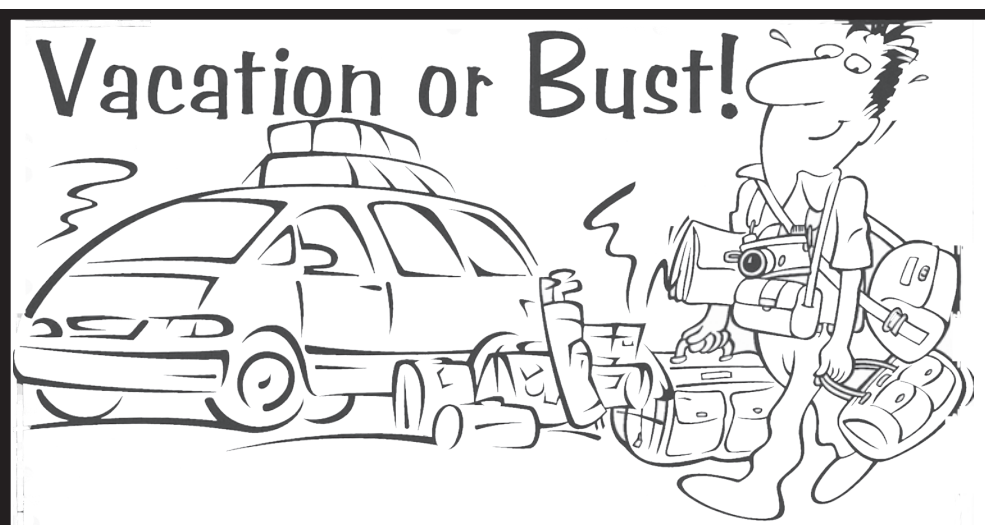
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KOBY

Continued from Page 3B

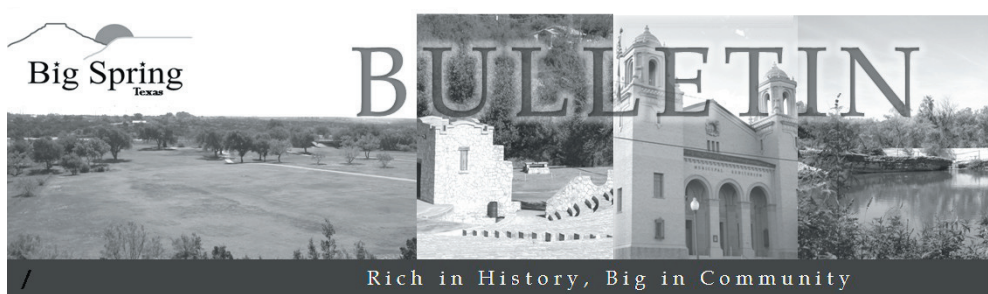
lenging when the Mitchell Report came out, filled with a former trainer's accusations — and supposed evidence — that his father used performance-enhancing drugs during his late-

career resurgence.

Roger Clemens fought back against his accuser and things have been messy ever since, with a federal grand jury weighing whether to indict him for perjury. His spot in the Hall of Fame is in doubt (despite 354 wins and more strikeouts than any pitcher

but Nolan Ryan) and the Clemens name became a bigger burden for a kid in the low minors.

"When your dad is great in this game and everybody expects you to fill those shoes, that's enough pressure as it is," said Lou Santangelo, Koby's teammate on the Hooks.



Under West Texas Skies

Last Friday, News West 9's last stop on their annual Under West Texas Skies Tour was the Big Spring Amphitheater. The Big Spring Convention and Visitor's Bureau, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, hosted a community festival that included a free concert by Vocal Trash. The fireworks show, originally planned for the Pops in the Park festivities, was presented at end the event. The festival was a huge success and we would like to express our appreciation to those members of the community who volunteered their time and efforts to help put this event together.

Committee Members

Debbie Valverde	Debbie Wegman
Stacie King	Zach Johnson
Jeff Ward	Clint Collins
Kenny Davis	Lt. Drew Bavin
Carl Condray	Jan Hansen
Teresa Darden	Becky Crane
Cindy Smith	John Weeks
Malinda Flenniken	

Entertainment:

Joe Murphy for hosting our event
Stevie McKinnon and the Dance Gallery
Jason Sanderson
The Big Spring High School Cheerleaders
The Coahoma High School Cheerleaders

A special thanks to:

The City of Big Spring Parks and Code Enforcement Staff
Sgt. Chad Williams
The Big Spring Police Department
Howard County Volunteer Fire Department
Citizens Police Academy
Lady Steer Softball Team
Manny Negron—Wal-Mart
KBST & The FUSE
Bill Norris and Dale Ferguson
Nancy Davenport
Vicki Stewart
Jessica Marlair
Brian Gordon
Jacob McCain
Rich Grove
John Haynes
Steve Davenport
Eric Gonzales
Steve Hedges

Thank you to all the vendors and organizations that participated in this event. We couldn't have done it without you! We appreciate everyone in the community that came out and supported this event.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

STARTING JULY 21, 2010 ALL GRASS CLIPPINGS AND LEAVES WILL GO TO THE LANDFILL, 4100 E FM 700 FOR DISPOSAL. THE CITY OF BIG SPRING WILL BE MAKING COMPOST AT THE LANDFILL FACILITY INSTEAD OF THE COMPOST FACILITY. THERE WILL BE NO FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHANGE. BUILDING MATERIALS AND CACTUS WILL NEED TO BE TAKEN TO THE CITY OF BIG SPRING LANDFILL FACILITY. THE COMPOST FACILITY WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTING TREES AND SHRUBS AFTER THIS DATE. CODE ENFORCEMENT WILL BE PATROLLING AFTER HOURS ENFORCING ILLEGAL DUMPING.

We are sorry for any inconvenience in this matter.

Thank you,
Kenny Davis
Landfill Compost Manager



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July 2010
Danny Valle**

Danny is being recognized for his exceptional commitment to the City of Big Spring. Danny is always courteous, professional and thorough in his work. He always has a positive attitude and an excellent work ethic. Thank you, Danny, for the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work you give to our community.

www.mybigspring.com

McKinney Center dedicated



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Relatives of Don McKinney are joined by other dignitaries during ribbon cutting ceremonies to mark Monday's dedication of the Don McKinney Career Technical Center at Howard College. McKinney, who died in 2008, was a long-time college trustee and supporter of vocational training at the school.

Texas budget woes cost local AgriLife Extension agent's job

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**

Managing Editor

The Howard County AgriLife Extension Office has learned that it will lose one of its county agents as a result of downsizing prompted by a 5 percent state budget reduction.

Officials announced Wednesday that they had completed notifying employees whose jobs with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service will end between now and Oct. 31.

The one agent in the Crossroads area affected was Larena Gomez, who works with the Howard County 4-H program.

The personnel cutback affects 94 jobs — 31 vacant positions that will not be filled and 63 occupied positions that will be eliminated agencywide, according to AgriLife

Extension Director Dr. Ed Smith.

Leaders of the state agency, which has offices in 250 Texas counties, said their decisions were based on maintaining core programs statewide.

AgriLife Extension is part of a national community-based adult and youth education system.

"We delayed restructuring as long as we could, because we hoped that economic conditions would improve," said Smith. "But that has not happened and we regret that we have to take these steps."

One-fourth of the staffing cut is at the agency's College Station headquarters. The rest is throughout Texas.

"To keep positions strategically distributed, we will refill some

vacancies," said Kyle Smith, AgriLife Extension executive associate director. "So displaced personnel may find other internal job opportunities."

He stressed that the agency has long maintained a presence in each county. That will continue.

"Counties currently being served by a single extension agent or through a shared position will not be impacted by the new staffing plan," said Darrell Dromgoole, AgriLife Extension associate director for county programs. "We looked most closely at counties where we had three or more positions, especially if more than one employee supported the same subject matter," said

See **AGENT**, Page 5C

Permian Basin dove management workshop slated

Special to the Herald

MIDLAND — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be hosting a dove management workshop Aug. 13 in Midland. Partners in the workshop include Burr Williams, executive director of the Sibley Nature Center, and Larry Cook of Midland.

"The workshop will focus on dove biology, current research and managing hunting areas,"

according to Philip Dickerson, a technical guidance biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. at the Sibley Nature Center, located at 1307 E. Wadley in Midland. That morning, the group will travel to a local property about 15 minutes away for a field tour. After breaking for lunch, the workshop will re-convene

at the Sibley Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. for presentations on research and management.

"This workshop is free to the public and will provide valuable information to landowners and hunters," said Annaliese Scoggin, a local TPWD biologist.

For additional information on the workshop, contact Dickerson at 432-520-1581 or Scoggin at 432-520-1570.

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.

Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.



We believe there's some pretty tough times ahead of us

Investor sentiment is fickle and often changes as quickly as a 14-year-old's mind. Remember, it was just one week ago that the hot topic was fear of a double-dip economic recession.

Fears were growing that Asian and United States economic growth was slowing too quickly and the European debt crisis was escalating.

In addition, the technical condition was deteriorating as key support levels of the major stock averages were violated, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average leading up to the Fourth of July holiday had its worst five-day performance for that period since 1896.

What changed last week? Did China suddenly lift their curbs on bank-lending standards and eliminate all fear of rising property prices and inflation? Did European financial officials announce that the debt crisis was over and there was no longer concern of debt implosions and its banks encountering trouble? Were all fears of a slowing U.S. economy alleviated after a string of economic reports showing accelerated growth?

Well, no — none of these events occurred. What changed was investors' attitude swung from the glass is half empty to the glass is half full.

The stock market in the short term has been very oversold as measured by many momentum and sentiment indicators reaching historical levels that were coincident with, or soon followed by sizable stock-market gains

The message of the market, in contrast, has recently signaled few signs of a bottom and that the path of least resistance was lower.

One never knows when an oversold market is oversold enough. Investors decided last week that enough was enough, at least for the near term, and the sharp rise in stocks has at least stemmed the tide of the decline. Now what?

Rapid swings in technical measures of momentum and investor sentiment have become the norm and not the exception.

Many publications from Wells Fargo Advisors' strategists have discussed our outlook for increased volatility. The renewed volatility increase began May 6, the day of the "flash splash" and the DJIA's intraday swing of 1,010 points.

During the past nine weeks, the DJIA has experienced advances of 1,050, 836 and two of more than 500 points all in nine trading days or less.

In the same time period, there have been declines of 1,146, 979 and one of more than 500 points, also in nine trading days or less. Unfortunately, the major averages still remain in downward sloping channels since the April 2010 highs.

We are hard pressed to remember a more volatile period than the past two months. Swings in sentiment of this degree are beginning to make a 14-year-old's change in mind appear rather subdued.

The rebound in stocks is better than a "stick in the eye," but has been somewhat disappointing with extremely light volume, even when accounting for that it is a summer rally and normal that activity would be subdued in the early stages of an advance following the S&P 500's recent 16 percent decline.

Group leadership has also been inconsistent. Stocks were overdue for a bounce and now have had one.

The real test for the durability of this advance will begin this week with a heavy economic calendar highlighted by retail sales, the June Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes, manufacturing readings and consumer confidence. Second quarter earnings have begun rolling out and the most critical factor will be forward guidance.

We continue to have a year-end target range of 1,100-1,140 for the S&P 500, but believe it will be a rough road getting there.

At this time, we would be cautious about making additional commitments to equity securities.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced July 13 by Scott Marcouiller, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

TEXAS REALTORS' DONATION



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

State Rep. Joe Heflin, fourth from right, is shown with representatives from Texas Association of Realtors after receiving the group's endorsement for re-election during brief ceremonies at the Heritage Museum Friday morning. Heflin (D-Crosbyton), faces Republican challenger Jim Landtroop in the November general election.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

conduct yourself in a more a professional manner. If not, stay home.

DALE PITTMAN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

It is so easy to complain about the Big Spring City Council, with the usual complaints being “they do only what they want” and “they don’t listen to their constituents.” Last Tuesday’s council meeting proved just the opposite.

The council was faced with a very emotional zoning issue, one that pitted the residents of Colonial Hills against a developer for a senior housing project. The project was a wonderful idea; a \$7 million housing development. The location of the development was all wrong, or at least in the eyes of the residents of Colonial Hills. The area is zoned for single family homes and the residents wanted it to stay that way.

For months, the residents have been fighting and lobbying against the zoning change. At the council meeting, many spoke up and voiced their opposition to the zoning change and the council listened.

I would like to express my appreciation to the council for its support on this issue. This just goes to prove that they do listen and act accordingly.

GLORIA HOPKINS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I stand with Jim DePauw and everything he wrote in the July 11 setter to the Herald about Israel. I will add this, the King James version of the Bible says in Genesis 12:3, “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

I don’t believe this will happen as long as we have a president in office

that is not only an admitted Muslim, but who is against Israel and wants them to give up land that God promised Israel to the Palestinians.

I also want to thank Mayor Tommy Duncan for his stand against a low-income housing project in a residential area. All except two ladies on the planning and zoning commission were for it. I don’t see why the appraisal district was for it, especially Terry McDaniel and one city councilwoman, Gloria McDonald.

Also, the code enforcement department can’t seem to make the owner of the property on Hearn and Parkway clean it up. Why not?

WILLIE B. DOSS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this to complain against the city of Big Spring. Last week we got a letter from the city’s Code Enforcement office about the grass that grown up blocking the gas meter in the alley. I was out of town and my husband drives a truck. When he came home, he mowed it.

My complaint is when people come into Big Spring on Business 20, it looks horrible — grass and weeds up so high it is disgraceful.

When I got home I went to code enforcement and told them we had taken care of our high grass. He thanked me, but when I complained about how our city looks, like he showed me a list of names of people they hire to mow city lots etc.

Well, I guess no one wants to do it, because none of them have been mowed.

I thought a slogan for Big Spring is Keep Big Spring Beautiful. Well, right now it is not! There are a lot of old buildings falling down that need to be torn down, which are a very bad eyesore. The house behind me also got a letter. They mowed part of their yard and part of the alley, but on the other side of the dumpster, the weeds are very high.

The city is charging people for their yards and alleys, maybe we the people of Big Spring should fine the city of Big Spring for not keeping Big Spring

beautiful.

When we drive on Fourth Street, where the state tore it up to redo it, there a chuck holes. Who is going to fix that street?

I was told that the state of Texas is broke and that it will not be fixed. So now we have a street that has chug holes. Since we had all that rain, it is worse. So,who is going to fix it?

MARILLYN GROESBECK
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

This past week, we have been reminded living in a small town in West Texas means love, courage, caring for others, strength and never giving up. We were faced with the awesome task of finding a loved one, one who has given and given his whole life.

The busy lives of many came to a halt. We were reminded to stop and take a look at what is important. We were reminded how precious this gift of life, given from above is, and how quickly it could end. Memories of years gone by flashed through our minds. Questions of why haven’t I checked on loved ones more? Why haven’t I at least called to say “do you need anything?” Why haven’t I said “I love you more?” It was a wake-up call for many.

When word got out that Lonnie Anderson was in trouble, the love of a whole town, and even those who might not have known him, flew into emergency mode. Lives were put on

hold. Questions like, “what can I do, how can I help,” were automatic. This small town in West Texas put its priorities in place. The most important thing was now No. 1. Caring for others is what Coahoma and surrounding communities is all about.

We are commanded in God’s word “to love one another.” That was very evident this week. We care, we love, we act!

Those with horses saddled up and rode out, search dogs were readied and even helicopters were revved up. Each leaving with anxious hope they would be in time. Each with the prayer for a happy ending.

Coahoma, you did yourself proud! You showed the love that has been commanded, you didn’t give up, until mission accomplished — a happy ending!

There was another force working with you. Prayers were offered on behalf of Lonnie and Mary Anderson and their families, and those prayers were answered. Those prayers were answered with a mighty miracle from God.

This man who has given and given all his life, was given an opportunity to see his family again. They were given the opportunity to say, “I love you” again. What a gift! What a gift all of us have been given.

The reminder, that life is one breath away from eternity! The reminder,

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And Criminal Law

Kerr, Ward, McLaughlin,
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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

State board adopts charter facilities investment plan

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education adopted a plan Friday to dedicate millions of public school endowment dollars to finance charter school facilities.

The proposal, which is contingent on a legal opinion from the Texas attorney general or action by the Legislature, is to invest \$100 million of the \$23 billion Permanent School Fund into developing and leasing Texas charter school facilities.

Several board members, including chairwoman Gail Lowe, R-Lampasas, expressed hesitation about adopting such a plan without more confidence in the return on the investment.

But Lowe agreed to seek an opinion on the proposal's legality from the Texas attorney general.

A day earlier, the board rejected the proposal by a 7-7 vote, but with the absence of board member Rick Agosto, D-San Antonio, on Friday, the vote margin shifted in favor of the plan and passed by a 7-6 vote.

The Permanent School Fund is an endowment created in 1876 to benefit Texas public schools.

The board's investment adviser, Rhett Humphreys, said estimating the risk for a charter school investment is "very tricky business" because there is no performance history for such an investment.

The NEPC analysis put the expected return at 4.75 percent with a high risk level.

Board member Pat Hardy, R-Fort Worth, called the estimate "voodoo" economics.

Opponents said such an investment would not be a prudent use of Permanent School Fund money.

"I certainly want to help charters, but not in this way," said board member Bob Craig, R-Lubbock.

But board member David Bradley, who has been pushing the proposal for the last two years, contends that opposition was grounded in hostility to alternatives to traditional public school.

Education Commissioner Robert Scott said he will instruct staff members that oversee the Perma-

nent School Fund and charter school policy to address lingering questions about the plan.

Starved girl, 13, testifies in man's Dallas trial

DALLAS (AP) — A now 12-year-old girl said the pain of starvation was like "somebody was stabbing me through the heart" during her testimony Friday in the trial of a man accused of locking her and her brothers in a hotel bathroom.

The worst part, she said from the witness stand, was having no one to love.

"I had my brothers," she said. "But I had no mom. I had no dad."

Her mother's boyfriend, Alfred Santiago, is on trial on charges of injury to a child and continuous sexual abuse in relation to the girl. He faces up to life in prison if convicted. Two more charges of injury to a child are pending — those involving the boys.

The Dallas Morning News reports the girl testified there was a time the children loved Santiago. Then, she said, he began beating and starving them.

"I thought he was a monster," the girl said.

The girl and her younger brothers, then 5 and 10, were rescued a year ago by an uncle and police. The emaciated children were found in a filthy bathroom at an extended-stay hotel in Dallas. They had been living there with Santiago and their mother, Abneris Santiago. The two were not married but share a last name.

A 1-year-old who was the biological daughter of Alfred Santiago was found healthy in the hotel room. All the children have different fathers.

On Friday, the girl talked about numerous incidents of sexual abuse by Alfred Santiago, starting when the family lived in Florida. She said he threatened to hurt her family if she told anyone.

The family moved to Dallas in 2007, and she said the abuse then became more severe and frequent.

She girl said that when locked in the bathroom, she would give up food so her brothers could have a bit more. "I knew they needed it more than me," she said.

A forensic interviewer broke down in tears while testifying earlier Fri-

day about the children's condition. Jessie Gonzales, who has interviewed more than 2,000 abused children, said these three were "like nothing I've ever seen before."

She was the third witness to testify that the girl and her brothers resembled victims of the Holocaust.

A doctor testified Thursday that the three children were given just enough food to stay alive.

Their mother's trial on one charge of injury to a child will start after Alfred Santiago's trial ends. She also faces up to life in prison.

Houston inmate freed after 19 years in prison

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man was released from prison Friday after an investigation by the district attorney's office found he was locked up 19 years for a rape he didn't commit.

Allen Wayne Porter's attorney, Casey Garrett, said Porter was released Friday afternoon on a recognition bond awaiting a final decision in the case by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Members of the 39-year-old's family joyfully jumped from their seats after a teary-eyed judge recommended on Thursday that he be released.

If the court accepts the recommendation of state District Judge Joan Campbell, it will order a new trial. But Bob Loper, the special prosecutor, told the Houston Chronicle on Friday that he will move to dismiss the case, so Porter will not be retried.

"He is very happy and he's very grateful," Garrett told The Associated Press. "And the thing about him that's interesting is he's not angry and bitter and he's just ready to start a new life."

Porter was sentenced to life in prison for a June 1990 robbery and rape in southwest Houston in which three men broke into an alleged drug dealer's home in search of \$30,000 and drugs. The men terrorized the apartment's four occupants and repeatedly raped two women.

The court heard testimony from Porter's nephew, Jimmy Hatton, who is serving a life sentence for the same crime, and Perry Harrison, who, though never charged with the crime, admitted Thursday that he had participated in the robbery-rapes.

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Movie, 1:00 p.m., "Hannah Montana (The Movie)"
- July 29** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
- July 30** — SUMMER MUMMERS, 5:00 - ????
- Aug. 2** — Games, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Aug. 3** — Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
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Supper Club "Carlos", 5:30 p.m.
- Aug. 4** — Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Movie, 1:00 p.m., "The Boys are Back"
- Aug. 5** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.,
Just Peachy's Cafe, 10:00 a.m.
Bunko, 5:00 p.m.
- Aug. 6** — Midland Shopping, 10:00 a.m.-?
- Aug. 9** — Games, 1-4 p.m.
- Aug. 10** — Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club "Pizza Inn", 5:30 p.m.

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Senior Circle

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

to get our priorities in order. I don't think any of us were thinking, "is my house clean, how can I make more money, we need a better car, etc."

No, we were thinking of another. We were praying for another.

We were seeking God's help.

So often, "me" is our central thought. We hurry through our lives trying to get more, make everything perfect, when we are made to realize all this will pass away. Only what is done in the name of Jesus, in the love of Jesus will remain when we are gone.

Let us wake up! Starting today, let us make others our priority. Let us think less of "me" and more of thee.

Thank you Heavenly Father for giving us this chance. Thank you for loving us, that we may love others. Thank you Lord, for those who give and give. Thank you Lord, for small towns in West Texas who care, who give strength, hope and comfort to those in need. That is the love of God in action.

BO FRYAR
SAND SPRINGS

TO THE EDITOR:
This concerns the sto-

ry about the abduction of the baby that was in last week's newspaper. I believe in punishment, but when it concerns two or more people, punishment should be equal — that is, if it involves more than one adult.

If the woman was found with the baby alone and she was intoxicated, what was the baby doing with her and where was the mother?

Evidently she took off, leaving the baby and probably got intoxicated herself.

And if she was unable to drive, why wasn't it reported before?

I don't understand why our law enforcement in Big Spring doesn't look into more details before making arrests.

Lots of people would like an explanation about the situation.

I feel we citizens should know. I'm pretty sure the lady and someone else had been together all day.

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Mechanic
Responsible for maintaining and repairing district equipment including mechanical and electrical repair of all vehicles and heavy equipment.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org.

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Qualified applicants should mail or fax a resume to:

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS:

Obama says GOP plan would take country backward; GOP pledges to fight tax hikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says an economic plan by the House Republican leader just repeats job-killing policies of the past and would take the country “backward at a time when we need to keep America moving forward.”

In turn, House GOP leader John Boehner said the president had stooped to partisan attacks because he can’t sell his own plan at a time when millions of people want to know what happened to the jobs Obama promised to create.

Days after imposing new regulations on the financial industry, Obama said Saturday that the new law is a “key pillar” of his overall economic plan to reverse the recession that began on Wall Street and build a stronger economy overall.

Previewing one of the arguments he’ll be making as he campaigns for congressional Democrats heading into the November midterm elections, Obama acknowledged that the economic growth on his watch isn’t nearly enough to replace the millions of lost jobs.

But he said essentially that the Republican alternative — repealing the health care law, continuing tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and rejecting investments in clean energy — would be much worse.

Boehner countered that Republicans have better solutions and will stop Democratic tax hikes and spending sprees.

Rangel political allies largely quiet as they weigh political fallout of ethics charges

NEW YORK (AP) — Friends and political allies of embattled Rep. Charlie Rangel are noticeably quiet after the disclosure that the 40-year House veteran and dean of the New York congressional delegation may face serious charges from a House ethics panel.

Rangel, 80, told reporters Friday that he looked forward to a public airing of the charges next week and fully intended to fight to clear his name. But national Democrats, already nervous about the party’s prospects in the November election, had little to say publicly about Rangel’s plight.

It’s a particularly vexing situation for New York Democrats, who know Rangel well and have benefited for years from his campaign contributions and his advocacy for the state — particularly on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, which he chaired before stepping down from the post last March.

To criticize Rangel would look politically expedient for these Democrats and could risk the ire of the Congressional Black Caucus and the many influential black activists in New York. But staying silent leaves them vulnerable to Republican charges that the party is not sufficiently tough on the ethical lapses of its members.

Another issue for many of New York’s top office-

holders: a scheduled Aug. 11 campaign fundraiser for Rangel at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, hosted by outgoing Gov. David Paterson and chaired by most of the state’s Democratic party elite, including Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

Gen. McChrystal, former Afghanistan war commander, leaves Army after 3 decades

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 34 years in the Army, Gen. Stanley McChrystal left behind legions of admirers and the prospect his reputation as a ferocious fighter would one day eclipse the costly comments that appeared in Rolling Stone.

“Over the past decade, arguably no single American has inflicted more fear, more loss of freedom and more loss of life on our country’s most vicious and violent enemies than Stan McChrystal,” U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said during an emotional retirement ceremony Friday, marking the end of the general’s career.

Before a crowd of a few hundred friends, family and colleagues on the Fort McNair parade grounds under an oppressively hot July sun, McChrystal said his service didn’t end as he hoped. But he regretted few decisions he had made on the battlefield, cherished his life as a soldier and was optimistic about his future.

“There are misconceptions about the loyalty and service of some dedicated professionals that will likely take some time, but I believe will be corrected,” he said.

McChrystal was fired last month after the magazine published an article titled “The Runaway Gen-

eral” that quoted scathing remarks he and his aides made about their civilian bosses.

Crews look for four missing after medical flight crashes into Lake Michigan

LUDINGTON, Mich. (AP) — Rescuers searched Lake Michigan for four people aboard a small plane that crashed into choppy waters, including a school superintendent on his way to the Mayo Clinic for cancer treatment, his wife and a doctor. The only known survivor was the pilot.

Jerry Freed, 66, reported mechanical problems Friday morning shortly before the craft plunged into the lake several miles off the Michigan coast, Mason County Undersheriff Tom Trenner said. Freed was rescued and in good condition at Memorial Medical Center of West Michigan.

Freed and his passengers are residents of Alma, about 150 miles northwest of Detroit, where friends and relatives were praying for their safe return.

“We’re crazy trying to figure out what might be going on,” said Tony Costanzo, the school board vice president. “Some of the best people in town were on that plane.”

An air and marine search continued for co-pilot Earl Davidson, Alma schools’ superintendent Don Pavlik, his wife, Irene, and Dr. James Hall.

Don Pavlik was diagnosed earlier this year with cancer of the esophagus and Freed and Davidson had volunteered to take him to the Rochester, Minn., medical center, Costanzo said. Hall, he said, came along because he wanted to help his ailing friend.

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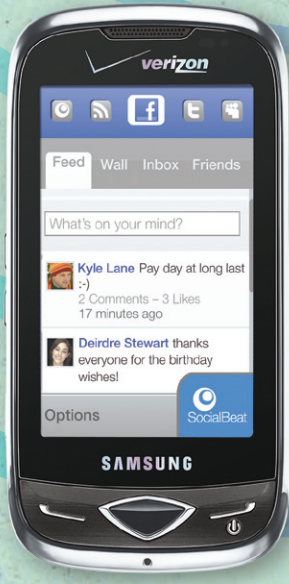
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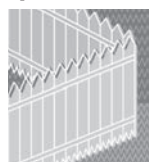
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THE WORLD BRIEFLY:

North Korea threatens nuclear retaliation to U.S.-South Korea military exercises

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea warned Saturday that it will respond with “powerful nuclear deterrence” to joint U.S. and South Korean military exercises poised to begin this weekend, saying the drills amount to a provocation that cannot be ignored.

North Korea routinely threatens war when South Korea and the U.S. hold joint military drills, which Pyongyang sees as a rehearsal for an attack on the North. The latest threat comes amid increased tensions on the peninsula over the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship that Seoul and Washington blame on Pyongyang.

The allies’ defense chiefs announced earlier in the week they would stage the drills to send a clear message to North Korea to stop its “aggressive” behavior. Forty-six South Korean sailors were killed in the March sinking of the Cheonan, considered the worst military attack on the South since the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea vehemently denies any involvement and says any punishment would trigger war.

On Saturday, North Korea’s powerful National Defense Commission — headed by leader Kim Jong Il — backed that threat up by promising a “retaliatory sacred war” against South Korea and the U.S. for what it called a second “unpardonable” provocation after wrongly accusing the North in the Cheonan incident.

U.S. service members die in bombing in Afghanistan; 69 troops killed in July

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Four American service members were killed Saturday in a bombing in southern Afghanistan, where international forces are stepping up the fight against the Taliban, officials said.

A NATO announcement did not give the nationalities of the victims of Saturday’s blast, nor specify where in the south they died.

However, U.S. officials confirmed they were Americans. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under rules regarding casualty identification.

The latest deaths bring to 69 the number of international service members killed in Afghanistan this month, including 52 Americans.

The U.S.-led force is ramping up operations against the Taliban in their southern strongholds, hoping to enable the Afghan government to expand its control in the volatile region.

There were conflicting reports of fresh fighting in the south in which civilians were injured.

Suspected missiles kill 16 militants in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — U.S. missiles hit a suspected militant hide-out, killing 16 insurgents in a troubled Pakistani tribal region along the Afghan border before dawn Saturday, intelligence officials said.

The strike came as the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

chairman, Adm. Mike Mullen, was in Pakistan. Mullen was expected to see Pakistan’s army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, who was recently granted a three-year term extension in what some have welcomed as a sign of continuity in Pakistan’s battle against Islamist extremists.

The six missiles struck a compound in the Nazai Narai area of South Waziristan. The hide-out was known to be frequented by foreign fighters who were among the dead, two intelligence officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to go on the record, said agents were trying to get more details about the identities and nationalities of the dead.

Pope grants broad powers to Legionaries delegate picked to overhaul the order

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The pope has granted broad powers of governance and financial control to the archbishop he selected to overhaul the Legionaries of Christ following revelations that the order’s founder led a double life.

A decree approved by Pope Benedict XVI and published Saturday on the Legionaries’ website said Archbishop Velasio De Paolis can override the order’s own constitutions as he goes about reforming the Legionaries.

The conservative order once hailed by the Vatican fell into disarray following its admission that its founder, the Rev. Marciel Maciel, sexually abused seminarians and fathered at least three children.

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Howard County Night 2010 July 25, 2010

The Midland Rockhounds and West Texas United Sockers are proudly announcing our “Howard County Night” special for the 2010 Baseball and Soccer Seasons. The aim is to foster community spirit and pride by hosting a night at Citibank Ballpark and Grande Commnications Stadium (home of the RockHounds and Sockers, respectively) to recognize the essential members and organizations in the Howard County community.

Merchants may purchase specially printed “Howard County Night” tickets to distribute to employees and customers throughout the community. Merchants will also receive advertisement over PA announcements throughout the game as well as via local media.

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Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please mail or fax this form to:

Midland RockHounds
Attn: Sara Rader
5514 Champions Dr.
Midland, TX 79706
Ph: (432) 520-2255
Fax: (432) 520-8326

_____ Yes, I'd like to purchase community night tickets at \$5.00 each!

Name: _____ Company Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Check Enclosed or CC# _____ Exp. Date: _____

_____ (# of tickets) @ \$5.00 = _____ (total) Phone: _____

.....
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205847

ANNOUNCEMENT: Office Closure Dr. Kim Bango

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



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

Please take this time to begin choosing your new physician.

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

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

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

After July 16th, requests for records can be made to Family Medical Center as below:
Family Medical Center
2301 S. Gregg Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Phone: (432) 267-5531
Contact: Kelly Hankins

Feel free to call our office during this transition for any questions or concerns. It has been a great pleasure providing for your health care needs. I wish future health and happiness to everyone.
Kim Bango, MD 10134

211055

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#6627 July 25, 2010

Dear Margo

by Margo Howard

An Old Story: offering to comfort a widower

Dear Margo: I'm a recently widowed man in my 50s. There is a woman who works with me with whom I've been good friends for as long as we've worked together, about six years.

She is several years younger than I and very attractive.

Ever since my wife passed away, she has been making advances, and I don't know how to say no without harming our friendship.

I'm not attracted to her, nor am I looking for a relationship right now.

She keeps asking me to lunch, buying me coffee and leaving little notes on my desk with

messages and smiley faces like a teenage girl.

This is getting annoying, and I don't know how to politely tell her to back off. — *Need Time To Grieve*

Dear Need: They really swoop in, don't they?

This woman sounds quite aggressive, and it's clear that "subtlety" is not her middle name.

A gentle way to essentially tell her to knock it off would be to say that you are appreciative of her solicitousness, but you are still in mourning and, as your signature says, need time to grieve.

If she continues to try to rope you in, then you will have to tell her flat out that she is being rather thick and you see her only as a friend, and the result will probably be that the friendship is kaput. (But a small price to pay, say I, if she is making you insane with

her overtures.) — *Margo, directly*

Religion Is Not Genetic

Dear Margo: I am 52, and since the age of 18, I have been agnostic.

The thing is, I wish I wasn't. My entire extended family, excepting my husband and two grown daughters, is Christian.

They are all in the same "club," and I am an outcast. It's not that I am vocal about my lack of religious belief.

On the contrary, I really don't want anyone with whom I am not close to find out. It's very difficult when I receive invitations to sing at funerals.

I do it, but I feel horribly guilty for deceiving these people who are moved by my singing, when the words are meaningless to me.

I have tried reading the Bible, but to me, it's just a collection of stories, like any other book.

I don't know why other people can accept the religion in which they were raised and I cannot.

(My husband and children don't share my longing to be like everybody else.)

Do you think there is something wrong with me, some chromosome missing, perhaps? Why can't I believe in a God? — *Faithless*

Dear Faith: I do not mean to belittle your

agita about the situation, but it seems you are focusing on a reality that is not, in fact, a problem.

You are obsessing about the outcast business and giving your lack of belief too much weight. (A great many people might say yours is the rational conclusion; they would be atheists and agnostics.)

As for singing in various churches, you are asked because of your voice, not your faith. You are in no way "deceiving" anyone. I would think of this activity as a favor to friends, not a pledge that you believe what the people in the pews do. (Some churches and synagogues have professional choirs, by the way.)

There really is nothing wrong with you, and there is no missing chromosome.

You might feel more comfortable with what you believe — or don't believe — if you were to read some literature having to do with both atheism and agnosticism. — *Margo, acceptingly*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Associations with the word “stress” are often negative. But stress can force us toward wonderful creations and powerful states of mind. Today's heavenly oppositions create a good kind of tension. Look to the future with hope and share positive feelings as the sun and the moon oppose each other to beautiful effect — a full Aquarius moon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Something is weighing you down. Tell someone and you'll feel a lot better. You know just the person to tell. Spill your guts, and enjoy the feeling of a burden lifted.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In the past, you traveled, but it's been a while since you've visited someplace completely new. Look into that now. A trip in the distant future will invigorate your life in the present.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be an unmistakable stirring of restlessness in your soul. You might try to ignore it, but it isn't going to go away. You may as well listen and see where it's urging you to go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An oversight made in the past suddenly wreaks havoc with your present. Who's to blame isn't clear, but that is of small import. What matters is that the wrong be righted as quickly as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are a retinal magnet, pulling eyes toward you wherever you go. You walk with confidence, smile with intrigue, relate with friendly humility. Strangers will say hello — even the shy ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll succeed by being straightforward.

Don't make people guess how to treat you, what you want or how to move in the world with you in it. Tell people what to do with you, and they'll do it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your preferences fortify you. So settle into the comfort of familiar things: sitting in your favorite chair, sipping your favorite drink, watching your favorite TV show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An inappropriate comment ruffles your feathers. The question is how involved you should get in righting a wrong. This may not have been directed at you, but still you feel a responsibility here.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shooting for the stars is something you learned to do a long time ago. As with any skill, you have to exercise it to keep it. Today you'll have the perfect opportunity to aim high.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are like the Charlie who got Willy Wonka's golden ticket. Of all the candy bars, you picked the right one, and now you get to do something most people only dream of. A grand adventure lies ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Approval doesn't always come directly and openly. A compliment can be wrapped in a reprimand, to save face or just to be coy. You have been behaving like a champion, and someone is trying to praise you for that, tacitly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can't win every time. Or can you? Even if you swing and miss once in a while, it's no reason not to try to bat a thousand. No one has done it yet, but that doesn't mean no one will.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 25). You know you are loved, and this year it will be easy to appreciate how others show

affection and respect. Narrow down your choices in August. Focusing on one or two priorities will ensure your success. Loved ones make you proud in September. You'll develop a unique talent in November. Finances improve in January. Taurus and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 25, 10, 33 and 15.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: It's when the moon and the sun are in opposition that the moon agglorious. The sun reflects on every visible surface, and there's a rush of excitement with this reveal. As the sun traverses Leo, he puts the moon on a stage and invites her free expression. The moon is in Aquarius and is sure to present in unexpected ways. Aquarius is known to produce thinking that is not only outside the box, but outside the room around the box and the building around the room

and the town around the building. Aquarius delights in overturning our ideas about what is “normal.” Aquarian energy can be awe inspiring or momentarily stunning. A shock to the system could set everything right. The extremes of a situation will have something to teach us about the middle ground. The theme is further carried out in a conjunction of Mars, the planet of action, and Saturn, the planet of limits. They line up in Libra on July 31, and the effects are felt all week. The realm of Libra handles relationships and group dynamics. There will be those who feel it's their duty to stretch rules, push buttons and generally prevent anyone from getting too comfortable. It keeps us all on our toes.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Movie star and pop star Jennifer Lopez was born under the hot Leo sun, and she has Mercury, the

communication planet, in Leo, as well. She's a natural in the spotlight and has likely felt that she was born to use her talents to entertain. However, she's learned from her practical Virgo husband, Marc Anthony, that sometimes it's better to keep your private life out of the media.

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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HOLIDAY MATHIS

su | do | ku
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ANSWERS

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

Answer to previous puzzle

IDOL	CURD	OVAL
NOSE	USHED	WIFI
EGUNARRAY	LEONARD	
SUBONY	SELF	LOS
CLOSETS	TAFT	
TED	HONEYDI	JON
FLORA	SAMOAN	
SABLE	THX	YENTE
UNBAGS	UMASS	
BABYBOOMER	ABA	
SOCK	NESTLES	
SKI	NASA	PAGES
INTHENAMEOF	LOVE	
RISE	INFER	ORES
STYX	AMES	NESS

su | do | ku
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Shot in the Dark

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 8 6
♥ 6 4 2
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ A K 9 8

EAST
♠ K 9 7 4 2
♥ A 7 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ J 10 3
♥ K J
♦ A J 10 9
♣ Q J 10 4

The bidding:
East 1♦ South 1♥
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 1NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — eight of spades.

In choosing an opening lead, a defender should be guided much more by what he thinks is the best lead for his side than simply by the 13 cards he sees in his hand. It is better to treat defense as a partnership endeavor and not as the exclusive province of one defender.

Consider this deal where West chose to lead a spade, hoping to hit his partner's suit, rather than a club, his own best suit. He felt that a club lead might help declarer more than it would help the defense.

West's judgment was well-rewarded after South played low from dummy, losing the finesse to East's king, and East shifted to the seven of clubs. West took declarer's queen with the king and, gauging the situation perfectly, returned the eight of clubs, won by South with the jack.

Declarer had no choice but to try to establish dummy's hearts and so led the king of hearts, losing to East's ace. East then returned the deuce of clubs, and South's 10-4 of clubs succumbed to West's A-9 for down one.

It is certainly true that the defenders functioned very well to defeat the contract. Yet the fact remains that South had only himself to blame for the outcome. Had he won the opening spade lead with dummy's ace and immediately forced out the ace of hearts, no lie of the cards could have defeated him.

The spade finesse was unquestionably a step in the wrong direction, since it had nothing to do with making the contract. The principle South should have applied is that a declarer should not take a finesse merely because it's there. A far more important principle is to do whatever is necessary to assure the contract, and that takes precedence over everything else.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Made a match for

8 Empty, in a way

15 Blow up

16 Sea abutting Guadalcanal

17 Translator's concern

18 Present

19 Tear (into)

20 Record hardware

22 *The Yankee* author

23 Main __

25 Rackets

27 1980s Virginia governor

28 Past

29 Helium-3, e.g.

32 Basketball's "sixth man"

33 Unrest

35 Split

37 1964 Cairo Summit creation

38 Driving-home result

39 Intimidated

43 Good for nothing

47 Flurry

48 It may set a date

50 Chinese zodiac animal

51 Drudge

53 Goes after

54 Earl Grey partner

56 Kind of cover

58 Insignificant one

60 The Tanaro River runs through it

61 Haberdashery offerings

63 Kwacha spender

65 Casting director's type

66 Old Nick

67 Groups for pitchers

68 *Good Morning America* beginning

DOWN

1 Cover of the Bible

2 Within eyeshot

3 Hard-to-define influence

4 Howdy Doody's original name

5 Block

6 Its quarters have two locomotives

7 Emerald look-alike

8 Poirot portrayal

9 Repeated word in a Herodotus quote

10 Block

11 Turbine part

12 Lovingly, in music

13 Charter member?

14 City on Lake Victoria

21 Suit

24 Gives up

26 Thin

30 Elitists

31 Old flames?

34 Sticker abbr.

36 Canadian export

39 Gets involved

40 "The flower of my heart"

41 1980s Central American leader

42 Units of magnetic flux

43 Hires

44 Gradual decline

45 Latin rock band since '67

46 1993 National Women's Hall of Fame inductee

49 Knights, e.g.

52 Mythological triad

55 __ car

57 Sound

59 Cover, in a way

62 Take

64 Year Pope John XVIII's reign began

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16					
17									18					
19					20		21			22				
23				24		25			26		27			
28					29	30				31		32		
33			34					35			36			
				37					38					
39	40	41				42		43				44	45	46
47				48			49					50		
51			52		53					54	55			
56				57		58			59		60			
61					62			63		64				
65									66					
67									68					

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1 (800) FED-INFO

Diners grilling restaurants over seafood sourcing

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

Distance doesn't seem to matter. No matter how far they are from the Gulf, waiters and waitresses around the nation are getting the same grilling by diners.

Is your seafood clean?

After months of watching news coverage of tar balls washing up on beaches and oil-soaked wildlife, customers are asking questions about the where their food was fished from, especially items closely associated with the Gulf, like shrimp and oysters.

"We have two oyster dishes on our menu and people want to know where they are from," said Bryce Statham owner of the Blue Moon Fish Co., in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fla.

For some restaurants, the solution has been to add new items to the menu (alligator at one New Orleans eatery). Others have sought out the same sea-

food with a different geography (New Zealand grouper over Gulf Coast, for example).

Still others take a more blunt approach. While Dallas-area restaurants hung up "God Bless the Gulf" signs, another in upstate New York tweeted that they do NOT serve Gulf seafood.

The Associated Press contacted more than a dozen restaurants nationwide and many said the increased curiosity from customers hasn't necessarily cost them business. Rather, restaurateurs say a portion of their customers seek reassurance before ordering. It's the same sort of squeamishness lampooned recently in Doonesbury when Zonker, working as a waiter, assured a customer the crabs are "petroleum-free" and points out the latest satellite image of the spill on the man's placemat.

In reality, waiters and waitresses around the nation are getting point-

ers on ways to assure customers that their seafood is coming from either clean waters in the Gulf or from another part of the world.

This can be a balancing act. Restaurants typically want to support the devastated Gulf fishing industry but also want to make clear they're steering clear of product from polluted water.

Ken Vaughan, director of operations for Flying Fish restaurants, said his restaurants in the Dallas area and in Little Rock, Ark., and Memphis, Tenn., put up "God Bless the Gulf" signs, but they also tell customers who ask that their shrimp comes from reputable suppliers.

Jack's Oyster House in Albany, N.Y., recently told customers on Twitter and Facebook that "Jack's is NOT sourced from the Gulf."

In Florida, Stratham said staff members check tags on the oysters so they can tell customers where they are

from. Brad Lomax, owner of Water Street Restaurants in Corpus Christi, Texas, said they're training servers to explain that the shrimp is safe.

In Miami, the River Oyster Bar changed the look of its menu to show customers specifically where the oysters are coming from, said David Bracha, chef and owner. He also tells his staff to assure customers that the restaurant tries to buy fish locally when possible.

"I try to educate them on where the fish comes from," he said. "If a guest asks them or is concerned, they can speak about it intelligently."

Gulf seafood accounts for a bit more than 2 percent of the seafood consumed by Americans, according to industry estimates.

Chefs tend to promote local products — think Maine lobsters or Seattle salmon — meaning restaurants beyond the South may serve few or no menu items from Gulf.

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My 50-year-old husband and I have been married for 24 years. "Fred" is constantly texting a 35-year-old divorced woman he used to work with. He insists they are only friends who like to keep in touch. They start texting before 6 a.m. and continue until bedtime. Today, they exchanged 373 text messages. I don't know how either of them gets any work done.

We have had several conversations about the amount of contact he has with this former co-worker, but he just doesn't get it, which means it isn't going to stop anytime soon. Even our kids keep asking who Dad is texting all the time. I don't believe he has physically cheated on me, but I'm not sure how long this "friendship" can continue before it grows into a full-blown affair. Maybe if he were to see this in black and white it would finally sink in that he's on dangerous ground. It may only be a midlife crisis, but it scares me and I fear for our marriage. — **Having a Ner-**



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

vous Breakdown in Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: Have a heart-to-heart with Fred. Explain that the constant texting indicates that this relationship is more important to him than mere friendship, even if he doesn't recognize it yet. Tell him that a loving, caring, faithful husband would not continue to behave in a way that undermines his marriage and worries his wife. Tell him it's time to knock it off. If he cannot do

this, or is unwilling, the next step is marriage counseling. Don't wait.

Dear Annie: Now that school is out, my 9-year-old daughter, "Emily," has been pestering me to shave her head. She asked me to do this last year, and I said, "Maybe next summer," thinking she'd forget. But she's been asking for months and keeps saying I "promised."

Annie, I shave my head because I started going bald a few years ago. My 13-year-old son shaves his head in the summer because it's cooler. "Emily" has beautiful long hair, and I'm reluctant to cut it. I'm mildly flattered that she wants to look like me, but I'm not sure I want a Mini-Me for a daughter.

When I asked her why she wants to shave her head, she said she wants to donate her hair to Locks of Love. She also told me she's curious to see what kids with cancer go through when they lose their hair.

Emily is a very intelligent girl and a wonderful child. While I'm proud of her for wanting to contribute to a worthwhile organization, I wouldn't know how to answer people when they ask why my daughter is bald. What do you think? Should my wife and I let our daughter shave her head? — **Father of Mini-Me**

Dear Father: Yes. While we believe parents have the final say in such matters (and it's OK to say no), shaving one's head is relatively harmless and the hair will grow back. Because other members of her family do this, Emily doesn't find it embarrassing. Plus, she is donating her hair to a worthy cause. If others ask, that is the response you should give.

Dear Annie: This is a response to "Sad Mom," whose daughter wasn't invited to a birthday party. The birthday girl should be able to invite whoever she wants to her party, not what "Sad" wants. The birthday girl should be

with people she likes. It is not appropriate to talk to the principal or the girl's mother about it.

Maybe that birthday girl will resent having to invite someone she is not too fond of because the school made her do it. — **Just Saying in D.C.**

Dear Just Saying: Birthday parties are a problem when the birthday girl invites the entire class except for one child. It is amazingly rude, and her parents should teach her better manners. We hope you will teach yours that a gracious host makes sure not to exclude anyone this way.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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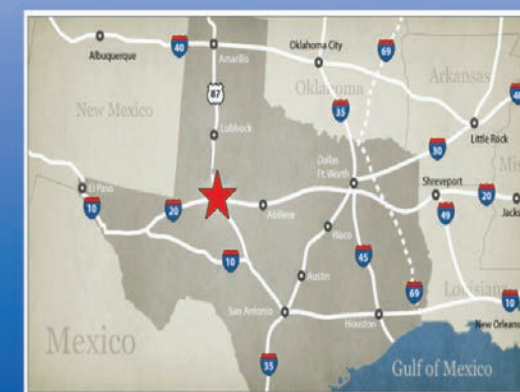
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Welcome to Big Spring!



Christmas is a wonderful time of the year

Christmas in Big Spring and Howard County is a special time, just like most communities around Texas and the United States. But here in West Texas, it just doesn't get any better.

That's because it's not snow or cold that makes for memorable holidays. It's the people. And no community celebrates the season like Big Spring and its nearby neighbors.

From the decorating and lighting contests to church pagentry, the *Big Spring Herald* Christmas Parade and the Festival of Lights at Comanche Trail Park, signs of the season are everywhere.

Typically, several dozen homes and businesses enter a lighting contest, which is sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. A map guiding visitors to lighted homes is also produced each year for those who want to take a tour.

The parade, which features many lighted entries and often extends for two dozen or more blocks, lasts more than an hour and a half and is viewed by thousands lining the streets. Marching bands, antique vehicles and intricately constructed floats join promenading horses, kids on roller skates and bikers on Harley-Davidsons. Floats often bear written messages such as "Peace on Earth" and

celebrate causes, advertise businesses, clubs and churches.

Construction and repaving of Gregg Street forced a change in routes for the Christmas parade in 2009, but didn't seem to dampen enthusiasm for the event, or the number of entries.

The Forsan community also into the act with a parade of it's own, the "Christmas in Boomtown Parade" which quite often has a definite homespun, country feel.

The Festival of Lights is a huge lighted display in Comanche Trail Park that can be viewed via a driving or walking tour. Built by volunteers, the display features thousands and thousands of lights hung on trees and over holiday-themed frames. There is no charge to see the lights, which are turned on for several weeks during December, but donations are accepted to help defray the cost of electrical power and supplies.

Other highlights include the Living Christmas Tree, put on by the First United Methodist Church; a live, drive-through nativity, held by the Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene; community caroling; and frequent musical performances, put on by a variety of sponsors, including the Downtown Revitalization Association and the Big Spring Symphony. All events are free to the public, though donations are accepted to help with expenses.

In addition, the Big Spring Mall always hosts Santa Claus to visit with children as the big day gets closer. Churches observe this season with special services that often include candlelight and special music.

Independence Day

The number 13 proved to be somewhat unlucky for the Cross-



That last-minute rescheduling of Pops followed on the heels of the decision by downtown merchants not to hold their annual Funtastic Fourth celebration, primarily because July 4 fell on a Sunday in 2010.

Organizers of both events contend 2010 was simply a "freak occurrence" and that Pops in the Park and Funtastic Fourth will return to traditional form in 2011.

And that's pretty impressive form, because Big Spring and Howard County residents truly believe that nobody does the Fourth of July like they do ... nobody!

While Independence Day celebrations are held all over the

country, spectacles like parades and fireworks displays awaken feelings of pride and patriotism all over Howard County.

That's evident each year when Coahoma stages its annual Fourth of July parade and when residents of the Highland South neighborhood in Big Spring show their Independence Day spirit when they hold a parade for their youngsters and others in the community.

However, the focal point of local Independence Day celebrations for the last dozen years has been the "Pops in the Park" extravaganza at Comanche Trail Park and, for a substantially shorter time, the Funtastic Fourth Festival in downtown Big Spring.

Always staged on July 3, "Pops in the Park" features the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus and a fireworks show at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

The celebration is actually the hard work and planning of a great many local residents who form the Fourth of July Foundation Committee.

The members of the committee begin their work in earnest on each year's show in January. One of the committee's main focuses is raising the \$40,000 needed to stage the event.

While the *Herald*, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Symphony, the city of Big Spring, KBYG, KBST and the Cornell Companies, help take a leading role, numerous businesses and individuals contribute the money needed for the celebration.

Each year "Pops" not only includes the symphony and chorus' performance, but also includes an opening act that has varied from local artists to touring military bands to country music stars.

As the evening progresses every year, the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus, under director Dr.

Keith Graumann, begins its concert of patriotic music after at least one opening act has warmed up the crowd.

By 10 p.m., the crowd that ranges to as many as 20,000 people enjoys the "Pops" fireworks display that seems to get bigger and better with each successive year.

People also line up along both sides of U.S. Highway 87 to watch the night sky light up in a dazzling array of colors that enchants both newcomers and old residents alike.

"We want to thank everybody who contributed this year to make Pops in the Park a reality, as well as everyone who's contributed in the past," said Jan Hansen, the organizing committee's chairman. "Pops is designed as a gift from the businesses to the citizens of Big Spring. Practically every business in town gives something to the event."

While the event was considerably different in 2010 than it has been in the past, Hansen said the organizing committee is always a continuing strive to make the event even better.

"It seems like we've been able to make our community's Fourth of July celebration a little bigger and better every year and we hope to continue being able to do that," she added. "After all, we live in the greatest nation on earth. We never want to forget that and always celebrate the freedoms we enjoy."

Despite its absence this year, the newest addition to the community's Independence Day festivities, the Funtastic Fourth Festival, sponsored by the Downtown Revitalization Association, will be making its return in 2011.

Staged at Heart of the City Park, "Funtastic Fourth" includes lots of music, and all sorts of vendors provide food, drinks and novelty items during the day-long event.

Welcome to the 2010 *Big Spring Herald* Community Guide.

Compiled by the *Herald* staff, this guide is designed to be your companion throughout the year, offering you information on a variety of topics – from A to Z.

We hope you find it useful and beneficial as you live, work, play and shop in Big Spring, whether you're a newcomer to our community or a long time resident.

JOHN A. MOSELEY
MANAGING EDITOR



So you're a newcomer?

If you're new to West Texas, let us be the first to say, "Howdy!"

Get used to our friendliness, it's something for which West Texans are known. That's especially true of Big Spring.

Well, now, the question is, are you new to Texas?

If so, there are a few rules and regulations you must follow, so here are some guidelines to

help you along.

To stay out of trouble with the law enforcement folks, you have 30 days to register your vehicle and change your driver's license.

Here's what you have to do: First, you must have your vehicle inspected.

Second, take that inspection receipt, your current registration papers and proof of automobile liability insurance to the County Tax Assessor's Office. There you will get your vehicle properly registered in Texas.

If you are moving here from elsewhere in Texas, simply take your valid driver's license to the Texas Department of Public Safety office, located at 5725 W. Interstate 20, on the south service road just west of Big Spring, to update your license.

You'll need your proof of insurance and your vehicle registration.

If you're from outside Texas and hold a valid operator's license, you won't have to take a written test, but your vision will be checked and they'll take one of those driver's license photos that none of us like.

You also must register your vehicle in Howard County, if you're new to our state. You can do that by going to the County Tax Assessor's Of-

fice in the Courthouse Annex, located on the east side of the downtown square. While you are there, take the time to register to vote.

If you have school age children, you'll want to go by the Big Spring Independent School District's administration building at 708 E. 11th Place to get

them registered.

Before you go home, bring your registration papers that show you are a new Howard County resident by the Herald offices at 710 Scurry St. As a way of saying "welcome," we'll give you the first two weeks free on a three-month subscription to the newspaper.

From that point, you'll know all you need to know about Big Spring, Howard County and the Crossroads area ... just by reading your *Herald*, particularly when you keep this community guide handy every year.

Again, welcome to Big Spring and Howard County. We're glad you're here.

Local attractions

ACTIVITIES:

- Big Spring Country Club
- Various Parks
- Public Water Park +
- 18-Hole Municipal Golf Course

- Shopping Mall
- Movie Theatre
- Department Stores
- Antiques
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club
- Symphony
- Disc Golf Courses
- Bowling
- Putt-putt Golf

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Big Spring State Park
- Comanche Trail Park and Golf Course
- Heritage Museum
- Hangar 25 Air Museum
- Howard County Library
- Pottin House
- McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark

EDUCATION

- Big Spring Independent School District
- Maranatha Baptist Academy (private)
- New Hope Christian School (private)



Hangar 25 Air Museum

- Howard College
- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf

HEALTHCARE

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center
- Family Medical Center
- Big Spring Veterans Administration Hospital
- Big Spring State Hospital
- Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center
- Numerous private offices and centers for dental care, eye care, chiropractic

health, physical therapy and the like.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

- Camping, boating, fishing, hiking
- Hunting
- Off roading

+Big Spring City Council has approved plans to build a waterpark which should be in operation by the summer of 2011.

Big Spring is the county seat for Howard County

Named for Volney E. Howard, a U.S. Congressman from Texas, Howard County is made up of 904 square miles. As of the 2000 Census, there were 33,627 people, 11,389 households and 7,949 families residing in the county, providing a population density of 37 people per square mile.

Howard County Courthouse
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The census also reported 13,589 housing units at an average density of 15 per square mile. The racial makeup of the county at that time was 80.14 percent White — which includes 37.46 percent Hispanic or Latino — 4.13 percent Black or African American, 0.59 percent Native American, 0.59 percent Asian, 0.01 percent Pacific Islander, 12.43 percent from other



races, and 2.10 percent from two or more races.

According to the Census Bureau, the median income for a household in the county was \$30,805, and the median income for a family was \$37,262. Males had a median income of \$28,971 versus \$21,390 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$15,027. About 14.5 percent of families and 18.6 percent of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.7 percent of those under age 18 and 15.5 percent of those age 65 or over.

Big Spring is the county seat. The cities of Forsan and Coahoma are

also located within Howard County's borders. Other communities located within the county include Elbow, Knott, Lomax, Luther, Sand Springs, Vealmoor and Vincent.

Howard County is bordered on the north by Borden County, the northwest by Dawson County, on the west by Martin County, to the south by Glasscock County, on the southeast by Sterling County and to the east by Mitchell County. It lies at the eastern tip of the Permian Basin and at the foot of the escarpment marking the beginning of the Edwards Plateau, which extends 200 miles to the south.

Howard County officials

County Judge, Mark Barr - 264-2203
County Commissioner - Prec. 1, Emma Brown
County Commissioner - Prec. 2, Jerry Kilgore
County Commissioner - Prec. 3, Jimmie Long
County Commissioner - Prec. 4, Gary Simer
County Clerk, Donna Wright - 264-2213
County Attorney, Joshua Hamby - 264-2205
Sheriff, Stan Parker - 264-2244

JP, Precinct 1 Place 1 - Bennie Green - 264-2226
JP, Precinct 1 Place 2 - Kathryn Wiseman - 264-2228
JP, Precinct 2 - Quail Dobbs - 394-4000

Auditor, Jackie Olson- 264-2210
Treasurer, Teresa Thomas - 264-2218
Volunteer Fire Chief, Tommy Sullivan - 268-1165
Tax assessor/collector, Kathy Sayles -2642232

118th District Court Judge, Robert H. Moore III - 264-2225
District Attorney, Hardy Wilkerson - 264-2220
District Clerk, Colleen Barton - 264-2223

City of Coahoma

The City of Coahoma's population is approximately 1,000 (approximately 440 families).

The city council is made up of Mayor Warren Wallace and five council members elected to at-large seats — Jay Holt, Zachary Johnson, Linda Luce, Ronnie Dodson and Paulette Lindsey.

The city's ad valorem tax rate is 45.1 cents per \$100 valuation.

For more information about the City of Coahoma and the services it provides, call Coahoma City Hall at 432-394-4287.

City of Forsan

The City of Forsan's population is approximately 220 — approximately 102 families call it home.

The city council is made up of Mayor Roger Hudgins and five council members elected to at-large seats — Jim Alexander, Dianna Walker, Allie Lansford, Mary Gressett and Fred Holguin.

The city's ad valorem tax rate is 19.1 cents per \$100 valuation.

To call Forsan City Hall, call 432-457-2355.

Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts' self-proclaimed mission is to "build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place." The organization was created for girls ages 5 to 17. On a local level, there are several troops available to girls in Howard County interested in developing lifelong qualities they will carry through their life — "like strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their o.

All of the troops in Big Spring are part of the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest which covers the area from Deming, N.M. all the way to Ozona.

There are six different levels in Girl Scouts which are based off of grade levels. Kindergarten and first graders are Girl Scout Daisies;

grades 2-3 are Girl Scout Brownies; Girl Scout Juniors are fourth and fifth graders; grades 6-8 are

Girl Scout Cadettes; Girl Scout Seniors are ninth and tenth graders; and juniors and seniors are Girl Scout Ambassadors.

According to Brenda Medlock, community services director out of Odessa, the Girl Scouts in Howard County have participated in some outstanding activities in the past, including a project called "Thinking Day" which has a different theme each year that requires the girls to do research and try to raise awareness about various issues.

Any adults who want to volunteer to help are encouraged to contact Medlock. She said they do run background and history checks on interested individuals, and the forms are located online.

For more information, call Brenda Medlock at (432) 550-2688 ext. 311 or (800) 594-5677, e-mail her at b.medlock@gspb.org or visit www.gspb.org.

Boy Scouts

They need a lot of candles for this cake.

The Boys Scouts of America turned 100 this year, but remains remarkably vital at its centennial.

The BSA teaches millions of youth — and not just boys, either — valuable life lessons in an educational and fun way.

Joining in that celebration will be one of the oldest Boy Scout Troops — Troop No. 1 — in Big Spring.

The local troop is part of the Lone Star District of the Buffalo Trail

Council, which serves more than 5,000 youth in 18 West Texas counties.

Currently, there are more than 100 Howard County youth active in Scouting.

There are several scout troops that meet weekly (with certain exceptions) in Howard County.

For more information, call 263-3407. District chair is Troy Tompkins, 267-8769. District executive is Deanna Kulbeth, 263-3407 or (432) 212-3577.

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BSSH takes a professional, compassionate approach

Big Spring State Hospital – a state-owned and managed hospital operating since 1939 – continued its commitment in 2010 to providing high-quality care for people with mental illness in a 58-county area in West Texas and the Texas South Plains.

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 N. Highway 87
267-8216

The 200-bed hospital is one of 11 state hospitals in the state of Texas operated by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The hospital’s workforce grew to more than 640 people and a payroll of nearly \$21 million during the 2009 year to accommodate the need of caring for a large geographic region spanning from the Texas Panhandle down to San Angelo, west to El Paso and east to Abilene. The hospital is run by a professional staff who have immeasurable experience treating patients in a psychiatric setting and possess a longstanding commitment to the region’s patients and their care. Many of the members of the profes-

sional staff are long-time employees – they found psychiatric care at an early age and stayed with it, nurturing their knowledge and education, often attending conferences and training sessions emphasizing cutting-edge ideas to keep up with the best and latest in psychiatric care.

The staff is long-standing because of the commitment the hospital and its administration shows to its workforce, cultivating entry-level workers and guiding them to careers in nursing or other specializations. Many employees have applied and received stipends, grants, and incentives to continue their education and return to the hospital to share their knowledge with patients who benefit from their expanded base of understanding of their disease.

The professional team of physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians and physical and occupational therapists are complemented by an administrative team well-versed in the financial operations of running a hospital and a support staff committed to working in a hospital setting.

Big Spring State Hospital has been cited as one of the leaders in mental



Big Spring State Hospital's flower and vegetable gardens help to rehabilitate some patients.

health care in the state of Texas and has received many best practice awards from the Department of State Health Services for its innovative care.

Presently the emphasis is placed on quality treatment to shorten the period of illness, to rehabilitate and to return the patient to the community as quickly as possible. In order to do this, treatment modalities have expanded to include a full range of rehabilitation therapies, education, individual and group psychotherapy, and family intervention as an adjunct to medication. Patients who

come to the hospital are treated not only for their psychiatric problems, but also for any problem needing medical attention.

Big Spring State Hospital has been certified as a Mother-Friendly Worksite and boasts an active workforce who immerses themselves in charitable organizations, such as the highly popular American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life fund-raiser.

The 100-member strong Volunteer Services Council provides tens of thousands of dollars in volunteer-generated income to the patients from sources ranging from the highly successful Chalet Resale Shop, which collects, sorts and sells used clothing and gently used household items to the social event of the spring season – the Cars, Stars and Handlebars fund-raiser at the Big Spring Country Club.

Also, many members of the community, including the Lions Club and area businesses, such as Alon USA help the patients celebrate the holiday season by donating time, finances and resources to ring in the holidays for patients who are away from family members during the season.

Caring for our citizens' mental health

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides care for more than 2,300 people with mental retardation and mental illness and their families in 23 counties in West Texas. Counties served by West Texas Centers for MHMR are Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties.

The Center began operations on March 1, 1997 and continues to serve as the designated local authority for mental health and mental retardation through a contractual relationship with the Texas Department of Mental Health and

West Texas Centers for MHMR
319 Runnels
263-0007
www.wtcmhmr.org

Mental Retardation.

Care is provided at approximately 35 sites across the service area to a monthly average of 2,300 individuals through the dedication of approximately 450 staff. Although administrative offices are located at 319 Runnels, Big Spring, local offices are established throughout most of the catchment area.

West Texas Centers also operates

a 24-hour Mental Health Crisis line for mental health emergencies. The number is 1-800-375-4357

In addition to services for people with mental illness and mental retardation, the Center hosts an Early Childhood Intervention program that is known as Little Lives ECI Program. This program serves children ages 0-3 years of age.

Administrative offices, including that of Chief Executive Officer Shelley Smith, LMSW, are located at 319 Runnels, Big Spring. Local offices are established throughout most of the catchment area. For more information, call 432 263-0007.



West Texas Centers for MHMR and other agencies and entities host the annual Hoops, Dreams and Goals basketball tournament each year at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

A little about our city's government

Incorporated in 1907, the city of Big Spring currently encompasses 18.89 square miles.

percent levied by the state for a total of 8.25 percent.

The city tax rate is \$1.0132

The 2000 census placed the population of Big Spring at 25,233, an increase of 2,140 since the 1990 tally. Results from the 2010 census were not yet available at the time this guide was published.

Big Spring has a 2 percent sales tax along with 6.25

dollars per \$100 valuation.

The city council is made up of Mayor Tommy Duncan, Councilwoman Stephanie Horton, District 1; Councilman

Manuel Ramirez Jr., District 2; Councilwoman JoAnn Staulecup, District 3; Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, District 4;



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Councilman Craig Olson, District 5; and Councilman Terry Hansen, District 6.

Regular meetings of the city council are held each second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

Gary Fuqua is the city manager and supervises all municipal employees, either directly or through department heads. Todd Darden serves as the assistant city manager and director of public works.

Big Spring has five fire stations which employ more than 60 people, including firefighters, emergency medical service staff and administrative staff. The police station also employs more than 60 people, including many civilians.

In all, the city employs 289 people — 282 full-time and seven part-time employees — including 15 who have acquired bachelor degrees and 33 associates degrees. Five have

post graduate degrees.

In addition to providing citizens with necessary services such as water and wastewater treatment, street upkeep and a landfill, the city also maintains a number of recreational facilities.

These include Moss Creek Lake east of the city, Comanche Trail Park, which includes Dora Roberts Community Center, a small lake, amphitheater and golf course, as well as other smaller parks in the community and softball and baseball fields.

The city recently added a sports facility, converting the Roy Anderson Softball Fields to the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, which provides fields and services for a number of different sports.

The city’s tax rate is \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation, consisting of 70.96 cents for

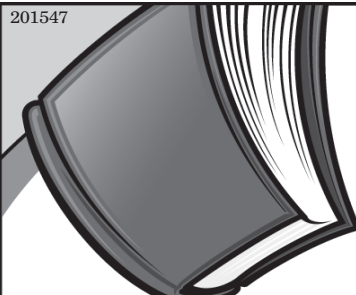
the general fund; 8.07 cents to fund the Big Spring Police Department’s Narcotics Task Force; 22.53 cents for general obligation bonds for the Roy Anderson Sports Complex and streets project; and 0.69 cents for certificates of obligation for the rehabilitation of the north-side water facility and the new annex for the municipal animal shelter.

For additional information about services provided by the city of Big Spring, call 432-264-2401.

City phone numbers

Mayor - 264-2350
City Manager - 264-2401
Assistant City Manager - 264-2345
City Secretary - 264-2513
Code Enforcement - 264-2505
Permits - 263-2504
Fire Department - 264-2303
Fire Marshal - 264-2305
Police Department - 264-2550
Animal Control - 264-2372
Water Billing Office - 264-2542
Water Utility Maintenance - 267-1628

201547



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How to get hooked up

Newcomers to Big Spring are offered a variety of choices for their utility services. Due to the changing nature of technology, utilities, deregulation and other factors, the list below may not be complete.

Electricity

TXU Energy (800) 242-9113
Bounce Energy (877) 620-0873
Cirro Energy (800) 692-4776
Direct Energy (966) 417-6417
First Choice Poer (866) 992-3077
Sharyland Utilities (432) 756-3381

Gas

Atmos Energy (888) 286-5700

Cable TV and Satellite

A&A Dish (888) 570-28011
AT&T Advanced TV (800) 288-2020
Suddenlink (432) 267-3821

Internet

Basin 2 Way Radio 264-7034
Crestar Communications 268-8800
Suddenlink 267-3821

Telephone

AT&T Texas (800) 288-2020
Suddenlink 267-3821
Westex Telecom 263-0091
Wes-Tex Cooperative (432) 394-4800

Cellular Service

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Working for Big Spring

Economic Development Corporation focused on the future

The Big Spring Economic Development Corp. is a not-for-profit 4A economic development corporation whose goal is to increase job opportunities by assisting with the expansion of local businesses and attracting new businesses to Big Spring and Howard County.

In May of 1990, Big Spring citizens called for spending through a 1/2-cent hike to city sales tax to promote economic development activities in the community.

On Sept. 4 of the same year, the Secretary of State issued the certificate of incorporation for Big Spring EDC — known then as Moore Development for the city of Big Spring Inc. Operations began that October with an executive director employed shortly thereafter.

In April 2008 — at the recommendation of current Executive Director Terry Wegman — the board voted 3-1 to change the name of the agency to Big Spring Economic Development Corporation in an effort to streamline identification of the agency on the World Wide Web and abroad.

Overseeing the corporation is a five-member board of directors appointed by Big Spring City Council. Current board members include President Glynn Mouton, Vice President Larry McLellan, Glenn Fillingim, Dr. Keith Ledford and Rodney Bomar.

Wegman is assisted by Executive Assistant Teresa Darden.

There are three standing committees involved in the workings of the Big Spring EDC Board: The Business Retention and Expansion Committee; the New Business Attraction and Recruitment Committee; and the Agriculture Committee. Each committee is chaired by a board member. At present, between 20 and 30 citizens are actively serving on the committees.

One of the highlights for Wegman and the Big Spring EDC in 2008 was wind energy, as numerous companies looked to jump into the renewable energy market by setting up wind turbines in and around the Crossroads area.

Wegman said the initial economic development jolt brought by the projects has subsided, but the real prize in the mix is beginning to develop.

“There’s always that initial jolt of construction when projects like this pop up,” said Wegman. “However, that’s really not where the big benefits for a city like Big Spring and the Howard County area are. The real benefits

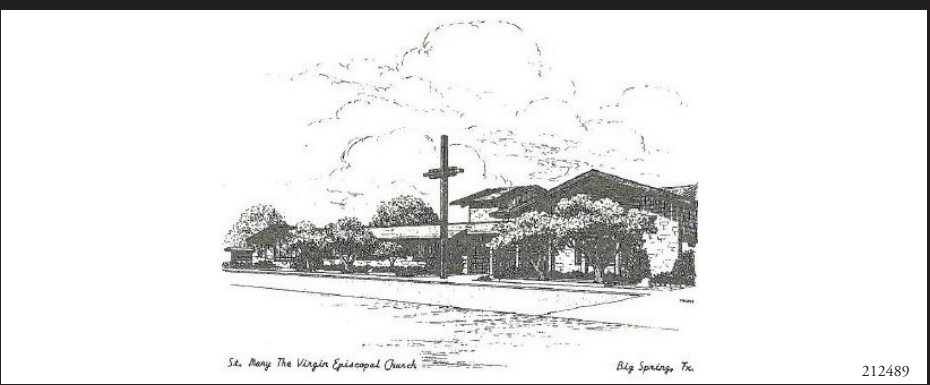


Big Spring was one of the first communities in Texas to accommodate a "wind farm."

come when businesses begin setting up to maintain and supply these types of operations, and we’re beginning to see that now.”

The Big Spring EDC participates in and funds numerous local activities, including the Big Spring Day in Austin procession to the Capitol building every two years. Wegman led the charge in 2009, heralding the day-long event as an excellent way to not only learn about the state legislature, but to let lawmakers know Big Spring’s residents are very interested in how their work in Austin impacts West Texas.

For more information on Big Spring EDC, visit www.bigspringtx.com on the Internet or call 264-6032.



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Big Spring, Tx.

212489

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
www.stmarysbst.org

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Taking care of our vets

The West Texas VA Health Care System recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Health care has been modernized over the past 60 years and the local VA health care professionals continue to be amazed with technology in existence today and look forward to the next 60 years.

Health care facilities within the Department of Veterans Affairs are now completely paperless. All medical records are computerized and veterans now have the capability of accessing their medical records with appropriate security measures.

Veterans can establish an ac-

count with My HealtheVet at www.myhealth.va.gov.

Big Spring VA
Medical Center
300 Veterans Blvd
263-7361

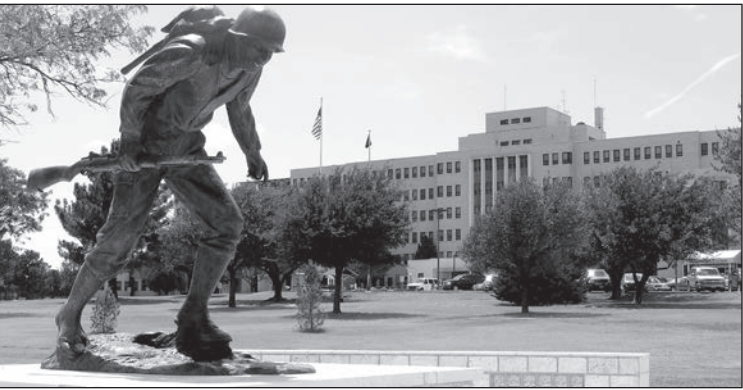
Through this link, veterans can request prescription refills, record medical information, and acquire valuable health care information regarding particular medical conditions, side effects from certain medications, etc. Veterans enrolled in VA health care are encouraged to partici-

pate in the My HealtheVet Program.

Bar coding medication administration has improved patient safety for veterans hospitalized within VA facilities. Before a medication can be administered, the veteran’s identification badge must be scanned and each medication administered must also be scanned. This technique has practically eliminated medication errors.

Within the next couple of months, West Texas VA Health Care System will implement a tele-health program with its tertiary VA facilities. Currently, a veteran located at one of the community based outpatient clinics can be consulted to a specialty clinic in Big Spring with the utilization of the tele-health equipment.

In the near future, these expanded units will be utilized to eliminate travel to and from the tertiary facilities for initial consult visits with specialty clinics



and follow-up surgical visits.

With this technology, a specialty physician 500 miles away from the veteran will be able to listen to the heart, lungs, check blood pressures, etc. and can communicate with the veteran on a computer monitor.

The West Texas VA Health Care facility has recently installed a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) unit. Veterans requiring more in-depth imaging studies can now have this completed at the medical center. Mammography equipment for women veterans will be the fa-

cility’s next imaging expansion.

The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to address rural health care. Programs that will soon be implemented in the West Texas area will include a mobile clinic. This mobile clinic will travel to remote areas that do not have VA primary care available to veterans. An additional new initiative within VA is the Primary Care Home Model that emphasizes the team concept in delivering health care. More information will be coming soon regarding both these programs.

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SMMC: Quality health care in the Crossroads

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www.smmccares.com

Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC), located on Martin Luther King Boulevard, admits more than 3,000 patients to the 150-bed hospital each year, while the emergency department serves in excess of 15,000 people annually. The hospital hosts a staff of more than 300 employees, delivers an annual payroll of almost \$16 million and is involved in several community non-profit efforts. Notably, in 2010 the SMMC team raised more than \$15,000 to contribute to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. In 2009, the facility provided more than \$16.5 million in care to patients unable to pay their hospital bills.

SMMC is continually investing in updated equipment and improved facilities to better meet the healthcare needs of Big Spring and the surrounding communities. As a result, the hospital now uses an all-digital diagnostic imaging archive, has new high-definition orthopedic and laparoscopic scopes for the Operating Rooms, new beds in the ICU, on-site lithotripsy equipment to quickly and safely treat kidney stones and a new maternal/fetal monitor. A recent upgrade to the hospital's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment allows for magnetic resonance angiography which provides a detailed view of the blood vessels. This is extremely useful in detecting stroke and blood vessel diseases. In February 2009 the new Scenic Mountain Sleep Center began performing sleep studies to assist physicians in diagnosing sleep apnea right here in Big Spring. According to Chief

Financial Officer Mike Ruff, "SMMC spends over \$1 million annually on capital equipment upgrades to keep abreast of the ever-changing technology in the marketplace." The emphasis isn't exclusively on equipment, however. The staff strives to ensure that each patient is very satisfied with the service and care received during a visit at SMMC. One way this is done is by making hourly visits—called "rounds"—to your room. By anticipating your needs and meeting them in a timely manner, the SMMC staff hopes to enhance your well-being so you can focus on your recovery. Chief Nursing Officer Judy Roever expands on that idea, "We are creating a great place for people to work, physicians to practice medicine and, most importantly, for patients to receive great care." A Level IV Trauma Center designation, first earned in 2005 and valid until 2011, certifies

that the Emergency Department at Scenic Mountain provides the equipment and resources to care for patients with traumatic injuries and illness. "This designation was given after SMMC underwent an extensive survey process by the Texas Department of State Health Services to demonstrate its commitment to high quality trauma care for the residents of Howard County and the surrounding area" Roever states. "We will continue to work to set new standards of excellence in providing emergency care." SMMC's Women's Services department features a comfortable, fully-equipped labor and delivery unit. The nursing staff is trained in neonatal resuscitation and advanced fetal monitoring. Ever mindful of security, a newly-installed infant monitoring system helps provide peace of mind. Certified childbirth educators are available to provide training for the parents-to-be. Scenic Mountain's contin-

ued efforts to attract and retain experienced, talented medical staff members result in new physicians joining the team of professionals serving this community. Since 2005, the hospital has added 14 new physicians and retained seven existing doctors. Specialties represented include cardiology, family practice, gastroenterology, general surgery, gynecology, internal medicine, obstetrics, orthopedics, pediatrics, pulmonology, radiology, and urology. Among the medical services offered at SMMC are: 24-hour emergency department, cardiac catheterization laboratory, day surgery, endoscopic suite, intensive care unit, MRI/MRA, mammography, bone density testing, nuclear medicine, occupational therapy, orthopedics, outpatient care, physical therapy, radiology, speech therapy and urology. Kicked off in January 2009, the Healthy Woman program is a free community resource designed to empower women with information to maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit for themselves and their loved ones. Already boasting more than 900 members, free monthly Healthy Woman events are designed to be educational, fun and support a woman's unique role as the family healthcare manager. With more than 800 members, April 2010 marked the 11-year anniversary of SMMC's Senior Circle chapter. Senior Circle is a national organization committed to enriching the lives of adults age 50 and over. Joining Senior Circle costs just \$15 and the rewards are priceless. For more information about SMMC, visit its website at www.smmccares.com or call (432) 263-1211.

Local industries employ thousands

Ask just about any industrial manager in Big Spring and they'll quickly provide reasons for locating their businesses in the Big Spring area. They usually revolve around four primary themes — location, a reasonable cost of living, a skilled employee base, and reasonable costs of operation, thanks to affordable property and labor rates. Chief among the area's manufacturers and solid corporate citizens are Alon USA, A&M Composites, American Limestone, Delta Lightning Arrestors, Fibercom, Freecom, Sid Richardson Carbon Black and Western Container Corp. Those industries produce everything from fuels and carbon black, to limestone for construction projects, paints and pipe coatings, lightning arrestors, sucker rods for the oil industry

and even soft drink bottles. Not surprisingly, most of them have to do with petrochemicals in some form or another. Perhaps the best known of the community's industries is the Big Spring Refinery. Originally constructed in 1928 by owner, Joshua Cosden, the Big Spring Refinery expanded significantly during World War II. The chemicals complex was constructed in the '50s and '60s and was purchased by Fina in 1963. It was then restructured in the '80s and '90s to become an efficient stable refinery. Fina sold the Big Spring Refinery to Alon USA in 2000. Alon USA primarily produces regular mid and premium grades of gasoline, and low sulfur diesel fuel. In addition, jet fuel, kerosene, benzene, propane,



Located along Interstate 20, Big Spring Refinery has been in operation for more than 75 years and is currently owned by Alon USA.

propylene and aromatic solvents are produced. Various grades of asphalt are produced. Sulfur is a

by-product. The Big Spring Refinery processes 64,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Once refined, Alon's products are shipped by truck, rail car, and pipeline. The Big Spring Refinery employs 220 company workers and 10 to 300 contract personnel depending on construction and maintenance requirements. Salary and wages for the Alon USA Refinery are approximately \$15 million per year. And soft drink bottles? Yes, Western Container Corp. was established in 1979 by a group of Coca-Cola bottlers who saw a long-term need for a central distribution point and a reliable source of high quality, low-cost plastic bottles. The company established its initial site in Big Spring in July of 1980 and the plant here continues to be Western Container's central distribution point. The plant is located in an enterprise zone at McMahan-Wrinkle Airport. During the first 12 months of operation, the Big Spring facility shipped 29.6 million bottles. Total company-wide shipments for 1996 were more than 2 billion bottles. In 1985, construction was completed on the first of two additions to the Big Spring facility which increased warehouse space by 50,000 square feet. In 1994, a second addition of 70,000 square feet was also added for warehousing.



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We've always picked cotton

Say agriculture in Howard County and for all intents and purposes, you’re talking about cotton farming. Of the approximate 576,000 acres in Howard County, some 121,658 was reported as being used to grow cotton this year, according to the Farm Service Agency. In West Texas’ dry climate, cotton is a hit-or-miss proposition. Abundant rainfall thus far in 2010 (as of mid-July) has hopes high, but Howard County stretches 30 miles by 30 miles. Rainfall can vary widely over a 900 square mile area, flooding some tracts of land while leaving others bone dry. Good cotton crops mean good things for the rest of Howard County, because those farmers spend their money here at home for the most part. So it shouldn’t come as a surprise to anyone that Crossroads area residents, regardless of their business, are always praying for timely rains and good growing weather. Cotton is not the only crop grown in Howard County, of course. A breakdown of land use, primarily as it relates to

farming, follows:
Non-irrigated Cotton - 118,868
Irrigated Cotton - 2,790
Skip/Idle Rows - 26,162
Conservation Reserve Program - 54,416
Alfalfa - 81
Wheat - 14,011
Sorghum Forage - 3,226
Fallow - 6,588
Turn Roads - 1,108
Rangeland (Grass) - 209,486
Other - 180

Total acres reported to Howard County FSA - 436,916
Based on the assumption there are 576,000 total acres in the county this would leave a balance of 139,084 acres unreported. Those acres consist primarily of rangeland, highways, oil well locations, bodies of water, and townships.

Howard County also has several ranches that raise cattle and horses, and smaller goat operations as well. It’s estimated there are 6,500 cattle in the county. While cotton dominates the agriculture scene here,



there is some limited truck farming of fruits and vegetables in the area, and several pecan orchards. Some of that produce finds its way to the Big Spring Farmers Market from its opening in early July through its close at the end of October each year. The Farmers Market is held each Tuesday and Saturday during the season at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring from about 7 a.m. until noon.

—Source: FSA

Salvation Army has been here more than 70 years

The Salvation Army, located at 811 W. Fifth Street, has always represented a beacon of hope for those in need, and the Big Spring division has continued that tradition throughout the years.

The commander of the Big Spring division is Capt. Ed Cheshire, along with his wife, Capt. Terrie Cheshire. The Cheshires transferred to the Big Spring corps in 2008.

The Salvation Army is one of Big Spring’s largest and longest-operating community and social service organizations. The agency has provided help to the area needy in many forms, including spiritual, emotional and physical — for more than 70 years.

Most people think of the Salvation Army as the transient lodge, which offers overnight

stays and meals to the homeless. Or they associate the agency only with the truck that picks up donated clothing and other items for the thrift store.

Salvation Army
811 W. Fifth St.
267-8239

Those are some of the most well-used programs in the community, but they are far from all that is offered.

The Salvation Army operates the local Boys and Girls Clubs of America program, and is currently in the process of conducting a capital campaign to raise the money necessary to build a new Boys and Girls Club building adjacent to the current corps building.

Rent and utility assistance are available for those in need, a service that sees peak usage in the hottest and coldest times of the year. To aid families and the elderly, the group also collects fans during the first part of the summer.

Fire victims are offered various forms of assistance, including clothing, meals and temporary shelter. A crisis center for families is operated at an undisclosed location.

One of the Army’s most visible times of the year is the Christmas holiday season, when bell ringers collect donations at the group’s kettles. Thanksgiving meals are cooked, served or delivered to thousands each year. Christmas gifts are provided for needy children through the Angel Tree program.

Every year the Salvation

Army has a Back to School program that helps the families of school children, grades K-8.

Worship is available at several services each week. The captains hold worship service for the youth at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and a men’s and women’s ministry at 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Sunday services are slated for 11 a.m., with Sunday School classes beginning at 10 a.m. at 811 W. Fifth Street.

During times of disaster, the group sets up a traveling cart that offers a hot drink or a sack lunch to those coping with the

aftermath. And help never depends on race, creed or color; it depends on need. For more information, call 267-8239.



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Northside CC provides aid to many citizens in need

Northside Community Center is committed to meeting the needs of Big Spring and Howard County’s less fortunate citizens. Primarily, the center helps individuals improve their opportunities and abilities. To do this, the center offers GED classes, educational counseling and assistance, employment counseling and helps in establishing career goals.

Northside Community Center
110 N.E. Eighth St.
263-2673

Financial assistance as needed and indicated is available, as is limited pharmaceutical and medical needs. Northside personnel are also able to assist in helping with management and preparation of financial budgets.

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Rick Cunningham
Pulpit Minister

211672

Westside offers day care for county's youngsters

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY DAY CARE CENTER
Westside Community Day Care Center is a non-profit, year-round day care funded, in part, through United Way. It is located at 2300 Simler and open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for children under age 12. Parents can enroll their children through private pay or, if they qualify, through CCMS (Child Care Management Services).

Westside Community Center
2300 Simler and 1211 W. 4th St.
263-7841

The day care can take a maximum of 85 children, and currently has 70. They also have a waiting list in case parents are interested but the center is full.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER
Westside Community Center is located at 1311 W. Fourth St. and is open from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year. An after-school day care center, it is closed during the summer. Currently, it can accommodate up to 25 children and frequently does. There are nine staff members at WC Day Care Center and four at WCC. Each staff member is required to get 20 hours of training each year and remain certified in first aid and CPR. They strictly adhere to the teacher to student ratio, which is the reason certain students have to be put on



the center’s wait-list. Melinda Hernandez has been the director for of the center for 36 years. The center requires anyone picking children up to be on a list provided by the parents and show a photo identification for security purposes. They also have both fire and tornado drills periodically to ensure the safety of the children in case of an emergency. The day care center is on a program that guarantees the children two hot meals and a snack every day, and each week the classes rotate between a movie day and a day of water play. Children attending the day care, depending on their age, also have lessons in preparation for pre-k or kindergarten. Children in the after-school program work on their homework in addition to whatever their teacher has planned. The centers also provide transportation two and from local schools. For more information or to schedule a tour, Westside Community Day Care Center can be reached at 263-7841.

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Heritage Museum
510 Scurry St.
267-8255
www.bigspringmuseum.com

The Heritage Museum, located at 510 Scurry St., is a non-profit organization dedicated to the history of Howard County and West Texas and has been part of the community since 1971. Even the building is a piece of local history. Originally Dora Roberts’ townhouse that was eventually expanded in 1991 into what is seen today, the Heritage Museum uses its 13,000 square feet of space to display exhibits and store and research artifacts. The museum also has the Gerald-Marie Wallace Pavilion and an outdoor patio for different events it hosts during the year.

Also under the direction of the Heritage Museum since the early 1980s is the historical Potton House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located five blocks to the north of the museum at 200 Gregg St. The Heritage Museum is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors. The admission fee also admits visitors into the Potton House. The museum’s director is Nancy Raney and its curator is Tammy Schrecengost. Raney has been at the museum for 16 years and after about three years, Schrecengost joined her and they’ve worked together ever since. Some of the different displays



The Potton House

are the Texas Longhorn exhibit, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company exhibit, an exhibit on the history of the Big Spring Refinery, a doll exhibit (originally part of the Doll Museum formerly located on the corner of Gregg and Third Street), an exhibit featuring lady bullfighter Patricia McCormick, a photograph exhibit, and indian artifacts from the area. The museum also features a wide variety of temporary exhibits that are changed quarterly in the downstairs entrance area. The museum has a gift shop that features local artists and authors as well as regional books and cookbooks. It also boasts a children’s section with hard-to-find items. In the past, the gift shop hosted book signings for Tumbleweed Smith and Marj Carpenter. The gift shop can be accessed online along with the museum’s calendar of events and quarterly newspaper. For more information, the museum can be reached at (432) 267-8255 or by e-mail at heritagemus@gmail.com. The Heritage Museum Web site is at www.bigspringmuseum.com.

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Sunday Holiness Meeting - 11:00 am
Monday Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Tuesday Teen Night - 5:30 pm - Devotional/Drama
Wednesday - 6:00 pm - Women's & Men's Ministry
Thursday 5:30 pm - Adventure & Sunbeams and Girl Guards badge program

Social Service - 9:00 am-12 pm & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Boys and girls club hours Summer Camp - 7:30-5:30 & Afterschool Program - 3:30-7:30

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SWCID: Dedicated, growing

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www.howardcollege.edu/swcid

Celebrating its 30th year in Big Spring, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, located at 3200 Ave. C, is the largest self-contained community college dedicated to deaf and hard of hearing students in the world.

Funded almost entirely through state appropriations, SWCID was created as part of the Howard County Junior College District in 1980. The first classes at SWCID were offered in 1980; and on May 14, 1981, the Governor of Texas signed into law the bill which established SWCID as a state-supported institution within the Howard County Junior College District. SWCID provides educational programs

that serve the deaf and hard of hearing as well as providing education for paraprofessionals for the deaf and hearing impaired.

SWCID offers a variety of academic and workforce-training courses.

New England native Mark Myers is in his third year as provost of the institution. Kathy Weldon is dean of student services. Deidra Fuller is campus dean of outreach and career services. Candace Anderson is director of admission and educationl support services

Among the programs having seen the most growth are graphic arts technology, dental laboratory technology and construction and building technology.

The interpreter training program and paraprofessional for the deaf and hard of hearing programs remain popular with those individuals who choose to work within the deaf community.

SWCID has been established on approx-

imately 57 acres at the site of the former Webb Air Force Base. This property contains buildings and improvements including the 66,000-square-foot administration/classroom complex, dormitories for men and women, a student union building, an activity center with gymnasium, racquetball court and weight room and a residential maintenance building.

The Burke-Mehan Residence complex can house 92 students in a dormitory setting and 18 students in apartments.

At the Diagnostic Center, a full-time audiologist as well as rehabilitation counselors for deaf and hard of hearing students will pave the way for securing diagnostic services and educational assistance.

The Maddux Student Center has a cafeteria, game room, auditorium, student mail boxes, and meeting rooms for student events and activities.

For registration information, call 432-264-3700.



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You can fly the friendly skies from Big Spring

Hangar 25 Air Museum
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www.hangar25airmuseum.com

A large part of Big Spring's history is tied closely to airplanes and air power and the Hanger 25 Air Museum has been dedicated to preserving that history for the past 10 years.

Located in a fully restored World War II era hangar, the stated mission of Hangar 25 is to "promote education through collection, preservation and exhibition of the history of the Big Spring Army Air Force Bombardier School and Webb Air Force Base, while honoring all veterans, past and present."

After the closure of Webb Air Force Base in 1977, Hangar 25 lay vacant and in an increasingly dilapidated state until the mid 1990s, when a group of area citizens took action to restore and preserve the facility. Primary movers behind the development of the museum in its formative stages were former assistant city manager Tom Decell, Nelda Reagan, secretary of the airport and industrial park and air park board member Bobby McDonald.

A \$453,000 grant to help fund the refurbishment of the hangar was obtained in 1996 and the museum opened three years later.

Joe Hays is the seventh administrator of the museum since its inception, while Amy Butler



ler serves as museum assistant. Current board members include President Skip Burcham, Vice President Heather Wallace-Weinette, Secretary Lora Wofford and Treasurer Bob Miller, along with Jerry Worthy, Jan Foresyth, Shirley Lee, Clarence Hartfield Jr., Ned Crandall, Sherry Hodnett, Vaughn Martin, Gene Wilson and Myron Gwin. Col. Jim Little and Emma Bogard are ex-officio board members.

The museum hosts several

special events through the year, including the Silver Wings Ball, the museum's annual fundraiser in November, and Young Eagles free airplane rides for children in May and the Kid's Club workshop in August.

In addition, the museum has its regular Veteran of the Month ceremony.

Annual membership fees range from \$30 to \$1,000 and entitle persons to a 10 percent discount in the museum gift shop, a subscription to the museum's newsletter and an invitation to the annual members' dinner.

Admission for visitors is free, although donations are gladly accepted. Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Steeped in aviation history

Big Spring's airport is steeped in aviation history — 81 years of it, in fact.

After World War II began in 1942, the airport was turned over to the War Department and became Big Spring Bombardier School. It was deactivated after the war until 1952, when the Department of Defense constructed Webb Air Force Base at the site. Webb closed in 1977 and the facilities were turned over to the city.

Today, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark serves both aviation and industry.

The airport has two runways — 17/35 which is

100 feet wide and 8,802 feet in length and 6/24 which is 75 feet wide and 4,601 feet in length.

A spur of Union Pacific Railroad provides rail access to the east side of the airpark. Funds are set aside each year for the maintenance of the spur. There are numerous sites available along the spur and elsewhere throughout the airpark for future development. The airpark is located in the southwest portion of the city and just south of Interstate 20.

The airport terminal, more than 4,000 square

Continued on Page 12

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Continued from Page 11

feet in size, includes a conference room, pilots' lounge, passenger waiting area and office. New runway lighting has been installed and other improvements made. In 2009 a multi-million-dollar project to upgrade the airport's major runway to an 11-inch thickness was completed, allowing larger planes to land. The airport is an ideal location for hang gliding and paragliding and has hosted several major competitions, including

the 2007 World Hang Gliding Championships. The sport continues this year with the Big Spring U.S. Nationals, set for Aug. 15-21. Other activities at the airport include the Webb AFB Reunion, which draws hundreds of former service personnel stationed at Webb and citizens who were employed there. The airport is also home to the Hangar 25 Air Museum. Director of the airport and airpark is Col. Jim Little, U.S. Air Force retired. He can be reached at 264-2362.

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Library is resource center

A wealth of information is available at Howard County Library where visitors can learn how to plant a garden, research their family history or explore the open seas with Blackbeard the pirate. And with movies, computers and meeting rooms for groups available, there isn't much that can't be accomplished with a little effort. The library's check-out policy is: Books, three

Howard County Library
500 S. Main
264-2260
www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

weeks; books on compact disc, three weeks; inter-library loan items, per lending institution; DVDs, seven days, with an overall limit of three DVDs. There is a 15-item limit on all resources. Library materials may be renewed in person or by telephone during regular library hours up to two times. Items that have a waiting list (reserve) may not be renewed. DVDs may not be renewed and fines will keep accruing until lost or damaged items are paid for. Patron checkout and renewal privileges will be blocked if the pa-

tron has one or more overdue reserves; one or more items 15 days overdue; or \$5 or more in fines. Operations at the library are overseen by Librarian Hollis McCright. Reference librarian, Johnny Schafer, is on duty to help patrons find information. The reference librarian can research the answer to a specific question; locate information contained within the library; and instruct the patron on using the computer card catalogue, the microfilm reader and online databases, such as TexShare. The reference librarian can perform an inter-library loan search when a patron requires a book or an article not found within the library, and also has knowledge of newspaper clipping files and other items stored in the library's vertical file system. The library conducts a summer reading program, as well as a story time, which is held every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The facility is open Saturdays during the school year only from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Call 264-2260 for information.

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Continued from Page 20

Parker, Director of Elementary Curriculum Donna Ammonett, Director of Secondary Curriculum Chris Wigington and Director of Food Service Judy Grant. Serving on the board of trustees are President Jeff Brorman, Vice President Tony Kennedy, Secretary Maria Padilla and board members Alan Partee, Phil Furqueron, Irene Galan and Chad Wash. School addresses and phone numbers are:

- Administrative office, 708 11th Place, 264-3600.
- Big Spring High School, 707 E. 11th Place, 264-3641.
- Principal is Mike Ritchey and the associate principal is Jay Kennedy. Assistant principals are Michelle Schreiner and Charles Thomas. Athletic Director is Phillip Ritchey.
- Big Spring Junior High School, 624 E. Sixth, 264-4135.
- Principal is George Bancroft and associate principal is Yolanda Rollins.
- Goliad Intermediate, 2000 S. Goliad, 264-4111.
- Principal is Tim Tannehill and assistant principal Rosie Lain.
- Bauer Elementary, 108 NW Ninth, 264-4121.
- Principal is Fabian Gomez.
- Kentwood Elementary, 2500 Merrily, 264-4130. Principal is Dana Rodriguez. Student support specialist Rocky Dunlap.
- Marcy Elementary, 2101 Wasson, 264-4144. Principal is Brenda Dunlap. Assistant principal is Rita Faulkner.
- Moss Elementary, 3200 Fordham, 264-4148. Principal is George Martin.
- Washington Elementary, 1201 S. Birdwell Lane, 264-4126. Principal is

Dalia Benevidez. Student support specialist is Kelli Wigington. Schools begin Aug. 23. The Internet address for Big Spring ISD is www.bsisd.esc18.net.

Forsan ISD
263-6571
http://forsan.esc18.net

FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT is composed of a Class 2A high school/junior high and an elementary school and serves more than 650 students. The district administration officers includes Superintendent Randy Johnson and Business Manager Dianna Walker. School board trustees are Board President Tom Kuykendall, Vice President Lewis Boeker, Secretary/Treasurer Beckie Wash and members Chris Evans, Tim Ballard, Misty Rhoten and Glenn Graves. School addresses and phone numbers are:

- Administrative office can be reached by dialing 457-2223, ext. 222.
- Forsan High School-Junior High, 411 W. Sixth, 457-2223, ext. 321. The principal is Keith Stone and assistant principal is Terry McDonald.
- Elbow Elementary, Nichols Road, 398-5444. The principal is Madge Patterson. Assistant principal is Angela Woolley.

School begins Aug. 23. The Internet address for Forsan ISD is www.forsan.esc18.net.

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Coahoma ISD
394-4290
www.coahomaisd.com

COAHOMA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT consists of a Class 2A high school, a junior high and an elementary school and serves approximately 800 students. The school district is under the leadership of Superintendent Randy Brown. Serving on the school board are President Jody Reid, Vice President Alan Wright, Secretary Lori Martinez and board members Patric Robinson, Brian Moore, Michael Brooks and Brandon Atkins. School addresses and phone numbers are:

- Administrative office, 600 North Main, 394-4290.
- Coahoma High School, 700 North Main, 394-4535. Secondary principal is Carrie Conley.

Christie Larson
432.213.4647

Kim Pollard
432.213.2842

Pat Rutledge
432.270.7706

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Big Spring Independent School District
264-3600
<http://bsisd.esc18.net>

Serving more than 3,800 students, BSISD is the largest school district in Howard County and is under the direction of superintendent Steven Saldivar, in his second year at the helm of the district.

His administrative staff includes Assistant Superintendent of Operations Danny Ferrell, Executive Director for Personnel and Instruction Ann McClarty, Chief Fi-



Big Spring High School

nancial Officer Sandra Waggoner, Business Manager Debra Green, Director of Federal Programs Darrell Ryan, Director

of Technology Corey Wood, Director of Transportation and Maintenance and District Construction Manager Wayland

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Continued on Page 21



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Remembering our veterans

The Big Spring Vietnam Memorial, like many others like it throughout the country, was constructed as a labor of love to ensure that those who made sacrifices during the Vietnam War — those who didn't return from Southeast Asia, as well as those who survived yet still carry scars, both seen and unseen, will never be forgotten.

Very much a work in progress, the memorial's grounds have changed a great deal since members of the community decided

to permanently commemorate the site of a 1987 visit to Big Spring by the Moving Wall — a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The most recent additions to the memorial site — a six-sided granite "All Services and All Veterans" Monument and a multi-generational "Fallen Soldier" Monument — were unveiled during 2008 Memorial Day ceremonies on May 26.

"We're not though yet I don't imagine," said Gene Wilson, who serves as president of the

Big Spring Vietnam Memorial
Rackley Street and Swords Avenue
www.thebigspringvietnammemorial.org

Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring. "While we don't have any plans for major additions to the grounds at this time, it's pretty clear we've been interested in making additions whenever the opportunities have presented themselves."

Indeed, from fairly humble plans at the outset, the memorial is now an absolute "must see" attraction for visitors to Big Spring.

And for some visitors, particularly Vietnam veterans, it's something they find themselves visiting over and over again.

"It's still not easy for a lot of the men and women who served in Vietnam, to talk about their experiences there," Wilson said. "And for some of them it's every bit as difficult or nor so to discuss what it was like return-



ing home."

What many don't understand, Wilson says, is that the man and women serving in the military "go where they're told to go and fight who they're told to fight."

"But once you're over there and in the middle of things," he added, "you're not really fighting for your country. You're

fighting for your life and you're fighting for your friends' lives."

The current Vietnam Memorial Committee traces its beginnings back to 1987 when the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce formed a committee of local residents to plan

Continued on Page 14

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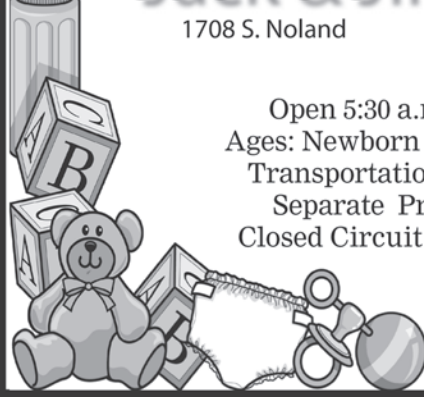
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The sound of music

Yes, Big Spring boasts a symphony and chorus

For more than two decades the Big Spring Symphony has brought professionally-performed classical music to the city. Big Spring is one of the smallest communities in the nation to have its own symphony.

The symphony, which varies between 50 and 60 players and includes a chorus depending on the program, offers four subscription concerts each year, as well as performing during the Pops in the Park patriotic music and fireworks extravaganza on July 3 at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater.

Quite often, the subscriptions concerts feature guest artists and conductors from around the nation.

Dr. Keith Graumann is artistic director for the symphony.

The recently completed 2009-2010 season was a difficult one for both the symphony and



many of its supporters. The "Moving On" season, saw the symphony have to hold concerts in several venues — including the Big Spring High School auditorium, Trinity Baptist Church's sanctuary and Dorothy Garrett Coliseum — due to the temporary closure of the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

Two local groups oversee and support the symphony: The

Symphony Board and the Symphony Guild.

The Symphony Board oversees contracting with musicians and conductors, obtaining guest musicians and conductors and setting the seasonal programs.

The board officers include: President Suzanne Markwell, First Vice President Bill Stiller, Second Vice President Jobeth Corwin, Secretary Joe Dawes and Treasurer Scott Mackenzie.

The Symphony Guild is a fund-raising organization which supports the symphony. The group also participates in activities such as decorating for symphony concerts.

Season and individual performance tickets can be purchased at the symphony office, 808 Scurry, and through a number of community businesses. For more information, call 264-7223.

Continued from Page 13

and organize for the arrival of the Moving Wall.

The Moving Wall's appearance in Big Spring impacted the lives of many of the thousands of people who visited it during its brief stay. Day or night the Wall was never alone — someone was always there, finding the name of a lost friend, family member, a lost comrade. Or standing in the shadows remembering.

A group formed, comprised of veterans and others from the committee that organized the Wall's visit, and from those who'd spent days at the Moving Wall. That group decided the land one which the Moving Wall had stood during its visit to Big Spring should be turned into a local memorial. And by February of the next year, the Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring had been incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a chartered purpose to: Promote education and understanding of military conflicts, including the Vietnam War and the role of the American military in Vietnam; construct and dedicate

a memorial to Howard County residents who were killed-in-action or missing-in-action in Vietnam; build and operate a museum/chapel and to promote education and understanding about prisoners of war in Vietnam.

In 1996, a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter was acquired from the Army and committee members and volunteers spent hundreds of hours cosmetically restoring the chopper and painting it like Vietnam era medi-evac helicopters. The Huey was dedicated on Memorial Day 1997.

An F-4 Phantom II jet was acquired from the U.S. Air Force in December 1997 and transported from "Wichita Falls to Big Spring. Five months later, it was completely restored and mounted next to the Huey, its dedication ceremonies held on Memorial Day 1998. Later an M-60 tank would be added to the military hardware permanently displayed on the memorial grounds and the final addition came a few years later when an AH-1 "Cobra" helicopter was acquired, refurbished and mounted.

The memorial also continued to expand with addition of the Gold Star Mothers Chapel, honoring fallen soldiers from all wars.

"This memorial ... what people see today ... wasn't done in a day. It took a lot of time and effort by a lot of different people," Wilson noted. "It's been accomplished in phases, and every time we've added another feature, the community has always responded by meeting our needs.

"We want everyone to understand that we really appreciate all the support we've been given over the years by the people and businesses in this community. This has definitely been a labor of love, but we want the community to know how much we love them for making it possible for us to do this."

Howard College: Focused on your future

The hardhats are about to be put away at Howard College.

The college, located on Birdwell Lane, offers a variety of associate degree plans and certified programs, from accounting to child development to nursing and theater.

Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane
264-5000
www.howardcollege.edu

Thanks to a \$21 million bond approved by voters in 2007, much of the college's infrastructure — some of which dates back to the early 1950s — is being renovated to help the college better serve the more than 2,000 students currently enrolled at the Big Spring campus, officials said.

That work, which has turned



the college into a big construction zone for more of the past two years, is beginning to enter its final phases. Officials are hopeful that the last project will be completed in the early months of 2011.

Once that work is completed, officials can return to their main job — instructing students in a

wide range of academic and vocational courses.

Among the specialty courses offered by the college include the dental hygiene clinic, ADN nursing program, LVN nursing program, cosmetology, criminal justice and agriculture.

Degreed programs include biology, business, chemistry, com-

munications, drama/theater, education, intergenerational studies, economics, English, foreign language, general business, government, art, history, mathematics, music, office administration, psychology, sociology and speech.

Technological fields include kinesiology, computer information, emergency medical, data entry and more.

Student organizations are important at Howard College. They include the Mexican-American Student Organization, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Howard College Diplomats and Baptist Student Ministries.

Howard County voters approved a bond issue of more than \$20 million in May that will allow the college to make numerous facilities improvements to the Big Spring campus.

Howard College also has campuses in San Angelo and Lamesa.

The San Angelo campus, along with Angelo State University and San Angelo Independent School District, have come together in the West Texas Training Center.

President of Howard College is Dr. Cheryl Sparks. Other senior officials include Executive Vice President Terry Hansen; Dr. Amy Burchett, executive dean for instructional support; Dr. Javier Flores, executive dean for student services; LeAnne Byrd, provost of the San Angelo Campus; and Dr. Mark Myers, provost of SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

The board of trustees is chaired by Dr. John Freeman. Other members are Murray Murphy, vice chairman; Marie Ethridge, secretary; Michael Flores, Dr. Charles Warren, Larry McLellan and Maxwell Barr.

For more information, contact the college at 264-5000.

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Senior Center offers array of activities

It’s been two years and a lot of changes since the city of Big Spring took over operations of the Big Spring Senior Center, but one thing that hasn’t changed is the enthusiasm at the facility, located at 1901 Simler Drive.

“We have good times. We are a happy bunch out here,” Nancy Jones said with a laugh. She is the senior services program manager.

After the city took over operations in June of 2008, the center got new stoves, a freezer and an ice maker. More recently, the facility has a new air conditioning system and improvements to the dance floor.

“The city has been so good to support us and understand this is a very old building. There was a lot of updating that had to be done

when they took it over,” Jones said.

Meals are served Monday through Friday at noon. There is no charge for the meal to seniors over the age of 60, although a \$3.50 donation is suggested. There is a \$6 charge to those under age 60.

Jones said she would like to see more local seniors come in and check the facility out, especially those who have never been there and are unsure if they would like it.

“Just give it a try,” said Jones with a determined look. “The center really isn’t what a lot of people think it is. Personally, I’d put our food up against any restaurant.



It’s not ‘old people food.’ Most people think if you go someplace where there are old people, you’re going to get old people food, and that’s just not the case here.

“We have good food and we have

good company. There’s always lots of different things going on, and just like anything else in life, you come and go as you please. You’re not required to do anything.”

The Senior Center offers darts, dominoes and board games — ranging from chess and checkers to backgammon — as well as jigsaw puzzles. Regulation-size pool tables are also available, and all the necessities, such as cues and balls, are provided.

Bingo is held every Tuesday and Thursday and has been enhanced after a donation of a complete bingo system was donated to the

Center. There is a Bible study each Wednesday from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and a caregiver support group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

For area seniors that like a little nightlife in their weekly plans, the center hosts a country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. each Friday for a \$6 fee per person.

Michael Mahaney is the Senior Center coordinator.

The facility also houses RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), coordinated by Becky Letz.

The center is open 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please call 267-1628.

Priority: Caring for the elderly and disabled

Big Spring offers a program for almost every need to the elderly and disabled in the community.

The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veteran Home is a state-funded facility available to veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents. The center offers a secure Alzheimer’s unit. Located at 1809 North U.S. Highway 87, the veterans home was completed in 2001. For more information, call 268-8387.

Twenty-four hour care for those with chronic or disabling illnesses can be found at Parkview Nursing Home and Rehab, 3200 Parkway. It can be reached by calling 263-4041.

Assisted-living centers offering varying degrees of care include Parkplace Retirement Living, 501 W. 17th Street,



Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home

267-1353, and Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road, 268-9041. Both facilities offer private apartments, regular meals and medical care as needed.

Two retirement centers that serve those on a limited income, without nursing care include St. Mary’s Episcopal Retirement Homes, Inc. known locally as Canterbury

North, 401 W. 17th Street, 263-1238, and Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster, 263-1265.

The Canterbury buildings offer residents such services as a store on the premises, dances, games and activities, along with transportation to doctor’s appointments and shopping.

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Seventh Day Adventist, 4319 Parkway, 267-5381

Assembly of God

First Assembly of God, Fourth and Lancaster, 267-7971

Templo Belen Assembly of God, 2205 Goliad, 267-2111

Baptist

Airport Baptist, 1208 Frazier, 263-7451

Baptist Temple, 400 11th Place, 267-8287

Berea Baptist, 4204 Wasson, 267-8438

Birdwell Lane Baptist, 1512 Birdwell Lane

Calvary Baptist, 1200 W. Fourth, 263-4242

Central Baptist, 5108 Nichols Road, 398-5469

College Baptist, 1105 Birdwell Lane, 267-7429

Gateway Baptist, Gatesville Street, 263-4883

East Fourth Baptist, 401 E. Fourth, 267-2291

East Side Baptist, 1108 E. Sixth, 267-1915

First Baptist, 705 W. FM 700, 267-8223

First Baptist, Knott First Baptist, 201 South Ave., Coahoma

First Baptist, Sand Springs, 393-5565

First Mexican, 701 NW Fifth

Forsan Baptist Church, 201 W. Main, 457-2342

Hillcrest Baptist, 2000 W. FM 700, 267-1639

Iglesia Bautista Central, 2105 Lancaster, 267-3396

Iglesia Bautista La Fe, 408 State, 267-7512

Luthen Bethel Baptist, Gail Rt.

Midway Baptist, E. I-20, 263-6274

Morning Star Baptist, 403 Trades

Mt. Bethel Baptist, 630 Sgt. Paredez, 263-4069

Prairie View Baptist, FM 2230

Primera Bautista Mission, 701 NW Fifth, 263-1139

Primitive Baptist, 201 E. 24th

Salem Baptist, Old Colorado City Hwy.-Salem Rd.

Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell

Trinity Baptist, 1701 E. FM 700, 267-6344

Catholic

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 610 S. Main, 714-4930

Christian

First Christian, 911 Goliad, 517-4821

Anderson Street Church of Christ, Green and Anderson, 263-2075

Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, 11th Place

Church of Christ, 14th and Main

Coahoma Church of Christ, 311 N. Second

Sand Springs Church of Christ, Thomas Road

West Highway 80

Church of Christ, 3900 W. Hwy. 80, 267-6483

Church of God of Prophecy, 15th and Dixie

First Church of God

2009 Main, 267-6607

Church of God in Christ

Holy Mission, 302 E. 11 Place, 270-1566

McGee Memorial Church of God in Christ, 1000 NW Third, 267-6605

New Life, 204 NW 10th, 264-0771

Powerhouse of God in Christ, 1311 Goliad

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1803 Wasson, 263-4411

Episcopal

St. Mary’s Episcopal,

1001 Goliad, 267-8201

Gospel

Spring Tabernacle, 1209 Wright St.

Jehovah Witness

Kingdom Hall Jehovah’s Witness, 1500 Wasson Rd.

Lutheran

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS, 2805 Lynn, 267-2594

St. Paul Lutheran, 810 Scurry, 267-7163

Methodist

Baker’s Chapel AME Methodist

911 N. Lancaster, 267-7158

Coahoma United Methodist, Main and Central

First United Methodist, 400 Scurry, 267-6394

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist, 2702 N. Birdwell, 263-2536

Nazarene

First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster

Non-Denominational

Christ Community Fellowship, 1008 Birdwell Lane, 263-5683

Circuit Rider Cowboy Church, 500 N. Birdwell

Cornerstone/Covenant, 706 E. 12th, 264-0015

Family Faith

Victory Center Int., 3401 E. 11th Place, 267-6001

Lighthouse Restoration Center, 604 E. 13th, 264-0043

Life Church, 600 E. FM 700, 263-7714

Spring of Life Church, 400 E. 21st, 267-8658

Iglesia de Cristo, Anderson and Green

Pentecostal

The Pentecostals of Big Spring Jesus Name UPC, 1004 Locust, 263-0050

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian, 701 Runnels, 263-4211

First Presbyterian, 205 N. First, Coahoma

Other

The Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth, 267-8239

Tollett All Faith Chapel, Big Spring State Hospital

Friends of Unity, 100 S. Main (east boxcar)

Templo Centro De Alabanza, 900 Magnolia

Grace Fellowship, 603 Tulane, 267-8593



Picnic anyone?

Big Spring boasts quality parks with lots to do



Centered around the historic Comanche Trail Lake, the city of Big Spring’s Comanche Trail Park is the municipality’s largest and most-used recreational facility. Located near U.S. Highway 87 in the southern part of the city, the 136-acre facility provides family-oriented recreation and plays home to numerous annual events, including the Pops in the Park Fourth of July celebration and the Festival of Lights Christmas display. The Kid’s Zone playground — which was first erected in 1996 with the help of about 200 volunteers — was renovated and repaired in May 2009 after the original site was destroyed in an arson attack in late December 2008. Much of rebuilding project was made possible through donations and fund-raising efforts in and around the city. Funds were also allocated to install surveillance cameras in and around the Kid’s Zone area to discourage future attacks on the facility.

And while the park no longer boasts a municipal swimming pool, which was demolished during the 2010 summer, the city is moving forward with a multi-million aquatics center project, which the Big Spring City Council recently approved. Also situated within Comanche Trail Park are the historic spring, which the city derives its name from, and the Comanche Trail Amphitheater. Part of the sprawling park grounds includes the Municipal Golf Course, an 18-hole course that has undergone a \$2 million renovation in recent years. “We lengthened the course by 281 yards from the back tees,” said club pro Jack Birdwell. “We added two brand new holes and took out two holes, and changed a Par 4 to a Par 5, which is our new No. 18. It was 399 yards, and now it’s 502 yards. That also changed our par from a 71 to a 72. “I really feel like the normal golfer — the annual golfer we’ve had here for years — will

find this course not necessarily a lot more challenging, but they will find it’s a lot more fun. The greens are all larger and have more undulation than the old ones had, so I feel like they are easier to hit, but you’re going to have longer putts. I think you’ll see a three to four stroke difference between this course and the old one.” Add to all those changes, the city has been able to have a new clubhouse for the course constructed. Comanche Trail Park is also where the Figure 7 Tennis Center is located. Golf and tennis aren’t the only sports the city of Big Spring has helped along over the years, as the municipality recently put the finishing touches on a new, multi-million dollar sports complex. The Roy Anderson Sports Complex, located in west Big

Spring near Interstate Highway 20, provides playing surfaces for baseball, softball, soccer and youth football. For more on city parks and recreation, contact Jesse Baker 264-2376. Big Spring also boasts a 381-acre state park facility, located around and atop Scenic Mountain. Dramatic views off of the 200-foot bluff and from the loop road is one of the featured attractions of the 382-acre park. Early morning or sunset, joggers, walkers, and cyclists circle the loop, enjoying these views as they exercise. Facilities include restrooms with no showers; a lighted, open, group picnic pavilion, which can accommodate up to 50 persons for group outings and may be reserved; and playground facilities. Combined scenic drive and walking route

— paved road surface — measures 2.4 miles. There is also a 2/3-mile nature trail, a .65-mile round-trip hike. A seasonal interpretive center displays area Indian artifacts and fossils. The rustic pavilion is ideal for weddings or church, company or graduation picnics. Howard County and Big Spring State Park are located in an area where three ecological regions merge. To the north and east are the western Rolling Plains; to the south is the Edwards Plateau; and to the west are the southern High Plains (also known as the Llano Estacado or the Staked Plains). The mixing of ecological regions results in a variety of plant and animal life since representatives from each region are often found overlapping in a relatively small area. Domestic livestock have not grazed the park land since the 1920s, and, as a consequence, vegetation typical for the semi-arid region blankets the park. Large woody plant species include mesquite, shin oak, skunkbush sumac and redberry juniper. Prickly pear and other cacti are common on the rocky slopes of the park. Common wildlife such as cottontails, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, foxes and roadrunners can often be seen, particularly early or late in the day. Many of the area’s numerous and varied bird species can also be observed. For more information on the state park, call 263-4931.



Big Spring State Park is located at Scenic Mountain. It's panoramic views and steep grade make it favorite spot for walkers, joggers and families wanting to enjoy a picnic. It is also the site of the Master the Mountain fun run and walk, held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce health fair.

Water is a precious resource

Water is a precious resource anywhere, but particularly in West Texas. Big Spring has been fortunate to have the solid planning of the Colorado River Municipal Water District on which to rely. For years now, CRMWD has had solid leadership, even during times of drought. That continues under general manager John Grant and the current board. CRMWD member cities are Big Spring, Odessa and Snyder. Customer cities are Abilene, Grandfalls, Midland, Pyote, Robert Lee, San Angelo and Stanton. Camping, fishing, swimming and boating are available at CRMWD lakes. A daily vehicle pass is \$5. Annual passes are \$60. An annual senior citizen pass is \$10. Individual and boat permits are not required. Passes are available at drop boxes, marinas and concession facilities. Public pavilions are also available at various locations around the lakes, and can be reserved for fees ranging from \$25 to \$35. • Lake J.B. Thomas is 35 miles north of Big Spring and 20 miles southwest of Snyder. Facilities include rest rooms, picnic tables, camping areas and boat ramps.. • E.V. Spence Reservoir is at Robert Lee on U.S. Highway 158. Facilities include boat ramps, picnic tables, rest rooms and campsites. Conces-



Moss Creek Lake is owned by the city of Big Spring though the water level is controlled by the Colorado River Municipal Water District. It has RV sites, camping sites and allows swimming, boating and hinking, among other activities.

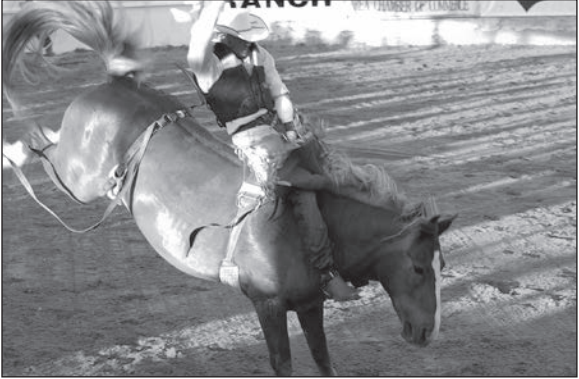
sion locations include Wildcat Creek Marina, (325) 453-2801 and Paint Creek Marina, (325) 453-2982. • O.H. Ivie Reservoir is located on FM 1929 and FM 503. Facilities include boat ramps, picnic tables, rest rooms and campsites. Concession locations include Concho Park and Marina (southwest side), 325 357-4466, Kennedy Park (southeast side), (325) 357-4776, and Padgitt Park (north side), no phone available. In addition, CRMWD controls the water level at Moss Creek Lake, though the park is owned and operated by

the city of Big Spring. Moss Creek Lake is located east of Big Spring and can be accessed on Moss Creek Lake Road off Interstate 20. For more information, contact facility caretaker Rick Boiles at (432) 393-5246. Entry to Moss Creek is \$3 per vehicle plus 50 cents per person, not to exceed \$5. Children 12 and younger and adults 65 and older are exempt from the 50-cent fee. There are additional fees for camping, RV hookups and boating permits. An annual permit for immediate family is available

for \$100 and includes entry, camping and boat permits. Moss Creek is also home to a motorcycle course. Permits are \$5 per motorcycle, in addition to entry permits for riders and non-riders. The course is open from 7 a.m. until dusk, Monday through Sunday. No riding of ATV, motorcross or Enduro style vehicles is allowed outside of the designated course at any time. CRMWD offices are located at 400 E. 24th St. in Big Spring. The office phone number is 267-6341. CRMWD has a Web site at www.crmwd.org

Service organizations

Lions and Optimists and Rotarians, oh my. If you are interested in joining a service club in Howard County, there are several for your choosing. They include: • **Big Spring Downtown Lions Club — Meets every Wednesday at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Contact Secretary Guy Teague at 263-4295.** • **Big Spring Evening Lions Club — Meets every Monday at 6:46 p.m. in the Dragon China Buffet. Contact Bob Noyes at 267-5811.** • **Coahoma Lions Club — Meets the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Coahoma Community Center. Contact Jim Lemarr at 394-4424.** • **Sand Springs Lions Club — Meets the the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Clubhouse. Contact Phillip Reid at 393-5545.** • **AMBUCS — meets at noon Friday at La Posada Restaurant.** • **Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon Monday at the Howard College Cactus Room. Contact Walter Ward at 935-6455.** • **Big Spring Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. Wednesday at the Howard College Cactus Room.** • **Fraternal Order of Eagles meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.** • **Kiwanis Club meets at noon Thursday in the Howard College Cactus Room. Contact Dr. Don McGonagill at 267-7601.** • **Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon Tuesday at the Howard College Cactus Room.** • **Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon Friday at the Howard College Cactus Room.**



Continued from Page 17

basketball talent, Howard College also has earned a reputation when it comes to rodeo.

It just etched a new chapter in its history with Jason Schaffer winning a national championship in the men’s all-around category at the College National Finals Rodeo in June in Wyoming.

“Our college rodeo has been the Rodeo of the Year three times in the last five,” Kernick said. “The pro rodeo is a really, really good rodeo for its size. If you want to come see a good quality event, you’ve got two good opportunities, one in April and one in June.”

In Big Spring, those bulldoggers, calf ropers and bull riders have a chance to learn the sport at a young age.

Kernick and Diane Hofacket, who runs the mutton bustin’ event at the pro rodeo, pointed out the Howard County Youth Horseman’s Club.

The club takes young children eager to learn the sport and trains them from that point until they’re 18-years-old, if they choose so.

Hofacket said from there, those trainees can move on to college and compete in those ranks before going pro.

Kernick said Stephanie Fryar is a good example of using the HCYHC to learn the sport and eventually go pro.

Hofacket also touched on the importance of Howard College rodeo to the city, as the program brings in students not only from Texas, but from all across the country.

“Here with the college and having the kids coming in to the rodeo program, we’ve got kids that come from all over as far as Canada,” she said. “As far as helping the community and the economy and everything else, it’s great to have it here.”

The pro rodeo seems like it has a bright future ahead, too, Hofacket said. She said it’s not just the competitors’ talent that is getting better, but concerts and other events continue to bring people to events.

“They’re bringing in some popular talent as far as the concerts and stuff at the rodeo here and that’s bringing the kids out to watch the rodeo and that brings in more money,” she said. “It all goes hand in hand.”

Several media sources are located in Big Spring, including a newspaper, several radio stations and a television translator station.

Having served readers in the area for more than a century, the Big Spring Herald is clearly the oldest of the community’s media outlets.

Published in the afternoon Monday though Friday and mornings on Sunday except Christmas Day, the Herald is owned by Horizon Publications headquartered in Marion, Ill.

The online addition can be found at www.big-springherald.com

The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association and Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

Ron Midkiff serves is the Herald’s publisher, Rick Nunez is advertising manager, John A. Moseley is managing editor, Rachel Martinez is the business office manager, Robert Smith is circulation manager and Tony Hernandez is production manager.

The Herald’s offices are located at 710 Scurry St. and are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The paper’s mailing address is P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1431. The main switchboard telephone number is 263-7331. Circulation calls may be made to 263-7335. The fax number is 264-7205.

Places you can bank on

Sound financial advice is available through numerous banks and credit unions in Howard County.	Union 701 E. FM 700 - 267-6373	0000 Coahoma 500 W. Broadway - 394-4256	1309 Gregg St. - 263-1334
	Compass Bank 1500 Gregg St. - 267-1651	First Bank of West Texas TeleBanking 607 S. Scurry - 264-6644	State National Bank 901 Main St. - 264-2100
American State Bank 1411 Gregg St. - 267-5555	Cosden Federal Credit Union 400 E. Marcy Drive - 264-2600		T&P Federal Credit Union 101 Main St. - 263-1631
Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union 503 E. FM 700 - 263-1361	Electric Utilities Credit Union 2002 Birdwell - 263-3442	Government Employees Federal Credit Union 503 E. FM 700 - 263-5916	Wells Fargo Bank of Texas 400 Main St. - 267-5513
Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union 1110 Benton - 263-8393		Lone Star State Bank 406 E. FM 700 - 264-7717	Woodforest National Bank 201 W. Marcy (Wal-Mart) - 264-0753 or 466-0100
Citizens Federal Credit	First Bank of West Texas Big Spring 607 Scurry St. - 466-	State Farm Bank Wesley Beauchamp	

Youth activities abound

High school sports may very well be at the top of the list for locals in the Crossroads area, but there is an array of activities for youth to get involved in year round.

There is football and soccer in August and even Little League baseball later on in the year. Cheerleading is also available. There are a handful of options for boys and girls in the Crossroads area. All of the information below is the most up-to-date, but could vary this season.

CROSSROADS YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Registration begins Aug. 3. And will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Aug. 7.

Registration will take place at the Big Spring Mall. Make sure to bring a copy of your birth certificate.

The last day to register is Aug. 28. Games will begin Sept. 11.

There are three leagues available to participate in — Flag, Division I and Division II. Every team also has a group of cheerleaders. Cost for flag football is slated to be \$50 and Division I and Division II cost is expected to be \$125. Cheerleading is \$100.

Check out www.freewebs.com/cyfa for more information and contact information.

BIG SPRING YOUTH SOCCER

Sign-ups are slated for the first part of August. This league is for boys and girls ranging from 3-years-old to 14-years-old. There are five co-ed leagues split according to age. The league had approximately 400 participants sign up to play last year. Cost is expected to be \$70.

For more information and con-



tact information, visit www.big-springsoccer.org.

BIG SPRING LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

There are five leagues for player to take part in — Majors, Minors, Pee Wee, Junior and Tee Ball. These leagues are available for different age groups. The Majors are mainly for 11-and 12-year-olds with a few 10-year-olds included. The Minors have 9-and 10-year-olds with some 8-and 11-year-olds involved.

The 7-and 8-year olds play in the Pee Wee league and 4, 5-and 6-year-olds usually play Tee Ball. The Junior league is left for players in middle school and it includes some 13, 14-and 15-year-olds.

About 520 players registered last year. Registration usually begins in March and cost \$65. The season ends with the City Tournament in June and the All-Star tourney takes place late that month continuing into early July.

For more information, visit www.bsllbaseball.com.

BIG SPRING GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Sign-ups are slated to begin in late February or early March. There are five leagues with girls from 4-years-old to 14-years-old. The leagues are 6 and Under, 8 and Under, 10 and Under, 12 and Under and 14 and Under. Cost to sign up was \$65 in 2009. For more information and contact information, visit www.bsgsa.webs.com

The YMCA also offers a wide variety of sports and activities including girls and boys basketball, volleyball, swimming and gymnastics. For information on any of those leagues, call the YMCA 267-8234.

Rodeo continues growing in Big Spring

Rodeo is as deeply rooted in Big Spring as much as anything.

Proof of this can be found year round in the Crossroads area, but it’s most prevalent in April and June.

The city just wrapped up the 77th annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo in June, which brought flocks of rodeo fans from all across West Texas. It also brought some of the best bulldoggers, calf ropers and bull riders in the country, as those competitors made their way through the Texas circuit.

Howard College rodeo coach Greg Kernick said it’s events such as the Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo that helps Big Spring stand out as a solid rodeo city.

“The places I’ve been, it would definitely be a top-end community,” he said. “The businesses know that the rodeo takes money to operate and it does bring people to town and they’re willing to sponsor that. That’s what continues to allow the events to happen.”

Kernick said Big Spring residents understand the sport and have grown up with it, considering how long the pro rodeo has been in a fixture in the community.

But it’s more than just the annual pro rodeo in Big Spring.

Kernick pointed out the Howard College Rodeo every April. In addition to top-notch baseball, softball and



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Outpatient Visits.....	61,899
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Capital Investments.....	\$1,882,919
Property & Sales Taxes.....	\$691,852
Caring for Our Community:	
Charity & Uncompensated Care.....	\$16,598,083
Dollars Spent Locally.....	\$307,069
Donations to the Community.....	\$11,194
Total Community Investment	\$35,445,046*

*Dollar amounts are approximate.

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