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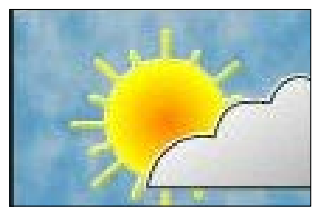
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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 61

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50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 SUNDAY

CAR MEETS HOUSE



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Property damage but no injuries were reported after the driver of this vehicle lost control of her car in the 1700 block of Morrison Friday. Eyewitnesses said the car struck the concrete fence of one home, crossed the lawn of a second, then jumped a fence and struck a third home.

Murder trial set to begin

Jury selection starts Monday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Jury selection begins Monday in the trial of 39-year-old Steven Glen Hildebrand, who is charged with the May 31 beating death of a Big Spring man.

Trial testimony is expected to start Tuesday in 118th District Court. District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson will argue the state's case, while local attorney Tim Yeats will represent Hildebrand.

The defendant stands accused of murdering James David Boettcher, 59, of Big Spring, who was found dead near his residence at approximately 11:22 p.m. May 31.

"We plan to show that Mr. Hildebrand encountered the victim during the late-night hours of May 31 in the 900 block of Fourth Street," Wilkerson said. "There was then some sort of fight and Hildebrand struck him, which eventually caused his death."

At the time Boettcher's body was found, his death was ruled suspicious, authorities said. He had suffered trauma to the

See **TRIAL**, Page 3A

Officials confront dating violence

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Officials hope to attack the problem of dating violence at the source by having teenagers become part of the solution.

Responding to a mandate by the Texas Legislature, Victim Services of Big Spring is helping to establish a program at Big Spring High School to raise awareness of and find solutions for dating violence.

Shann Smith, director of Victim Services, said dating violence has become a widespread problem in Texas.

A statewide survey of young Texans between 16 and 24 years of age revealed some disturbing statistics, Smith said:

- 75 percent of respondents either experienced dating violence or knew someone who had.
- Half have personally experienced dating violence.
- 60 percent of females and 40 percent of males have experienced dating violence, either as victims or abusers.

"We believe the problem is more prevalent than is reported," Smith said. "And that's normal for domestic violence situations."

> ***"We believe the problem is more prevalent than is reported. And that's normal for domestic violence situations."***
>
> 
> Smith

The problem can take several forms, she added, ranging from actual physical and sexual violence to verbal, emotional and psychological abuse.

"What's really troubling is that for many of these teenagers, this is the kind of lifestyle they're exposed to at home," Smith said. "They may think this is totally normal behavior."

In response, Victim Services has begun a program called Healthy Living, which seeks to educate young people about taking abuse out of the equation and replacing it with positive traits such as respect, fairness, sharing, accountability and honesty.

Mindy Partee of Victim Services, said the cornerstone of the program is the formation of "peer sponsors" — students who will act as de facto counselors to their fellow teens who are experiencing dating violence.

"Most adults in schools ... really don't know what's going on, because the kids don't trust the teachers," Partee said. "But they do trust other students. We want them to use them as a lifeline to other students, to provide ways to solve problems."

Those students, besides being

See **VIOLENCE**, Page 3A

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Asbestos gets county's attention

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

To abate, or not to abate, that will be the question facing Howard County commissioners when they convene court Monday morning and consider bids to demolish a trio of asbestos-laced buildings near the site of the new jail.

Commissioners voted unanimously to request bids

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



Les White has climbed practically every step of the nursing ladder during his 25-year career

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Sunday, February 10, 2008

IN BRIEF

Big Spring man aces seventh hole at country club

Wayne Roberts, 62, of Big Spring hit a hole-in-one on the Par 3, 180-yard seventh hole at the Big Spring Country Club golf course Jan. 27. It was Roberts' third ace in his lifetime.

Randy Hillman and Scott MacKenzie beared witneess to the shot.

Big Spring Girls Softball registration held every Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association begins registration for the 2008 youth softball season Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall across from Merle Norman. Girls ages 4 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to play.

Subsequent signup dates will be Feb. 23 and March 1.

Fee is $45 with a $5 discount for a second child.

Anyone with questions can call Luci Ramirez at 466-3670 or Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

Big Spring Country Club schedules 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled a 4-person scramble for Feb. 23-24.

Entry fee is $75 per player, plus golf cart fees, and includes a barbecue lunch on the course both days, Private carts are welcome.

Practice rounds are available Friday, The Field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

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

Big Spring QB Club electing officers Monday at ATC

The Big Spring High School Quarterback Club is holding a meeting to elect new officers for the 2008 football season at 6 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

Any parent of a child planning to play football in the seventh through 12th grades are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

BSHS Baseball Booster Club meeting Monday

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club is meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of high school baseball players are encouraged to attend.

Contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

Steers end season on winning note

By BRANDON HALLFORD
Special to the Herald

BIG SPRING — After suffering through a long district season, the Big Spring Steers wished for nothing more than to walk away with a victory in their last game at Steer Gym.

The Steers fought to hold a 36-32 lead at halftime before exploding for 26 points in the fourth quarter, defeating the Plainview Bulldogs, 84-63.

With the score tied at six Jason Walker was fouled as he drove to the basket.

The senior calmly drained the two charity shots, setting off a quick 6-0 run for the Steers and enabling them to hold a 16-11 advantage after the first quarter of play.

The second quarter featured six lead changes as neither team was able to put together a run of any kind until the 2:40 mark when another senior stepped to the plate for the Steers.

With the Bulldogs leading 27-26 Terrance Clemons, one of four seniors playing in their final home game for the Steers, pulled down the offensive rebound and stroked in a short 10 footer, giving Big Spring the lead for good at 28-26 on their way to the 36-32 halftime lead.

Big Spring wasted little time trying to distance themselves from the Bulldogs to start the second half, ripping off eight straight points. The 8-0 run ended with an emphatic dunk by Walker, opening up a 44-32 lead.

Plainview was not yet ready to give up the fight, though, ripping off a quick 5-0 run of their own.

The game looked as if it was destined to be a nail biter as the teams continued to answer shot for shot, finding the Steers holding a 67-61 lead with just four minutes remaining in the game after yet another three-point bomb by Plainview.

However, Big Spring was determined to make this night one to remember for its seniors.

Clemons was once again the instigator, draining a short jumper before finding himself on the receiving end of a Phillips outlet pass off a steal. Clemons drove to the basket for the 3-point play that became the beginning of the end for the Bulldogs as the Steers slammed into overdrive for a 15-2 run to end the game.

"We played well offensively and defensively." Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris said. "We shot the ball real well and played aggressively all night."

See **STEERS**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Big Spring Steers forward Jason Walker dunks in the Steers' 84-63 victory Friday night in Steer Gym. Walker scored 18 points in his final game as a Steer.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback
Forsan Buffaloes guard Tristan Clay is a moment too late in blocking a Roscoe Plowboys' shot in the Buffs 49-47 last-second loss to Roscoe Friday in Gail.

Buffs come up short of district's top seed

By JEFF LANE
Special to the Herald

GAIL — Forsan's Buffaloes and the Roscoe Plowboys met for the third time this season in a grudge match that went down to the wire.

Both had already won on the other's home court and had laid claim to a piece of the district championship. This was for pride and to decide where each would be seeded in the upcoming playoffs.

The teams played as evenly as two teams could, going down to the final second with the Plowboys taking the win and a first round bye in the postseason, 49-47.

The Buffs, in foul trouble early and often, did all they could to stay in the game despite Roscoe enjoying a 27-5 advantage from the charity stripe.

Senior Adam Bailey, who scored 10 points on the night, had to watch much of this one from the bench, picking up three fouls at the 3:00 mark of the first quarter.

"In the scorebook, it looks a little lopsided when you count up the fouls. But, you can't blame losses on the refs," said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. "We had good opportunities and were right there in the end.

"I am very proud of how the guys fought through adverse conditions and kept their focus on the game at hand," McDonald continued. "Right now it is very tough and the guys are hurting, but we will be OK tomorrow. We will learn from this and hopefully know how to overcome it next time."

Forsan again had trouble containing Jared and Jacob Villanueva, who scored 21 and 15 points, respectively.

Their presence on the court helped lead the Plowboys to a 7-point halftime lead, 28-21, as they looked to take advantage of Bailey's absence.

However, Forsan came out firing in the third period, connecting on four straight 3-pointers and evening the score at 33-33

See **BUFFS**, Page 4B

Coahoma squads prepping for playoff run

Bulldogs blast Colorado City

By JONATHAN HULL
Herald Sports Editor

COLORADO CITY — Coahoma's Bulldogs still have a shot at sharing the District 5-2A title with Haskell's Indians, but they'll have to get some help from an ironic source.

First off, the Bulldogs have to take care of their own business by beating the last two opponents on the schedule. Coahoma took care of the first challenge, using a dominant fourth period to pull away from Colorado City's Wolves for a 73-55 victory.

Coahoma led 35-23 at intermission, but couldn't quite shake Colorado City in the third period. The Wolves gave the Bulldogs problems offensively and defensively throughout the stanza and cut the margin to as little as 7 points.

"Colorado City has deadly 3-point shooters," said Nichols. "And when you start moving out-

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Coahoma Bulldogs post Cody Sheppard lays in two points in the fourth quarter of the Bulldogs' 73-55 win over Colorado City's Wolves Friday night at Colorado Middle School. Sheppard led all scorers with 20 points.

Bulldogettes fall in practice game

By ERIC RODEWALD
Special to the Herald

Friday night wasn't a familiar result for the 5-2A district champion Coahoma Bulldogettes who ran through district play with a perfect 14-0 mark and have only tasted the bitter taste of defeat four times on the season. However, a 59-29 loss at the hands of the Plainview Lady Bulldogs will hopefully provide a learning experience for Coahoma as they head into the Texas State High School Playoffs.

"What we wanted out of this game was to get a team in here that would pressure us and we got exactly that," stated Coahoma head coach Chris Sumrall. "So now we know what we have to go back and really work on."

Plainview won district 4-4A going a perfect 8-0 in district play and finished up 28-3 overall. As for the Bulldogettes, they finished 28-4 overall, but the differ-

See **COAHOMA**, Page 4B

sunday, page 1C, 02-10-08 2/9/08 11:22 AM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:



Moving up through the ranks

Les White has climbed practically every step of the nursing ladder during his 25-year career

When the local VA Medical Center holds its annual nursing recruitment open house Monday, officials will have the ideal poster boy for their efforts on staff.

Les White has combined a love of education and caregiving to produce a 25-year career that has featured stops on practically every step on the nursing ladder.

Starting with the medical center in 1983 as a student nurse technician, then as a nurse's aide, White began an educational odyssey that saw him attain associate, bachelor and master degrees in nursing, all the while maintaining full-time employment at the VAMC.

What: VA Medical Center Nursing Open House
When: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Oupatient clinic lobby.

But he didn't stop there.

In the early 1990s, White worked the night shift at the medical center, while simultaneously holding teaching positions at both Howard College and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing in Lubbock.

As if his workload wasn't enough, White then enrolled in post-graduate work at the University of Texas at El Paso, eventually attaining board certification as a nurse practitioner in 1996 and earned his doctorate from Texas Women's University in 2003.

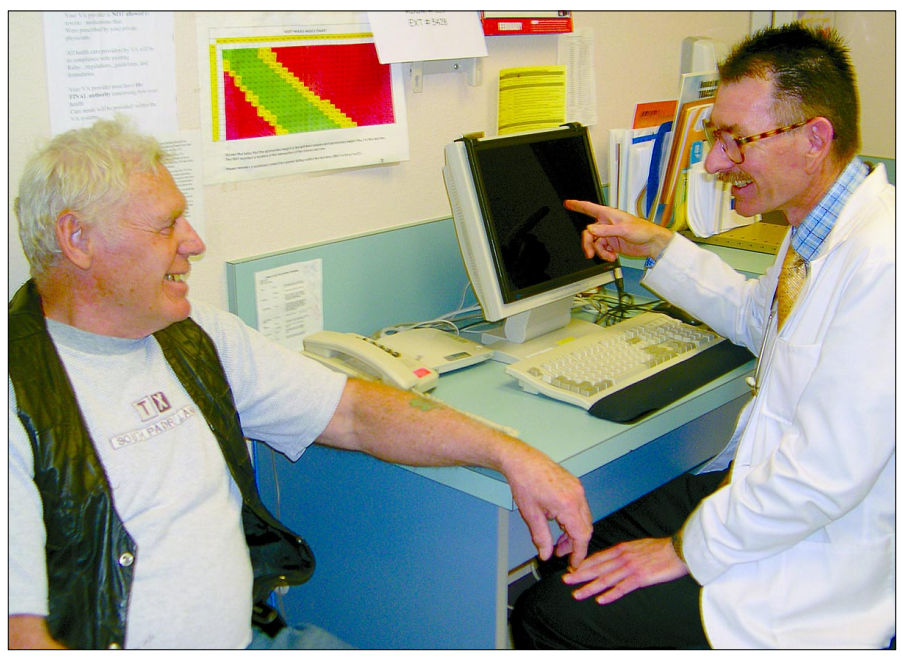
His accomplishments over the past quarter-century leave colleagues searching for superlatives.

"What he's done is simply remarkable," said Leslie Williams, nursing recruiter for the medical center. "Going to school is one thing, but going to school and working full-time is another."

White downplays his accomplishments.







Story and photos by Steve Reagan

Clockwise, from top: Les White stands in front of the VA Medical Center; when White is not dealing with patients, he can often be found on the phone or his computer — or both; White shares a light moment with veteran Ross White; he examines Ross White's ears during a checkup at the medical center clinic.

sunday page 2a 2/9/08 1:14 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Obituaries

Juanita Zant



Juanita Zant, beloved wife and mother of Lubbock and formerly of New Home, departed this life Feb. 7, 2008, at the age of 77. She was born April 1, 1930, to William and Nancy Reed in Ackerly. Juanita graduated from Ackerly High School in 1948. She married Oral Cates Zant shortly thereafter. In 1960, they moved to New Home from Ackerly. Juanita was a Christian, mother, housewife and cotton farmer. Juanita moved to Lubbock in 1998, and resided at Quail Ridge & Wedgwood South. She was a long time member of the New Home Church of Christ.

Juanita was preceded in death by her husband, Cates, in 1985, one son, Randy Zant, in 1976, and one sister, Ruby Ingram, in 2002. Those left to cherish her memory are one daughter, Vicki Lynn Zant of Lubbock; one son, Gaylan Zant of Dallas; and one brother, A.D. Reed of Ackerly.

Celebration of Life services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008, at the New Home Church of Christ, with Billy Reed, Bruce Cotton and Leonard Nettles officiating.

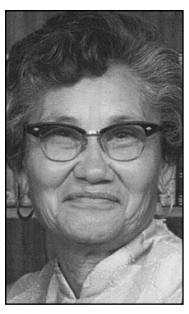
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Lubbock at 1102 Slide Road, Suite 3, Lubbock 79416.

The family wishes to express its deep appreciation to the staff of Quail Ridge Alzheimer's Care Facility and of Wedgwood South, A.L. and to the Covenant 6th floor staff for their exceptional care and concern during Juanita's last days.

Arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home of Tahoka. Online condolences may be sent at www.whitefuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Candelaria Jimenez



Candelaria Jimenez, 91, of Big Spring, died Friday, Feb. 8, 2008, at her residence. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 17, 1916, in Uvalde and married Rodolfo Jimenez in March 1938 in Uvalde. He preceded her in death in September 1985.

Mrs. Jimenez had lived in Big Spring since 1955. She loved gardening and being outdoors and especially enjoyed spending time with her family. She attended St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include five daughters, Maria Alicia Gonzales and family, Frances Ybarra and family, Felice Vara and family, Yolanda Lee and family, Candy Nunez and family; two sons, Rodolfo Jimenez Jr. and family, and Jose Manuel Jimenez and family; 30 grandchildren; 68 great-grandchildren and 55 great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one daughter, Margie J. DeLeon; one granddaughter, Linda Lee; one great-grandson, Lauro Padilla; and one sister, Josefina S. Torres.

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

Paid obituary

Elizabeth Carpenter



Elizabeth Carpenter, 87, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Aug. 16, 1920, in Breckenridge to Bessie and Dink Burrell. She married Frank Carpenter, Sept. 6, 1955, in Taos, N.M. He preceded her in death on Feb. 6, 1994. She lived most of her life in Big Spring, but lived several years in Las Cruces and worked at White Sands Missile Range. She worked for Howard County until retiring.

She is survived by one sister, Norma N. Kelley of Big Spring; several nieces and nephews, including Gary Kelley and his wife Tancie of Big Spring, Dru Heinatz and her husband Jeff of Alpine, Joanne Guffey of La Pine, Ore., and Jean Little of Sweetwater; and several great nieces and nephews, including Jarrod and Jesseca Heinatz of Alpine; and a special sister-in-law, Vienne Munich of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

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

Paid obituary

Delia Lopez



Delia Lopez, 76, of Big Spring died Friday, Feb. 8, 2008, in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Dec. 26, 1931, in Alpine to Virginia and Ramon Garcia. She married Al Lopez Nov. 15, 1974, in Big Spring. She had worked for One Hour Martinizing and other cleaners in Big Spring. She had lived most of her life in Big Spring and was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Al Lopez of Big Spring; two sons, Oscar Garcia and his wife Vera of Phoenix, Ariz., and Eloy Hernandez of Big Spring; one daughter, Lorina Ontiveros and her husband Lupe of Big Spring; two grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Chris Rivera.

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 19-24-25-32-35
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize: $30,149.
Winning ticket sold in: Bonham.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-6-8-6. Sum It Up: 24.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-6-4. Sum It Up: 15.

Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY

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

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

•The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7 p.m. at TravelCenters of America truck stop.

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Lamb meeting room in the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

•Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

• **KYLE BROWNFIELD,** 17, 2204 Morrison, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• **KENNETH MCPHERSON,** 17, 710 E. 13th, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, and on a warrant from Texas Youth Commission.

• **JENNIFER MARTINEZ,** 20, 610 Tulane, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• **RONNIE RIVERA,** 28, 1801 Owens, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **JESSICA GARZA,** 25, 908 W. Fourth, was arrested on a local warrant.

• **JOLANDA GONZALES,** 38, 13703 Gail Highway, was arrested on a citation and two local warrants.

• **JOHN GONZALES,** 44, 13703 Gail Highway, was arrested on two citations.

• **CHRIS RODRIGEUZ,** 20, 1908 Settles, was arrested on two local warrants and four capias warrants.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 600 block of Sixth.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.

• **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID** was reported in the 3500 block of FM 700.

Weather

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southeast winds10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds10 to 15 mph.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 40.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Cooler. Highs around 50.

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Garden City wins district, Stanton in playoffs

Herald Staff Report

GARDEN CITY — Winning a district title didn't matter much for Garden City's Bearkats last basketball season.

Winning one couldn't hurt either.

The Bearkats wrapped up the Class A, Division II, District 11 championship Friday, edging Bronte's Longhorns, 39-31.

Last season, the Bearkats advanced to the state semifinals, however, they ended up third within the district. Ideally, Garden City's draw will be easier than last season's since it enters the postseason as a No. 1 seed from its district.

Bronte didn't go down quietly, though. The Longhorns played even with Garden City through three periods and trailed by just 2 points heading into the final frame.

Unfortunately for the Longhorns, Garden City's Nick Sanchez hit some key buckets in the fourth period, sparking the Bearkats to the 9-point victory. The Bearkats' defense was suffocating in the second half, holding Bronte to a mere 10 points in the third and fourth periods combined.

Sanchez finished the game with 10 points off the bench and Bo Eggemeyer had a game-high 11. Wade Jansa chipped in 10 points and Eric Hirt rounded out the Bearkats scoring with eight.

Garden City receives a first round bye in the Class A, Division II playoffs.

Bronte 11 9 6 4—30
Garden City 11 11 6 11—39
Bronte: Rosson 8, D. Rawls 8, Burns 5, Wills 5, Richey 2, McConnell 2.
Garden City (18-8, 9-1): Bo Eggemeyer 11, Wade Jansa 10, Nick Sanchez 10, Eric Hirt 8.



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz

Garden City's Nick Sanchez (32) passes out of the reach of a Bronte Longhorns defender Friday night in Garden City. The Bearkats pulled away in the fourth period to beat Bronte, 39-30. Sanchez came off the bench to score 10 points.

Area Basketball Roundup

Stanton 60, Merkel 43

STANTON — One last spot for the Class 2A boys' basketball playoffs was available in District 5-2A Friday night and the recipient of the postseason berth was being decided in Stanton.

Stanton's Buffaloes hosted Merkel's Badgers with the winner clinching the third and final playoff spot. Apparently, home-court advantage was just what Stanton needed as the Buffs put the game away earlier, winning 60-43.

The Buffs pounded Merkel in the first half, taking a 33-18 advantage into the locker rooms at the intermission. The Badgers made a small run in the third period, but still trailed by 12 heading into the final frame.

From there, Stanton left no doubt as to which team was postseason bound, outscoring the Badgers 17-12 in the final stanza.

Garrett Fulton had a monster night, posting 32 points to lead the way for Stanton. He was complemented by Chase Pinkerton (13 points) and Adam Evans (12 points).

Stanton has proved to be a very formidable opponent at home this season, leaving Merkel at an immediate disadvantage. The Buffs had already upset eighth-ranked Coahoma on Stanton's home court.

Just one game remains on the Buffs' schedule and it could serve as an opportunity for Stanton to play a spoiler role.

The Buffs visit Haskell at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday with the Indians needing a victory to wrap up an outright district title. However, if the Buffs upset Haskell, a one-game playoff between Coahoma and Haskell would be forced to decide which team would receive a first-round bye in the playoffs as both squads would share the district title.

Merkel 15 3 13 12—43
Stanton 23 10 10 17—60
Merkel: White 3, Riggins 5, Thomas 5, Duncan 2, Wells 13, Cope 6, Newberry 9.
Stanton (18-9, 9-4): Garrett Fulton 32, Tyler Fulton 2, Ramsey Fleckenstein 1, Chase Pinkerton 13, Adam Evans 12.

Follow all Crossroads high school basketball playoff action daily in the Herald.

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2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Loaded, Like New, One Owner, Low Miles.
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2004 Nissan Muranose - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, Very Nice, New Car Trade In.
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2004 Nissan Xterra 4X4 SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Super Clean, Only 19,000 Miles.
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2004 Nissan Xterra SE 4X2 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Low Miles.
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Was $28,995 NOW $27,995

2007 Lincoln MKZ - Oxford White w/Lt. Stone Leather, Wood Trim Accent, Heated/Cooled Seats, Sirius Sat. Radio, Chrome Wheels, Only 14,000 Miles.
Was $28,995 NOW $27,995

2007 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Premium - Vibrant White w/Tan Leather, Power Seats, Garage Door Opener, Power Pedals, Only 16,000 Miles.
Was $21,995 NOW $19,995

2007 Mercury Grand Marquis - Dark Blue w/Medium Stone Leather, Dual Power Seats, Power Pedals, Keyless Entry, Only 10,000 Miles.
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2007 Lincoln MKX FWD - White Chocolate Tri-Coat/Black Leather, Ultimate Pkg., Power Liftgate, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, Navigation System
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2004 Lincoln Towncar Ultimate- White Cashmere w/Lt. Tan Leather, Very Nice Car, All Power, One Owner, New Car Trade In, Only 32,000 Miles.
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2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles.
Was $16,995 NOW $13,995

2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless.
Was $16,995 NOW $13,995

2007 Ford Focus SE - Gray w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power, Nice Car, Only 19,000 Miles.
Was $16,995 NOW $13,995

2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles.
Was $16,995 NOW $15,995

2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles.
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2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Like New, One Owner, Only 19,685 Miles.
Was $18,995 NOW $14,995

2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible - Silver w/Black Leather, Loaded, One Owner, 2 Tops, Only 20,800 Miles.
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2004 Ford Taurus LX - Tan w/Tan Cloth, All Power, Nice Clean Car, Local Owner.
Was $9,995 NOW $6,995

2004 Ford Focus SE - Green w/Tan Cloth, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles.
Was $10,995 NOW $9,995

2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles.
Was $11,995 NOW $8,995

2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car.
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2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT 4.6L V8 - Bright Red w/Flint Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Like New, Low Miles.
Was $24,995 NOW $23,995

2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT 5.4L V8 - Gold w/Tan Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Bedliner, Very Nice, Only 18,000 Miles.
Was $24,995 NOW $23,995

2007 Ford Ranger XLT - Red w/Cloth Seats, All Power, Automatic, One Owner, Only 17,000 Miles.
Was $18,995 NOW $17,995

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X2 5.4L V8 - Dk Red w/Tan Cloth, One Owner, New Car Trade In, CD Player, Only 18,000 Miles.
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2006 Ford F250 SD 4X2 6.0L Diesel Lariat - Black w/Gray Leather, One Owner, New Truck Trade In, Nice Truck.
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Was $24,995 NOW $23,995

2005 F250 SD Crewcab Diesel FX4 King Ranch - Dk. Red w/King Ranch Leather, Loaded, Like New, New Truck Trade In, One Owner.
Was $31,995 NOW $30,995

2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles.
Was $20,995 NOW $16,995

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner.
MSRP $18,995 NOW $14,995

★★★ FORDS ★★★

2004 Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab Diesel - Blue w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, Short Bed, Great Truck.
Was $23,995 NOW $22,995

2003 Ford Supercrew XLT - Red w/Gray Cloth All Power, Power Seat,CD Player, Low Miles.
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2003 Ford F150 Supercab Flareside XLT V6 - Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Like New,Only 37,000 Miles.
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2002 Ford F150 Supercab Sport V6 - White w/Gray Cloth, 5-Speed, CD Player, Like New, Bedliner.
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2001 Ford F250 Super Duty Supercab Lariat 4X4 - Green w/Tan Leather, 7.3L Diesel, Loaded, All Power, One Owner.
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2007 Ford E350 15 Pass. XLT 5.4 - Peublo Gold with/Pebble Cloth, Remote Keyless Ent/Panic Alarm, Only 12,000 Miles.
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2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles.
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2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power.
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2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 - Gold w/Tan Cloth Seats, OnStar, All Power, Like New, One owner, Only 16,000 Miles.
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★★★ ALL OTHERS ★★★

2006 Jeep Wrangler SE - Tan w/Tan Cloth, 5 Speed,CD Player, AC, Nice Unit, Only 14,000 Miles.
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2006 Dodge 1500 Mega Laramie - Tan w/Tan Leather, Nice Truck & Loaded,One Owner, Heated Seats, Tinted Windows, Only 12,000 Miles.
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2004 Oldsmobile Alero - Silver w/Gray Cloth, Low Miles, All Power, Local One Owner.
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WHITE

Continued from page 1C

"I knew I wanted to take care of people in general ... and nursing is very whole-person oriented," he said. "Whether they can be helped or not, we take care of them, because not everybody who's broken can be fixed. It took me seven years of college before I realized that."

As a nurse practitioner, White performs many of the duties of a medical doctor. For example, he can prescribe medications, set broken bones and close people during surgeries. On more complicated cases, however, he is required to consult with a physician.

"I actually never wanted to go to school for my advanced degrees," he said. "I was scared that more education would take me away from caring for patients, but I learned that being a nurse practitioner actually brings me closer to them."

Despite finally concluding his formal schooling, White sees no need to decrease his workload. Until recently, he operated a clinic on Scurry Street and he still provides medical care for prisoners in the city and county jails.

And he plans to continue working at the VAMC.

"It is a challenging and ideal position for me," he said. "The VA has identified and streamlined what the national guidelines are for patient care. They're ahead of the private sector in that regard."

VA officials will highlight their facility to potential recruits when they hold an open house for nurses from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the outpatient lobby area.

Williams said medical center staff will be on hand to discuss available job openings, benefit packages and provide an overview of the system, which provides healthcare for veterans throughout West Texas and eastern New Mexico.

"We have 82 (registered) nurses on staff right now and we have openings for 10 more," Williams said. The shortages cover the medical center as well as its four community based outpatient clinics in Abilene, Odessa, San Angelo and Hobbs, N.M.

Williams believes the employment packages offered by the VA has allowed it to weather a nationwide nursing shortage in relatively good order.

"We aren't as affected as other healthcare agencies and that's because we have such great benefits and working environment," she said. "We're proud of the VA and we want show nurses around the facility."

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

Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday — Lunch, chicken strips, mashed potatoes, English peas, spiced apples, rolls and milk.

Tuesday — Lunch, nacho grande, refried beans, cherry cobbler and milk.

Wednesday — Lunch, crispy-chicken sandwich, salad, pickle spears, peaches and milk.

Thursday — Lunch, spaghetti w/meat sauce, garden salad, corn, Valentine Treat, garlic rolls and milk.

Friday — Lunch, hamburgers, oven fries, salad, chocolate pie and milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast, oatmeal, ham, apple juice and milk; Lunch, chicken patties, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk and hot pockets.

Tuesday — Breakfast, biscuits, gravy, sausage, grape juice and milk; Lunch, pizza, salad, oranges and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, French toast, syrup, ham, oranges, juice and milk; Lunch, chili-dogs, chips, baked beans, baby carrots w/dressing, Jello w/fruit, milk and corn dogs.

Thursday — Breakfast, Pop Tarts, sausage, applesauce and milk; Lunch, homemade burritos, potato salad, apples, milk and corn dogs.

Friday — Breakfast, pancake sausage on a stick, syrup, apple juice and milk; Lunch, cheeseburgers, salad trays, chips, apple strudels, milk and oranges.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast, cereal, yogurt, juice and milk; Lunch, burrito, Spanish rice, tossed salad, fresh fruit choice and milk.

Tuesday — Breakfast, cinna-

See **MENUS**, Page 3C



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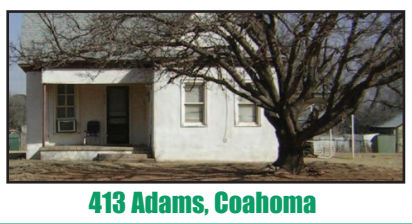
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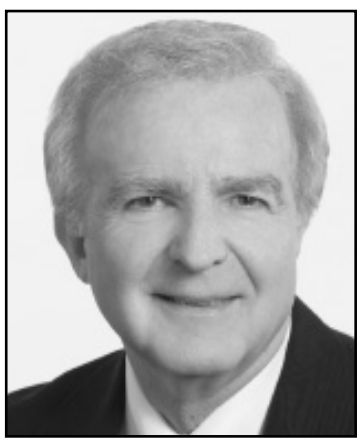
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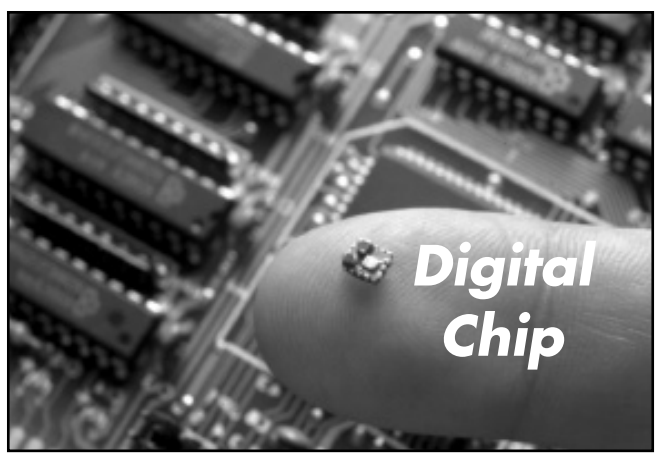


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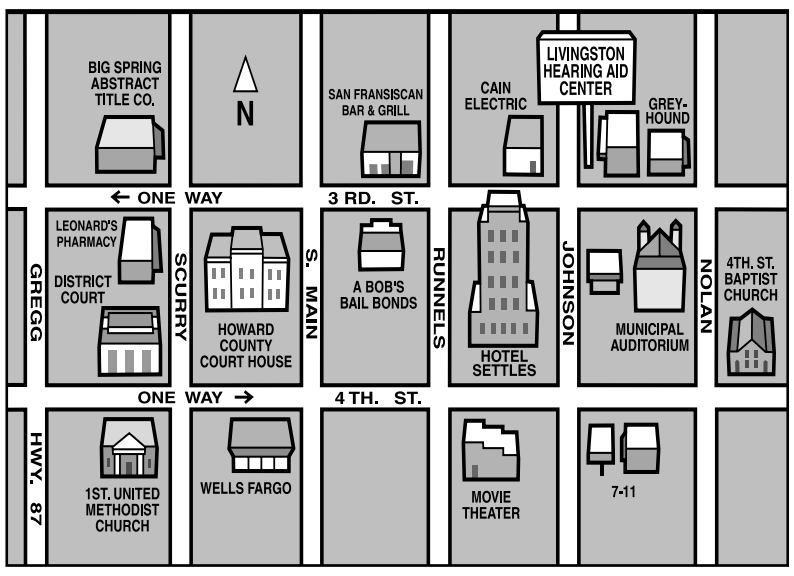
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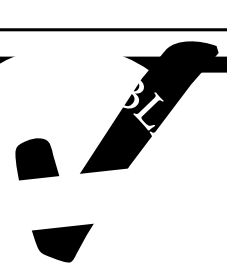


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Courtesy photo

The Panhandle Plains Student Loan Center awarded a check in the amount of $3,000 to Howard College General Scholarship Fund to be used to help worthy students in need achieve their higher education goals. Pictured taking part in the presentation are, left to right, Rebecca Villanueva, Director of Financial Aid; Michael Willard, Director of Student Services; Earl Hudgins Sr., vice president, Panhandle Plains Student Loan Center; Jodie Wright, financial coordinator, Student Relations and Loans; and Liz Adamson, financial coordinator, Grants and Scholarships.

VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 1A

a sounding board for their colleagues experiencing dating violence, will also act as intermediaries, pointing victims toward other possible services and solutions, Partee said.

Victim Services hopes to train between 10 and 20 students to become peer sponsors at the high school, then branch out with similar programs in Coahoma and Forsan.

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

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

head and face, but it was unclear at that point if the injuries were the results of an assault or caused by accidental means.

Subsequent police investigation resulted in Hildebrand's arrest on murder charges in late September.

If convicted, Hildebrand faces a term of between five and 99 years, or life, in state prison. Also, he could be fined up to $10,000.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Esequiel Valles, 75, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Delbert Burchett, 73, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Elvin Michael Griffin, 43, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Elizabeth Carpenter, 87, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 6:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Clifton Griffin, 63, of Big Spring died Thursday, February 07, 2008, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Delia Lopez, 76, of Big Spring died Friday, February 08, 2008, in Lubbock. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

for the abatement of the asbestos in three buildings — located in the 3600 and 3700 block of Highway 80 — during the court's last meeting, but whether or not the court will move forward with the demolition seems to be up in the air.

"It would be better to wait, that way we can see what kind of money we have left in the budget," said Commissioner Gary Simer. "This way we don't come up short (on the jail project budget)."

Commissioner Emma Brown agreed with Simer, but commissioners Bill Crooker and Jerry Kilgore said they see it differently.

"It's going to have to be done," said Crooker. "My feelings is we should go ahead and look into this and take care of it now."

The site, which was recently replatted by the court in preparation of construction of a new $11.57 million county jail facility, was approved by voters in November, with hammers expected to begin swinging as soon as mid-March.

Project architect Jeff Heffelfinger said tests showed the buildings had several items containing asbestos — from textured dry wall to floor tile adhesive and loose panels on the buildings' interiors and exteriors — and would cost between $30,000 and $40,000 to abate.

"The funds in the project's contingency plan will cover it," said Heffelfinger. "Asbestos was also found in some of the roofing materials, but its an encapsulated asbestos, so it doesn't have to be abated."

Heffelfinger told the court the only drawback to waiting until the completion of the project is the county's liability in the meantime.

"Because we know what has asbestos in it — for example, the tiles laying on the ground outside the building — we can't legally pick them up," said Heffelfinger. "If we don't go ahead with demolition of the buildings, we'll need to secure them so a vagrant doesn't end up going inside and getting hurt. My suggestion would be to fence off the buildings completely, so you knot only protect people from what's inside, but also what's on the outside."

Also on Monday's agenda, the court is expected to hear from county residents opposed to a possible disposal well that could be located northwest of the Alon USA Refinery.

"The residents came to us and asked us to put this on the agenda," said County Judge Mark Barr. "Kemper Operating Company is wanting to put a well — and I'm not completely sure if it's an injection well or a disposal well — near these people's home, and all of them have water wells, and they are afraid they could be contaminated.

"They asked to be put on the agenda, and they will have their chance to speak, but in the end this matter simply isn't in the court's jurisdiction. This falls squarely on the Railroad Commission, so there's nothing we can do about it."

Barr said the court is also expected to consider closing a pair of county roads during the meeting.

"There are two roads — one in Precinct 4, out in Vincent, and a second one in Precinct 2 — that we've received requests to be closed," said Barr. "We'll discuss the matter, and I feel pretty sure we'll close the one in Vincent. The other road, however, I'm not totally sure about."

The court is also expected to consider using movement-tracking ankle bracelets to relieve problems the county is having housing some of its female inmates.

"The other jails are basically thumbing their noses at us when we have a female prisoner who has health problems or is pregnant," said Barr. "We're going to look at using the bracelets for a kind of house arrest that would help with this problem."

Also on the agenda, Barr said he expects the court to renew the county-wide burn ban currently in effect.

The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

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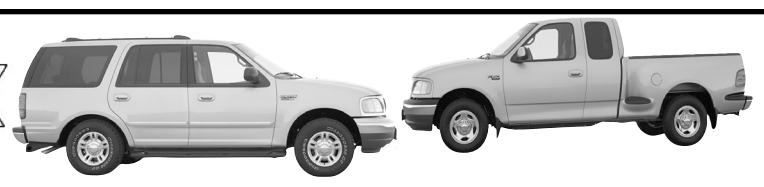
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A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The ***Big Spring Herald*** receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

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You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

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To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editior John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

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Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor at 263-7331, ext. 230.

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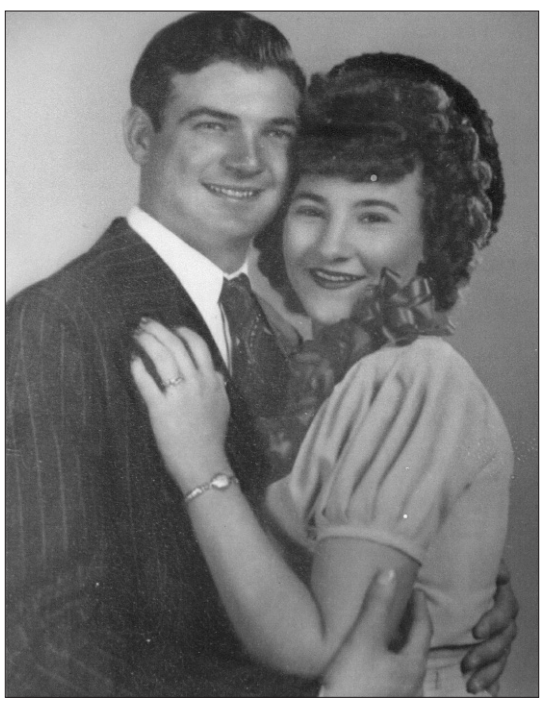
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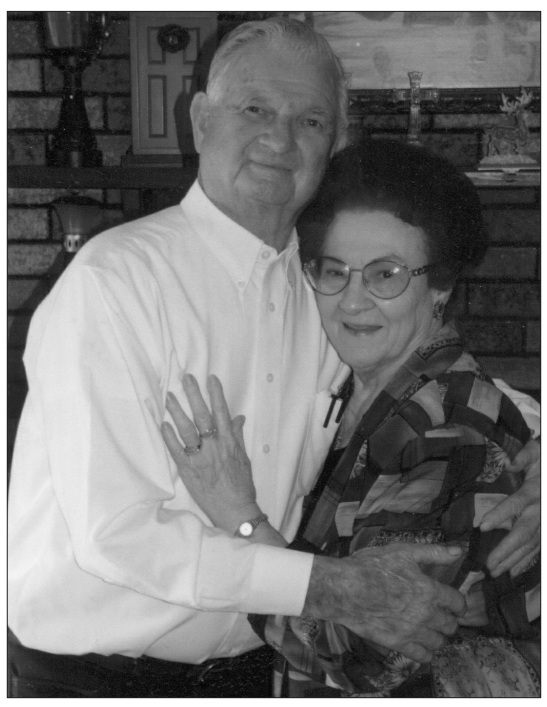
BIG SPRING HERALD

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Anniversary





Rip and Juanita Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis (Rip and Juanita) of Big Spring are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary by taking an Alaskan cruise, a gift from their son-in-law and daughter, Pat and Lee Gray.

The couple have three daughters, Janell Williams, now deceased, and her husband Howard Williams, who lives in Conroe; Pat and Lea Gray of Midland; and Cheryl and James Beeson of Big Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have seven grandchildren, Candee Williams, Bryan and Chad Harbour, Brent Newton, Cheree Reagan, Candra Conger and the late Brad Williams. They also have 18 great-grandchildren, two who are deceased, Dalton and Peyton Harbour.

Milton was born in Dawson County on Dec. 17, 1925, and was raised by Mr. and Mrs. Pink O'briant of Stanton. Juanita was born in Howard County to Herman and Mattie Wright.

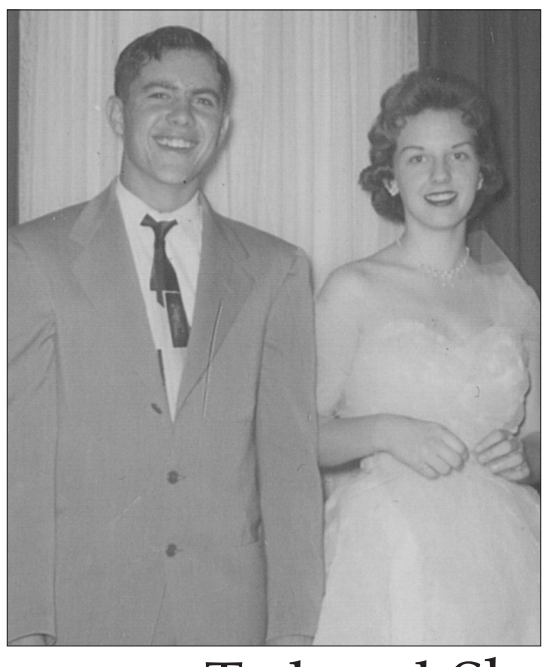
Milton and Juanita met at a dance in Big Spring and dated for two years before they married on Feb. 7, 1948. They have lived most of their 60-married years in Big Spring.

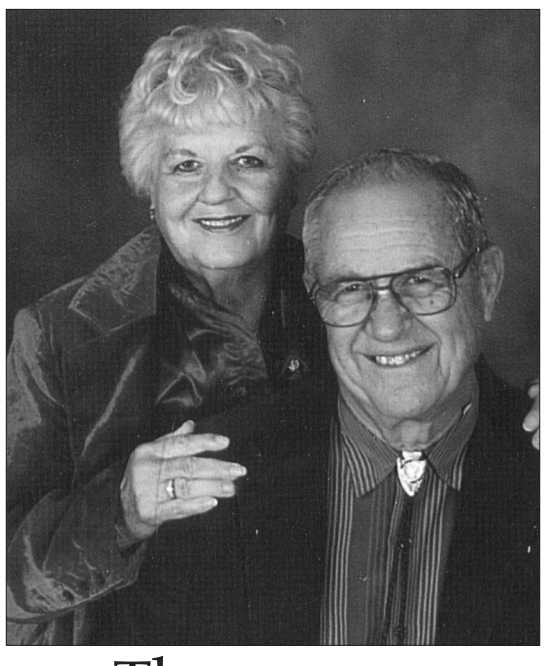
Milton worked at the post office for a year and went on to work for Cosden Oil & Chemical Co., later named Fina. He retired in 1982 and has worked odd jobs doing maintenance work for Sun Dance & Coronado Hills Apartments.

Juanita is a beautician and has worked for 52 years, owning her own shop for 30 years. She worked for Oma McCown for two years and Quitas and Pat Daniels for 20 years. At present, she is working for Niki at Hippy Chic part-time.

They are members of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church where Milton is a deacon and both sing in the choir. Milton's hobbies are deer hunting, fishing and football. Juanita likes sewing, decorating, cooking and spoiling the grandchildren.

Their secret to a long-lasting, happy marriage: "We put God first in our lives and pray together — Oh, yes, and separate TVs."





Ted and Sharon Thomas

Ted and Sharon Thomas of Riesel, formerly of Coahoma, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 12, 2008, in Teague with 50 guests in attendance.

Their children, Danny Thomas and his wife Alison of Greenwood, Earl Thomas and his wife Carrie of Teague, and Lana Thomas of Big Spring hosted the reception.

Ted and Sharon have six grandchildren, Megan Thomas of Amarillo, Lance Thomas of Greenwood, Bryan Thomas of Beaumont, Ragen Thomas of Teague, Keith Brockman and his wife Amber, and Courtney Randall and her husband Billy and one great-grandchild, Trey Brockman, all of Big Spring.

Ted was born in China Grove outside of Colorado City. Sharon (Roberts) Thomas was born in Frankell in Stephens County.

The two met while attending school at Coahoma and were married Jan. 17, 1958, in Big Spring.

They made Coahoma their home until 1993, and at that time they moved to Riesel.

Ted retired form Cosden Refinery in 1993 and Sharon taught in the public school system until she retired in 2000.

MENUS

Continued from Page 2C

mon toast, juice and milk; Lunch, corn dog, macaroni cheese, tossed salad, chilled pears and milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast, eggs, toast, juice and milk; Lunch, chicken stir-fry, rice, egg rolls, apples and milk.

Thursday — Breakfast, breakfast pizza, juice, milk; Lunch, steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, English peas, hot rolls, cookies and milk.

Friday — Breakfast, French toast stix, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, pizza, seasoned corn, tossed salad, chocolate cake, orange smiles and milk.

Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

Monday — chicken-fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked beans, buttermilk biscuits and peaches and cream.

Tuesday: chicken spaghetti, capri blend vegetables, tossed salad, garlic bread and blushing pear halves.

Wednesday — baked ham, roasted potatoes, seasoned cabbage, tossed salad, wheat rolls and chocolate pie.

Thursday — turkey and dressing, candied yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, whole wheat rolls and pumpkin crisp.

Friday — ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce and tomatoes, potato soup, crackers and fruited gelatin.

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3 Quit Smoking in Four Steps:
Can't go cold turkey? Cut the number of cigarettes you smoke each day in half. Then cut that number in half, and again, and again. Soon you'll be smoke-free!

4 Drop a Pound or Two:
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5 Become a Salt Detective:
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure to join us for Monday's candidate forum

It might not be as entertaining as whatever cable television can provide, and probably won't be as exciting as a Howard College Hawks basketball game, but in terms of importance, Monday night's candidate forum in the junior high cafeteria certainly outranks them.

It's one of the first "public" forum to be held before the March primaries and we expect most of the candidates to be in attendance. It's a perfect opportunity to meet the men and women who are seeking to represent you at the local level.

And that is why attending this candidate forum is important. It gives you an opportunity to hear what each candidate has to say, and allows you to visit with the afterward.

As it has been set up by the sponsor, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the forum won't be of the question and answer variety. Instead, each candidate will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and speak about their qualifications, issues or whatever they want to address.

Later, after that period, you the voter can take the opportunity to ask questions on your own, one-on-one, if you so wish.

Last year, a forum sponsored by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee drew an audience of about 130 people. And while that was considered a good turnout by organizers, one has to remember the people elected from this year's candidate field will be making decisions for more than 40,000 of us here in Howard County.

There are a number of locally contested races coming up in March, headlined by the race for Howard County sheriff and two county commissioners' seats. It's important that you get to know the candidates, then exercise your right to vote.

Remember, it's your voice, and whomever is elected will be representing you.

We hope you've already made plans to attend Monday's forum at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria. If not, there's still time.

To be honest, we can't think of a better way for voters to spend 90 minutes or so Monday night.

It might not be a movie or a basketball game, but this forum is much, much more important.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, have the vision of what is possible. May we have faith in Your vision.

Amen

McCain, the anti-conservative

It's true that McCain is unpopular with Reagan conservatives because he decidedly is not, on far too many issues, a Reagan conservative. But it's more than that. He is the anti-conservative. He instinctively sides against conservatives and relishes poking them in the eye.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

He enjoys cavorting and colluding with our political enemies and basks in the fawning attention they give him. Adding insult to injury, he now pretends to be the very thing he is not: an across-the-board Reagan conservative. This fraudulent pretense inspires fundamental distrust among Reagan conservatives.

Consider: Robert Novak has corroborated John Fund's account of McCain dissing Samuel Alito as too conservative, or as "wearing his conservatism on his sleeve." True, McCain voted to confirm Alito, but that's a far cry from nominating such a judge in the first place.

McCain's characterization of Alito is troubling on another level, as well. There is a difference between a judicial-restraint philosophy and judicial activism that promotes conservatism. McCain wholly ignores that distinction and echoes the liberal line of disinformation that judges like Alito are conservative activists. This type of thinking is born of liberal instincts; McCain often thinks like a liberal.

That's unfair, you say? Well, isn't it true? Doesn't he have liberal instincts, or at least an irrepressible desire for liberal approval on global warming? Don't liberal assumptions underlie his crusade for campaign-finance reform?

How many times have we heard him say: "Money corrupts all of us. We need to get money out of politics"? Assuming he really believes money ineluctably poisons every politician, it is astonishingly naive to believe such ubiquitous corruption can be eradicated with a mere finger on the dike aimed at restricting certain avenues where money enters the process. It's as insultingly ludicrous as John Edwards' promise to end all poverty.

Plus, it's not as if the campaign-finance-reform experiment is just a well-meaning but harmless enterprise. On top of its woeful ineffectiveness, perhaps even counter-productiveness, it also has egregious consequences: It does violence to free political speech — the most important category of speech essential to the preservation of our republic.

McCain's tunnel vision on this and his refusal even to consider the speech-suppressing aspects of his reckless, utopian fantasy bespeaks an ends-justifies-the-means attitude, also typical of the liberal mindset. "We know what is best for you, so there is no harm in our beneficent suppression of the most important freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights."

But perhaps most troubling about McCain is his habitual resort to class warfare. While he now says that he opposed the Bush tax cuts because he received insufficient guarantees that they'd be coupled with spending cuts, his stated reason at the time was that they were cuts just for the rich. This is demonstrably untrue.

The reductions were across the board and skewed, if anything, in favor of the middle- and lower-income earners. Only liberals mouth these disingenuous and destructive platitudes — destructive because they alienate and polarize people, stirring resentment and demonizing producers and wealth. And don't forget that McCain was only one of two Republican senators who opposed the plan. That speaks volumes — and it should open the eyes of those resisting the truism that McCain is not a reliable Reagan conservative. They're the ones with blinders on, not those of us laboring to unveil the truth.

Lest you think McCain's opposition to the Bush tax cuts was just a single exception to his stellar conservative economic credentials, I cite the recent California debate, in which McCain similarly disparaged big business, profits, producers and wealth. This constant harping against the engine and fruits of capitalism is tantamount to waging war against the American ideal. McCain's liberal instinct once again rears its unflattering head.

Whoa, you object. When it comes to the most important issue of all — the war — McCain is more hawkish and more conservative than anyone. But even that is not entirely true on closer inspection. He's been good mostly on Iraq — from a conservative perspective — but very disappointing on opposing tough, life-saving interrogation techniques, in wanting to close down Gitmo, and in favoring constitutional protections for enemy combatants. Only liberals think like that. Only liberal instincts tell us that if we are tough on them, they'll be tougher on us — as if they need any excuse to be barbaric toward us. They just are.

It ought not to be necessary to have this debate about whether McCain is a Reagan conservative. Beyond the non-exhaustive list here, just look at the people who are constantly cheering him on — liberals in the mainstream media, Hollywood and New York entertainers, and Democrats.

Why?

Because McCain not only often thinks and acts like a liberal, he also routinely and joyously sticks it to his own team; he's the "maverick" — the anti-conservative in our huddle.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Kudos to those who worked at the park to get the water running like it is now. I am so very proud to see the water going from the small spring to the bigger spring. Water circulation is very important and a lot more healthier for the fish, which in turn, will grow bigger.

I was also very pleased to see a lot of people out there taking in the sights of the area. People could get better at tossing their trash in the barrels, though.

Tammy Adams
Big Spring

TO THE EDITOR:

While there is a justified amount of excitement regarding the restoration of the Settles Hotel by Brint Ryan's group, there are members of the Big Spring and Howard County community who helped maintain the integrity of the decaying building until Mr. Ryan rode in on his white horse.

Please don't overlook Tommy Churchwell, who had the vision to stabilize the building deterioration through the placement of windows in the facility. It was through the participation of Bill and Darlene Hipp at Quality Glass that the windows could be placed at a reasonable cost, but of course, without all of the donations, there would have been no windows at all.

In addition, the thousands of people who came through the Friends of the Settles haunted houses helped raise money for projects such as the asbestos abatement in the lobby.

Yes, Brint Ryan's company, with the support and participation of the community through Moore Development for Big Spring, will make the restoration of the Settles a reality ... but all of the people who worked to keep the old lady standing should not be forgotten.

So, from the chain saw man at the haunted houses, thanks for your time, your money and your efforts on behalf of the community.

JOHN H. WALKER
BOGALUSA, LA.

TO THE EDITOR:

The Big Spring Steers baseball team had a scrimmage this week. As I watched my grandson play, I noticed how nice the buildings look with the new paint. I was told that

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Stimulus package too little, too late

When I was growing up in Victoria County, the great majority of households consisted of only one working spouse. By the time the 1970s and '80s came along, it became necessary for both husband and wife to work in order to maintain the same standard of living.



JOHN SHARP

Now, workers in America have increased overtime to the point where they work more than 300 hours per year, more than workers in the European Union. Even that didn't keep the American middle class up with their previous standard of living. In order to keep up, they turned to their largest asset — their homes — and Wall Street and the federal government were only too happy to help. By promoting home refinancing with historically low interest rates, homeowners used home equity financing to pay the bills.

Now that home values, in many places, have fallen below loan amounts, that source of middle class money is dwindling. Now those families have both spouses working, many working overtime, have used up home equity financing, and all of a sudden Democrats and Republicans have realized they may have killed the "cash cow" of the economy — the great American middle class.

So, with no other way to keep Americans spending, no more family members to put to work and no more assets to borrow against, the politicians in Washington have decided they have no other alternative than to simply give the consumer $150 billion in tax rebates and hope they spend it.

Unfortunately, American homeowners lose $1.5 trillion on every 10 percent decline in housing prices, and in many parts of the country, housing prices have declined 20 percent.

Too little, too late!

From the Great Depression through President John F. Kennedy, Washington was keenly protective of the middle class. From the G.I. Bill to tax incentives aimed at the middle class, to low tuition rates and low property taxes, both Washington and the states catered to American consumers.

Unfortunately, in the 1970s, one set of politicians turned their attention to the rich, believing that if all was well at the top, everyone would be fine. The other set of politicians turned their attention to the poor.

Both ideals may have worked, except for one thing. They all forgot about the middle class.

They forgot how huge deficits impact the economy by taking huge sums of money out of the system just to pay interest on the federal debt. They forgot that when you raise college tuition, and even though you grant low income scholarships, the middle class can't afford it. They forgot that even though you grant tax breaks aimed at helping a Ford Motor Co. or a General Electric, both companies will soon fail if the American middle class can't afford a Ford F-150, or a washer and dryer.

Our federal government has borrowed and spent beyond its means for so long that it has forced its citizens to do the same just to pay for it.

My Czech grandmother was right when she told me, "When your outgo is greater than your income, your upkeep is gonna be your downfall!"

Unfortunately, when it comes to spending money they don't have, the only difference between Democrats and Republicans is that both will spend every dime Washington can borrow, but Republicans say they feel bad about it.

Too bad for America.

John Sharp is a former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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McNamee says he injected Clemens' wife

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writers

WASHINGTON — In the ever-stranger saga of Roger Clemens and Brian McNamee, the latest element to emerge might be the oddest yet.

McNamee added a new name to the list of people he says he injected with drugs: Debbie Clemens.

McNamee told congressional investigators he injected the Rocket's wife with HGH — at the seven-time Cy Young Award winner's direction — before the couple posed for a 2003 Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition photo shoot, a lawyer familiar with his testimony said Friday.

The lawyer spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of Thursday's testimony have not been publicly released. McNamee's statements about Debbie Clemens were first reported by the New York Daily News on its Web site Friday.

Roger Clemens and McNamee are scheduled to testify publicly Wednesday at a hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. McNamee told baseball investigator George Mitchell that he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids and HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001, allegations the star pitcher repeatedly has denied.

Clemens did not comment on the latest accusation, which came out as he wrapped up a second day of face-to-face meetings with members of Congress. Clemens' lawyers, Rusty Hardin and Lanny Breuer, did not directly address the issue when asked about it.

"Did Roger get the Cy Young 'cause his wife took the HGH?" Breuer asked.

Referring to McNamee, Hardin said: "This guy is a colossal liar, and he has absolutely no shame."

Asked specifically about the portion of the report that said Clemens played a role in what happened, Hardin said: "To say that Roger directed that kind of thing is a colossal lie."

Members of the committee and their staff are not supposed to discuss what is said at a congressional deposition; a witness and his lawyers may.

"I will not confirm or deny it. I think it's inappropriate for any purported testimony from yesterday to be revealed," said one of McNamee's lawyers, Richard Emery. "The issue in this case is Roger Clemens' use of

See **STEROIDS**, Page 5B

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

When asked what his four seniors — Clemons, Lance Gross, Phillips, and Walker — have meant to him this season Morris was quick to respond.

"They have meant everything to this team," he raved. "They have provided offense, defense, some great leadership and even comic relief at times."

Clemons led the way for the Steers with a game-high 25 points while Walker poured in 18 of his own.

Tyrone Clemons and Phillips also hit the double-figures mark, scoring 10 apiece.

Gross scored eight points in his final game as a Big Spring Steer.

Big Spring returns seven lettermen next season.

The Steers finish this season 12-15 overall and 2-6 in District 4-4A play. They won their last two district games and led in the third or fourth quarter of all but two of their six district losses.

Plainview	**11**	**21**	**18**
13—63			
Big Spring	**16**	**20**	**20**
28—84			

Plainview: Miller 19, Dulakis 3, Lopez 2, Egnew 11, Boram 12, Carter 8, Richards 8.

Big Spring (12-15, 2-6): Terrance Clemons 25, Lance Gross 8, Jerrell Williams 6, Tyrone Clemons 10, Hayden Phillips 10, Jason Walker 18, Matt Ritchey 2, Sidney Parker 5.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

side to take that away from them then they start pushing the ball inside. They're very well coached to do that."

"They play very good defense as well," Nichols said. "We didn't want to have to set up in a half-court defense if we didn't have to. We wanted to run on them and we did for the most part. We played real well."

Coahoma pushed its lead back to 10 points by the end of the third period and jumped out to a 16-4 run to open the fourth for a 67-45 lead with 4:10 left to play.

The Bulldogs size advantage keyed the pivotal run as their front-court made up of Cody Sheppard, Colter Morgan and Matthew Tatum started to take over the game.

"Cody did a good job coming off the bench," Nichols said. "Colter had a good game with a lot of rebounds. Matthew owned the boards in the first half."

Sheppard scored a game-high 20 points, Tatum added 18 and Morgan chipped in 13. Josh Paniagua also reached double figures with 10 points.

The Bulldogs host Stamford to end the regular season and need a win and a Haskell loss to long-time Coahoma rival Stanton Tuesday in order to force a one-game playoff with Haskell for the top seed in the district and a share of the district title.

"We're trying to stay focused and have a good practice Monday," Nichols said. "We're getting at least a second place finish and we can only hope for a shot at playing for the first seed. These last couple of games can be dangerous for us because both are eliminated mathematically from the playoffs and we're in. I wasn't sure how we'd respond to that, but I was very pleased with what we did."

Coahoma	**18**	**17**	**16**	**22—73**
Colorado City	**9**	**14**	**18**	**14—55**

Coahoma (20-6, 11-2): Josh Paniagua 10, Josh Jones 2, Colter Morgan 13, Logan Stone 3, Matt Tatum 18, Jovi Paniagua 7, Cody Sheppard 20.

Colorado City: N. Reyna 1, Espinoza 3, Sowa 4, Free 9, S. Reyna 6, White 16, Garza 5, Higgins 9, Owens 2.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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

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

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

ence strengths of each team showed Friday night at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in Big Spring on the campus of Howard College.

"I dare say that no one will be able to press us like Plainview was able to press us," Sumrall said. "Hopefully when we see some pressure down the line here in the playoffs it will not have quite the effect."

Plainview's pressure put Coahoma down early 14-2, and finished the first quarter trailing 18-4.

"They came out and got after us right off the start in the first three minutes and we were like, wow," Sumrall stated.

Coahoma went into the halftime trailing 34-10 and were outscored 18-5 in the third quarter to trail 52-15 heading into the final stanza. In the fourth quarter Coahoma's strength became evident as the Bulldogettes were able to utilize their inside advantage and 6-5 senior post Heather Sheppard finished with a game high 19 points as Coahoma outscored Plainview 14-7.

"I thought Heather (Sheppard) played real well and we did a good job of getting her the ball," Sumrall said.

According to Sumrall, Coahoma will most likely play on Friday against either Alpine in Monahans, or at Brownwood vs. Blanco.

BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

after a Jeremy Robbins 22-footer.

But, Roscoe continued to get the calls in their favor and went to the line six times to the Buffs' one to end the frame, taking 3-point lead into the fourth, 39-36.

Bailey got going in the final period, scoring the Buffs first six points and giving them their first lead since early in the first quarter. Unfortunately, the Plowboys ran off six quick points of their own, regaining a 3-point lead, 45-42.

However, the Buffs drew back even at 45 when Cameron Parker, connecting on his third 3-pointer, tied the game with 2:38 to play.

A quick bucket from Nathan Atkerson gave the Buffs a two point advantage that they kept until Jacob Villanueva, back at the foul line, drained both shots with 1:07 left, knotting the score at 47.

After the Buffs missed the front ends of two one and ones, Roscoe inbounded the ball with :39 seconds left to play.

The Plowboys spread the floor as the clock ran down, playing for the last shot. Jacob Villanueva penetrated looking to either score or find an open teammate.

He found Albert Villa as the defense moved to cut off his path to the basket for a wide open layup, leaving only 1.18 seconds on the clock and taking the lead, 49-47.

Forsan was only able to muster a last second heave at the basket that fell short as time expired.

The loss means that the Buffs will have to play in the first round as the second seed from the district. They will meet the Iraan Braves on Tuesday, February 19th. The game site is likely to be in San Angelo, but will not be finalized until next week.

In the meantime, the Buffs will travel to Abilene on Monday to play a scrimmage with Santo out of District 12-1A. Gametime is set for 6:30.

Forsan	**10**	**11**	**15**	**11—47**
Roscoe	**14**	**14**	**11**	**10—49**

Forsan: Adam Bailey 10, Alex Huckabee 11, Cameron Parker 13, Blake Grantham 2, Jeremy Robbins 6, Nathan Atkerson 5

Roscoe: Jared Villanueva 21, Jacob Villanueva 15, Caros Perez 2, Albert Villa 2, Grabiel Cruces 1, Caden Smith 8

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

West Gets Caught in a Trap

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 3
♥ A 9 4
♦ Q J 2
♣ K 6 4 2

WEST
♠ 2
♥ K Q J 8 6 3 2
♦ 6 4 3
♣ Q 10

EAST
♠ A 7 6 4
♥ 5
♦ 10 7 5
♣ A 9 8 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 8 5
♥ 10 7
♦ A K 9 8
♣ J 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠		

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The squeeze is one of declarer's most powerful weapons when the proper conditions and circumstances are present.

Take this unusual case where West led the king of hearts against four spades. Declarer won with the ace and played the queen of spades, which held, and another spade, taken by East with the ace. When East returned a diamond, it confirmed the expectation from the bidding that he had started with only one heart and West with seven.

South won, drew two more rounds of trumps and cashed three more diamonds to produce this position:

North
♥ 9 4
♣ K 6

West
♥ Q J
♣ Q 10

East
♣ A 9 8 7

South
♠ 9
♥ 10
♣ J 3

South felt certain that East had the ace of clubs, since he thought West would not have opened three hearts with seven hearts to the K-Q-J and an ace on the side. It followed that it would be futile to lead a club at this point in the hope of finding West with the ace.

Instead, declarer cashed his last trump, praying that West had the queen of clubs, in which case he would be unable to find a safe discard.

And so it was. When West elected to discard the ten of clubs, South led a low club to the king and scored his 10th trick with the jack of clubs.

Observe that it would not have helped West to discard a heart instead. In that case, declarer would have discarded a heart from dummy and exited with a heart, forcing West to return the ten or queen of clubs, also handing South his 10th trick.

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

most of the kids kept saying thank you for making the field a place they could be proud of.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Coach Otto, Coach Olivas, Becky Otto and all the parents who gave their time to make the field a place we can all be proud of.

Last year I was really concerned for the future of our kids who participate in athletics, but I have seen a great improvement in the kids' attitude and their willingness to do their best. We have our new athletic director, Mike Ritchey, to thank for the turnaround. He has placed coaches in positions with the knowledge and ability to make our kids the best they can be.

Mr. Ritchey, you have definitely put pride back in Steers athletics. As a proud grandma, I say count me in!

DIANN NELSON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

The population of Howard County is 32,463, according to the U.S. Census. Hispanics represent 41 percent of that population. There are 17,000 registered voters in Howard County, 4,111 of those are Hispanics. That is a very small number! Of those who are registered, how many of those actually go to the polls and vote?

Howard County LULAC Council 4791 is working with the Howard County Elections Office to motivate the Hispanic community to get involved!

Su voto, es su voz! "Your vote is your voice!"

We are looking for people to work at the election polls throughout Big Spring. We need clerks for the primary election on March 4.

Clerks work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Elections Office will work with you about the time you can work. Training will be provided before the election. Clerks are paid about $7 per hour.

We also need clerks for the General Election on Nov. 4.

Howard County LULAC Council 4791 will be sponsoring voter registration drives throughout the year leading up to the General Election.

Be a part of history! Remember, "Su voto, es su voz!"

If you are interested in working the primary or general elections please contact: Saundra Bloom, Elections Administrator, 300 Main St., Courthouse Third Floor, Big Spring 79720, or call 274-2273.

If you would like more information on joining LULAC contact me by e-mail at council4791@lulac.org.

STEPHANIE RAMIREZ
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT
HC LULAC COUNCIL 4791

TO THE EDITOR:

Compliments are in order to all Howard County candidates aspiring to the office of county commissioner. Big Spring is fortunate in having any of them willing to serve.

Paschal Odom, "Mr. O" as many friends affectionately label him, is one of the candidates.

Fashioned in youth by the times of the Great Depression and World War II, he believes in spending thought and wisdom before spending his money or the money of anyone else. Yet he spends lavishly and generously in his time, commitment and dedication in volunteer service to his beloved community.

His personal motto of "get the job done" is a story and legend of doing just that, again and again as he goes from one community task to another.

After graduating from Big Spring High School, he worked his way through college to become an engineer. That experience left him with an abiding appreciation for the working man and woman. Following college he returned to Big Spring and joined the Colorado River Municipal Water District where he has helped develop water resources for Big Spring and other West Texas communities.

He serves on the Air Park Development Board, helping to improve Big Spring with more and better jobs. He has for years helped Pat Simmons in making the Festival of Lights an attraction during the Christmas season. When hang gliding competitions have been staged here, he has been a major part of those productions as a member of a Citizens Advisory Panel.

His truck is often parked for long hours at his church where he works on numerous projects and almost daily he and his dog "Bella" take their early morning exercise walk and tidy up the appearance of Comanche Trail Park in the process.

Despite his commitment to community service, he is a devoted family man and by nature a modest person;.

I hope you will all remember Paschal Odom when you vote. We have an opportunity to elect a quiet, humble, dedicated civic champion — a proven leader who has demonstrated by example that he can and will made a difference.

BOBBY MCDONALD
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to voice my opinion on the upcoming sheriff's election. I have lived in Howard County for more than 20 years. There have been a lot of changes. Some we have needed, some we have not.

A change in our sheriff's office is not one we need.

In talking to people, I have found most of them have an issue with the new jail and think it was Dale Walker's fault that the new jail was necessary. This is untrue. For example: Every year we have to renew our tags. We have to pay our property taxes and to run a business, we must have tax numbers.

There are laws we agree to. Just as Dale Walker has to abide by the laws of the state jail standards. The state inspects the jail to see if it meets with its standards. If it does not, the state tells the county and the sheriff what is required to bring it up to code. It's not like he (Walker) calls them and tells them when to come or that he wants a new jail.

It is time for Howard County to look at the facts.

It is very easy for our commissioners to point a finger and disagree with our future. Dale Walker is doing everything he can to help our county save our future.

When you vote, if you vote, remember to take a good look at who you are voting for. Is he a reliable, trustworthy, Christian man that will uphold our laws?

If a man can't abide by the law, he can't uphold this same law. It's easy to sit back and judge someone if you don't know the facts. Just remember, it's easy to talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?

MIKE SEELY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

For the last few weeks I have been trying to find a home for a little stray cat, but nobody wanted or had room for her. One person told me to call the Humane Society or the City Animal Shelter.

I did call the Humane Society, but they weren't able to help the cat because they were full with other animals hoping to find homes, too.

I really didn't want to call the city's animal shelter because while I know that they do try to find homes for the unwanted and stray animals they

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

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Wrecks, tempers provide volatile start for NASCAR

By MARK LONG
AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch were scheduled for a Saturday morning meeting with NASCAR officials.

It was a volatile start to Speedweeks and gave NASCAR a chance to show it was actually willing to let drivers be more emotional this season.

"It'll be interesting to see how this all unfolds," Dale Earnhardt Jr. said.

Stewart and Busch were involved in the second of two wrecks during practice for Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout, an exhibition race that kicks off nine days of racing at Daytona International Speedway.

Busch was blocking Stewart, and contact between the two cars sent Busch spinning into the wall. Stewart then turned low and ran into teammate Denny Hamlin.

As Stewart tried to drive to the garage, Busch caught up and twice slammed into the side of his car. Busch then blocked Stewart from exiting the track, prompting some of Stewart's crew members to run toward pit road. They appeared to yell at Busch.

Both drivers were called into a meeting with NASCAR. Jeff Gordon and crew chief Chad Knaus burst into laughter as Stewart walked toward the NASCAR trailer with a throng of reporters and cameramen in tow.

Fans on an observation deck above the garage area shouted encouragement to Stewart, including, "Get it on, Tony!"

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said officials would meet with them again Saturday. It was undecided whether they will be punished, and this gives NASCAR its first chance to decide how serious officials were when they said last month they will allow their drivers to show more emotion this season.

Friday night's confrontation between Stewart and Busch was clearly emotional, but NASCAR was upset with the bumping and banging under caution.

"They made it pretty clear that these two drivers are going to have to really think about what they are doing when they are in that race car," Hunter said.

The meeting ended a wild two sessions of practice for a no-points, 70-lap dash for cash.

"We are getting aggressive out there for not a lot of money on the line now," fellow driver Greg Biffle said.

Eleven of the 23 cars practicing for the exhibition were damaged, a possible indication of what's in store leading up to next week's season-opening Daytona 500.

The first wreck started when Clint Bowyer nipped the back of Ryan Newman's car, sending Newman sliding up the track and collecting several others in an eight-car crash.

Two-time defending Cup series champion Jimmie Johnson, Gordon, Carl Edwards, Mark Martin, Bill Elliott and David Gilliland also were caught in the wreck.

"We're going to see a lot of things like this happening because the drafting is so

See NASCAR, Page 6B



AP photo/Jim Topper

Jeff Gordon (24), Jimmie Johnson (48), David Gilliland (38) and Bill Elliott (21) crash Friday during a practice session for the NASCAR Budweiser Shootout in Daytona Beach, Fla.

STEROIDS

Continued from Page 1B

steroids and his failure to own up to it."

The committee's Republican general counsel, Keith Ausbrook said: "I have no comment on the content."

Clemens delivered his sworn testimony over five hours Tuesday, then spent Thursday and Friday doing his best imitation of a K Street lobbyist. He met with 12 lawmakers Thursday, then another seven Friday, meaning Clemens has spoken with nearly half of the committee's 41 members.

After McNamee's seven-hour deposition Thursday, his lawyers showed reporters two color photos they brought to the committee, showing items such as needles and steroid vials they say McNamee saved for several years and, when tested, will link Clemens to the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

"That was sort of weird, you must admit," New York Democrat Edolphus Towns said after his sit-down with Clemens on Friday. "For seven years, you hold onto it? That's longer than Monica Lewinsky kept it."

Hours earlier, his lawyers and a PR person in tow, Clemens made his way to the office of Rep. Danny Davis, an Illinois Democrat. That first meeting began shortly after 9:30 a.m., and Clemens did not leave Capitol Hill until about 4 p.m.

"It's highly unusual, and that's why I think one would try to determine the rationale for it. What is he trying to accomplish?" Davis said in an interview with the AP before Clemens arrived. "I am willing to hear him out and hear what he has to say."

And while Clemens was heading home to Texas on Friday night, his camp mentioned the possibility of a news conference Monday and more congressional visits Tuesday.

"I've met a number of the congressmen before," Clemens said. "It's been great. It's not my first trip to Washington."

Several lawmakers characterized the sessions as more social than substantive, noting that Clemens discussed his charitable work.

Others brought up that Clemens or his lawyers disparaged McNamee.

"The meeting was at his request, and only as a matter of courtesy did I meet with him," District of Columbia Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton said. "I don't usually meet with witnesses. I don't understand that they serve a purpose, because we don't do a hearing in advance of a hearing."

Also on the witness list for Wednesday are New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte, who acknowledged using HGH; former major leaguer Chuck Knoblauch; and former New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski, who was sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco to five years' probation after cooperating with Mitchell. Radomski pleaded guilty in April to distributing steroids and money laundering, and he led investigators to McNamee.

After talking with Towns, Clemens waited around for a photo op, shaking hands with the congressman but not taking questions from reporters. Before Clemens could leave Towns' office, two members of the representative's staff stopped him to pose for pictures.

A few times during the day, as Clemens walked from the Rayburn House Office Building to Cannon HOB and back to Rayburn, he was asked to sign autographs by people in the hallways.

The 45-year-old Clemens, who pitched for the Yankees last season and ranks eighth in baseball history with 354 wins, carried a black three-ring binder as he made his rounds.

"For me, the question is still out. The verdict is not in," Davis said after his 30 minutes with Clemens. "I'm not certain if he did or if he did not" use steroids.

Blum reported from New York. Fendrich reported from Washington.

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Howard College schedule

February

17: Free Financial Aid Workshop - College Goals Sunday: 12-4 pm in the Practical Arts Building. A free workshop to assist families and students in completing their FAFSA and other financial aid forms/applications. Call 264-5085 for more information.

23: Free Children's Dental Fair - 10-12 in the Horrace Garret Building - dental hygiene. Fun, games, and snacks for children to learn about dental health. Bring an old tooth brush and receive a new one.

March

7-9: Production, "Diary of Anne Frank"; Studio theater in Hall Center for the Arts; 7th and 8th at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday the 9th.

17-21: Spring Break

College Goal Sunday slated at Howard College

Special to the Herald

College-bound students and their parents will meet with financial aid experts at Howard College to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Sunday, Feb. 17 from noon until 4 p.m.

College Goal Sunday Texas and its partners will host free financial aid workshops at 38 locations across the state. Students will not only leave with a completed FAFSA, but will also leave with information about grants, scholarships, loans and other ways the federal and state government can help pay for college.

The free workshops — which will be held in the Practical Arts Building — are part of College Goal Sunday, a national program in which Texas began participating in 2006. Margaret Allen-Romero, the coordinator for the statewide program stated, "Last year College Goal Sunday Texas assisted more than 1,000 students at 38 locations. This year we expect to serve at least 2,000 students and families across the state."

Each year the federal government awards more that $80 billion in financial aid for higher education. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texans received $4 billion in aid last year. With a strong College Goal Sunday turnout in 2007 officials hope to remove financial need as a barrier to higher education.

In 2007, the event evaluations indicated Texas was meeting the goals set by the state and by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Texas ranked in the top 5 for three critical attendee target groups.

Texas reached low-income, first-generation college-bound students, and underserved populations as well as a high number of students seeking a bachelor's degree.

A strong grassroots marketing campaign was one key to reaching attendees. Additionally, nearly 100 percent of volunteers indicated they were well informed and prepared for the event.

Allen-Romero says the workshops "bring together students and professionals with the tools needed to apply for the financial resources needed for college."

Workshop locations, in addition to other relevant information about College Goal Sunday, are included on the program's website at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/cgs. For more information, call 264-5085.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

pick up, I also am aware that most of them are put to sleep because society doesn't want or have room for them — animals that have done nothing wrong except being born.

And because this little stray cat was such a loving, trusting animal, I just couldn't call the animal shelter knowing she might be one of the unchosen ones and be put to sleep.

Instead, I prayed to God to send one of his angels to help the cat and find a home.

I know God heard my prayers because that little cat that no one wanted or had room for now has a good, loving home, thanks to a kind-hearted woman named Joan, who decided that she had room in her home and heart for that little cat.

And I wasn't a bit surprised when I found out that Joan's nickname is "Angel," because I'd asked for an angel and God sent one.

LANA F. ANGUIANO
BIG SPRING

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sunday page 6b 2/9/08 12:50 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Longhorns miss on top RB recruit

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Texas signed a class of recruits built for speed and versatility, yet missed on the California running back that might have turned a solid group into a spectacular one.

Texas had made a hard push in recent months for Darrell Scott, ranked by some as the top running back recruit in the country, but the tailback chose Wednesday to sign with Colorado instead of the Longhorns.

Texas signed three other running backs — Jeremy Hills of Houston (Alief Elsik High School), Tre Newton of Southlake (Carroll HS) and Ryan Roberson of Brenham — but missed the chance to sign its biggest tailback recruit since Cedric Benson in 2001.

Newton is the son of former Dallas Cowboys All-Pro offensive lineman Nate Newton.

"It's more important you concern yourself with the guys you get, not the ones who did not come," coach Mack Brown said. "Lou Holtz told me you'd better worry about the ones that sign because you're around them every day for the next four years."

The Texas class was ranked No. 14 nationally by the recruiting Web site Rivals.com.

As usual, most of the 20 players are from the Lone Star State.

The only who isn't, defensive back Nolan Brewster of Denver, is the son of former Longhorns assistant coach Tim Brewster.

"We want to win a national championship with kids from this state," Brown said.

Brown's Texas-first mentality can hurt when he ventures across state lines, said Rivals.com analyst Bobby Burton.

Texas grabs plenty of homegrown talent, but Brown is usually too late in the game when he decides to pursue an elite player from another state, such as Scott.

"I think Texas needs to decide if they're going to try harder to recruit out of state," Burton said. "They can't just put their foot in and see what the temperature is."

Burton said the class Brown signed is impressive for its speed and talent at defensive back and on the defensive line, two areas where Texas could use immediate help next season. The Longhorns lose two starting defensive linemen and the secondary was among the worst in the country in 2007.

NASCAR

Continued from Page 5B

severe that there is a lot of movement going on out there," Gordon said. "I've been saying it's going to be exciting, and I think there's a whole lot more excitement to come."

The crashes sent crews scrambling to prepare backup cars and gave everyone a little insight into what kind of racing might come with the Car of Tomorrow, which is making its Daytona debut.

"The racing should be spectacular," Edwards said. "Cars are really all over the place."

When practice resumed after the second wreck, only five cars turned laps on the 2?-mile oval.

After practice ended, several drivers said some were being too aggressive, especially with a new car that was anything but predictable during testing.

"It almost seems like we were going for the win tonight," Reed Sorenson said.

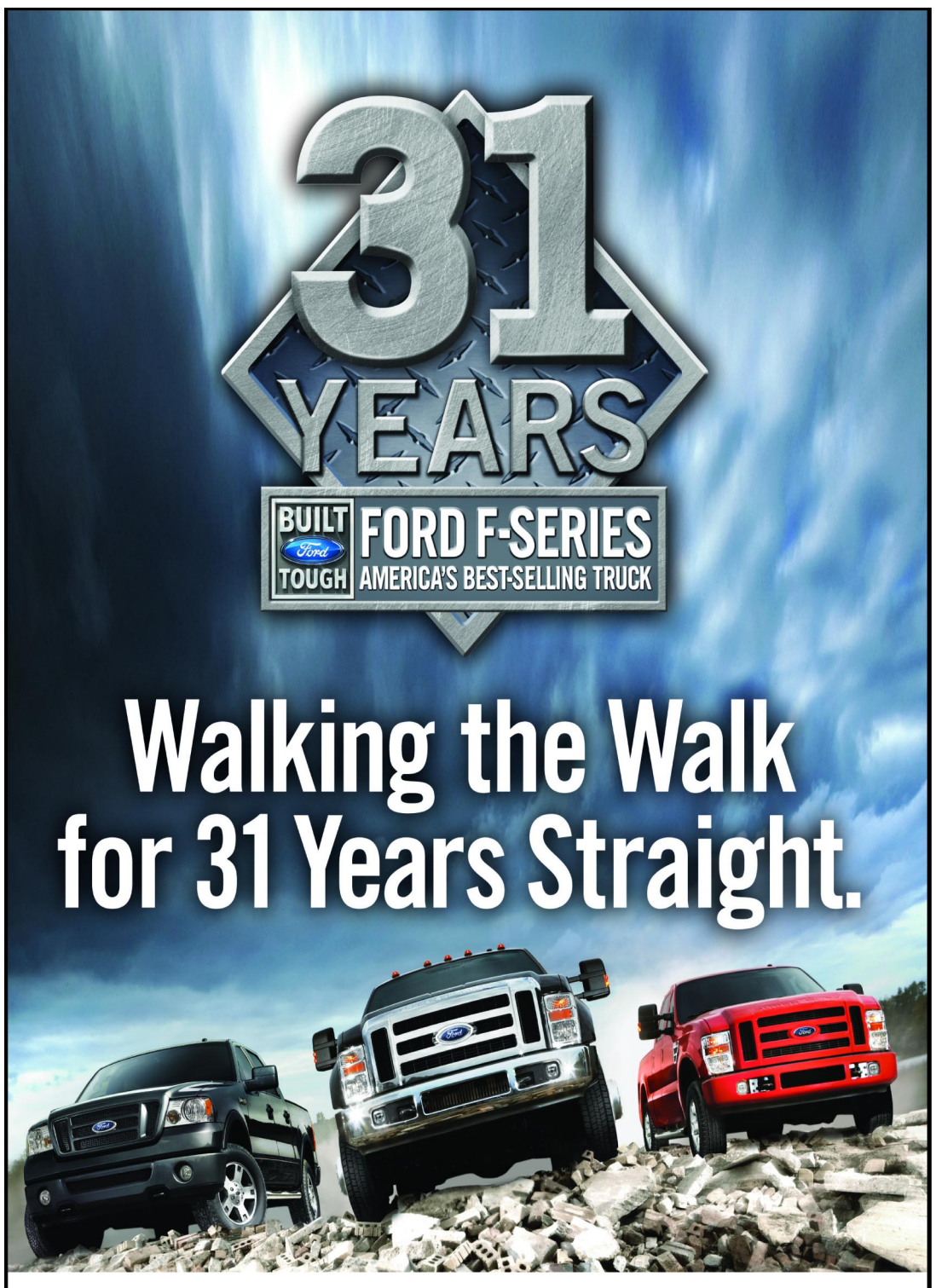
Guys have had their hands full trying to keep the cars in line, especially in traffic. And since testing included no more than 14 cars at a time, the practice session was the first chance to get a feel for bigger packs of side-by-side racing.

"It was totally like 'Days of Thunder,'" J.J. Yeley said. "I felt like Cole Trickle."

Many predicted it would only get worse when the green flag drops Saturday night, when there's actually something at stake and even more drivers trying to take chances in hopes of getting to the front.

Given the rocky start, there's little doubt the Shootout will be much more than an exhibition race. It promised to provide an exciting start to Speedweeks.

"Every (driver) will be watching, whether it's on the top of a truck or in a suite or in their bus watching it on TV," series director John Darby said. "They'll be watching it all."





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Genny Meyer, the new manager of maurices clothing store, makes some adjustments to the fashion outlet Friday afternoon. Meyer, who moved from Nashville, Tenn., to take the position, is originally from the Garden City area and is a Texas Tech graduate. Meyer is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the store, including sales performance, visual presentation and personnel recruitment and training. maurices is located in the Big Spring Market Place strip mall adjacent to the Walmart SuperCenter along FM 700.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Cotton outlook favorable for most Texas producers

With an uncertain national economy and volatile equity and commodity markets, the price of cotton is being influenced by many outside forces, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

However, even in uncertain economic times, the outlook appears to be positive for Texas cotton producers, said Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton marketing economist.



TOMMY YEATER

"If you're growing cotton, you are going to see better prices than you've seen in the past eight to 10 years," said Robinson, who spoke recently at the Texas Farm Bureau Leadership Conference in College Station.

Background considerations include:

— Across-the-board reductions in cotton plantings in 2007. All U.S. cotton acres were down some 29 percent with ethanol production weighing heavily in the shift of planted acres.

— Though West Texas had record yields and generally good quality cotton, lower yields and poor quality prevailed elsewhere in the Cotton Belt.

— Rainy conditions in China hampered crops in 2007, lowering yields and quality.

These factors, along with "jittery markets" where money is flowing in and out of agricultural commodities, tie everything together in the cotton price scenario, Robinson said.

"The March/May futures trading had prices at 65 to 66 cents, and the mills bought 500,000 bales of cotton one day," Robinson said. "The next day the market went up. Then the mills typically quit buying and waited for prices to take a dip. A lot of this is being influenced by the stock market and investment funds, too. When something causes a pullback, the commodities markets will react."

Cotton is competing with other acreage, Robinson said, and cotton is fundamentally tied to the stock market.

"New towels, drapes, clothes; these are more luxury type goods," he said. "If the U.S. economy goes into recession, this can have ripple effects back through the retail, textile and cotton supply chain worldwide."

Another segment to consider is index funds, which buy commodity futures attempting to mimic the Dow Jones AIG Commodity Index, Robinson said.

"All they do is buy futures contracts," he said. "They buy and hold cotton futures as well as other commodities. Commodity funds can give as good a return as the stock market, but it's also very, very risky. This is also why you see cotton prices moving up or down with grains, metals, oil, etc. These funds are stepping in and buying shares causing a reaction."

Traditional hedge funds, on the other hand, will buy or sell futures according to market trends, he said. Combining both index and hedge fund transactions result in a "swing with the wind where you see 3 cents, 4 cents, 5 cents and 6 cents in change when they are both buying contracts," Robinson said.

Nearby cotton futures prices are predicted to hold in the mid-60 cent range, though they could continue to rise considering carryover stocks were at 3.47 percent going into the 2007-2008 year, Robinson said.

"You could see trading of new crop cotton futures reach the low to mid-80 cent range," he said.

However, Robinson cautioned producers not to overextend themselves in purchasing new equipment, land or making other capital investments if cotton prices continue to rise.

"Remember, this type of market situation isn't going to last," he said. "Though you may be in a situation where you see that prices are high, the cost of production and equipment are rising, too."

Tommy Yeater is the AgriLife Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.



Courtesy photo

Scenic Mountain Medical Center recently honored its top employees for 2007. From left, Randy Vaughn, director of plant operations, was named the non-clinical manager of the year; Jill McLeod, employee of the year; and Jonetta Sweatt, nursing director of the emergency department, the clinical manager of the year.



Courtesy photo

Gina Salazar holds a plaque honoring her for 50 years of service to Scenic Mountain Medical Center during the hospital's recent awards and tenure banquet.

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of Investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.



Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.

Last week in Vienna, OPEC decided to keep its output targets unchanged. At a press conference, OPEC President Khelil said expectations for an economic slowdown will result in the cartel's production being sufficient during the first quarter.

OPEC's decision was rather easy. They meet next on March 5, and they did not want to boost output at a time when concerns about growth and demand linger. On the sidelines of the meeting, hawkish members Iran and Venezuela cautioned a production cut could be necessary should demand show signs of slumping. Meanwhile, crude oil prices continue trading around $90 per barrel.

As you might imagine, the price spike seen in recent years has done much to payroll the burgeoning economies of the Middle East. Energy Intelligence estimates Chinese oil consumption growth measured 5 percent during 2007. Similarly, total Mideast Gulf consumption has increased by 7.9 percent for the same period. This has made the region the second-largest contributor to global oil demand growth. Ultimately, the economic growth resulting from rising prices, will likely lead to fewer barrels being available for export from the booming region – a bullish sentiment.

Meanwhile in Iraq, two suicide bombers struck in separate markets. According to accounts, the bombings were carried out by two females wearing explosive vests. The areas targeted are subject to numerous checkpoints leaving the insurgents opting for vests rather than cars. The Baghdad attacks are the worst in months with Police officials suggesting the combined death toll could be over 70.

In Pakistan, the death of al Qaeda leader Abu al Libi has been confirmed. Al Libi was not a portion of the jihadist group's core leadership, but he is being described as a very important target who had recently taken a more active role in coordinating attacks within Pakistan. His death in North Waziristan, part of the tribal regions of northwestern Pakistan, is interesting to us.

Officially, U.S. personnel are not allowed to conduct operations in the nation. However, the U.S. recently indicated it was discussing the potential for American forces to conduct covert operations in the tribal regions of the state. Generally speaking, the U.S. and Pakistan have been unsuccessful in targeting al Qaeda in Pakistan. Al Libi's death is the first successful strike against the upper echelons of al Qaeda leadership in Pakistan in two years. The jihadists are protected in this region, and the militants have diligently worked to root out spies. Therefore, his death could be indicative of the U.S. working hard on the ground in the nation.

• The U.S. gasoline market may be impacted by a shortage of alkylate, an additive that helps gasoline burn more completely. Alkylate is a byproduct of the refining process; its current prices are 15 percent higher than spot gasoline's. Along with ethanol, alkylate is an alternative to MTBE which was banned a couple years ago. Alkylate is often preferred to ethanol as an additive because it has a lower evaporation rate than the corn-based fuel.

• The United States is hosting the Major Economies Meeting in Honolulu. There, 16 nations who account for 80 percent of global greenhouse emissions are working to craft a new international global warming agreement. Unlike other industrialized nation's, the U.S. has rejected the Kyoto protocol and resisted mandatory emission cuts primarily because developing nations like China and India are not subjected to the same standards.

• As we all know, the DOE has withdrawn support for a proposed $1.8 billion coal-gasification plant. The demonstration plant was supposed to demonstrate "clean-coal" technologies. At the plant, coal would have been turned into synthetic gas that would be used to help produce electricity. The carbon dioxide produced would then be pumped into permanent underground storage. The project is reported by Dow Jones as being plagued by cost overruns.

• As the international oil companies begin reporting 2007 profits in the coming days, a trend to note is the companies' inability to replace reserves. In an environment of increasing nationalization and growing competition form the national oil companies, Western firms are finding it difficult to have 100 percent reserve replacement. Instead, some companies are instead deciding to invest their capital by repurchasing shares or boosting dividends.

Portions of this article were produced on Feb. 1 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy A.G. Edwards. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G.E. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.

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Soup's on! Fund-raiser to benefit Carmelite Monastery building

Special to the Herald

The 19th Annual Great Texas Soup Cook-Off is slated for next Saturday, in the Martin County Community Center.

The benefit is the creation of the Martin County Convent Inc. as a yearly fund-raiser to help with the restoration of the historic Carmelite Monastery building in Stanton.

"Come be a part of this event and earn a year of bragging rights," said Keith Goodwin, coordinator with the Texas Pecos Trail Region. "The soup cook-off is a terrific way to get out your best recipe and compete with other chefs from around the Permian Basin for the greatest tasting soup."

The public votes for the soup of their choice and plaques are given for the top three winners and the best-decorated table.

Along with the soup cook-off, there will be a dessert auction.

The Martin County Convent Inc. is a non-profit group of citizens working to restore and maintain the Historic Carmelite Monastery. The group's goal is to use the building as an interpretive center on the founding of Stanton by the Carmelite friars and the school operated by the Sisters of Mercy.

The grounds are to be used as a native plant garden. With its four-foot thick adobe walls and Gothic pointed windows, the building has been described as one of the finest historic adobe structures in the Southwest.

"Come and participate in a worthwhile event to bring to life a part of Stanton and West Texas' colorful past," said Goodwin.

For more information on the cook-off, contact John Kennady at (432) 459-2686 after 5 p.m. or e-mail jkennady@esc18.net.



Courtesy print

WHO'S WHO

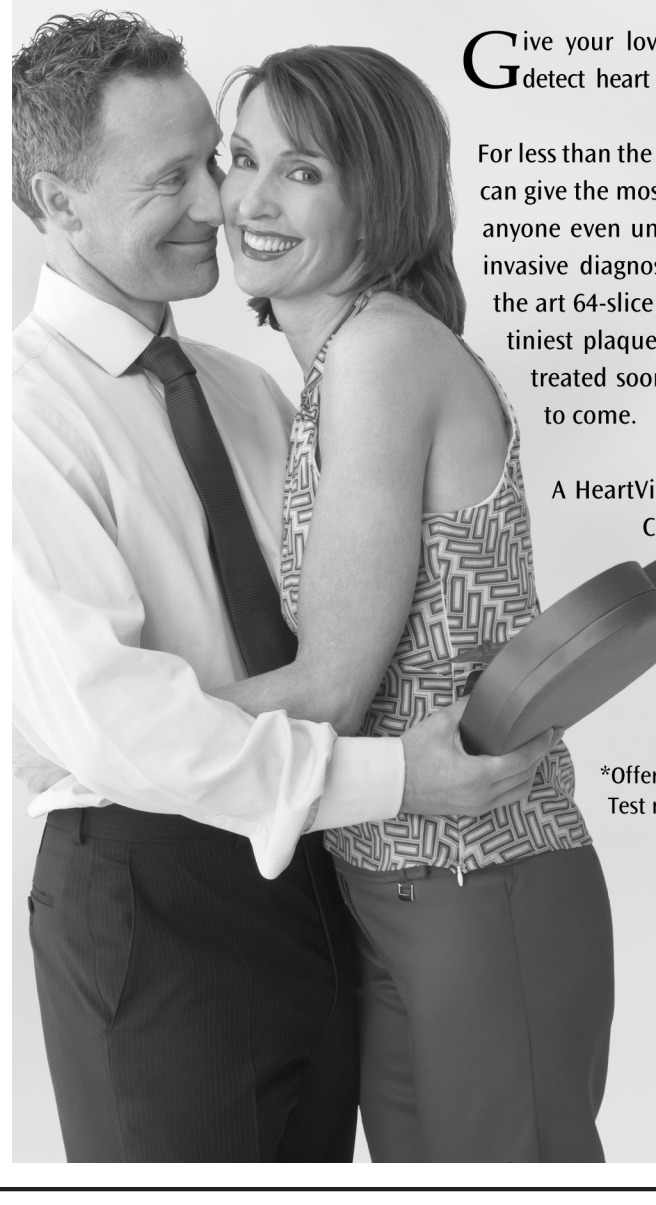
Ashley Francis Duncan is a 2008 debutante presented by The Dallas Symphony Orchestra League on Feb. 9. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Murray Duncan. She is the grandaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Langley.

Ashley is a graduate of Highland Park High School and is currently a sophomore at the University of Mississippi.



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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:
Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
Andrea Clardy, 2401 Ave. L, Snyder
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos, Midland
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave., San Antonio
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder
Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Lucas Shane Hughes, #1 Courtney Place No. 7, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy. 7, La Grange
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Rios Lisa L. Ovalle, 1510 Oriole, Big Spring
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford, Big Spring
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, Big Spring
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 1810 Owens, Big Spring
Keyana Cooley Rincker, 1905 Wasson Apt. 56, Big Spring
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustabo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. G, Lamesa
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Steven G. Ross, 60 Cinamon Lane, San Angelo
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Crystal Ann Schneider, P.O. Box 844, Coahoma
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Syretta Diane Shellman, 1101 N. Goliad, Big Spring
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Tonya Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Bernest Elgen Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

County Court Decisions:
Judgment and Sentence: Martha Merworth, theft - more than $50 less than $500, $366 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Christopher Lynn Fair, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone, $750 fine, $326 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Henry Castillo, bail jumping - failure to appear, $344 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Israel Flores Jr., driving while intoxicated, $500 fine, $393 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Curtis Wayne Culver, theft by check - more than $20 less than $500, $500 fine, $326 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Christopher Castanuela, driving while intoxicated, $1,500 fine, $391 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Probated Judgment: Christopher Castanuela, driving while license invalid, $250 fine, $276 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Probated Judgment: James Cantu, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, $1,500 fine, $276 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Mark Edwards, theft - more than $500 less than $1,500, $500 fine, $388 court costs, 180 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Gary Lee Louis, cruelty to animals, $100 fine, $276 court costs.
Probated Judgment: Melissa Ann Puga, driving while intoxicated, $750 fine, $443 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 6 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Curtis Bolton Maxwell, criminal trespass of a habitation, $500 fine, $276 court costs, 45 days in jail.
Probated Judgment: Lester Claude Duffer, failure to identify - giving false information, $500 fine, $276 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Jeremy Myers, deadly conduct, $3,000 fine, $228 court costs.

District Court Filings:
Howard County vs. Florencio M. Carillo, taxes.
Howard County vs. Paul Cline and Andra D. Cline, taxes.
Howard County vs. Chona Delosantos, taxes.
Howard County vs. Leonel Garcia and Janie R. Garcia, taxes.
Howard County vs. Georgia Jackson, taxes.
Howard County vs. Andy Lopez, taxes.
Howard County vs. Luis Rios Jr. and Janie Rios, taxes.
Howard County vs. Jose A. Hernandez, taxes.
Howard County vs. George David Summers, taxes.
Howard County vs. Steve Valencia and Delma Valencia, taxes.
Howard County vs. B&B Roofing and Construction Inc., taxes.
Howard County vs. Big Spring Auto Electric, taxes.
Howard County vs. Q.T. Coats Jr. (DBA A Timeless Design), taxes.
Howard County vs. Frank Sanchez and Monica Sanchez, taxes.
Howard County vs. Tommy Soto, taxes.
Howard County vs. Sylvia Sanchez, taxes.
Howard County vs. Ernest Strickland, taxes.
Howard County vs. Gerald Leclair (DBA Leclaire & Associates) and Vicki Lynn Hull Leclair, taxes.
Howard County vs. Angelita Robles, taxes.
Howard County vs. Candy Stansel, taxes.
Kelli Kemper vs. Chad Kemper, divorce.
Ginni K. Smith vs. Kendall V. Smith, divorce.
Commercial State Bank vs. Berry Croft, accounts, notes and contracts.
Lorena Vasquez vs. Guadalupe Moreno Jr., divorce.
Jenni L. Wegner vs. Heath Alan Wegner, protective order.
Jenni L. Wegner vs. Heath Alan Wegner, divorce.
Nancy A. Guerra vs. Ector Guerra, divorce.
Fermando Ortega Molina vs. Evelyn Garcia, divorce.
Cassandra May McCullough vs. Justin Andrew Plaia, divorce.
Peggy Melissa Porras vs. Larry S. Porras, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:
Jose Roberto Hernandez, 26, and Megan Danielle Carrillo, 19, both of Big Spring.
Justin Michael Green, 23, and Elizabeth Ann Mumford, 31, both of Hastings, N.Y.
Scotty Joe Bryant, 30, and Krystal Jeane Coley, 25, both of Big Spring.
Randy Clinton, 48, and Lydia Marie Sparks, 52, both of Big Spring.
Billy Joe Nelson, 35, of Big Spring, and Jamie Rae Flemster, 31, of Texarkana.
Robert H. Kloepter Jr., 50, of Big Spring and Natalia Kupchenko, 38, of the Ukraine.
Joshua Ontiveros, 28, and Angeala Ruth Jamison, 23, both of Big Spring.
Jerry Stanhope, 38, and Rose Leah Morce, 43, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Fernando Barraza and Alicia Barraza
Grantee: Estella Linfernal
Property: Lot 1, Block 2A, Belvue Addition
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

Grantor: Pearl Shifflett
Grantee: Julie Johnson
Property: The W/49 feet of Lot 20, Block 10, Edwards Heights
Date: Feb. 1, 2008

Grantor: Inez West
Grantee: Donna McIntosh
Property: The S/2 of a .4 acre tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Inez West
Grantee: Bessie Stoker
Property: The N/2 of a .4 acre tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Lola West
Grantee: Bessie Stoker
Property: Five tracts out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Christy Morrow
Grantee: Anastacio Munoz and Martha Munoz
Property: Lots 23 and 24, Block 15, Washington Place
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Diane Smith
Grantee: Amanda Harvell
Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 9, Wright's Airport Addition
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Robert Earl Green and Joann Green
Grantee: Laura R. McGee
Property: Lot 12, Block 6, Banks Addition
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Ray M. Smith and Evelyn Smith
Grantee: Michael Hall and Barbara Hall
Property: Lot 2 and part of Lot 1, Block 6, Washington Place
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Geneva Cox
Grantee: thomas Wayne Morgan
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, North McEwen Addition
Date: Feb. 5, 2008

Grantor: Walter Ray Pope and Loveta Pope
Grantee: Travis E. Hipp and Paige N. Hipp
Property: Two tracts out of Section 33, Block 31, T-1-n, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 6, 2008

Warranty Deeds With Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: John S. Flores
Grantee: Sondra Ripple
Property: Lot 4, Block 4, North McEwen Addition
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

Grantor: Kevin L. Ritz and Juanita Ritz
Grantee: Roy W. Reese and Teresa Reese
Property: Lot 30, Block 6, Monticello Addition
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

Grantor: Diane Smith
Grantee: Amanda Harvell
Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 9, Wright's Airport Addition
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Robert Earl Green and Joann Green
Grantee: Laura R. McGee
Property: Lot 12, Block 6, Banks Addition
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Ray M. Smith and Evelyn Smith
Grantee: Michael Hall and Barbara Hall
Property: Lot 2 and part of Lot 1, Block 6, Washington Place
Date: Feb. 4, 2008

Grantor: Geneva Cox
Grantee: thomas Wayne Morgan
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, North McEwen Addition
Date: Feb. 5, 2008

Grantor: Walter Ray Pope and Loveta Pope
Grantee: Travis E. Hipp and Paige N. Hipp
Property: Two tracts out of Section 33, Block 31, T-1-n, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 6, 2008

Grantor: Shon Thomas Parker and Gay Ann Parker
Grantee: Justin Swafford
Property: A tract out of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 6, 2008

Grantor: Kevin L. Ritz and Juanita Ritz
Grantee: Jerry M. Rushin
Property: Lots 8A and 8B, Block 7, Capehart Addition
Date: Feb. 6, 2008

Grantor: Jeremy Terry, Shannon Terry and Jerry Simmons
Grantee: SKM Ranch LLC
Property: A 315 acre tract out of Section 34, Block 31, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

Grantor: Machelle Williams
Grantee: Rose Cunningham
Property: Lot 3, Block 5, College Heights
Date: Feb. 1, 2008

Grantor: Theda Broughton
Grantee: Frank Long and Glenda Long
Property: Two tracts out of Sections 22 and 23, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 1, 2008

Grantor: Tran Rose Chau
Grantee: Gerald Lee Harris
Property: Lots 1 and 2, Block 22, McDowell Heights
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

Grantor: Sondra A. Qualls
Grantee: Manuel C. Cervantes and Michelle Cervantes
Property: Lot 9, Block 27, College Park Estates No. 5
Date: Jan. 31, 2008

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West Texas Centers for MHMR – Quality Service for Quality Life

West Texas Centers for MHMR

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ECI Family Service Coordinator: Responsible for assisting families in gaining access to needed services and support.Degree required (see above). Benefits. Salary based on early childhood experience. Travel is required and reimbursed at **.445** cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE.

ECI Licensed Physical Therapist: Full time or part time available. Responsible for evaluation of and direct services for children (ages 0-3) needing physical therapy services. Travel is required and reimbursed at **.445** cents per mile. Rental vehicles are available at various times. Services are provided in the natural environment. DOE

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Salary dependent on experience. No smoking at any time during work performance. Call Debbie Lindsey at 1-800-852-2193 for more information or apply online by visiting the website at www.wtcmhmr.org. or by calling JOBLINE at 800-687-2769. EOE.

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West Texas Centers for MHMR – Quality Service for Quality Life

West Texas Centers for MHMR

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Part time After Hour Crisis Worker: Will perform crisis response work for mental health consumers. This exciting, flexible position provides an excellent opportunity as a second job to earn extra dollars. Please contact us if you are a Qualified Mental Health Provider with a degree in a social service field.

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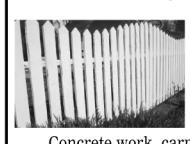
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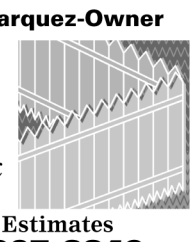
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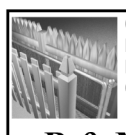
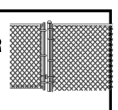
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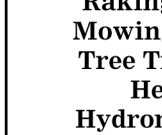
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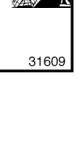
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Commercial Construction General Contractor seeking skilled project superintendents. Please mail resumes to: Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc.; 5206 West Wadley; Midland Texas 79707. Resumes may also be faxed to (432)694-9627.

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8902

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8905

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8806

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Outside sales, marketing and relationship building with health care professionals, community leaders and networking groups. Utilize a planned sales strategy to gain maximum occupancy/revenue targets and to increase the awareness and reputation of our residences. Give tours and close sales.

We prefer 2+ years of outside sales experience in senior housing or health care. Daily travel within the area is required.

Bachelor's degree preferred.

We offer a competitive base salary, bonus and great benefits.

Please email your resume, referencing **RSM Big Spring-TX**, to: **cjurich@alcco.com**.

NO PHONE CALLS or Contract Recruiters PLEASE.

Check our Web site: **www.alcco.com** for company information. Assisted Living Concepts, Inc., a leader in senior housing and health care in the U.S., values equal opportunity and workforce diversity.

Assisted Living Concepts, Inc.

Water Quality Specialist
Full time position requires Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or natural resources. Minimum 3 years work experience, self starter, ability to multi-task. Salary DOE, Vacation, Health, 457B, Defined Benefits Plan, Educational Benefits, EOE. Send resume to: CRMWD, PO Box 869, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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CHRISTIAN MOTHER with 5 month old daughter, wanting to care for up to 2 more children in her home. Mon-Fri. Please call 432-264-7222 or 213-4759.

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FOUND- LAB about 4 months old. Call 432-213-1387 to identify.

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8687

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Applicants should have a minimum of two years of college level chemistry, one year experience in an analytical laboratory and should have general knowledge of computers and Windows software. Applicants with a two year Associates degree or four year Bachelors degree in Chemical Technology or Chemistry are preferred. Additionally, all new hires will be required to progress through a level certification program and achieve a minimum Level III certification proficiency within two years.

Qualified applicants should mail or fax a resume to:

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Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 1311
Big Spring,Texas 79721
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FOR SALE: 1993 Red Club Car Golf Cart, 1yr. old. Trojan Batteries and Cables. $2,000.00. O.B.O. Call (432)267-7150.

MEMORY FOAM mattress. Never opened. FLAME RESISTANT. Will take $425..... QUEEN PILLOWTOP mattress and box. Manufacturer wrapped, warranty. $124. 806-549-3110.

MUST SEE formal dining table, 6 chairs, hutch/bufet. NEW, List $3450. Sell $999..... CHERRY SLEIGHT bed, new, $250., iron canopy bed, $150. must move. 806-549-3110.

PLATFORM BEDSET dresser, mirror, nightstand, new boxed. List $3995, Sell $880. 806-549-3110.

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TRAILERS FOR Sale: Heavy duty oil field trailer- 20x7, New 750x16 tires, ramps, tie downs, electric jack..... 5x10 Enclosed Moving trailer. 2002 Model. Metal floor, new tires. Excellent condition..... 600 Feet 2-3/8 oilfield pipe, good for fencing- $1.50 per foot. 1301 East 4th, Bill Chrane 432-213-0426.

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SALE: Reg. Border Collies, 3 males & 1 female. Call Raymond Phillips **432-267-8020.**

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12X16 FINISH building office or extra room $5625.00. Air-conditioning included. Call 432-213-0989.

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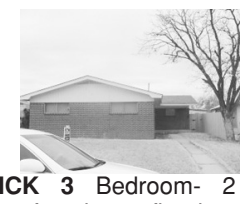
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2810 CORONADO Ave. 2700 sq feet, 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 3 living areas, fireplace, dishwasher, sprinkler system. $150K. Call 432-816-4029 or 816-5397.

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Real Estate for Sale



BRICK 3 Bedroom- 2 Bath Lots of updates, fireplace, storage shed, new fence, covered patio and 2 car carport. $69,000 Gayle Hirsch, Realtors. 432-582-0600.

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan**.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. $124,500.00. 4121 Theo St.. Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.

EXTRA CUTE. 3 bdrm, 1 bath. No Owner finance. Call for appointment (432)816-1464.

FORECLOSURE 3 bd, 2 ba Only $30,005! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

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2002 PT Cruiser Limited Edition for Sale. 35500 Miles, black, tires less than 1000 miles. Limited warranty on engine and power train. $7000.00. Call (432)270-7890.

2005 NISSAN Altima 3.5 SE V6 with chrome rims and sun roof. Good Gas Mileage. Very Clean. $11,500.00. Call (432)270-853l, 360-990-1767.

2007 CHEVROLET Suburban. Only 18k miles. Maroon, V8, OnStar equipped, electric. Owe $34k. I'll take the loss! Only asking $30k. Very Nice. Call 432-213-2689.

Legals

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law now requires the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. A 30 day filing extension is available by written request.

This is a public service announcement by the following appraisal district:

Howard County Appraisal District
315 Main Street
Big Spring, Tx 79720
432/263-8301

DUENOS DE PROPIEDAD PERSONAL

La ley ahora require que Ud. haga una declaracion de propiedad personal. Debe hacer uan declaracion de propiedad personal - por ejemplo, el inventario y equip utiizado en un negocio. Si usted no declara a tiempo, o si presenta una declaracion incompleta o falsa, se le pueda imponer una multa de 10 a 50 por ciento.. La declaracion se puede obtener en el districto de valoracion local.

#5677 February 10, 2008

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: J. B. BRONSTEIN

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Lot 1, Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 2, Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 3, Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 4, Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 7 (Less Hwy), Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 10 (Less Hwy), Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 11 (Less Hwy), Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Lot 12 (Less Hwy), Blk 10, Brown Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

N/60' of Lot 1, Blk 1, Lakeview Addn, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; Assessed Value-$1,500.00 Amt. owed-$489.49

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: $4,405.41, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against J.B. BRONSTEIN and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the 28th day of November, 2007, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. J.B. BRONSTEIN, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5473 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 17th day of March, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 31st day of January, A.D. 2008.

Colleen Barton
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.

#5672 February 10 & 17, 2008

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
Help **STOP** Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

TO: Alfonso F. Vera and
Diane A. Vera

if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendants be dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of said above named persons, and the unknown owner or owners of the hereinafter described land, and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees and devisees of the above named persons, and any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the land described in Plaintiffs' petition on file in this cause, to-wit:

Lot 3, Blk 2, North Side Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, according to map or plat of said addition of record in Plat records in Howard County, Texas; SAVE AND EXCEPT a ten (10') foot easement along the East side of said lot reserved for utility purposes.

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: $557.05, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against ALFONSO F. VERA and DIANE A. VERA and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the 28th day of February, 2007, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. ALFONSO F. VERA AND DIANE A. VERA, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5325 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.

All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenors, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 17th day of March, 2008 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 31st day of January, A.D. 2008.

Colleen Barton
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.

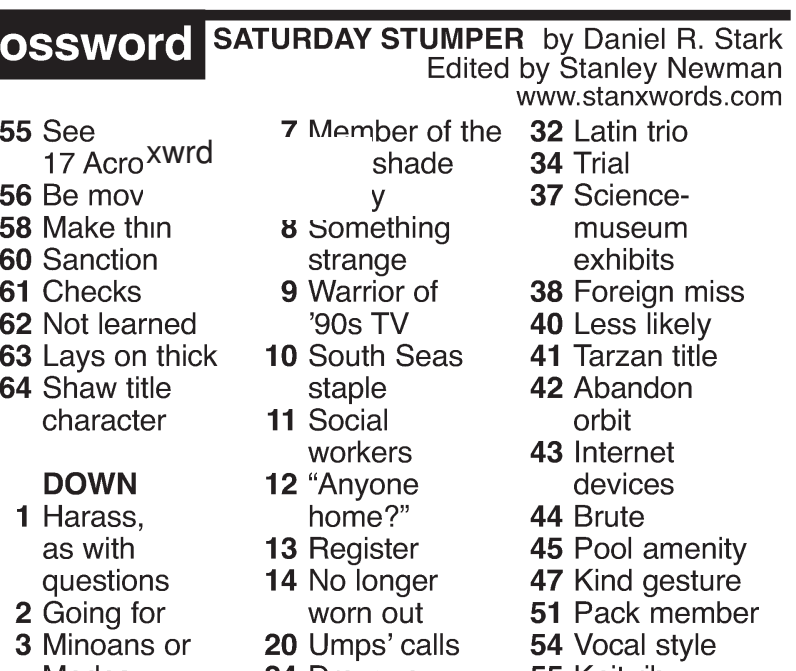
#5671 February 10 & 17, 2008

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Curt dismissal
7 Deduction user
15 Weather newsmaker
16 Private
17 With 55 Across, *You Bet Your Life* feature
18 Keeps an eye on
19 Less welcoming
20 Prayer-wheel turner
21 Try
22 Gaspé season
23 Frat letter
25 Root word
26 Bar stock
28 Ringlike formation
30 Convinced
31 Means necessarily
33 Real drag
35 NASA outfit
36 Spurs on
39 Management level
41 Less trusting
43 Knight's weapon
46 Appointments
48 Solo
49 __ date
50 Low ground
52 Hatchery stuff
53 Claims
55 See 17 Acro xwrd
56 Be mov
58 Make thin
60 Sanction
61 Checks
62 Not learned
63 Lays on thick
64 Shaw title character

DOWN
1 Harass, as with questions
2 Going for
3 Minoans or Medes
4 Ersatz pier protector
5 Still
6 Kid
7 Member of the shade y
8 Something strange
9 Warrior of '90s TV
10 South Seas staple
11 Social workers
12 "Anyone home?"
13 Register
14 No longer worn out
20 Umps' calls
24 Drew up
27 Brown, perhaps
29 Bar stock
30 Mess
32 Latin trio
34 Trial
37 Science-museum exhibits
38 Foreign miss
40 Less likely
41 Tarzan title
42 Abandon orbit
43 Internet devices
44 Brute
45 Pool amenity
47 Kind gesture
51 Pack member
54 Vocal style
55 Knit rib
57 Fishing flyer
59 What Freud called "ego"



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/9/08

Answer to previous puzzle

O	C	E	A	N		M	E	D	I	A		I	V	Y
R	O	U	T	E		O	M	E	N	S		M	I	A
C	A	B	L	E	S	T	I	T	C	H		M	E	W
A	S	I	A		A	T	T	A		C	L	O	W	N
S	T	E	N	C	I	L		C	L	A	I	R		
		T	E	L	E	P	H	O	N	E	T	A	G	
A	R	N	I	E			R	E	G	S		A	W	L
F	O	E	S		G	O	O	D	Y		F	L	O	E
E	S	C		T	A	C	O			A	I	S	L	E
W	A	T	E	R	B	U	F	F	A	L	O			
		A	R	I	E	L		I	T	E	R	A	T	E
D	O	R	A	G		I	A	G	O		E	R	O	S
O	B	I		G	A	S	G	U	Z	Z	L	E	R	S
M	E	N		E	S	T	E	R		E	L	A	T	E
E	Y	E		R	U	S	S	E		N	O	S	E	S

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom
ANSWERS

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

sunday page 8-12c 2/9/08 10:18 AM Page 5 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Like your personal life coach, the Aquarius sun specializes in turning visions into reality. Visions, indeed. Today's meeting of the sun and Neptune sparks consciousness to light as innovative spirits engender experimental attitudes, inspiring us to reach for the stars. So open your spiritual antennae, people, and receive the message of the future!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One-armed robots confirm that your ruling planet was once wet enough to possibly harbor life. And you'll discover today that your temper isn't as hot and uncontrollable as you thought. You're in total control!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Use your talent. Not once or twice but over and over. You can quickly jump from being very good at something to being a master. Tonight, share your plans. Loved ones find unique ways to support you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Throw open the windows of your heart. Bust through a previously limited understanding of a relationship. Shower the people you love with love. Your joy exponentially increases theirs.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you have no plans, no agenda, and no idea what the day will bring, you are in a good place. This is a recipe for adventure. Scorpio and Libra are your ideal company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know what you're doing, and you've set a nice standard of forward movement. Aggressive or eager moves only mess with your momentum. Steady wins the race. Continue in your patient, gracious manner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're unafraid. The downside of your bold attitude is that it leaves you perhaps a bit exposed. Act as a person living in a glass house should. Watch the stones, and make sure to be dressed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a vision of yourself in an alternate reality of sorts, with a different job or in different social circumstances. The land of could-have-beens is fun to visit but no place to live.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Recent events have enlightened you without causing you to be jaded. It's brilliant how you're able to hold onto your innocent wonder even when you know that this illusion is all done with smoke and mirrors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can now set a relationship on a better course. Act on your romantic ideas. Otherwise, they never become a part of your life. Shared activities strengthen the bonds of love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Give a pat on the back, an arm around the shoulder and praise for what was done right. These are the things loved ones need from you the most. Meanwhile, let someone else cook dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's much you can usually tell from a first impression. But you're catching someone with real potential at his or her very worst right now. So be open minded. This could be a future best friend. Never say never.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You need inspiration as much as you need food and air. Go into the world in the form of a sponge, ready to soak up any entertainment, intellectual stimulation and artistry you encounter.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Got vision? Get your Aquarian vision quest on this week, sandwiched between two eclipses (last week's Aquarius new moon solar eclipse and next week's Virgo full-moon lunar eclipse). During Aquarius times, everyone wants to know what's happening next. Vision quests not only draw on the spiritual intuition of Aquarius, but they also have tribal appeal -- to find our meaningful purposes in the world, we need the knowledgeable support of our tribes, our friends and communities. The shamanic rites of passage, common in many cultures, are often undertaken with the guidance of a wise elder intended to help one find his or her spiritual life direction. While traditionally, one would enter into the wilderness and stay for several days awaiting a vision, spirit animal or messenger to appear in a dream or meditation, nowadays we could unplug and go on a long walk, examine our nighttime dreams or ask a future-seer for answers to our hearts' questions. During Neptune's longer passage through Aquarius, radical ideas move like ripples across the ocean, connecting us to one another's future dreams. Are we the dream or the dreamer? This week, whether dreaming in a tribe of visionaries or on your own, it all starts with an idea.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Laura Dern may be a progressive Aquarian, but she thinks, relates to and feels the world as a soulful Piscean. With Mercury, Venus and her moon in Pisces, Laura might describe herself as an old soul with the spirit of a change maker. This year, Laura focuses on integrating her spiritual values into her life's work, an inward-moving process that subtly shifts her entire focus.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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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Legals

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own their residence on January 1, 2008, may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2005, or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now received all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below)

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead if they become 65 during 2006. Over -65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their area. Over -65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead if they wish. The taxes continues to accrue during the deferral along with an interest rate of 8% annually, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLE VETERANS

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121.

ATTENCION CONTRIBUYENTE DE IMPUESTOS SOBRE LA PROPIEDAD

Duenos de propiedades tienen ciertos derechos que pueden reducir sus impuestos

DUENO DE HOGAR

Usted califica para una excencion general, si es dueno de su hogar el dia primero de enero, 2008. La solicitud para la excencion es nescesario si el dueno de la residencia cambio de hogar effectivo Enero 1, 2005, o califica para excenciones addicionales desde el ano pasado. Un dueno de hogar mayor de 65 anos puede aplazar el pago de una porcion de sus impuestos si el valoracion de su hogar de residencia aumento mas de 5% que el valor del ano anterior. Un aplazamiento de impuestos sin embargo, solo pospone su deuda impositiva. Se aplica un interes de 8 por ciento al ano y se mantiene una garantia sobre la propiedad. Para applicar por el aplazo, contacte al districto de valoracion de su condado y complete la applicacion.

PERSONAS INCAPACITADOS

Personas incapacitados bajo la Administracion del Seguro Social califican para las exenciones de dueno de hogar. Personas incapacitados deben applicar con su districto de valoracion con su preuba de dishabilitacion del Administracion del Seguro Social. Personas incapacitados receiben todos los benificios en su hogar igual que personas mayor de 65 anos.

PERSONAS MAYORES DE 65 ANOS

Personas mayors de 65 anos o dishabilitados pueden aplicar para mas exencions. Usted tambien obtiene un tope de impuestos para el total de sus impuestos escolares si usted cumple 65 anos de edad durante 2006. Personas de 65 anos o mas tienen que registrar una solicitud por la exencion en su districto de valoracion en su area. Usted puede aplazar algunos de sus impuestos sobre su hogar de residencia si lo desea. Los impuestos continuan a pesar del aplazo con interes de 8% annual, pero no se hace sefuerzo de abrir un juicio hiptecario durante el aplazo. La Contraloria de Cuentas Publicas de Texas le podra dar mas imformacion.

VETERANOS INCAPACITADOS

Usted puede calificar para una exencion del los impetos sobre su propiedad. Debe tener documentos del Administracion de Veteranos que muestran el porcentaje de su incapacidad relacionada a su servico militario. El districto de valoracion solamente nesisita documentacion el primer ano de calificacion o se su tasa de incapacidad cambia.

TERRENOS AGRICOLAS O GANADEROS

La valoracion/tasasion come terreno agricola diminuye el valor imponeble del terreno. Se valora el terreno basandose en su capacidad para producir cultivos, ganado, o vida silvestre en lugar de su valor en el mercado de bienes y raices. Obtenga un formulario de solicitud en la oficina local de su distrito de valoracion. El tasador principal puede requerir que usted someta una nueva applicacion.

SOLICITACIONES PARA EXENCIONES

Copias de solicitaciones se pueden consegir en el districto de valoracion mas cerca de usted o del La Contraloria de Cuentas Publicas de Texas. en el 1/800-252-9121 Tambien se incluye solicitaciones para excenciones tatales para organizaciones religiosas.

#5679 February 10, 17, 2008 and April 6, 2008

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HOWARD §

By virtue of a ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 31st day of January, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 4th day of March, 2008, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO.
STYLE
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

T-4687
Howard County, et al vs.
Kenneth Wade
Lot 3, Blk 2, Highland Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-4794
Howard County, et al vs.
Macedonio Landin, Jr. and Mary Linda Landin
Being all of Lot 8 and the North 41' of Lot 9, Blk 16, Saunders Addn., City of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas

T-4856
Howard County, et al vs.
Randall Rose and Shavae Rose
Lots 12-18, Blk 8, Original Town of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas

T-4868
Howard County, et al vs.
Johnny Rangel and Linda Rangel
Lot 4, Blk 4, Settles Heights Add., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas; (Save & Except the E 60')

T-4893
Howard County, et al vs.
Angela S. McDowell aka Angela S. Yarbrough
Part of the NW/4 of Sec. 46, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

T-4903
Howard County, et al vs.
Jesse L. Blewett, et al
A tract of land 100.0' by 435.8' out of the SW/4 of Sec. 32, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

T-4906
Howard County, et al vs.
Sylvia Arguello
A tract of land 209.5' and 450' out of Sec. 42, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

T-4915
Howard County, et al vs.
Adolf Gutierrez
Lot C, (Save & Exc W/50') Blk 2, Highland Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-4915
Howard County, et al vs.
Adolf Gutierrez
Lot 11, (Less W/22'), Blk 102, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-4983
Howard County, et al vs.
William J. Dean
A 1.0 acre tract of land out of the West Part of Section 25, Blk 33, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas

T-4983
Howard County, et al vs.
William J. Dean
A 1.0 acre tract of land out of the West Part of Section 25, Blk 33, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas

T-5026
Howard County, et al vs.
Sydney Johnson and Violet Johnson
Lot 13, Blk 5, Avion Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5105
Howard County, et al vs.
Terry Springer, MD and James Fox
Lot 8, Blk 4, Central Park Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5119
Howard County, et al vs.
Loyce Jane Thorp
Lot 5, Blk 4, Thorp Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5160
Howard County, et al vs.
Miguel F. Hernandez
Lot 4,Blk 5, Government Heights to Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5160
Howard County, et al vs.
Miguel F. Hernandez
Lot 4,Blk 5, Government Heights to Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5232
Howard County, et al vs.
James R. Grant and Barbara A. Grant
Being a 0.27 acre of land out of a 2.0 acre of land in the NW/4 of Sec. 44, Blk 31, T-1-N. Howard County, Texas,

T-5250
Howard County, et al vs.
Leroy Hitchcock
Lot 1, Blk 46, Original Town of Forsan, Howard County, Texas (to include mobile home 14x76 LBL#DLS0017223)

T-5267
Howard County, et al vs.
Edward Jacobs, Vernice Jacobs, Christopher Evan Roberts, Allan Roberts Janis Roberts and Johny Puga
Lot 2, Blk 5, Tennyson Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5269
Howard County, et al vs.
Jimmy O. Johnson and Ann Marie Murphy
W/77' of the S/50' of Lot 3, Blk 80, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5284
Howard County, et al vs.
Jolene Miller
Lot 2, Blk 3, May Thixton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5299
Howard County, et al vs.
Jan M. Guzman
Lot 3, Blk I, Moore Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5307
Howard County, et al vs.
Simon Martin Sanchez
Lot 27, Blk 3, Wright's Airport Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5309
Howard County, et al vs.
Mark Smith, Leanne Smith and Ashley Smith
Lot 25, Blk 1, Bates Addn., City of Coahoma, Howard County, Texas

T-5313
Howard County, et al vs.
Miguel Reyes
Lot 1, Blk 60, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5330
Howard County, et al vs.
Cheryl J. Weaver Ward
Lot 5, Blk 1, Seton Place Addn.,City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5332
Howard County, et al vs.
Emmett Lee Warren, III
A parcel or piece of land out of and a part of Sec. 26, Blk 33, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

T-5344
Howard County, et al vs.
Stephanie N. Banks
Lot 3, Blk 1, Hall Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5346
Howard County, et al vs.
Alonzo Velasco
Lot 1, Blk 36, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5349
Howard County, et al vs.
John Arista
2 tracts of land out of Sec. 45, Blk 31, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

T-5399
Howard County, et al vs.
Ray Nix
Improvements only-House sits on SW/4 of Sec. 32, Blk 32, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas

T-5417
Howard County, et al vs.
Brigida Canales
Lot 15, Blk 5, Settles Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

T-5426
Howard County, et al vs.
Chester Selman
Lot 9, Blk 2, Denton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Witness my hand this 1st day of February, 2008.

DALE WALKER
SHERIFF OF
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: Dale Walker
Deputy

#5669 February 10, 17 & 24, 2008

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the State Property Tax Code, Section 33.06 styled:

DEFERRED COLLECTIONS OF CERTAIN TAXES

(a) An individual is entitled to defer or abate a suit to collect a delinquent tax if he is 65 or older; or disable Person and he owns and occupies as a residence homestead the property on which the tax subject to the suit is delinquent.

(b) To obtain a deferral, an individual must file with the Chief Appraiser for the Appraisal District in which the property is located an affidavit stating the facts required to be established by Subsection (a) of this section. The Chief Appraiser shall notify each taxing unit participating in the District of the filing. After an affidavit is files under this subsection, a taxing unit may not file suit to collect delinquent taxes on the property until the individual no longer owns and occupies the property as a residence homestead.

(c) To obtain an abatement, the individual must file in the court in which suit is pending an affidavit stating the facts required to be established by Subsection (a) of this section. If no controverting affidavit is filed by the taxing unit filing suit or if, after a hearing the court finds the individual is entitled to the deferral, the court shall abate the suit until the individual no longer owns and occupies the property as a residence homestead.

(d) A tax lien remains on the property and interest continue to accrue at a rate of 8% per year during the period collections of taxes is deferred.

(e) NEW LAW ENACTED BY 97 LEGISLATURE SENATE BILL 841 SEC. 33.065: DEFER PAYING TAXES ON THAT PART OF THE APPRAISED VALUE OF THEIR HOMES THAT IS MORE THAN 5% ABOVE THE PRECEDING YEARS APPRAISED VALUE, EXCLUDES THE VALUE OF ANY IMPROVEMENT ADDED.

Applications Forms are available at:
Howard County Appraisal District
Courthouse Annex, 315 Main Street
P.O. Box 1151
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151
Authorized by 1989 Texas Law Section 33.06

#5678 February 10 & 17, 2008

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BIG SPRING HERALD

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Take Note

• The Forsan High School State Honor Band will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Forsan High School Auditorium. The public is invited.

• A fund has been established to help pay expenses for Sean Bailey, 25, who was injured in an oilfield accident Jan. 28. He and his wife are Tressa are currently in Lubbock, where Sean is hospitalized. Donations can be made at Citizens Federal Credit Union to account 930442 to help with expenses. Please keep them in your prayers.

• Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair.

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is $10.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Big Spring I.S.D. *is looking for people interested in substituting for our district. To serve as a substitute teacher, an individual must meet certain qualifications and complete certain procedures.*

Requirements:

1. High School Diploma or Equivalency (GED)
   45 college hours

2. Complete application packet in the personnel office

3. Submit all documents required with application, i.e., copies of driver's license and social security card.

4. Submit a transcript of college work.

5. Have a criminal records check by the district (paid by the substitute)

6. Attend the on-line substitute training regarding the automated substitute system, Aesop, at the personnel office.

Substitutes for para-professional positions are also needed.

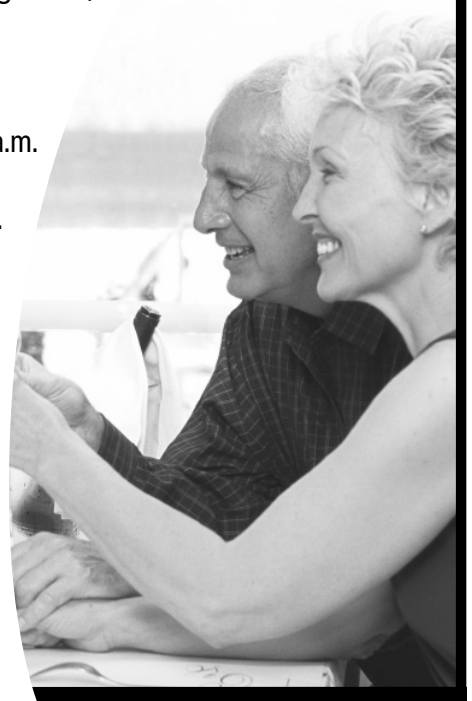
For more information, please call Terri Martin at the BSISD Central Administration Office at **264-3600**

8804

Something special's happening in the Circle.

February 2008 Activities

Feb. 4 – Games, 1-3 p.m.
Feb. 5 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Living Center, 10 a.m.
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., Spanish Inn
Feb. 6 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 7 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
Bunko, 4 p.m.
Feb. 8 – Lunch Bunch & Birthdays, 11:30 a.m.
Just Peachy Café
Feb. 12 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., Red Mesa
Feb. 13 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 14 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café
"Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
Feb. 15 – Valentine's Pot Luck & Bingo,
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wear Red!



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• Are you afraid to disagree?
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• Are you forced or pressured to have sex?
• Are you afraid to break up?
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• Does your partner try to control you?
• Does your partner hit, kick, shove you or throw things at you?

KEEP SAFE IN DATING SITUATIONS:

Know thyself - Have alone time explore your own interests, desires and beliefs
Consider Expectations and boundaries - Decide what to expect and what behaviors you will not tolerate.
Communicate expectations - Talk things out regarding sexual issues. Miscommunication, guessing or making assumptions can be dangerous and extremely hurtful. Avoid these situations by talking things out.
Pay attention to your feelings - If a situation feels wrong or scary, you may be in **Danger,** trust your feelings and get out of that situation.

Notice changes in your relationship - If someone stops respecting you and your boundaries, this person may end up taking advantage of you. Believe that it can happen to you.

TRUE LOVE / HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP means

- **No threatening behavior**
- **Respect**
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- **Gender equality**
- **Honesty and Accountability**

GET HELP

Get help immediate - Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counsel or nurse.
Adults are mandate reporters - This means they are legally required to report neglec or abuse to someone else such as police or child protective services.

If you want help deciding whom to talk to call our national crime victim helpline at 1-880-FYI-CALL OR LOCALLY CALL Victim Services of Big Spring at 263-3312.

9755

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'Tremendous comfort'

Dogs cared for by soldier who died in Iraq find home with his family in Michigan

By NATASHA ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS, Mich. — The family of Peter Neesley had one wish to fulfill after the Army sergeant died in Baghdad on Christmas Day.

They yearned to retrieve two stray dogs that he had taken in, and cared for. He was attached to them, and expressed in e-mails and phone calls how he wanted to bring them home to Michigan.

For weeks, the family has fought to have at least that part of Peter's life given back to them.

On Friday afternoon, their wish came true.

As Mama, a black Labrador mix, and Boris, her white-and-brown spotted puppy, hopped out of a minivan, the family ran and knelt in the wet streets to greet them.

Peter Neesley's sister, Carey, cried.

"It's been such a long, complicated struggle and to see them finally come home is just amazing," she said.

Neesley said things hadn't been normal since the family learned that her 28-year-old brother had died in his sleep.

The dogs were picked up in Baghdad this week by Rich Crook, a rapid response manager for the Utah-based Best Friends Animal Society, which helped arrange the animals' transport after learning about them from media reports. Gryphon Holdings LLC, an American-owned airline with service to Iraq, agreed to fly the dogs from Baghdad to Kuwait City.

While Neesley's fellow soldiers cared for Mama and Boris, a veterinarian with the Iraqi Society for Animals vaccinated the dogs and arranged for the health certificates allowing them to travel to the United States. Crook and the dogs arrived in Washington D.C. on Thursday and drove to the Grosse Pointe Farms home of Neesley's mother, capping a four-week transfer that involved elected officials.

Much of the family, including an aunt of Peter's who flew in from New Jersey, gathered at the home. A banner welcoming Mama and Boris hung outside of the brick house with red, white and blue balloons tied to a bannister.

"There were times when we would have a roadblock and then all of a sudden it would open up, so we knew we were on the right track," Crook said.

Carey's son, Patrick, looked at Peter as a father figure and was excited about having the dogs home. Later in the afternoon, one of his best friends called to see if he could come over and play with Patrick and the dogs.

"Patrick, when we started this a few weeks ago, said he just wanted to love them and hold them and take care of them and all of that," said Peter's aunt, Julie Dean. "It's going to be tremendous comfort for the family."

Carey says the family doesn't have any major plans for the new pets.

"We're just going to love them, work on housebreaking, and that kind of stuff," she said. She's still waiting for it all to sink in.

"I think it's going to be more of a reality as the days go on and we kinda come back to normal," she said.



AP photo/Paul Sancya

Patrick Neesley, left, pets Boris as his mother Carey Neesley holds him after arriving from Iraq in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. Boris and its mother, Mama, a black Labrador mix, who were taken care of by Carey's brother, Army sergeant Peter Neesley, outside his Baghdad military base before his death, arrived in Michigan capping a four-week transfer facilitated by family members, animal rights groups, media outlets and elected leaders.

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4 killed in sugar refinery blast

By RON WORD
Associated Press Writer

PORT WENTWORTH, Ga. — Firefighters all but extinguished a blaze at a sugar refinery Saturday that had been burning since an explosion late Thursday leveled the building, killing four people, leaving four missing and injured dozens of others.

Crews had reduced the flames to small hotspots at the Imperial Sugar Company refinery, and search teams that had backed out overnight because of structural concerns from the blast resumed looking for the last of the missing in the morning, Fire Chief Greg Long said.

"We have an idea of where they are," Long said. "We didn't want to collapse anything."

The chief said he strongly believed the four men — three workers and a supervisor, all of whom Long said he knew personally — were the only people still unaccounted for from the blast, and he held out hope that they were still alive.

"We operate on the policy that everyone is alive until we get to them," he said.

Crews brought in heavy equipment Saturday to remove debris as investigators continued assessing what sparked the blast that ignited a storage silo.

Imperial Sugar was one of the largest, and oldest, employers in this tiny city of 5,000 just a few miles west of Savannah. The sudden blast that rattled the city late Thursday engulfed the refinery in flames.

Investigators were unable to determine what sparked the explosion as firefighters stamped out flames inside the vast refinery — a network of warehouses, silos and buildings eight stories tall connected by corridors of sheet metal.

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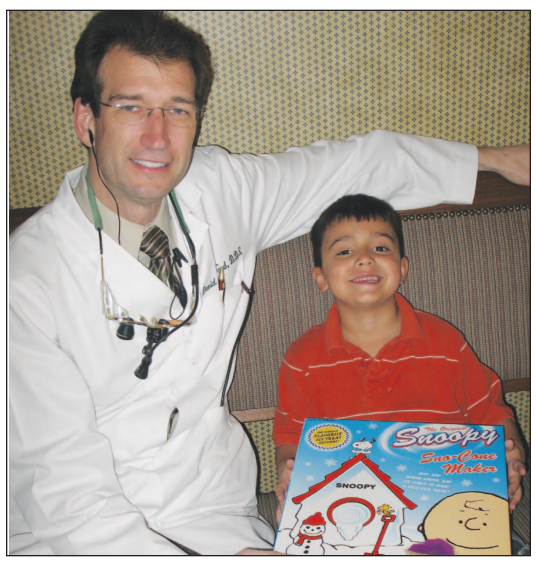


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2006 Mazda 3 i Sedan 4D -Stk# H200
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Was $18,495.....NOW $15,995
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Was $18,495.....NOW $16,495
2006 Buick Lucerne CX Sedan -Stk# H058
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