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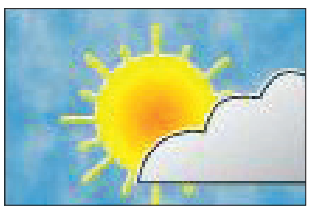


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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 118

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FBI finds part of AK-47 thought used in shooting

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Parts of a disassembled AK-47 assault rifle believed to have been used in the May 2008 drive-by shooting that claimed the lives of two Big Spring residents last year were found in the White River, located in Crosby County, according to unconfirmed reports.

Dive teams with the Federal Bureau of Investigation began their search earlier this week, dredging portions of the river for the weapon believed to have been used in the shooting deaths of Valerie Garcia, 20, and Michael Cardona, 21, both of Big Spring.

According to officials with the Big Spring Police Department, the investigation into the murders has been turned over to federal authorities, who have indicted at least five members of the Latin Kings street gang in connection with the murders.

Murder indictments were delivered in late February by a federal grand jury in Lubbock for Jose Robledo Nava, aka Chino, 30, of Lubbock; James Johnathan Cole, aka Blitz, 19, of Big Spring; Robert Allen Ramirez, aka Nesyo, 27, of Big Spring; Gabriel Lee Gonzales, 21, of Fort Stockton; and Eduardo Daniel Mares, aka Pitt, 21, of Seminole.

According to an affidavit filed in the case, Jose Nava — believed to be the leader of the Texas division of the Latin Kings street gang, directed

See **RIFLE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

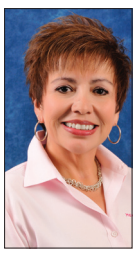
Dimple the Clown fits a youngster for a balloon hat at the 27th Annual Howard County Health Fair, which was held Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Health Fair

Public gets its opportunity to benefit from screenings

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Everyone is concerned about their health and everyone enjoys free services. That combination was enough to attract hundreds of area residents to the 27th Annual Howard County Health Fair, which was held Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



ValVerde

The fair, held under the auspices of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by numerous businesses and organizations, offered a variety of services and health screenings to attendees — all at no charge.

Screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSAs, Pulse/Ox testing, weight, fluoride treatment for children and fingerprinting and picture identification kits for children and senior citizens were among the many services that attracted the most attention at the fair.

"There's several reasons the fair is always successful, but to me the most important factor is that it offers all these screenings for free," said Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the chamber of commerce. "A lot of people don't or can't afford to see a doctor, so they come here. That's a major reason we do this for the community."

As a cancer survivor, ValVerde appreciates the purpose behind the fair.

"People just need to take care of themselves," she said. "Whether you're a baby or 99 years old, your health is important. There's only one of you."

The fair is able to offer the plethora of screenings for free because of the event's underwriters. ValVerde said without the corporate sponsors, the event would not be possible.

Those sponsors included the Big Spring Herald, Big Spring AirEvac Lifeteam, Alon USA, Caring Hearts Home Health, Cornell Companies, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkplace Retirement Living, Parkview Nursing and Rehab, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic Center, West Texas Centers for MHMR and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

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

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Kim Howell, left, and Maruca Haas greet visitors to Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Healthy Woman booth at the Howard County Health Fair, which was held Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Martin County man found dead Midland motel

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Martin County man recently indicted on charges of sexual assault of a child was found dead in a Midland motel room Friday morning, according to law enforcement officials.

Juan Cazares Jr., 42, of 903 E. George in Stanton, was found dead in a room at the West Wind Motel early Friday morning, according to Billy Johnson, justice of the peace for Midland's Precinct 3.

"He was pronounced dead at 4:55 a.m. Friday," said Johnson. "As far as a cause of death is concerned, that won't be made until toxicology reports

See **CAZARES**, Page 3A

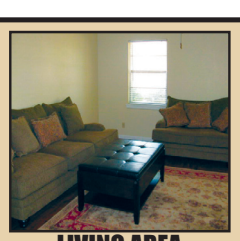
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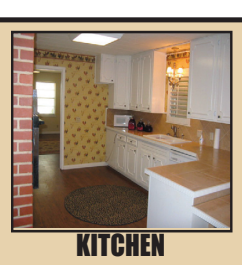
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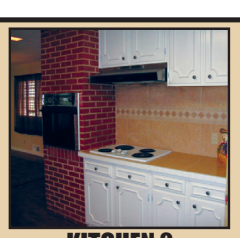
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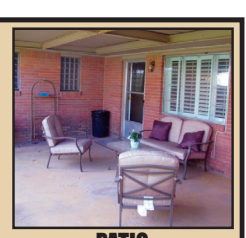


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Lady Steers lose dogfight, finish third in 4-4A

Herald Staff Report

WOLFFORTH — Everyone on the girls side of the District 4-4A track meet knew it was coming down to three teams — Abilene Cooper, Frenship and Big Spring.

Unfortunately for the Lady Steers, they couldn't overtake Cooper or Frenship and settled for third place as a team.

Cooper won the district title with a score of 189.5. Frenship was in second with 168, while Big Spring posted 151.5 points.

The Lady Steers still advance competitors in six individual events and two relays to the Region I Meet in San Angelo May 1-2.

Senior Catherine Leubner picked up two district championships, winning the 3,200-meter run Thursday and following that performance up with a gold-medal finish in the 1,600.

Joining her at regionals for the 3,200 are teammates Opal Gonzales and Marisol Rodriguez. Rodriguez and Gonzales made it a clean sweep for Big Spring in the event, finished second and third, respectively.

Sophomore Desiree Anderson and freshman Bridgette Tuitt are the final two competitors advancing to

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 3B

Steers claim district title

Herald Staff Report

WOLFFORTH — After the first day, there was little doubt the Big Spring Steers track team was on the verge of claiming a District 4-4A title.

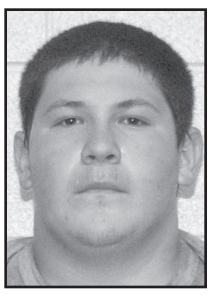
The Steers continued their dominance in the second day of events Friday, eventually winning with 203 total points. Abilene Cooper scored 148 for second, while Frenship finished with 114.

The Steers have 10 athletes advancing to the Region I Meet May 1-2 in San Angelo in individual events.

Big Spring had nine athletes claim district titles in the 16 total events held.

Winning two events were seniors Zack Saldivar and Tyrone Clemons.

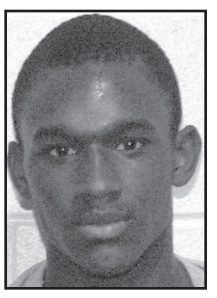
Saldivar won the discus Thursday and followed that performance with another gold medal in the shot put Friday.



Saldivar

Clemons claimed district championships in the triple jump and high jump. The Steers actually had a clean sweep of the top three spots in the triple jump with Mike Menefield and Sidney Parker taking second and third, respectively.

Parker won a 4-4A title in the 800 meters, giving him two events to participate in at regionals.



Parker

Senior LaRay Woodard, who placed second in the state in the long jump last year, was victim of one of the bigger upsets at the meet. Frenship's Lance Ratliff edged Woodard by a quarter-inch in the long jump to claim the title.

Still, Woodard advances to region with an opportunity for redemption. He did claim a district title in the 110-meter hurdles and qualified for regionals in the 300 hurdles and the high jump.

See **STEERS**, Page 3B

Howard soars past MC

Hawks improve to 44-0 with pair of wins over Chaps

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

If the latter part of the Howard College Hawks baseball team's schedule was supposed to be its toughest stretch of games of the season, it didn't appear to be true Friday.

The No. 1 Hawks began a four-game series with rival Midland College by sweeping a doubleheader at Jack Barber Field with two run-rule victories, 16-6 and 14-4.

Highlighting the afternoon was an eight-run second inning in Game 1. The Hawks trailed 3-2 going into the bottom of the frame, but back-to-back homers by Miles Hamblin and Monk Kreder ignited a spark.

See **HC**, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Miles Hamblin homers in Game 1 of a doubleheader against Midland College Friday at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks won both games by the run-rule, 16-6 and 14-4.

Lady Buffs pick up 2-A title

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Forsan's Lady Buffaloes are ready to bring home a District 2-A softball championship.

The Lady Buffs took a huge step in claiming at least a share of a district title Friday night with a 9-4 victory over the Junction Lady Eagles at Lady Steer Park.

The game was moved to Big Spring's softball field after the storms that blitzed across the area left the Lady Buffs' field under water.

Regardless of the venue, Forsan took care of the business it needed to.

"It feels good to finally have a district title. I think it's about a year late, actually," said Forsan Head Coach Shanna Roberts. "It's something we've been working for since Day 1. We've talked about it and made it our goal. Finally, we're starting to see the results of our work. We're maturing and peaking at the right time."

It was a slow start for the Lady Buffs as the Junction batters sat on Alyx Pappajohn's change-up and consistently hit it hard into the outfield.

Pappajohn was forced to start because of freshman Ashley Buzbee suffering a broken collar bone. Buzbee will miss the rest of the season.

Junction was able to score four runs in the first two innings, jumping out to a

See **LADY BUFFS**, Page 3B



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan's Kelsey Jones homers in the second inning of the Lady Buffs 9-4 victory over Junction Friday at Lady Steer Park. The Lady Buffs clinched a District 2-A title with the victory.

Sports in brief

Results from Permian Basin Ladies Association Playday

The Permian Basin Ladies Association recently held a playday at Midland Country Club's golf course.

Big Spring's Joan Daniel led all golfers in the first flight with a net of 70.

Annie Ward had the the top net in the second flight with a 71.

BSCGA holding monthly tourney at 10 a.m. Sunday

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its monthly tournament at 10 a.m. Sunday at the municipal golf course at Comanche Trail Park.

Entrace fee is $20 and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Registration needs to take place at 9:30 a.m.

The format is a four-person selected drive.

For more information, call Pano Rodriguez at 816-4223.

Harlem Starz taking on Big Spring coaches Monday

In an attempt to raise money for camps for the Big Spring Lady Steers varsity girls basketball team, several Big Spring ISD coaches will be taking on the Harlem Starz at 7 p.m. Monday at Steer Gym.

Tickets cost $7 and can be purchased at the Athletic Training Center during business hours.

2009 Cancer Scramble Golf Tournament April 25-26

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a golf tournament April 25-26 with all proceeds to benefit The American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

The format is a four-person scramble with the option to either form a team or be assigned to one.

Prizes in the form of BSCC Golf Shop gift certificates will be awarded.

Entry fee is $75 per player plus a $22 golf cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

To enter, call the BSCC at 267-5354.

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Cars, Stars and Handlebars

How having fun and (possibly) winning a car can benefit Big Spring State Hospital's patients

By Valerie Avery



The spring of 2007 was pivotal for the Big Spring State Hospital's Volunteer Services Council.

For years, they had hosted the highly successful Denim and Diamonds fund-raiser, which generated thousands of dollars for the patients at the hospital. It was their largest fund-raiser of the year and the proceeds paid for numerous construction projects: an animal therapy center; a meditation garden and a walking track. And that is only the beginning of the list.

The evening was fun. It had great food, entertainment, and most people spent the night visiting with friends – all for a good cause.

But a new infusion of volunteers arrived on the scene and wanted to change things up a bit. Stacy Barr, and her outgoing personality leant itself to something different, an ambitious project. She suggested selling 750 tickets for $100 apiece for an evening of food, fun and music — similar to Denim and Diamonds,

See **CARS**, Page 2C





What: Third Annual Cars, Stars and Handlebars – Paint the Town Red.

Where: Big Spring Country Club

When: 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Courtesy photos

From top: KOSA-TV Co-Anchor Jay Hendricks reads off numbers during the first Cars and Stars fund-raiser in 2007; musical entertainment was just part of the package for event-goers; Hendricks, State Rep. Joe Heflin and Stacey Barr share a laugh during the evening.

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Texas high court rules against Nationwide in child injury case

By LINDA STEWARD BALL
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — The Texas Supreme Court ruled Friday that an insurance company must pay a family's claim over a child critically injured by a truck that was fleeing from police.

The child's parents, Greg and Maribel Tanner, sued the speeder, who was insured by Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Co. But the company claimed motorist Richard Gibbons violated his policy by being involved in a high-speed police chase that was certain to end in a wreck.

Although a jury ruled in favor of the family, finding that Gibbons did not intentionally cause the Tanners' injuries, the trial judge overruled that verdict, saying Nationwide didn't have to defend the driver or cover him.

An appeals court also sided with Nationwide, but the state's high court in Austin ruled that the jury's verdict should stand, stating that Nationwide didn't prove "as a matter of law that Gibbons believed his conduct was substantially certain to injure the Tanners."

Calling the high-speed chase "not merely reckless but reprehensible," the high court said it could have ended any number of ways, including with Gibbons rolling his pickup truck, hitting a fixed object, with police stopping his truck or even discontinuing their pursuit instead of crashing into the Tanners.

"I'm really pleased. I think it's a very well-reasoned opinion," said the Tanners' attorney, Don Cotton. "I'm very happy obviously for my clients."

Although the Tanners, who recently moved from Fredericksburg, Texas, to Utah, must return to court to get a damage amount awarded, the high court's ruling means Nationwide will cover it, Cotton said.

Nationwide spokesman Eric Hardgrove said in a statement the company intends to honor the court's ruling. "We're glad the high court has resolved the issue of whether a high-speed chase falls within the 'intentional acts' exclusion in Texas," he said.

Gibbons, whose speed at times topped 100 mph, collided with the Tanners' family car as it rolled into an intersection in a rural area outside San Marcos in 1999. Gibbons slammed on his brakes but couldn't avoid the crash.

All four Tanners were hurt, but 7-year-old Roney Tanner sustained the most serious injuries to his head, shoulder and arm, Cotton said.

In a coma-like state for several days, Roney endured a month-long hospital stay and years of physical therapy. When the boy's parents sued Gibbons, they hoped his $300,000 policy through Columbus, Ohio-based Nationwide would pay for their son's medical bills. The company refused to pay the Tanners, saying Gibbons violated his insurance contract when he led police on a chase that was foreseeable to end in a wreck.

At issue was how to interpret Gibbons' insurance policy, which included a standard intentional acts exclusion. The clause voids coverage if the driver deliberately causes an accident.

Gibbons bought his policy in Ohio, a state that has a wider definition of "intentional" than Texas. Ohio's exclusion voids coverage for "willful acts" that the driver "ought to know" will result in an accident.

Your Local Weather

Sun 4/19	Mon 4/20	Tue 4/21
72/43	77/47	84/51
Mainly sunny. High 72F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.

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Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY
- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Time change starting April 20. Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

FRIDAY
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Take Note

- A retirement ceremony for Coahoma Mayor Bill Read will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Signal Mountain room at the First Bank of West Texas' Coahoma office. The public is invited.

- The jury summons issued by 118th District Court for Monday has been cancelled. Area residents having received a summons to appear for jury duty at 9 a.m. on that date may disregard it.

- A benefit account has been established at Woodforest National Bank (Account 1652331339) for John Allison and Jacoby Rivera, who lost their belongings in a residential fire Friday on Runnels. Donations can also be made by calling (431) 213-4091.

- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas military personnel who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Apply at the Salvation Army, 511 W. Fifth St. These funds were granted by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

- We are currently seeking Class of 1999 classmates from Big Spring High School. Our 10-year reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Please send your mailing information to bshs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.

- The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau will be hosting a Meet the Candidate Forum, Tuesday, April 21, at 6:15 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Invited are Big Spring and Coahoma candidates running for city council, school board and mayor. The format will be informal. Candidates will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and make a few comments about their campaign platform, etc. The remaining part of the evening will be spent visiting and talking personally to the attendees. Candidates will be allowed to bring campaign material and handouts. For more information, contact Debbye ValVerde, executive director for the Chamber of Commerce, at 263-7641.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:
- ERNEST CLARK, 68, no address given, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOSEPH CILBRITH, 28, Clayville, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BRANDON HERNANDEZ, 24, 1406 Virginia, was arrested on a charge of no driver's license.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 400 block of Bell.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT/LANGUAGE was reported in the 1100 block of 14th.
- DUTY ON STRIKING A FIXTURE OR LANDSCAPE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.
- THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700 and the 700 block of Interstate 20.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery:
5-13-26-35-45 Mega Ball: 32.
Number matching 5-of-5 and Mega Ball: None.
Estimated jackpot for Tuesday's drawing: $130 million.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday afternoon, in order:
8-5-9-4. Sum It Up: 26.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday afternoon, in order:
6-5-1. Sum It Up: 12.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night, in order:
4-1-4-9. Sum It Up: 18.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night, in order:
2-8-1. Sum It Up: 11.

•••

The winning Cash 5 numbers drawn Friday:
1-4-13-24-27.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY
- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

Jury Notice

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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Mavs hope surge continues in playoffs

DALLAS (AP) — Players say it all the time: They want their team playing its best going into the playoffs.

Well, the Dallas Mavericks certainly are. And they have about as good of a first-round matchup as they could get.

So maybe Jason Terry is on to something when he keeps insisting "the best is yet to come."

Terry has been using that line for days, even proclaiming it to a sellout crowd before the season finale Wednesday night. He was right in the short term, with several things falling into place and the Mavericks winding up with 50 wins and the No. 6 seed in the Western Conference, neither of which seemed likely just a few weeks ago.

"We've continued to gradually build," coach Rick Carlisle said. "We've just really become a fighting team the last couple of months. That helped us."

Dallas will open the playoffs Saturday night in San Antonio, taking on a Spurs team that narrowly won the Southwest Division and will be looking to add 2009 to its collection of NBA titles in odd-numbered years (1999, 2003, '05 and '07).

But the Spurs will be without Manu Ginobili, which means they're a very different club. While the Mavericks also are different from the bunch that won a Game 7 in overtime in San Antonio three years ago, Terry and Dirk Nowitzki are still around and they'll make sure their team is not intimidated by having to win at least one road game to take the series.



AP photo/Donna McWilliam

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) grabs a rebound in front of Houston Rockets Luis Scola (4) as Mavericks guard Jason Kidd, left, and forward Josh Howard, right, look on during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas Wednesday.

"You always want to steal the first one, then go from there," Nowitzki said. "We'll just see what kind of defense they throw at us and what kind we throw at them. It's a game of adjustments after that."

This has been a season of adjustments for Dallas.

Coach Avery Johnson was fired last April following a second straight first-round ousting and a third straight playoff series loss. Players welcomed the change, but started 2-7 overall and 0-4 at home under Carlisle.

So Carlisle scrapped the Princeton-style offense he installed in training camp and went with a variety of what Johnson ran. After falling into another rut in late January, he made another switch — letting Jason Kidd run the offense.

Things finally began to improve, especially at home, where the Mavs are 15-1 since the All-Star break.

Yet they also tend to have some real clunkers on the road. There was a blowout loss in San Antonio when the Spurs were without Ginobili and Tim Duncan, then another in Oklahoma City on a night the lowly Thunder were without their top two scorers. Team owner Mark Cuban followed that loss with a threat to get rid of anyone who wasn't trying hard enough. They were better for a while, but still lost at Memphis two weeks ago, when the Grizzlies were long since eliminated and Dallas needed every win it could get.

The main reason the Mavs are rolling into the playoffs is Josh Howard returning to the lineup and to his All-Star form of a few years ago.

After missing 11 games in November and December and 11 more in March, all because of an aching left ankle, Howard understood the only cure is offseason surgery. Knowing he'd have to tolerate pain no matter how hard he tried, he's decided to go all out and endure the consequences.

See **MAVS**, Page 4B

Spurs paying no attention to playoff doubts

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — While everyone else knew the San Antonio Spurs were seconds from winning the division, Tim Duncan had to find out from his wife. Michael Finley stayed clueless until getting back to the locker room.

Typical Spurs. Always the last to know.

Apparently, they also haven't heard many say they're far too old, worn down and injured to be as good as the No. 3 in the Western Conference playoffs suggests. That after four NBA titles in 10 seasons, they're now a fading afterthought as a championship contender.

If the Spurs are being overlooked when they open the playoffs Saturday against Dallas, Tony Parker doesn't know about it.

"No, not really," he said.

Here's what Parker says he does know: the Spurs are old. That had they not pulled off a miraculous overtime win Wednesday night against New Orleans, they'd be on a long flight to Portland that would've been taxing on their aging starting cast that includes Duncan, 31, and Finley, 35.

Instead, the Spurs will enjoy home-court advantage in the first round for the 11th consecutive season. That in itself is a remarkable testament to their longevity, but even San Antonio is keenly aware that this postseason is going to be unlike than any in the Duncan era.

In other words, much harder.

Manu Ginobili is out with a bad ankle. Duncan's knees have been letting him down. Bruce Bowen

See **SPURS**, Page 4B

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Courtesy photo

Howard County Historical Commission Chair Charlene Ragan presents the certificate designating Mt. Olive Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery to Rebecca Pritchett, administrative secretary of the city's Parks & Cemetery Department. The designation is reserved for cemeteries that are at least 50 years old and documented through the Historic Texas Cemeteries process to record their historic association and significance. Gerron S. Hite, THC Cemetery Preservation coordinator, with the help of Ragan and Pritchett, completed an HTC application and assembled attachments that made the designation possible. The HCHC plans to purchase a Historic Texas Cemetery marker for Mt. Olive and to pursue the process for designating the Coahoma Cemetery a Historic Texas Cemetery as well.

Births



Cole Johnson Hill

Cole Johnson Hill, a boy, was born at 1:46 a.m. April 1, 2009, weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces and was 12-1/2 inches long.

His parents are Koleb and Amber Hill of Big Spring.

Maternal grandparents are Steve Barbee of Dublin, Texas, Joe and Debra Mathis of Big Spring and Vergie Renfro of Big Spring. Paternal grandparents are the late Cone Johnson and Florine Merritt.

Cole was welcomed home by sibling Zackary.



Tyler Wayne Bledsoe

Tyler Wayne Bledsoe, a boy, was born at 3:49 a.m. April 7, 2009, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20-1/4 inches long.

He is the son of Jimmy and Amy Bledsoe Jr. of Big Spring.

Maternal grandparents are David and Donna Buckner of Big Spring. Paternal grandparents are Pete and Linda Gillette of Big Spring.

Tyler was welcomed home by sibling Alex Clayton Horton.

CARS

Continued from Page 1C

but with the added bonus of possibly driving home a new car.

She had been involved elsewhere in a similar offering and knew she could pull it off in Big Spring. The first year was the most difficult, said Billie Christie, the hospital's director of Community Relations.

The office had never undertaken such an ambitious event and there were lots of unknowns. Mostly would they be able to sell 750 tickets?

Early on, many of the patrons who had always purchased tickets to Denim and Diamonds bought tickets to Cars and Stars. The sales clipped along at a steady pace. And as the last week rolled around, there was an incredible rush on the handful of tickets left, much to the volunteers' delight.

"The closer we got to the date, the more the people wanted the tickets, Christie said. "After that, we knew we had a hit.

"We now encourage everyone to purchase them early because when they are gone, they are gone. And they go quickly."

The first year, many people did not know how the event worked, she said.

Every person who purchased a ticket was invited to attend the evening's event and nibble on hors d'oeuvres at the Big Spring Country Club. During the evening, Stacy Barr and an assortment of guests, including State Rep. Joe Heflin and KOSA-TV Co-anchor Jay Hendricks entertained the crowd while drawing numbers out of a large bin.

As each number was called, that person was removed from the chance to win one of three cars. Not everyone who purchased a ticket attended the evening. And many people bought more than one ticket, Christie said.

By the end of the evening, only a few people remained – one of them was Sherri Key, who did not attend but all the while spoke to Community Relations Assistant Max Ann Bowlin by phone. Key was given the opportunity numerous times to sell her ticket to someone in the audience with a portion given back to the hospital – but each time she declined.

Looking back two years ago, Key said she had forgotten about purchasing the ticket until Bowlin called her that night. "I had forgotten about it and I was surprised when (Bowlin) called. I never win, so I was surprised I was still in."

Each year the committee tweaks the previous year's fund-raiser, and one of the small changes they made this year was that a patron must be present to sell their ticket, Christie said.

But the first year, the by-then boisterous crowd had great fun watching Bowlin converse with Key on the phone repeatedly asking her if she wanted to sell her ticket to audience members who bid as high as several thousand dollars for the opportunity to win one of three vehicles offered by the Big Spring Automobile association.

"Their support has been crucial to the success of Cars and Stars," Christie said.

The winning ticket holder has a choice between a 2009 Chevy Malibu LS; 2009 Ford F-150 Half-Ton Pickup; or a 2009 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic motorcycle.

Key approached the drawing matter-of-factly and not being in attendance made it easier and did not allow her to get caught up in the moment.

"I thought about selling my ticket at first when it was down to five and then down to two. When it got to two tickets, I thought I would just take a chance. I had invested in the State Hospital and never expected to win. It was a donation I had made to the state hospital, so if I did not win, I would be OK with the decision I made."

She was surprised when she won and bought not one, but two tickets last year.

"I was unable to attend because we were out of town and I don't know when I went out."

She already has purchased a ticket this year.

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State's jobless rate edges up in March

By CHRIS SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

EDINBURG — Roberto Platas walked from a Texas Workforce Solutions office Friday morning in heavy work boots, clutching a lead for an oilfield job and the hope that he might end his seven-month employment drought.

"Right now there's no work," said the 51-year-old Mission resident, who was looking for a job as a laborer.

He was among the nearly one in 10 people in the Rio Grande Valley was unemployed in March, according to labor statistics released by the Texas Workforce Commission on Friday. The border region's employment situation, while having improved marginally in recent months, has deteriorated more rapidly during the past 12 months than the rest of Texas.

The state continued to best the nation in March with an unemployment rate of 6.7 percent, up from 6.6 percent in February. The national rate, not seasonally adjusted, was 9 percent.

In March, the jobless rate, not seasonally adjusted, in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission metropolitan area stood at 9.5 percent, compared to 6.4 percent a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted figures are only available at the state level, not in the metropolitan areas, so for accurate comparisons this article uses non-seasonally adjusted numbers.

The Rio Grande Valley — including the Brownsville-Harlingen metro area where unemployment was 9.1 percent in March, up from 5.9 percent a year earlier — consistently has the state's highest unemployment rate.

Andre Varella Mollick, an associate professor of economics at the University of Texas-Pan American College of Business Administration, noted that unemployment rose faster in the Valley during the past year than elsewhere in Texas.

Mollick speculated that a weakening Mexican peso could be a factor in an area where retail sales are susceptible to economic fluctuations across the border.

Keith Patridge, president and chief executive of the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, agreed that the peso played a role.

The Rio Grande Valley for years maintained double-digit unemployment rates, in large part because of the local economy's orientation toward agriculture, Patridge said. The Valley was also home to a large number of migrant farmworkers who would travel out of state during harvest seasons and then return to the Valley unemployed to live off their earnings for the rest of the year.

Another factor could be that people with skills in manufacturing who left the Valley for jobs in more industrialized areas have started returning, he said.

Patridge said the hard-hit automotive industry's struggles were rippling through as well.

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RIFLE

Continued from Pg. 1A

James Cole and Robert Ramirez to go in two vehicles to conduct a drive-by shooting on their rivals, members of a local family believed to also be involved in trafficking narcotics.

Robert Ramirez was to be the passenger in the lead vehicle to confirm the targets, and James Cole, armed with an AK-47, was to be the shooter in the following vehicle, which was to be driven by Gabriel Gonzales.

With Ramirez and Eduardo Mares in the lead vehicle and Cole and Gonzales following in the second vehicle, after Ramirez and Mares passed the house of the rival gang members, Ramirez called Gonzales' cell phone and conveyed Jose Nava's previous order to him, according to court documents. The shooter fired into a crowd of people, striking six, including Valerie Garcia, who was pregnant at the time of her death.

The affidavit also states Ramirez, Mares, Cole and Gonzales drove the two vehicles to a body shop following the shooting, where Cole allegedly retrieved the spent AK-47 shell casings and discarded them. Cole, Ramirez and Mares then drove to a fellow Latin King residence where Cole allegedly admitted shooting the AK-47 and killing at least one person at the residence.

Garcia and Cardona were pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center shortly after a drive-by shooting was reported at 905 E. 16th St. at 9:38 p.m. Sunday, May 4, 2008. Also injured in the shooting were a 3-year-old girl and three adult males, according to police records.

If convicted, defendants Nava, Cole, Ramirez, Gonzales and Mares each face a maximum statutory sentence of death or life in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Cody L. Skipper of the Lubbock U.S. Attorney's Office and Trial Attorney Joseph A. Cooley of the Department of Justice's Criminal Division's Gang Unit are prosecuting the case, according to

Calls to the U.S. Department of Justice and the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office for comment were not returned in time for press.

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

CAZARES

Continued from Pg. 1A

and the full autopsy are completed."

According to officials with 118th District Court, Cazares was indicted April 7 by a Martin County grand jury on one count of indecency with a child and two counts of sexual assault of a child — all second degree felonies.

"The offense dates were never very solid, but we believe they occurred over a period of time beginning as early as 2005," said Robin Orr, assistant district attorney for the area. "The victim was a female under the age of 17 years and was known to Cazares. Other than that, I really can't go into any more detail."

Orr said the sexual offenses happened at a home within the Stanton city limits.

"We were notified of Mr. Cazares' death Friday morning," said Orr. "As far as the prosecution goes, everything basically stops now. Without the defendant, there isn't a case to prosecute."

The death is being investigated by the Midland Police Department, with Det. Bill Anderson heading up the effort, according to Johnson. Anderson could not be reached for comment in time for press.

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

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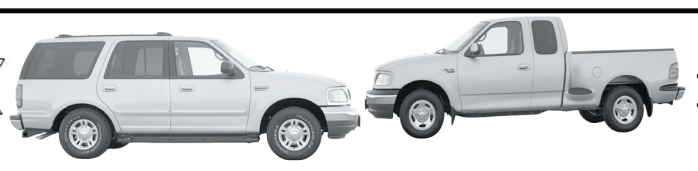
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Words are inadequate to thank everyone for the unbelievable outpouring of love and concern during the recent sudden passing of our daughter Sarah Smith. Our family has been totally overwhelmed by all the expressions of kindness during our time of great loss. The hundreds of cards, many, many beautiful flowers and plants, visits, food and the number of people who took time out of their busy schedules to pay tribute to Sarah's short life has been so comforting to us. We appreciate so very much all of you who took time to sign the Guestbook on the Myers and Smith web site, sharing your memories of Sarah. She had come back to Big Spring to make it her home again and loved her job at the Big Spring State Hospital. We thank everyone at BSSH for their kindness to her. We offer special thanks to Rick Cunningham for his message during Sarah's service and to Bill and Charlsa Myers for their leading us through a difficult time when we could not do it ourselves. God's plan for Sarah was different than what we had expected but she is now Home. God bless you all.
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LADY BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

4-0 advantage. Three of the four runs Pappajohn allowed were unearned, though.

Forsan mounted a response in the bottom of the second with junior catcher Kelsey Jones providing the spark, courtesy of a leadoff solo home run to straight away center field.

The Lady Buffs scored two more runs in the inning, cutting the deficit to 4-3.

Forsan got some relief in the pitcher's circle in the third inning as Amanda Longorio stepped in for just her second appearance of the season.

Longorio, who had been the Offensive Most Valuable Player in the district for the past two years, broke her foot at the end of basketball season and has been back for four games.

She wound up retiring 15 of the next 18 Junction batters and picked up her first win of the season.

Longorio allowed no runs on a hit and two walks, while striking out seven batters in four innings of work.

"Amanda pitched one inning against Menard, but this is really her first time out there for several innings," said Roberts. "She's been back for a week. It's a relief to have her back. I really didn't know if she was going to come in and be as strong as she looked tonight. She's just a player. Thank goodness we've got her.

"We would be more solid defensively with Ashley pitching, but we've had some girls step up in certain spots," added Roberts. "That is what I expect after all the work we've put into this. The girls have to be ready to step in and contribute."

The Lady Buffs took the lead in the third inning as Jones once again led the charge, getting on base via a walk. An error by Junction shortstop Macy Brooks on a ball hit by Longorio allowed Jones to score from first to tie the game and put Longorio on third.

Miranda Park bunted and Junction pitcher Molly Carpenter fielded it and threw it home, trying to catch Longorio in the sacrifice.

Longorio was not to be denied, though, as she took out catcher Hope Gipson to score the go-ahead run.

Park made her way around to score before the inning ended, giving Forsan a 6-4 advantage.

Ambra Hill scored in the fourth and sixth innings and Haylie Burleson also came around in the sixth to wrap up the scoring for Forsan.

While they registered only four hits, the Lady Buffs' ability to hit the ball hard and aggressiveness on the base paths forces several Junction errors.

"My lineup right now is as solid as I've had in the last three years," said Roberts. "I feel really good about us at the plate."

The Lady Buffs can clinch an outright district title at 5 p.m. Tuesday with a home game against Miles.

Junction 220 000 0—4 6 7
Forsan 033 102 x—9 4 1

Molly Carpenter and Hope Gipson. Alyx Pappajohn, Amanda Longorio (3) and Kelsey Jones. W - Longorio (1-0). L - Carpenter. 2B: Jun - Gipson. HR: For - Jones. RBI: Jun - Gipson, Carpenter; For - Jones, Ambra Hill, Miranda Park, Pappajohn.

HC

Continued from Page 1B

Hamblin's shot came with two runners on and sailed over the high center field wall and ricocheted off the men's dorm rooms located several feet behind the fence.

Kreder followed suit with solo homer also to center.

The rally gave the Hawks a 10-3 advantage. Midland mustered three runs in the top of the third, but the Hawks never stopped scoring, pushing at least one run across in each inning of play.

Will Calhoun (5-0) picked up the win, coming on in relief of Zach Neal in the fourth inning. Calhoun, who often serves as the team's designated player, also homered in the contest and had two RBI.

Shortstop Bryan Johns went 2-for-3 with a triple and five RBI.

In Game 2, Midland found success in the first inning again, pushing two runs across. However, the Hawks scored three in the bottom of the frame on fielding miscues by the Chaps and never relinquished the lead.

Kreder hit another homer and ended up with two RBI. Nick Popescu, Caleb Nine and Calhoun also had two RBI apiece.

Dylan Cacciola (7-0) picked up the win, pitching a complete game. Cacciola allowed four earned runs on seven hits and a walk, while striking out four batters.

The Hawks wrapped up their four-game series with Midland Saturday at Christensen Stadium in Midland.

Full results of the doubleheader will be available in Monday's edition of the Herald.

Game 1
Howard 16, Midland 6

MC 303 00—6 8 2
HC 282 13—16 13 3

Brandon Williamson, David Walkling (2), Kaleb Hurley (5), Steven Valles (5) and Toby Semler. Zach Neal, Will Calhoun (4) and Monk Kreder. W - Calhoun (5-0). L - Williamson. 2B: MC - Trey Whaley. 3B: HC - Bryan Johns, Joe Leftridge. HR: MC - Chad Stang; HC - Kreder, Miles Hamblin, Calhoun. RBI: MC - Stang 3, Jake Cimerhanzel, Logan Bawcom, Whaley; HC - Leftridge, Johns 5, Hamblin 2, Kreder, Calhoun 2, Andrew Collazo. SB: HC - Collazo, Nick Popescu, Leftridge, Calhoun. LOB: MC 5, HC 3.

Game 2
Howard 14, Midland 4

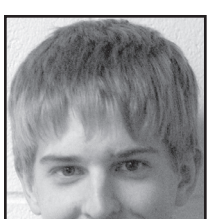
MC 200 200—4 7 1
HC 303 701—14 16 0

Travis Lawler, Jake Worsham (4), Jordan Coulon (6) and Toby Semler. Dylan Cacciola and Miles Hamblin. W - Cacciola (7-0). L - Lawler. 2B: MC - Matt Moreno; HC - Andrew Collazo, Bryan Johns, Runey Davis, Will Calhoun. 3B: HC - Nick Popescu. HR: HC - Monk Kreder. RBI: MC - Chad Stang, Reid Redman, Moreno 2; HC - Joe Leftridge, Johns, Hamblin, Kreder 2, Popescu 2, Caleb Nine 2, Calhoun 2, Collazo. SB: Collazo 2, Davis. LOB: MC 3, HC 6.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Seniors Jordan Valle and Kade Parker traded the outcome of close finishes in the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters.



Parker

The two cross country teammates decided it would be interesting to have a photo finish Thursday in the 3,200, as both were favored to finish 1-2 in the event. In the end, it was Parker who came across one-hundredth of a second faster than Valle.

Valle, who is the Class 4A state champion in cross country, got a little retribution by winning a district title in the 1,600.

Shane Allen was third in the 3,200, giving Big Spring a clean sweep of the event.



Valle

Darius McCallister proved to be fastest individual in the district, winning the 100 meters with a time of 11.22.

Zamir Linton also qualified for the region meet by placing third in a very close 200-meter race.

Linton, Woodard, McCallister and Monte Anderson also claimed a district title in the 400 relay.

Boys
(Top 3 finishers advance to Region I meet.)

Team standings: **1. Big Spring, 203;** 2. Abilene Cooper, 148; 3. Frenship, 114; 4. Plainview, 88; 5. San Angelo Lake View, 57.

Pole vault: 1. Michael Cantu, Plainview, 13-6; 2. Derek Karl, Abilene Cooper, 12-6; 3. David Carassco, Plainview, 11-6; 4. Zach Cook, San Angelo Lake View, 11-3; 5. Steven Llanas, Frenship, 11-0; 6. Dustin Casey, Cooper, 10-6.

Long jump: 1. Lance Ratliff, Frenship, 23-9; **2. LaRay Woodard, Big Spring, 23-8.75**; 3. Josh Bowman, Cooper, 21-10.5; **4. Tyrone Clemons, Big Spring, 20-9.**5; 5. Antonio Jeter, Cooper, 20-8; 6. Derrick Randle, Cooper, 20-5.25.

Shot put: **1. Zackary Saldivar, Big Spring, 48-7**; 2. Mitch Brewer, Frenship, 48-1; 3. Angel Hernandez, Cooper, 46-5.5; 4. Michael Garcia, Plainview, 45-1; 5. Raul Naples, Lake View, 44-10.5; 6. Chris Blair, Lake View, 44-0.

400-meter relay: **1. Big Spring, 42.38**; 2. Frenship, 42.86; 3. Cooper, 42.89; 4. Lake View, 45.22; 5. Plainview, 54.07.

800: **1. Sidney Parker, Big Spring, 2:02.36**; 2. Prince Dawkins, Plainview, 2:03.49; 3. Robert Sanchez, Lake View, 2:05.29; 4. John Belt, Plainview, 2:07.28; 5. Collin Moore, Frenship, 2:08.07; 6. Anthony Hust, Cooper, 2:10.21.

110 hurdles: **1. Laray Woodard, Big Spring, 14.92;** 2. Kenyon Barnes, Cooper, 14.97; **3. Tyrone Clemons, Big Spring, 16.43**; 4. Paul Mesta, Lake View, 16.62; 5. Louis Trujillo, Plainview, 17.61; 6. Britton Hale, Cooper, 17.71.

100: **1. Darius McCallister, Big Spring, 11.22**; 2. Da'mor Barnes, Cooper, 11.29; 3. Lawrence Brownfield, Cooper, 11.31; 4. John Solorzano, Plainview, 11.47; **5. Devonte Lloyd, Big Spring, 11.53.**

800 relay: 1. Frenship, 1:31.18; 2. Cooper, 1:31.21; 3. Plainview, 1:31.22; 4. Lake View, 1:37.51.

400: 1. Marcial Ruiz, Frenship, 49.97; 2. Kendrick Powdrell, Cooper, 50.60; 3. Kaegan Hembree, Plainview, 51.68; **4. Josh Harris, Big Spring, 51.70**; 5. Reese Williams, Cooper, 52.59; **6. Bobby Bayes, Big Spring, 52.77.**

200: 1. Prenston Thomas, Plainview, 22.46; 2. T.C. Robinson, Cooper, 22.56; **3. Zamir Linton, Big Spring, 22.71**; 4. Brandon Jones, Frenship, 22.83; 5. Chris Blair, Lake View, 22.92; 6. Kaegan Hembree, Plainview, 23.54.

1,600: **1. Jordan Valle, Big Spring, 4:36.19; 2. Kade Parker, Big Spring, 4:36.50**; 3. Joe Pena, Lake View, 4:53.40; 4. Shawn Spicer, Frenship, 4:58.05; 5. James Ortiz, Lake View, 4:59.72; 6. Justin Butler, Frenship, 5:05.06.

1,600 relay: 1. Cooper, 3:23.40; 2. Frenship, 3:23.99; **3. Big Spring, 3:28.54**; 4. Plainview, 3:28.74; 5. Lake View, 3:50.60.

Discus: **1. Zack Saldivar, Big Spring, 160-07**; 2. Keeton Harch, Plainview, 160-05; 3. Patrick Angus, Abilene Cooper, 142-02; 4. Josh Richardson, Frenship, 141-05; 5. Garrison Railsback, Abilene Cooper, 138-08; 6. Michael Garcia, Plainview, 137-10.

High jump: **1. Tyrone Clemons, Big Spring, 6-05**; 2. Lance Ratliff, Frenship, 6-04; **3. LaRay Woodard, Big Spring, 6-03**; 4. Derek Footer, Abilene Cooper, 6-02; t5. John Brown, San Angelo Lake View, 6-0; t5. Paul Mesta, San Angelo Lake View, 6-0.

Triple Jump: **1. Tyrone Clemons, Big Spring, 46-07; 2. Mike Menefield, Big Spring, 45-06.75; 3. Sidney Parker, Big Spring, 45-02.75;** 4. Antonio Jeter, Abilene Cooper, 45-02.50; 5. Derrick Randle, Abilene Cooper, 43-06.25; 6. Josh Bowman, Abilene Cooper, 42-03.25.

3,200: **Kade Parker, Big Spring, 10:42.96; 2. Jordan Valle, Big Spring, 10:42.97; 3. Shane Allen, Big Spring, 10:55.16**; 4. Joe Pena, San Angelo Lake View, 10:57.29; 5. Shawn Spicer, Frenship, 11:10.17; 6. David Baker, Frenship, 11:13.58.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

region in individual events.

Anderson claimed a district title in the long jump, took third in the triple jump and second in the 100-meter dash.

Tuitt also advanced in the triple jump with a second-place finish and nabbed a district title in the 200 meters.

Both Tuitt and Anderson are apart of the district-title winning 400- and 800-meter relay teams along with Traosha Walker and Iesha Simpson.

Girls
(Top three in each event advance to Region I meet)

Team standings: 1. Abilene Cooper, 189.5; 2. Frenship, 168; **3. Big Spring, 151.**5; 4. Plainview, 70; 5. San Angelo Lake View, 31.

Discus: 1. Elizabeth Railsback, Abilene Cooper, 110-10; 2. Sydney Hearn, Plainview, 103-8; 3. Kristen Taylor, Cooper, 103-0; **4. Leslie Leal, Big Spring, 102-9**; 5. Brittany Smith, Frenship, 97-4; 6. Kresta Thomas, San Angelo Lake View, 96-4.

Triple jump: 1. Kayla Cheers, Cooper, 37-8.5; **2. Bridgett Tuitt, Big Spring, 36-11; 3. Desiree Anderson, Big Spring, 36-6**; 4. Lakendra Matthews, Cooper, 34-11; 5. Sarah Mannon, Frenship, 33-7.5; **6. Iesha Simpson, Big Spring, 33-0.**

High jump: 1. TaSheena Moore, Frenship, 5-0; 2. Danielle Blanco, Cooper, 5-0; 3. Catherine Teegardin, Frenship, 4-10; **4. Bridgett Tuitt, Big Spring, 4-8;** 5. Larissa Burks, Cooper, 4-6; **5. Macy Graves, Big Spring, 4-6.**

400-meter relay: **1. Big Spring, 49.25;** 2. Cooper, 49.36; 3. Frenship, 50.72; 4. Plainview, 51.49; 5. Lake View, 54.75.

800: 1. Briana Falcon, Cooper, 2:26.33; 2. Carsey Aycock, Frenship, 2:29.98; 3. Madison Kinard, Frenship, 2:31.27; 4. Darbie Walker, Frenship, 2:34.45; 5. Dani Licerio, Plainview, 2:41.43; **6. Crystal Ramirez, Big Spring, 2:42.28**.

100 hurdles: 1. Danielle Blanco, Cooper, 15.63; 2. Brittnee Riley, Plainview, 15.84; 3. Kailey Moorhead, Frenship, 15.95; 4. Jasmine Walker, Cooper, 16.97; 5. Kelsey Barnes, Cooper, 16.99; 6. Sarah Mannon, Frenship, 17.37.

100: 1. Bria Brazier, Plainview, 12.89; **2. Desiree Anderson, Big Spring, 13.05**; 3. Sha'Coya Jackson, Cooper, 14.09; 4. TaSheena Moore, Frenship, 13.4; 5. Dominique Edmondson, Cooper, 13.42; **6. Traosha Walker, Big Spring, 13.68.**

800 relay: **1. Big Spring, 1:44.57**; 2. Cooper, 1:46.30; 3. Frenship, 1:48.98; 4. Plainview, 1:51.76; 5. Lake View, 1:56.59.

400: 1. Abria Thomas, Frenship, 1:01.93; 2. Carsey Aycock, Frenship, 1:02.24; 3. Brianna Portillo, Lake View, 1:04.28; 4. Jessica White, Frenship, 1:05.09; 5. Sandra DeLaGarza, Plainview, 1:07.76; 6. Maya Anderson, Cooper, 1:05.99.

300 hurdles: 1. Danielle Blanco, Cooper, 46.24; 2. Kailey Moorhead, Frenship, 47.94; 3. Kelsey Barnes, Cooper, 48.91; 4. Sarah Mannon, Frenship, 50.52; **5. Cheyenne Lesser, Big Spring, 50.92**; 6. Kassidy Sellers, Cooper, 52.38.

200: **1. Bridgett Tuitt, Big Spring, 25.13**; 2. Kayla Cheers, Cooper, 26.09; 3. Hailey Mitchell, Frenship, 26.44; 4. Lakendra Matthews, Cooper, 26.78; **5. Iesha Simpson, Big Spring, 27.21; 6. Chanel Cuvielo, Big Spring, 27.74**.

1,600: **1. Catherine Leubner, Big Spring, 5:38.13;** 2. McKenna Chancellor, Frenship, 5:49.74; 3. Daisy Guerrero, Plainview, 5:53.52; 4. Morgan Pentecost, Cooper, 6:00.48; **5. Marisol Rodriguez, Big Spring, 6:03.72**; 6. Brooke Barker, Frenship, 6:05.91.

1,600 relay: 1. Frenship, 4:07.54; 2. Lake View, 4:23.31; **3. Big Spring, 4:23.60**; 4. Cooper, 4:29.04.

Long Jump: **1. Desiree Anderson, Big Spring, 18-3**; 2. Bria Brazier, Plainview, 17-5; 3. Kayla Cheers, Abilene Cooper, 17-4; 4. Lakendra Matthews, Abilene Cooper, 17-1; 5. Hailey Mitchell, Frenship, 16-8.75; 6. Britnee Riley, Plainview, 16-2.25.

Pole Vault: 1. Alana Wise, Abilene Cooper, 12-3; 2. Lauren Hill, Plainview, 9-3; 3. Meagan Morrison, Frenship, 8-3; 4. Molly Mayberry, Abilene Cooper, 7-6; t5. Taylor White, Frenship, 6-6. t5. Morgan Pentacost, Abilene Cooper, 6-6.

Shot Put: 1. Audrey Sheffield, Frenship, 37-9.5; 2. Elizabeth Railsback, Abilene Cooper, 35-3; 3. Keshia Matthews, Abilene Cooper, 34-7.5; **4. Leslie Leal, Big Spring, 33-6;** 5. Kenzie Roberts, Frenship, 33-2; 6. Jessica Swann, Abilene Cooper, 33-0.

3,200: **1. Catherine Leubner, Big Spring, 12:28.55; 2. Marisol Rodriguez, Big Spring, 13:07.67; 3. Opal Gonzales, Big Spring, 13:09.84**; 4. McKenna Chancellor, Frenship, 13:13.07; 5. Morgan Pentecost, Abilene Cooper, 13:15.73; 6. Daisy Guerrero, Plainview, 13:42.59.

Buffalo agrees to trade LT Peters to Philadelphia

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jason Peters got the contract extension he wanted from the Philadelphia Eagles instead of the Bills.

Buffalo traded Peters to the Eagles on Friday rather than risk another offseason holdout from the disgruntled two-time Pro Bowl left tackle. The Eagles then signed Peters to a $53 million, four-year contract extension that would keep him in Philadelphia through 2014, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

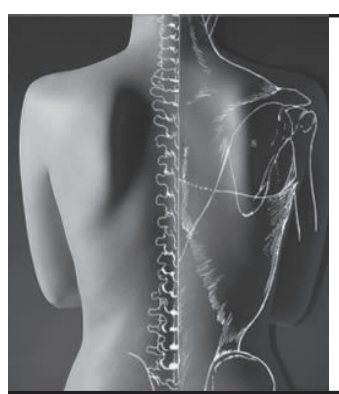
Peters will earn $60 million over the next six seasons, including $25 million in guaranteed money, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, because terms weren't released.

The Bills received the 28th overall pick — the second of the Eagles two first-round picks — and a fourth-round selection in next week's NFL draft. Buffalo also gets an undisclosed pick in the 2010 draft.

"Jason Peters is the best left tackle in football," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He is a powerful and athletic tackle and I have admired his play over the last few years on film. I have always believed that success in the NFL is derived from the strong play of the offensive and defensive lines. This offseason we have added two young, top-flight offensive linemen in Jason and Stacy Andrews."

See **PETERS**, Page 4B

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Jonah Chrane and Sarah Wilkinson

Wilkinson and Chrane

Mr. and Mrs. David Burris and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilkerson are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Wilkinson to Jonah Chrane, son of Mr. Darrell Chrane and Ms. Lisa Chrane, both of Brownwood.

Sarah and Jonah met through mutual friends while she was attending Howard Payne University. Their romance blossomed soon after and they have become inseparable as their love has grown.

The couple will marry May 2 and will reside in Big Spring.

Military

Navy Fireman Justin K. Dahmer, grandson of Vicki S. Dahmer of Big Spring, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Great Lakes, Ill.

During the program, Dahmer completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations" which gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly ''Navy'' flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Dahmer is a 2007 graduate of Coahoma High School of Coahoma.

Who's Who

Hyatt honored



Kristi Hyatt, the daughter of Betty Franklin of Big Spring, was honored April 2 by the Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin during the 2009 Women of Distinction Luncheon held at Odessa Country Club.

Hyatt is a Midland attorney. She volunteers at the Midland Soup Kitchen and inspires fellow employees to do the same. She serves as a director for the Texas Legal Protection Plan on the Midland Business and Estate Planning Council.

As an attorney, she is a member of the Texas Bar, U.S. District Courts in Northern, Western and Southern Districts and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Other community involvement includes the Diabetes Foundation, Carver Center Campus Educational Improvement Council, March of Dimes and Bowie Elementary PTA. As a member of the First Presbyterian Church, she teaches Sunday school and is a trustee for the synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation. Krisit is the mother of Hunter and Chandler.

Big Spring native promoted to brigadier general

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Airmen, family and friends gathered at the USAF Thunderbird Air Demonstration Squadron's hangar to celebrate the promotion of the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center's Vice Commander Col. James K. "Kevin" McLauighlin to brigadier general Feb. 6.



Brig. Gen. McLaughlin graduated from Big Spring High School in 1979. He received an appointment to the Air Force Academy and was sworn in as a second lieutenant on June 1, 1983.

"The airmen I've had the chance to work with are the fuel and power of our organization," Gen. McLaughlin said. "We get it done because we have the best people in the world."

Brig. Gen. McLaughlin is vice commander, USAFWC, Nellis Air Force Base. The USAFWC is responsible for assuring combat air, space and information operations. These forces are trained and equipped to conduct integrated combat operations.

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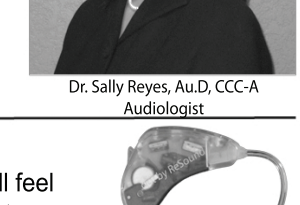
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EDITORIAL

"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.

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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Tea parties something to applaud

Democrat or Republican, Libertarian or Independent, liberal or conservative — one thing seems certain about Americans, we like to criticize the federal government.

Remember those "America: Love It or Leave It" bumper stickers back in the 1970s that were almost as numerous as peace symbols? Many of us in our '50s and '60s do.

The Vietnam War proved a lightening rod. You were either pro-war or pro-peace, but in hindsight, the war was simply a focal point for a bigger battle of generations and the rift included everything from long hair to short hair, political beliefs and clothing styles to premarital sex and drug use.

In retrospect, nobody was 100 percent right.

The war turned out to be a failure, not because of any shortcoming on the troops' part. But it was long after a majority of Americans opposed the war that our nation's leaders got us out of Southeast Asia.

At the same time, many of those who'd decided to opt for the counterculture learned after time that drug use destroyed many lives, as did rampant promiscuity.

We were reminded of those times last week with Wednesday's "tea parties" and Thursday's brouhaha in Austin concerning Gov. Rick Perry's comments following one of those "tea parties"

"We've got a great union. There's absolutely no reason to dissolve it. But if Washington continues to thumb their nose at the American people, you know, who knows what might come out of that. But Texas is a very unique place, and we're a pretty independent lot to boot," Perry said Wednesday.

Needless to say, Democrats pounced.

"We all knew he wanted to be president. I just didn't know it was president of the Republic of Texas," State Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, said to chuckles from onlookers.

"Talk of secession is an attack on our country. It can be nothing else. It is the ultimate anti-American statement," Dunnam said at a news conference Thursday.

From our vantage point, this is all much to do about nothing.

It's not surprising that those "tea parties" were held. And it's no surprise to us that conservatives championed the idea, while liberals didn't.

Chances are much the same would be happening if Republicans still held sway in Washington, it would just have been liberals attending "tea parties," while there would have been many conservatives claiming that dissent was somehow disloyal to our nation.

The week before, Perry joined state lawmakers in showing support for a Texas resolution championing states' rights provided for in the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He voiced support for states' rights again Thursday. He also defended freedom of speech to a room full of journalists. "This is America, baby. First Amendment. We like it too, as well as the Second and the 10th (amendment)," he said.

We couldn't agree more.

And that, more than anything, is what we should all take from last week's row.

That's because with our political system, neither the federal government, nor the state government, rarely does what we'd like — give us exactly what we want, the way we want it and when we want it, which is now.

The thing that makes the United States special is that as citizens, we have the right to voice our opinions and peaceably protest.

That's something all of us should celebrate.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be overly sensitive to every one of Your words, Lord.

Amen

Having the courage to try

I suspect most of us are aware of the American cargo ship captain — Capt. Richard Phillips — who was held hostage by Somali pirates on a lifeboat in a five-day standoff. I'm writing this column only hours after hearing the good news of his rescue by U.S. Navy SEALS, and no doubt there will be many more details published before this column is in print. But what I know now impels me to write.



ANNETTE BRIDGES

"A model for all Americans" is how President Obama described the captain's courage. Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon, President of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy where Phillips was a graduate, said speaking of Capt. Phillips, "He was the good shepherd — he exchanged his life for the life of his crew." And Vice Admiral Bill Gortney, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said, "The actions of Capt. Phillips and the civilian mariners of Maersk-Alabama were heroic. They fought back to regain control of their ship, and Capt. Phillips selflessly put his life in the hands of these armed criminals in order to protect his crew."

The captain's decision to surrender himself to the pirate hijackers in an effort to safeguard his crew certainly epitomizes Jesus words, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

How fitting that news of the happy resolution of his saga came on Easter morning!

Evil didn't win the battle against Capt. Phillips, just as it didn't against Jesus. Jesus' wrongful crucifixion was not the end of his story. His resurrection teaches us many lessons, but among them is to never give up our hope and faith in the power of good. I feel certain that Capt. Phillips didn't give up hope.

I can't help but appreciate the fact that a couple of days before his rescue, the captain tried to save his own life by leaping into the ocean.

Perhaps this is also an important lesson for us all.

How many times have I feared that I wouldn't be able to do something successfully and I didn't even make an attempt? Or how many times did I fail at something in my first try and became so depressed, disappointed and despondent that I never tried again? I suspect that given the opportunity the captain would have continued to try to escape.

And consider his crew. They didn't accept defeat in their initial capture and found their way to freedom from their hijackers by making the heroic effort to regain control of their ship.

There's something very empowering as I consider the choices made by Capt. Phillips and his crew — choices that resonate with the Psalmist's resolute declaration, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." (Psalms 118:17)

The model of courage we have witnessed inspires us to see that we all have the ability to take actions that can result in life — in our happiness, in our satisfaction, in solutions, improvement and progress. We don't have to be overwhelmed, oppressed or overcome by uncertainty, indecision, rejection, failure, illness or debt and loss. Keeping our faith certain and our hope strong that good is omnipotent and God-ordained will make us courageous as we face whatever would try to capture our peace, our freedom, or our life and livelihood.

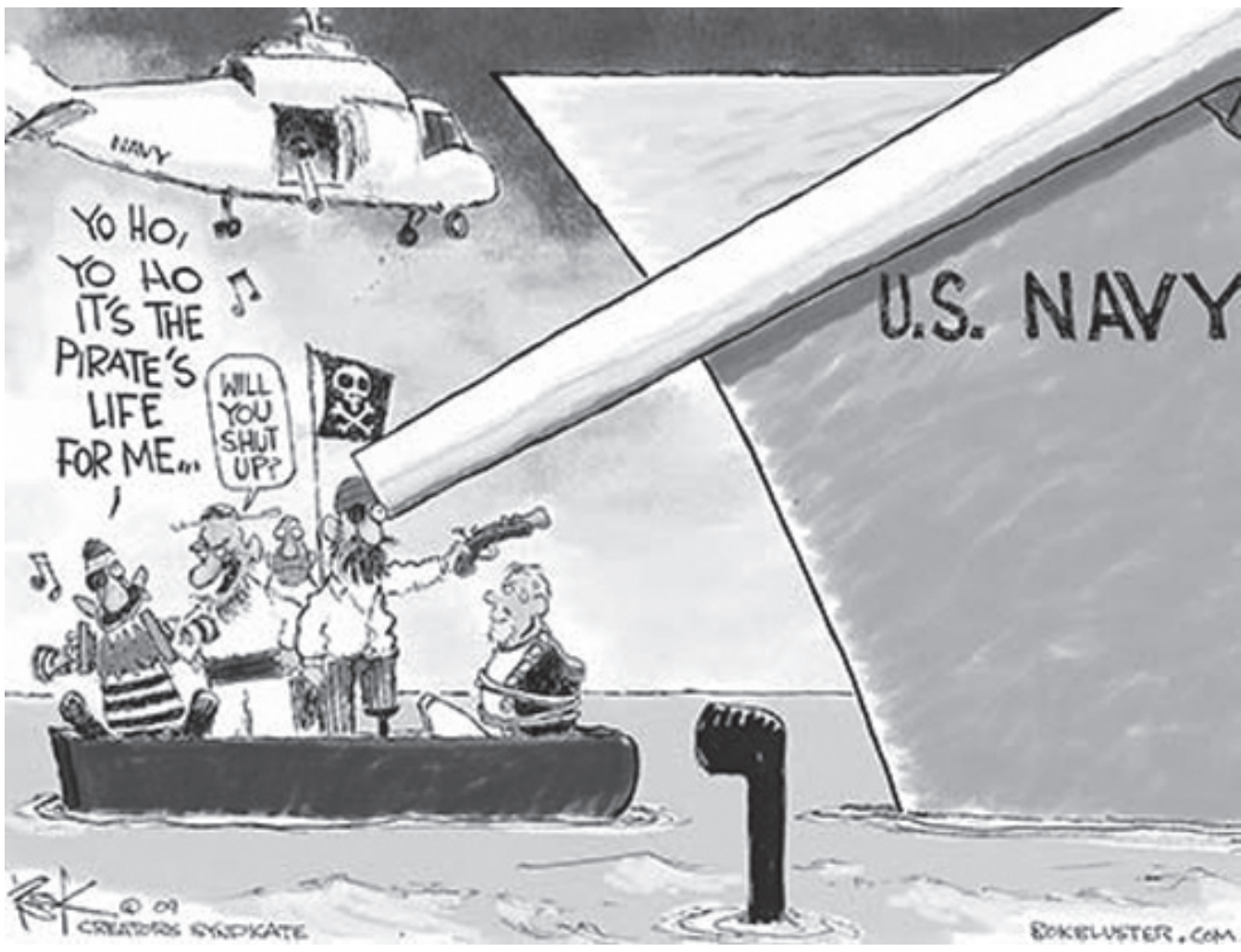
I love the many "un" synonyms for "courageous" such as undaunted, unalarmed, undismayed, unafraid as well as unswerving, unfaltering, unflinching, and unconquerable — all qualities that would keep us trying again and again until we reach our goal or solve a problem.

We may never face life or death choices like Capt. Phillips and his crew. But whatever our endeavor, we can choose to never give up. We can choose to not readily accept defeat. We can choose to never believe we are without hope.

May there come a day when humanity learns to live in peace with one another and no longer tries to rob another of what they could earn for themselves rightfully, legally and fairly.

Let's continue our prayers for the safety and freedom of the many that remain hostages of pirates.

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly on United Press International's ReligionAndSpirituality.com and numerous newspapers. Visit her website at www.annettebridges.com and send her an e-mail at annettebridges@gmail.com



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Another tax season has come and gone, and although this tax season was not as overwhelming as last year, it still was a record breaker for us. More than 300 taxpayers took advantage of our service this tax season, with 268 having us file their returns and 192 of those having us e-file the return. And to think, five years ago, we were concerned because we couldn't get 35 taxpayers to let us e-file their return. We have come a long way.

An undertaking such as this is almost impossible without the help and support of many individuals and organizations. Once again, the publicity we received from the media was great. I would like to express my appreciation to Suddenlink of West Texas, KBST and KBYG radio stations and the city of Big Spring for putting our information on Channel 17. A very special thanks to the Herald and especially Thomas Jenkins for your support and the publicity you gave our program prior to and throughout the tax season.

I would also like to thank the staff at the Howard County Library, who at times had their hands full directing people to our site at the Big Spring Senior Center. And a very special thank you must go to Nancy Jones and the staff at the senior center for their support and hospitality.

Finally, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the Tax-Aide volunteers, 12 wonderful individuals who gave so willingly of their time and talent. They truly are the heart and soul of the Tax-Aide program and I still believe they are the best.

GLORIA HOPKINS
TAX-AIDE COORDINATOR
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

To raise awareness of sexual assault, April has been declared Sexual Assault Month in Texas. Sexual assault, or rape, is a violent crime, not a sexual act. The myth that men or women who rape are sexually deprived or pathological is being dispelled and replaced with they understanding that rape is more of an act of power and control than lust.

More than 226,000 children and 104,000 adults are raped every year in Texas. In one survey, 42 percent of rape victims reported that they had told no one about the assault. Only 5 percent reported it to police.

One of every five college women reported being forced to have intercourse.

Nine percent of victims were raped by husbands or ex-husbands and 11 percent by boyfriends or ex-boyfriends. Sixteen percent were raped by other relatives and 29 percent were sexually assaulted by other non-relatives, such as friends and neighbors.

The following letter was written by Dr. Nancy Kellogg, medical director of Childsafe and the Christus Santa Rosa Center for Miracles in San Antonio, to a child sexual assault survivor, who will be called Jane for confidentiality.

Dear Jane,

You are a beautiful and strong person. Your tears are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of a good heart that values love and kindness. Your family is those that love and protect you. Your family is your sister and brother now, more recently, your aunt and her family. Your father is not your family. That is a great loss, but remember that was HIS choice and you have not lost who YOU are. You are still a good person with a heart of love.

Your father did not do these things to you because of who YOU are but because of what he became. He became a selfish person that needed certain things

See **LETTERS**, Page 4A

Martin claims third pole of season

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Mark Martin won his third pole of the season Friday, taking the top spot at Phoenix International Raceway.

Martin ran a lap at 133.814 mph in his Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to beat Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch for the top starting spot Saturday night. Before this season, Martin hadn't won a pole since 2001.

Martin couldn't have picked a better spot to try to end teammate Jimmie Johnson's three-race win streak at PIR.

"When we beat Jimmie Johnson to win a race, I'm going to feel like I beat Superman," Martin said. "I will say this, we are very proud of the performance that we've had on the racetrack all year."

Martin also won the pole at Bristol and Atlanta. His best finishes this year were sixth-place runs at Bristol and Texas.

Polesitters have won two of the last four races at PIR — Johnson last November and Jeff Gordon in April 2007.

The 50-year-old Martin won at PIR in 1993 out of the third position, and it is one of his favorite tracks. This will be Martin's 25th race here, with nine top-five finishes and 15 top-10 finishes.

"I like this place a lot," Martin said. "I've had a lot of great races here."

But Martin didn't expect to win another pole when he arrived in the desert this week.

"I know the others were surprising, but Christmas comes once a year," Martin said. "This is really cool. It's really cool. It really makes, it just goes to show me, I am an idiot. I am a complete and total idiot because I looked at this (No. 5 car) real long and hard before I decided I want to do it. I was just about dumb enough to have passed on this opportunity. It's great. It's awesome."

Will Martin have the same feeling on Saturday night?

"If we want to win, we are going to have to step it up one more notch," he said.

Kyle Busch qualified second with a lap at 133.725 in a Toyota, and older brother Kurt was third in a Dodge with a lap at 133.700.

The Busch brothers have each won on this track — Kurt from the second position in April 2005, and Kyle in November 2005, coming out of the 15th position.

SPURS

Continued from Page 2B

was yanked from the starting lineup early in the season, and even off the bench, the Spurs have considerably shaved the minutes given to their 37-year-old defensive stopper.

Their rotation has been erratic down to the final weeks. Even their usual team-building Rodeo Road Trip failed to pack the "bunker mentality" that coach Gregg Popovich puts a premium on each February.

For the Spurs, it's been an oddly disruptive year. Nonetheless, here they are, the No. 3 seed in the Wild West and the Southwest Division champions.

Duncan said how far they go will come down to what it always does for San Antonio: defense.

"We're not as solid as years past," Duncan said. "We're going to have to really concentrate on that going through these playoffs. We want games in the low 80s and 90. Those are the kind of games we like to play and like to win."

The Spurs grabbed the third seed in the West thanks to Houston losing to Dallas on Wednesday night, moments before Finley forced overtime against New Orleans with a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Duncan said he didn't find out about the Mavs' win until his wife told him in the final seconds of overtime.

Based on the way he was playing, the two-time MVP clearly had other things on his mind. Duncan was brilliant in overtime against the Hornets, scoring at will and playing at perhaps his most dominant since his knees flared up around All-Star break.

"Don't get too excited," Parker joked after the game.

It was likely a refreshing sight for the Spurs, who as recently as last week pulled Duncan from an important game against Portland in the fourth quarter when he awkwardly lumbered toward a loose ball. After that game, Popovich said he didn't want a "hero" but a healthy big man.

The Spurs have treated Duncan as fragile since diagnosing him with right quad tendonosis in late February. Duncan has played on "half a leg" at times his own admission, and coupled with the absence of Ginobili, the weight has fallen heavily on Parker.

But the 26-year-old has responded with his best season yet. He's posted career highs in scoring (22.0) and assists (6.9), and was showered with "M-V-P! M-V-P!" chants by the home crowd in the finale Wednesday.

"Night in and night out, with all the injuries we've had and the guys playing well and not playing well, he's been playing consistent all year long," Duncan said. "He's been great."

The Spurs haven't lost a first-round playoff series since 2000, the year after winning their first NBA championship. They split the season series with Dallas at two games apiece, and enter the playoffs having won four straight.

"To ride this momentum going into the playoffs, and start at home, is good," Finley said.

MAVS

Continued from Page 2B

Howard is back to flying toward the rim in the half-court offense and in transition, becoming the go-to guy for Kidd that was expected when Dallas traded for the point guard last season. He's once again the team's best defender on the perimeter and he's no longer stirring up off-court controversies like advocating marijuana on local radio or saying the national anthem isn't for him because he's black.

His impact is easy to measure: Since rejoining the lineup March 31, Dallas is 7-2 overall, 6-1 in the games he's played.

"His energy on both ends of the floor is what we were missing," Nowitzki said. "Hopefully his ankle responds the right way. We've got a couple of days off now, then let it rip this weekend."

Carlisle's lineups have changed frequently all season, with Howard's health giving the rotation an extra twirl. The upside is that Carlisle has a better feel for when to start Antoine Wright or J.J. Barea at shooting guard, and knows he can rely on Brandon Bass and James Singleton as backups. Ryan Hollins has become an energy guy at center, but Carlisle lately has opted to go with smaller lineups when he takes out center Erick Dampier.

Terry comes off the bench, too, although he hardly seems like a sub considering he averages nearly 34 minutes and 19.6 points. Nowitzki averaged 25.9 points, third-best in his career and fourth-most in the NBA.

"Right now, we're a confident group," Kidd said. "We're playing well, we're playing together."

Carlisle proudly notes that Dallas is the first team to start 2-7 and finish with 50 wins. This is the ninth straight year the Mavericks have reached that standard of excellence.

However, Dallas is the only team to have such a long stretch of 50-win seasons without winning multiple NBA titles. That's right, not just a championship, but several. The Mavericks have reached the finals only once and blew their chance for the championship by letting a 2-0 lead slip away against Miami in 2006.

They haven't won a postseason series since, but the last few weeks sure have felt like it. Dallas went 4-1 in games against playoff teams to move out of the No. 8 seed and a first-round matchup against Kobe Bryant and the Lakers.

"We've banded together," Terry said. "I think that's made us tougher mentally. I think we're prepared. We're a playoff-ready team. I keep saying it, but the best is yet to come."

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PETERS

Continued from Page 3B

While the Bills lose their most talented offensive lineman, they rid themselves of a potential headache. Peters was threatening to repeat last year's offseason holdout. He was scheduled to make a base salary of $7.2 million over the final two years of his contract.

By landing Peters, the Eagles fill an immediate hole on their offensive line after left tackle Tra Thomas signed with Jacksonville in free agency last month. Thomas, who protected Donovan McNabb's blind side the last 10 seasons, didn't get an offer from Philadelphia. The Eagles still have their own first-round pick, the 21st overall, and nine other picks. They acquired the 28th pick from Carolina in a draft-day trade last year.

The Eagles have revamped their offensive line since losing to Arizona in the NFC championship game. They signed Andrews, the former Cincinnati Bengals right tackle, early in free agency. Stacy Andrews, the brother of Eagles right guard Shawn Andrews, is expected to replace longtime starter Jon Runyan, an unrestricted free agent coming off knee surgery.

Without Peters, the Bills have another need to address in either free agency or the draft. Buffalo was already in the midst of revamping its offensive line after releasing left guard Derrick Dockery and electing not to re-sign centers Duke Preston and Melvin Fowler in February.

The Bills, coming off their third straight 7-9 season, have added Geoff Hangartner, who is expected to take over at center, and versatile journeyman Seth McKinney in free agency.

Listed at 6-foot-4 and 328 pounds, Peters completed his sixth season last year and was selected to his second consecutive Pro Bowl. He was an undrafted rookie out of Arkansas and broke in with the Bills as a tight end.

After his rookie season, Peters was converted into an offensive lineman, and started 10 games at right tackle in 2005. He moved over to the left side midway through the following season.

By acquiring the 28th pick from Philadelphia, Buffalo will now have three of the first 42 selections in the draft, including the 11th overall. Aside from offensive line, the Bills have specific needs on defense, including adding a lineman or outside linebacker.

Right tackle Langston Walker is a candidate to take over for Peters. Walker filled in on the left side during Peters' holdout last year, and in Buffalo's opener.

Peters was fined by the Bills more than $600,000 for missing mandatory minicamp and all of training camp last year before reporting to the team a day before Buffalo's season-opener. It's not clear whether Peters paid those fines.

BIG SPRING MAN HONORED

Dickerson receives key civilian award from the Air Force



Big Spring resident Walter (Bert) Dickerson has been named Civilian Personnel Intermediate Program Manager for the U.S. Air Force.

The announcement was made in March by Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This award comes after he received the award at the Air Education and Training Command level.

Dickerson was nominated by his supervisor, Velma G. Elizardo, Civilian Personnel Officer at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

The award is given for outstanding accomplishments in leadership and job performance, significant self improvement and base/community involvement. Dickerson lives in Big Spring and is married to Dianne Dickerson, who is in administration at the West Texas VA Health Care System.

KBST news director Henry earns state Mental Health/Mental Retardation award

Special to the Herald



Courtesy photo

Mike Henry, KBST news director, was awarded the Frank M. Adams Award by the Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers.

KBST News Director Mike Henry was named the 2009 Frank M. Adams Award recipient by the Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers.

Henry was nominated by West Texas Centers for MHMR for the statewide award. The award is presented annually to a news media representative who conveys a professional level of awareness to the mission of the Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers

The Texas Council is a statewide organization through which the 39 community MHMR centers work together as a public system serving Texans with mental illness, mental retardation and chemical dependency.

The award will be presented to Henry at the Texas Community MHMR Centers Staff and Training Conference in Fort Worth on June 25.

The Texas Council accepts nominations for awards in three categories: individual, community and media. The awards are named in honor of Adams, who was a founding member of the Texas Council and a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the Southeast Texas MHMR Center now known as Spindletop MHMR Services.

"The award is very competitive," West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said. "The Council receives nominations from all the community MHMR centers. They are choosing from the best of the best. We are thrilled that they recognized Mike for the great work that he does."

"We know that he is a friend of mental health and mental retardation issues but to know that he has been recognized for his professionalism at the statewide level truly speaks about the level of work that he does for our organization and all the other interests of the people living in Howard County."

Henry was cited by West Texas Centers for his partnership with the groups Hoops, Dreams and Goals competition, and West Texas Center's Annual Chili Cook-off to raise money for children in need.

Henry also was presented with West Texas Center's 2006 Clyde J. Alsup Outstanding Media Award for working to improve the public's understanding of mental illness and mental retardation.

"Mike is very deserving of this award," Smith said. "We are so excited and will be accompanying him to Fort Worth to cheer him on when he receives the award."

West Texas Centers serves people with mental illness and mental retardation in a 23-county area in rural West Texas.

Obama's auto adviser linked to New York pension probe

DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — An investment company run by the head of the Obama administration's auto task force has been accused of paying more than $1 million to an aide to New York's former comptroller in a bid to win a lucrative deal with the state pension fund.

Steven Rattner was an executive at the Quadrangle Group, a private equity firm, until he left this year to lead President Barack Obama's efforts to fix the U.S. auto industry.

The Wall Street Journal and *The New York Times* reported that Rattner met with two now-indicted men to try to win state pension fund business.

Quadrangle, while under Rattner's watch, paid huge fees to Hank Morris, a political aide to former comptroller Alan Hevesi, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in court papers filed Wednesday.

Morris and the retirement fund's former chief investment officer, David Loglisci, were indicted in March on corruption and bribery charges. New York's attorney general and the SEC

See **AUTO**, Page 5C

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.

Nothing makes money like the fear of missing out on the chance to make money. Last week, despite being short-term extended, the stock market continued its march upward. The mood has definitely improved primarily on the back of positive earnings news from the U.S. banking sector. Of course the economic news isn't all positive — after all, we are in a deep recession — but some data is coming in better than expected. This is conjuring up hope that the worst of the recession is largely behind us and we agree.

For its part, the G-20 meeting continued in the news this week as President Obama apparently continues with his rock-star status among the Europeans. There are a lot of changes afoot and they certainly trend away from America as the total center of the universe. The global leaders took steps toward a new world order that is less U.S. centric. This is a reality but also a question of degree. The world is still flat in many ways and greater global cooperation would help all nations. We look for more regulation, particularly of the financial area and feel some are needed if a corporation is in a position to hurt the entire world.

History tells us that regulations go in cycles and we hope this cycle doesn't become too rigid and hurt the whole free enterprise system. The world needs a policeman to control those who want to kill us and no matter what our enemies wish for, the United States is still the best-positioned to lead. If all free nations would get together (probably a pipedream) we could beat terrorism and help facilitate global economic growth. These are longer-term problems.

The short term going forward will be influenced by the forward-looking statements made by CEO's as quarterly earnings are released. We would guess that most will be cautious and hopefully not too pessimistic about the rest of the year. Poor first-quarter earnings are widely anticipated yet negative forward comments are probably not.

On the commodity front, crude oil finished the week strong after the DOE report showed a smaller gain in U.S. inventories than expected. Stockpiles were expected to climb from a 15-year high last week because of lower refinery operating rates. Meanwhile, copper, this year's best industrial metal investment, may become the worst in the second quarter as demand slumps the most in three decades. Copper risks losing its reputation as an industrial barometer because prices rose 40 percent by April 3, the best start to a year since at least 1986, just as the global economy contracted for the first time since World War II.

In the end, this recession has been very painful for investors and oil producers alike. However, there are signs things are wanting to move back to normal, albeit the "new normal."

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced April 6 by Al Goldman, Wachovia Securities chief market strategist. Wachovia Securities did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wachovia Securities or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. Wachovia Securities, LLC., member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

EQIP offers more options to producers

Conservation programs for technical and financial assistance to landowners were authorized in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced new conservation provisions to build on the conservation gains made by landowners over the past decade.

Conservation land management practices (formerly called "incentives") now available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provide producers more options when they are adopting conservation practices like residue, nutrient or pest management.

Land management practice options will vary for each producer, depending on the type of management a producer feels will fit his or her operation. There are several options for addressing soil erosion and soil condition under residue management, including conversion to no-till or strip-till for $25 per acre, $10 per acre for mulch tillage and $20 per acre for ridge tillage.

Additionally, farming operations transitioning to organic production could be eligible for EQIP funding at $20 per acre to help offset the costs of addressing resource concerns associated with the transition. Producers interested in precision agriculture might be eligible for the Electrical Conductivity (EC) Mapping management practice at $20 per acre, whereby an EC map of a field is made to enable precision application of nutrients.

Producers are encouraged to contact the NRCS to discuss in detail eligibility criteria for these land management practices. While producers who have already adopted a practice such as no-till would not be eligible for EQIP funding for that practice, they might be eligible for another practice. Other options are available for structural and vegetative practices.

Applications for EQIP will be accepted any time during the year. However, funding cycles will vary depending on budgetary allocations and the application ranking process will be based on overall cost effectiveness and how effectively and comprehensively the project addresses the designated

See **EQIP**, Page 5C

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Big Spring
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STATE GOVERNMENT

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

• JOE HEFLIN
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

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

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

Russ McEwen, Mayor — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.
Greg Biddison — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.
Manuel Ramirez Jr. —Home: 268-9692; Work (VAMC): 263-7361.
Stephanie Horton — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361..
JoAnn Staulcup — Home: 263-4980.
Gloria McDonald — Home: 263-4835. Work: 263-7615.
Troy Tompkins — Home: 267-8769. Work: 263-0180.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mark Barr, County Judge — Home and Office: (432) 517-0707.
Emma Brown — Home: 267-2649.
Jerry Kilgore — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
Jimmie Long — Home: 466-0793.
Gary Simer — Home: 263-0260.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

and did not care who he hurt to get what he wanted. A father loves and protects, not hates and hurts. He lost his children when he lost his soul.

You still have your soul. Part of your soul is your instinct to survive, your love for your brother and sister and niece, your pride in your work and your determination to be a good person, despite all of the pain and evil you have lived with. Your father did not take your soul. He may have tried, but he only touched the outermost shell of who you are. Your father did not know your soul.

Your niece is your tree of hope. She symbolizes how you, your sister and brother choose a different path than your father. Give her the safe haven you never had. You know better than anyone what a childhood should not be. Out of pain comes knowledge and strength. Out of loss, comes new independence and resolve. Live and grow now, for now Jane, you are free.

That's something all victims need to know.

Christine Everett
SANE Program Coordinator
Big Spring

To the Editor:

As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22, I present for your reflection a portion of the inspiring message that Pope Benedict XVI offered to the world in his World Day of Peace statement of Jan. 1, 2008, entitled "The Human Family, a community of peace."

"The family needs a home, a fit environment in which to develop its proper relationships. For the human family, this home is the earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility. We need to care for the environment. It has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion. Human beings, obviously, are of supreme worth vis-a-vis creation as a whole. Respecting the environment does not mean considering material or animal nature more than that of man. Rather, it means not selfishly considering nature to be at the complete disposal of our own interests, for future generations also have the right to reap its benefits and to exhibit toward nature the same responsible freedom that we claim for ourselves.

"Humanity today is rightly concerned about the ecological balance of tomorrow ... above all with the aim of reaching agreement on a model of sustainable development capable of ensuring the well-being of all while respecting environmental balances.

"One area where there is a particular need is to intensify dialogue between nations is that of the stewardship of the earth's vital resources. The technologically advanced countries are facing two pressing needs in this regard; one the one hand, to reassess the high levels of consumption due to the present model of development, and on the other hand, to invest sufficient resources in the search for alternative sources of energy and for greater energy efficiency."

Earth Day is a reminder that the earth is our common home and the care for planet Earth is the responsibility of all.

The Most Rev. Michael Pfeifer
Bishop
Diocese of San Angelo

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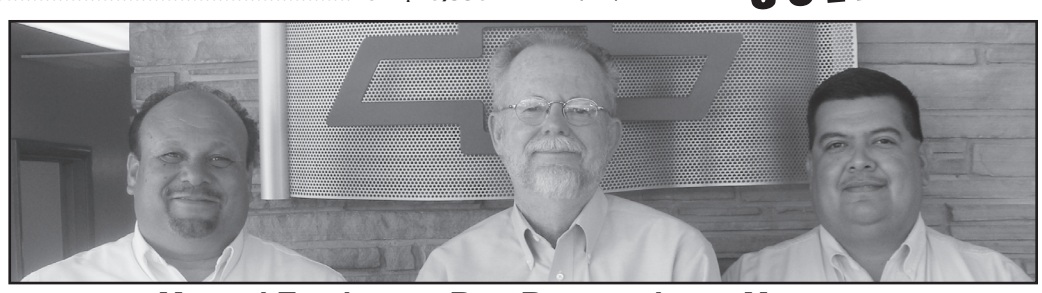
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2005 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk#J162 Gray
Was $10,495.....**Now $9,495**
2004 Chrysler 300M V6 Stk#J104 Purple
Was $11,995.....**Now $10,995**
2007 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#J151 Silver
Was $12,995.....**Now $11,995**
2003 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk#J272 Silver
Was $12,995.....**Now $11,995**
2006 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk#J183 Gold
Was $13,495..... SOLD
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K016 White
Was $13,995.....**Now $12,995**
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K017 White
Was $13,995.....**Now $12,995**
2006 Hyundai Sonata V6 Stk#J184A Light Blue
Was $14,495.....**Now $12,495**
2007 Chrysler Sebring 4 Cyl. Stk#J152 Red
Was $14,995.....**Now $13,995**
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#J234 Black
Was $14,995.....**Now $13,995**
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J242 Gray
Was $14,995.....**Now $13,995**
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#H236 Stone Gray
Was $15,995.....**Now $14,995**
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J145 Silver
Was $15,995.....**Now $14,995**
2008 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J241 White
Was $15,995.....**Now $14,995**
2005 Buick Park Avenue V6 Stk# J249 Sandstone
Was $15,995.....**Now $14,995**
2005 Cadillac Deville V8 Stk#H143A Silver
Was $16,495.....**Now $15,495**
2008 Saturn Aura V6 Stk#K013 White
Was $16,495.....**Now $15,495**
2008 Chevrolet HHR 4 cyl. Stk#K011 White
Was $16,995.....**Now $15,995**
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K012 Red
Was $16,995.....**Now $15,995**

★★ CARS ★★
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K014 Silver
Was $16,995.....**Now $15,995**
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K015 White
Was $16,995.....**Now $15,995**
2007 Cadillac DTS V8 Stk#H181 Glacier White
Was $26,995.....**Now $25,995**

★★SUVS ★★
2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer 16 Stk#J167 White
Was $10,995.....**Now $9,995**
2002 Toyota Sequoia V8 Stk#J066 Green
Was $13,995.....**Now $12,995**
2008 Chevrolet Uplander V6 Stk#J244 White
Was $16,495.....**Now $15,495**
2006 Chevrolet Suburban V8 Stk#J274 White
Was $20,995.....**Now $19,995**

★★ TRUCKS ★★
2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#J121 Silver Birch
Was $13,995.....**Now $12,995**
2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#K004A Black
Was $15,995.....**Now $14,995**
2006 GMC Sierra 150 Stk#J273 Pewter
Was $17,995..... SOLD
2005 Ford F150 Supercrew V8 Stk#J228 Gray
Was $17,995.....**Now $16,995**
2005 GMC Sierra 1500 V8 Stk#K009 Sand Beige Metallic
Was $18,995.....**Now $17,995**
2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD V8 Stk#J268 Blue Granite
Was $21,995.....**Now $20,995**
2006 GMC Sierra 1500 HD V8 Stk#J007 Red
Was $22,995.....**Now $21,995**
2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#J149 White
Was $25,495.....**Now $24,995**
2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Stk#J054A Gray
Was $31,995..... SOLD


Manuel Zambrano, Ron Reagan, Isaac Marquez

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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80 Apt. 230, Abilene

Bryan Layton Allison, 1108 College Circle, Ranger

Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa

Fernando Arriaga Jr., 606 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring

Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 N. Sixth Street, Lamesa

Toby Barnett, 1713 Dwayne Barnett, Lubbock

Christopher Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring

Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring

Vern Black, 329 W. Tennessee, Floydada

Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford

Vern Black, 329 W Tennesse, Floydada

Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Avenue L, Lamesa

Dave Bracken, 2720 42nd Street, Lubbock

Melissa Camargo, 2100 Ave. N, Tahoka

Amy Castillo, 1806 Morrison, Big Spring

Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City

Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring

Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring

Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring

Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa Drive, Big Spring

Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave., San Antonio

Brandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring

Mary Helen Escovedo, 3120 Delano, Midland

James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.

Naomi Gonzales, 1209 Runnels, Big Spring

Melissa Gonzalez, 2317 CR 220, Garden City

Gabriel Guerrero, 411 N.E. 10th Street, Big Spring

Pamela Kay Hadorn, 101 Shifflett Drive, Big Spring

Sharon Marquis Hanson, 1201 E. Co. Rd. 34, Big Spring

Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring

Rickie L. Henderson, 205 Providence Road, Big Spring

Cherie Brandy Hernandez, 2006 Ave. L, Snyder

Paige Morgan Kenas, 1003-2 Lake County Rd. 175, Colorado City

Kimberly K. King, 1711 Young, Big Spring

Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box 35, Rotan

Lynda Kynam, 2503 Central, Big Spring

Eloy Escobar Leal, 1806 E. 11th Street, Big Spring

Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland

Christopher Max Martinez, 2870 S. Highway, Snyder

Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eubanks, Big Spring

Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa

Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring

Mari Montemayor, 627 State Street, Big Spring

Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas

Leslie William Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring

Christopher Eric Painter, 1503 S. Johnson, 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, 2516 Dow, Big Spring

Lorissa Jade Rodriguez, 406 N. Scurry, Big Spring

Veronica Luera Rodriguez, 5709 Cedar Rd. No. 3, Big Spring

Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper

Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Houston Ave., Odessa

Rudy Salazar, P.O. Box 1275, Stanton

Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring

Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th Street, Big Spring

Stephanie Serrato, 1203 E. Mobile, Big Spring

Harl Brandford Shaffer, 7603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring

Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring

Jonathan Michael Shorten, 1619 1-35 La Quinta, San Marcos

Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa

Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley No. 1132, Midland

Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City

Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler

William Dale Stewart, 3505 Gail Highway, Big Spring

Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson No. 5, Big Spring

Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.

Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring

Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 runnels, Big Spring

Roxanne V. Ybarra, 3914 Parkway, Big Spring

District Court Filings:

Terry L. Chamness vs. Latricia L. Chamness, divorce.

Blanca Sanchez Ramirez vs. Ramon Ramirez Jr., divorce.

Lydia Arguello vs. Juan C. Arguello Jr., divorce.

Dodeka LLC vs. Bob G. Merrick aka Bobby G. Merrick, accounts, notes and contracts.

Paul Eugene Cline vs. D'Andra Lea Cline, divorce.

Eddie A. Fincher vs. Stacey Dawn Fincher, divorce.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. vs. Jackie L. Lockhart and Tammy D. Lockhart, civil.

Mona Vellene Sawyers vs. Ronald Lee Sawyers, divorce.

G.A. Livestock Inc. and Greg Addison vs. Tobin Parker, Plateau Livestock, accounts, notes and contracts.

Sheila Sue Burcham vs. Michael Louis Burcham, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Michael Lynn Brooks, 30, and Chandra Lee McBee, 27, both of Coahoma.

Christopher Gene Baker, 22, and Leslie Renee Kennedy, 22, both of Big Spring.

Milton O. Horton, 73, and Doreatha M. White, 74, both of Big Spring.

Kevin Lee Rich, 32, and Jacqueline Lynette Morris, 28, both of Big Spring.

Business Briefs

Citigroup tops forecasts, but caution lingers

NEW YORK (AP) — For big banks like Citigroup, the first quarter of 2009 may turn out to be the best of the year.

Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. all impressed investors over the past week with earnings reports that were better than Wall Street analysts anticipated.

Citigroup posted a first-quarter loss to common shareholders of $966 million, or 18 cents per share, narrower than the 34 cent forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters. But before paying dividends to preferred stockholders tied to a private stock offering in January 2008, the bank earned $1.6 billion, while revenue doubled from a year ago to $24.8 billion.

Finance unit woes lower GE earns 36 pct

WASHINGTON (AP) — General Electric Co.'s first-quarter earnings fell 36 percent as profits tumbled at its troubled finance arm, but the results beat Wall Street forecasts in a glimmer of good news for the struggling company.

While GE Capital remains a major drag on the conglomerate's profits, GE's strategy of weathering the economic slowdown by relying on its big industrial businesses appears to be paying off, at least for now.

GE reported net income of $2.74 billion, or 26 cents per share, after paying preferred dividends. That was down from $4.30 billion, or 43 cents per share, a year earlier.

Bernanke: financial innovation needs regulation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Friday that financial innovation is good for the economy but must be accompanied by proper regulation.

New financial products, such as subprime mortgages and structured investment vehicles, have become symbols of the economic crisis. The challenge for the government is to come up with regulations that protect consumers without stifling innovation, the Fed chief said.

New pollution limits seen for cars, big plants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cars, power plants and factories could all soon face much tougher pollution limits.

The government took a major step in that direction Friday, concluding that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases "endanger public health and welfare" under federal clean air laws, that they help cause climate change, or global warming and pose an enormous threat "in both magnitude and probability."

It is the first time that the federal government has said it is ready to use the Clean Air Act to require power plants, cars and trucks to curtail their release of climate-changing pollution, especially carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

AUTO

Continued from Page 4C

have said the payments Morris collected from Quadrangle and other firms interested in landing pension fund business amounted to kickbacks.

Rattner has not been charged with any wrongdoing. A spokesman for Quadrangle declined to comment Thursday when asked about the company's role.

The White House, meanwhile, said it was standing behind Rattner.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday that the White House was aware of the allegations but backs Rattner.

Gibbs said Rattner is not likely to face criminal or civil charges, and that Rattner informed them of the pending investigation.

Quadrangle's link to the investigation has been public for some time, but an SEC complaint filed this week in connection with a new round of indictments provided new details.

The complaint said that a Quadrangle "senior executive" met with Loglisci and then with Morris in 2004 to try to persuade the state fund to invest in Quadrangle. The two newspapers, each citing a person with knowledge of the case, reported that the "senior executive" was Rattner.

Quadrangle ultimately agreed to pay Morris's firm, Searle & Co., a "finder fee" of 1.1 percent of any money it received from the fund. A Quadrangle affiliate that specializes in distributing low-budget films, GT Brands, also acquired the DVD distribution rights to a film called "Chooch" that had been produced by Loglisci's brother.

Weeks after that film deal was signed, Loglisci told Quadrangle it would get $100 million in pension fund business.

An SEC spokesman declined to comment.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has been investigating alleged corruption at the comptroller's office during Hevesi's administration.

Prosecutors charged Morris and Loglisci in March with shaking down millions of dollars in payments from private equity firms and hedge funds interested in obtaining pension fund business.

This week, charges were also filed against the former chairman of New York's Liberal Party, Raymond Harding, who is accused of taking $800,000 in payments as part of the alleged scheme.

A Dallas businessman and classical music promoter, Barrett Wissman, has pleaded guilty to taking payments and agreed to return $12 million.

Hevesi has not been charged and has denied any wrongdoing.

Rattner, a one-time New York Times reporter who made a fortune on Wall Street, has been a major fundraiser for political candidates. His wife, Maureen White, was the former fundraising chairwoman for the Democratic National Committee.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg considers Rattner a friend and praised him earlier this month as a "phenomenally competent guy." The billionaire mayor's investments are handled by Quadrangle Asset Management, which is part of the Quadrangle Group.

Bloomberg said he and Rattner had discussed whether Rattner should take on the Obama administration job.

"We did have conversations about whether he should do it," Bloomberg said. The mayor, who was a businessman before he entered politics, said he warned Rattner there was a lot to think about before going into public service, including "the disclosure issues."

EQIP

Continued from Page 4C

resource concerns.

Producers who have an active conservation plan have been given priority in Howard County to address local resource concerns. NRCS is encouraging producers to learn more about implementing conservation management on their land.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office in Big Spring at (432) 267-1871 ext. 3. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.

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174811

MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER'S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION APRIL TERM 2009

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 13th day of April, 2009 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for March 31, 2009, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as $14,870,315.55.

Mark Barr, County Judge
Emma Brown, Commissioner Pct.1
Jerry Kilgore,Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
Gary Simer, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Mark Barr, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 13th day of April, 2009.

Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 13TH DAY OF April, 2009, and recorded on the 13th day of April, A.D. 2009.

Donna Wright,
County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

175761

Texan puts his twist on Buddhism

By MARK LISHERON
Austin American-Statesman

SPICEWOOD — From where the teacher stands, at dusk on a ridge behind the ranch house, the dry, buckskin-colored bed of the Pedernales River cuts south, disappearing around one of the endless, scrubby, undulating hills.

People are walking paths between other buildings on the ranch, quietly, slowly, deliberately.

The burnished Southwestern pastoral scene is disrupted by the bright claret splash of a robe over the left shoulder of the teacher.

This 35-plus-acre ranch a few miles outside of Spicewood is a Dzogchen Center, a retreat for Buddhist reflection, teaching and prayer. Beneath the robe, Lama Surya Das wears a crisply ironed, stylish shirt.

He is a New Yorker spreading the word of an Eastern religion in the West: the idea of a life's journey to enlightenment sold with a little Hollywood. He favors wraparound sunglasses. He often arrives at formal occasions in a business suit.

"The goal is to get my message out, and I'm doing it in a way that fits me," Surya Das said over tea during a one-week advanced retreat last month. "Nothing succeeds like success. But Buddhists don't proselytize. Only go when invited. Only teach when asked."

One can find Surya Das explaining this American version of Buddhism in short videos on YouTube, or matching wits with comedian Stephen Colbert and describing what he does on an old edition of comedian Bill Maher's program "Politically Incorrect." He gives his mother, who eventually forgave him for his drift away from Judaism, credit for dubbing him "The Deli Lama."

He sells books like a celebrity. "Awakening the Buddha Within" spent time on *The New York Times* best-seller list and has sold more than 400,000 copies. There are an additional dozen, all of them still in print.

There is nothing undignified in this showmanship, as long as it serves its purpose, Surya Das said.

"I am interested in reaching you," Surya Das said. "The Dalai Lama has been successful by being approachable."

In many ways, Surya Das, 58, remains Jeffrey Miller, the Jewish, three-sport high school letterman from Long Island.

Miller enrolled at the University of Buffalo in the late 1960s and like many of his friends with college draft exemptions, took part in the demonstrations against the Vietnam War.

He got tear-gassed in Washington.

He survived the mud-slicked bliss of Woodstock.

The anger and frustration over the war culminated for Miller in the clash between students and the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University in 1970.

Allison Krause, the girlfriend of one of his best high school friends, was one of the four students shot and killed by guardsmen. Violence, he concluded, was not a path to peace. And trading a bachelor's degree in psychology for a job was not a way to contentment.

"Those were heavy times," he said. "I was looking for something different. I was always a questioner, following my heart and sniffing around with my nose for a way to find peace, to become peace. I headed east."

Many students took journeys of the kind described in Crosby, Stills & Nash's song "Marrakesh Express." Miller, trekking from Turkey to Afghanistan, to India and, finally Nepal, stayed for two years, becoming a student of the Buddhism practiced in Tibet.

Buddhism was born from the life-changing experiences of Siddhartha Gautama, the indulged son of a swashbuckling Indian king.

Gautama, who historians say probably lived between 580 and 480 B.C., renounced the advantage of his social caste, traveling to comprehend the meaning of human suffering.

In a revelation, Gautama became the first Buddha, laying down an elaborate set of ideas around the belief that human beings had, through reincarnation's cycle of death and birth, the capacity to break from their basest urges and achieve a complete enlightenment known as nirvana.

The idea of this search for wisdom and application to everyday life exerted a tremendous pull on Miller, who had never been fully satisfied with the explanations and exhortations of his Judaism. When Tibetan monks agreed to teach him, he said he found himself among men who lived their faith and made him understand that he could share what he learned, too.

"This was my true higher education, wisdom for life," he said. "I began to understand the interdependence of all of us. How can I be happy if there are so many who aren't?"

While he insists he has never completely left Judaism, Miller's parents were appalled when he returned from his Eastern travels in 1976.

Miller took the name Surya Das, or servant of light, and told his parents of his intention to return to Tibet. His advanced Tibetan Buddhist studies continued into the 1980s.

He first met the Dalai Lama late in 1972, eventually receiving the exiled Tibetan religious leader's blessing to teach as a lama himself. Over the past 25 years, Surya Das acted as a sometime guide, translator and confidant when the Dalai Lama has toured the United States.

He spent more than a decade leading retreats and teaching, mostly in Switzerland. Convinced he had important work in his own country, Surya Das decided in 1991 to relocate to Cambridge, Mass., to start his first Dzogchen Center.

Dzogchen is one of several schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

When he was studying in Nepal in the early 1970s, the United States had only a few established Buddhist teaching centers. Today there are more than 2,200 cataloged by the Pluralism Project, a broad ongoing study of American religion at Harvard University.

In a world of about 375 million Buddhists, the Pluralism Project estimates 2.5 million to 3 million of them are American. A majority of them are immigrants, but a growing number are American converts.

Surya Das has been an important part of that growth, said Charles Prebish, a Utah State University professor and the author of a handful of seminal studies of Buddhism in America.

From an Eastern tradition that can be complicated and doctrinal, Surya Das offers a kind of pop culture simplicity to Buddhism without diluting the core message of enlightenment, Prebish said.

"As a teacher and lecturer he is in incredible demand around the U.S. He may not be at the top, but he's very near the top," Prebish said. "He's personable, clever and fun to listen to and talks in a language people understand."

Among his most useful and important contributions was his anticipation of what American Buddhism would become, Prebish said. In his book "Awakening the Buddha Within," Surya Das outlined a Buddhism that gives men and women equal standing, and that is egalitarian and nonsectarian, simplified and demystified.

sudoku

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

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



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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♠J 9 7 4 3
♥7 3
♦8 5 3 2
♣6 4

WEST
♠A 10 8
♥Q J 10 9 4
♦9 6
♣9 7 3

EAST
♠Q 6
♥8 6 5 2
♦A 7 4
♣J 10 8 5

SOUTH
♠K 5 2
♥A K
♦K Q J 10
♣A K Q 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Let's say you hold the South hand and open three notrump, passed all around. West leads the queen of hearts. How would you play the hand?

When the deal occurred, South won the heart with the king and quickly realized that if he played the king of diamonds at trick two, he would almost surely go down one after a second heart lead, which would leave him with only eight tricks.

So South began to think about how he might possibly steal three notrump, and after a few moments he came up with a scheme that actually had a reasonable chance of success. At trick two, he led the king of spades!

Now just imagine you're West and that the only cards you can see are the dummy's and your own. It would certainly seem logical to assume that declarer has the K-Q-x of spades and is trying to get you to take the ace.

If that were the case, you would probably duck the king of spades at trick two — which is exactly what happened when the deal was played. South then led the king of diamonds at trick three, and at the end of play West discovered he'd been had.

If you were the actual West, you might feel embarrassed about having fallen victim to such a ruse — even though you'd have lots of company with other Wests. Instead of chastising yourself, however, you'd be better advised to credit declarer with making an extraordinarily good play and let it go at that.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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Grisly slayings brings Mexican drug war to U.S.

PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP National Writer

COLUMBIANA, Ala. — Five men dead in an apartment.

In a county that might see five homicides in an entire year, the call over the sheriff's radio revealed little about what awaited law enforcement. A type of crime, and criminal, once foreign to this landscape of blooming dogwoods had arrived in Shelby County. Sheriff Chris Curry felt it even before he saw the grisly scene. He called the state. The FBI. The DEA.

"I don't know what I've got," he warned. "But I'm gonna need help."

The five dead men lay scattered about a living room. Some showed signs of torture: Burns seared into their earlobes revealed where modified jumper cables had been clamped as an improvised electrocution device. Adhesive from duct tape used to bind the victims still clung to wrists and faces.

As a final touch, throats were slashed, post-mortem.

It didn't take long for Curry and federal agents to piece together clues: A murder scene, clean save for the crimson-turned-brown stains now spotting the carpet. Just a couple of mattresses tossed on the floor. It was a typical stash house.

But the cut throats? Some sort of ghastly warning.

Curry would soon find this was a retaliation hit over drug money with ties to Mexico's notorious Gulf cartel.

Curry also found out firsthand what narcotics agents have long understood. The drug war, with the savagery it brings, knows no bounds. It had landed in his back yard, in the foothills of the Appalachians, around the corner from The Home Depot.

One thousand, twenty-four miles from the Mexico border.

Forget for a moment the phrase itself — "War on Drugs" — much-derided since President Richard Nixon coined it. Wars eventually end, after all. And many Americans wonder today, nearly four decades later, will this one ever be won?

In Mexico, the fight has become a real war. Some 45,000 Mexican army troops now patrol territories long ruled by narcotraffickers. Places like Tijuana in Baja California. Reynosa, across the Rio Grande from Texas. But also resort cities like Acapulco, an hour south of the place where, months ago, the decapitated bodies of 12 soldiers were discovered with a sign that read: "For every one of mine that you kill, I will kill 10."

More than 10,560 people have been killed since 2006, when Mexican President Felipe Calderon took office and launched his campaign against the organized crime gangs that move cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and heroin to a vast U.S. market.

The cartels are fighting each other for power, and the Calderon administration for their very survival.

"He has deployed troops. He has deployed national police. He's trying to vet and create units ... that can effectively adjudicate and turn back the years of corruption," says John Walters, former director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy. "When there was less visible destruction, it was because they were in control. Now, he has destabilized them."

But the cartels have also brought the fight to us.

In 230 U.S. cities, the organizations maintain distribution hubs or supply drugs to local distributors, the federal government reports. Places like Miami and other longtime transportation points along the Southwest border. But also Twin Falls, Idaho. Billings, Mont. Wichita, Kan. St. Louis. Milwaukee.

Even Shelby County, where the quintuple homicide occurred just outside the Birmingham city limits and a half-hour's drive north of Columbiana, the county seat.

"We became a hub without knowing it," Sheriff Curry says.

The talk of the day is "spillover" violence — at once the stuff of sensationalism but also a very real concept.

In Phoenix, police report close to 1,000 kidnappings over the past three years tied to border smugglers moving people or drugs or both. In Atlanta, a major distribution hub for the Gulf cartel, trafficker-on-trafficker violence has become more common as the cartels impose tighter payment schedules and grow less tolerant of extending credit, says Rodney Benson, chief of the Drug Enforcement Administration there.

Greg Borland heads the DEA office in Birmingham. Since the murders last August, he's seen the fear in his neighbors' eyes, faced the questions of: How did this happen? Why here? Why now?

"They're absolutely shocked. To me it's like: Why? It's everywhere," he says. "Maybe it was only by the grace of God that it hadn't happened already."

Those in the know understand that drug-related violence is hardly unusual. What's new is where that violence is erupting, where distribution cells and hubs and sub-hubs have surfaced.

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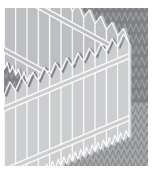
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Texas News Briefs

Dallas police remove children with roaches on them

DALLAS (AP) — A couple was arrested after police found them and four children living in a roach-infested, filthy trailer loaded with rotting food and beer cans in the Rylie area of Dallas.

Dallas police early Friday booked Joshua Benz on a charge of evading arrest while Rachel Crowell was released after being arrested on two misdemeanor tickets.

Their 6-month-old girl and three other young children were released to a relative.

Police entered the trailer about 2:30 a.m. Friday after a man tried to evade them as they investigated a report of someone siphoning gas from vehicles at the trailer park.

Police said they saw roaches crawling on the children as they slept, a toilet backed up and full of feces and Crowell was allegedly drunk and unable to stand. It was not immediately known whether they had attorneys.

Conviction over 2007 killing of Magnolia man

CONROE (AP) — A jury in Conroe convicted a man of capital murder in the 2007 shooting death of his landlord.

Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty against James Carl Stallings, who automatically received a life prison term Friday.

Stallings was found guilty of fatally shooting 52-year-old Gregory Willkomm.

The victim's burned body was found in late September 2007 in northeast Harris County on the banks of the San Jacinto River.

Prosecutors say Stallings had rented a room from Willkomm, who disappeared as he planned to do some lawn work.

Four co-defendants face trial later on capital murder charges.

Authorities had investigated alleged attempts to use the victim's credit cards.

Judge rules Bush can be deposed over library suit

DALLAS (AP) — A judge has ruled that former President George W. Bush should be deposed in a lawsuit challenging the site of his proposed presidential library.

Bush's attorneys were working Friday on an appeal that would trigger an immediate stay of state District Judge Martin Hoffman's ruling.

The library is to be built on the Southern Methodist University campus. Two former condominium owners are suing, claiming SMU bullied them into selling their property without disclosing plans for it.

Attorneys for the property owners want to know whether SMU officials told Bush of their plans.

The plaintiffs have obtained statements from top SMU officials and former White House counsel Harriet Miers, who answered questions under oath for hours.

Houston-area police officers sued over man's death

PASADENA (AP) — The family of a man who died in police custody has sued the Houston suburb of Pasadena and two officers alleging wrongful death and excessive force.

A federal lawsuit filed Friday claims officers Jason Buckaloo and Christopher Jones violated Pedro Gonzales' civil rights while unlawfully detaining him in 2007.

Both officers were acquitted last year on charges of criminally negligent homicide after a six-day jury trial. They were also cleared after an internal investigation.

The 51-year-old Gonzales died from asphyxia after he suffered eight broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Police said the man received treatment for what they thought were minor injuries and that he signed a form refusing further medical treatment.

Texas Senate passes sweeping Medicaid bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A wide-reaching Medicaid reform bill unanimously approved by the Texas Senate on Friday aims to create a more patient-focused, quality-based system — but some of the benefits may be a long way off.

The legislation by Flower Mound Republican Sen. Jane Nelson includes measures that would base insurance payouts to doctors and hospitals on patient outcomes.

"This legislation brings us closer to a modernized system that prioritizes quality of care over quantity of treatments," Nelson said. Her bill now goes to the House.

Lobbyist for the medical community have been largely in favor of the measure — despite some doubts about how the many reforms would be enacted — because a number of studies and pilot programs will gather information before most doctors and hospitals are impacted.

Pay-for-performance measures would be phased in over time as the state gathers information about when negative Medicaid patient outcomes and readmissions are preventable.

"This has never been really looked at, Medicaid readmissions," said Starr West, an analyst for the Texas Hospital Association.

West said the bill is a "thoughtful approach," and implementing the quality-based payment will be further down the line.

Some reforms could come into effect sooner, such as measures to block or reduce Medicaid reimbursements for so-called "never" events, for instance when doctors perform the wrong surgery. Another would standardize bracelets hospitals use to identify patients with certain health conditions.

The Texas Medical Association supports the legislation as "a good start" on problems that may need to be re-evaluated down the line.

Lincoln stamps collection sold for nearly $2 million

DALLAS (AP) — A Georgia man's collection of thousands of President Lincoln stamps has sold at auction in New York City for $1.961 million.

Dallas-based Spink Shreves Galleries on Friday auctioned off the Lincoln-focused collection that took 67-year-old William J. Ainsworth of Roswell more than 30 years to amass.

The pre-sale estimate for the collection was more than $2 million.

Among the collection's highlights was a proof of a block of eight mint-condition 90 cent stamps of Lincoln with his image accidentally printed upside-down. The block, one of only two known, sold for $149,600.

A 90 cent vertical block of six Lincoln stamps from 1869 — rare because it was never broken up — sold for $86,250. Officials said bids came from around the world.

Man, woman dead in house in Wichita Falls

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Wichita Falls police are investigating an apparent murder and a suicide after the bodies of a woman and a man were found in a home.

A police statement said two children, ages 4 and 15, were standing outside the house around 1 a.m. Friday when officers responded to a 911 call about gunfire.

Police did not immediately release the relationship between the children and the two adults found deal in the residence.

Police spoke with a man in the house for several hours before talks broke off around 4 a.m. Friday. Tactical officers then fired tear gas into the home, entered and discovered the bodies.

Police identified the pair as 33-year-old Brandy Smith and 33-year-old Daniel Smith.

Perry surveys North Texas wildfire damage

STONEBURG (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry on Friday stepped over mounds of twisted metal and other debris around the shell of a stone house ravaged by a recent wildfire, calling it "the most vicious" he's ever seen.

Perry also looked at the remnants of a flattened mobile home, a burned-out car and blackened tree trunks as he discussed the damage with officials in Montague County, one of the areas hardest hit by wildfires a week ago.

"What I did see was in Stoneburg — the most vicious fire that I have ever seen in my life," Perry said later at the fire station in Montague. He said knowing how to comfort victims was difficult, because "'I'm sorry' seems such inadequate words as you walk through the remains of someone's home and then when you think about the lives that were lost."

Several April 9 blazes in Montague County killed three people and destroyed 76 homes while scorching more than 60,000 acres, local officials said.

Perry thanked local volunteer firefighters and those who came from 40 departments to help battle the blazes in the rural North Texas county.

Film incentive bill passes in Texas Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers passed a measure Friday to use more financial incentives to lure movie and television producers back to the state.

The proposal, which passed the Senate on a 27-1 vote, now heads to the office of Gov. Rick Perry, who indicated he would sign the legislation into law. Currently, the governor's Texas Film Commission can award grants for the lesser of 5 percent of a production's in-state spending or a specified amount, depending on the type of project.

The new legislation would give the film office power to establish a maximum amount of a grant and would change some qualifications that a production company would have to meet.

"I am pleased that lawmakers have passed legislation to maintain and strengthen Texas' competitive position in the film, television and gaming industries, which have brought more than $1.2 billion to our economy over the past ten years," Perry said.

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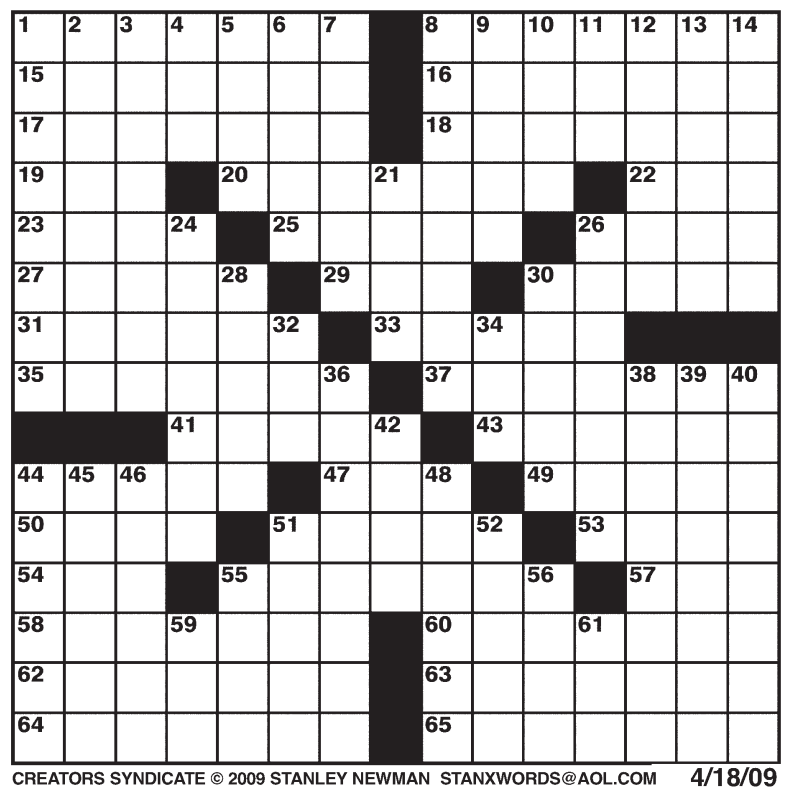
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27 Send into battle, in a way
29 Spot
30 Cotton product
31 Richardson Highway terminus
33 Heliacal
35 They're not for you
37 Raises
41 Plethora
43 Literally, "journey"
44 Term coined by Dior
47 2005 Oscar winner
49 DJ CD
50 Connect
51 Renaissance instruments
53 20 Across relative
54 __ drum
55 "The King of Comedy"
57 Pressure unit
58 Lent effort
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64 Fried-chicken device
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40 Diamond
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Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel.
All type of repairs!
Work Guaranteed.
Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs!
Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
267-1110

WELDING

Whiteley Bros. Construction
Metal buildings
Welding
Demolition
Boat docks
Oil field
Fencing
References Available
Walter Whiteley 325-733-5820
Dakota Whiteley 432-599-0233
Office 432-644-1010
175531

RENTALS

VENTURA COMPANY
432-267-2655
11th Place Shopping Center For Sale
$50,000 Cash
To Seller



WINDOW TINT

C & D Truck Accessories
2706 N. HWY 87
432-263-3600
Solar Gaurd Window Tint
5 year limited warranty
26942

Former Big Spring man to be awarded Purple Heart

After 63 years, WWII Veteran Robert Parras Luevano will be awarded the long-overdue Purple Heart Medal by the Department of the Army for wounds received while in battle as a combat infantryman in Belgium, 101st Battalion, Company C.

Luevano, now 84, was drafted into the military service at age 18 Jan. 29, 1944, while living in Big Spring. After almost one year of combat he was wounded when German tanks attacked their area.

Shrapnel hit his left knee. Luevano recounts how he laid in the snow for an hour while the battle raged before being assisted.

He tells that before he was transferred out to England for surgery, he spent one whole month under a makeshift tent in Belgium.

PFC Luevano received basic infantry training at Fort Seal, Okla. He then was transferred to Camp Breckenridge, Ky. On weekends, he was sent to Evansville, Ill., for overseas training as an infantryman. After a brief furlough to Big Spring, he was sent to Camp Shanks, New York, from where he was shipped to South Hampton, England for another month of training. He then served frontline in France and was involved in three battles in Belgium.

Luevano is the recipient of two Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, EAME Theater Ribbon and now the purple heart..

The public is invited to attend the award ceremony at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at VFW Post 7843, 792 E. Highway 67 in Duncanville.

Eastertide Offering Concerts slated at St. Mary's Episcopal

Special to the Herald

The first of St. Mary's two annual Eastertide Offering Concerts will be held at 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. Special guest artists for this concert are the members of the Big Spring High School Honor Band under the direction of Rocky Harris.

The band's annual concert at St. Mary's is one of the highlights of the music program of that church.

The Eastertide Offerings Concert are sponsored by St. Mary's both as a gift to the community of Big Spring and benefits local charities. Isaiah 58 is the charity that has been chosen to be the beneficiary of donations received at the April 21 concert.

The second concert will be held on Thursday, April 30. Compositions for handbell choir, instrumental trios and vocal quartets will be featured.

Each of the two concerts in this series is approximately 30 minutes in length and will feature a wide variety of pieces and musical styles.

A free lunch is provided by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's immediately following the concerts. There is no admission charge for these program. St. May's is located at 10th and Goliad Streets in Big Spring.

Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday

Lasagna w/meat sauce, steamed cauliflower, tossed salad, dressing, garlic bread, strawberry shortcake, milk.

Tuesday

oven-fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrot & celery sticks, banana cake, rolls, milk

Wednesday

ham, ranch-style beans, seasoned greens, biscuits, cherry cheese cake, milk

Thursday

beef & vegetables stew, egg salad, tossed salad/dressing, corn bread, fruited gelatin, milk

Friday

smothered steak & onions, buttered rice, mixed vegetables, creamy closeslaw, apricot halves, rolls, milk

Forsan ISD

Monday

Breakfast: cheese omelets, toast, juice, milk

Lunch: barbecue on a bun, baked chips, pickle spears, corn on the cob, sugar cookies, milk

Tuesday

Breakfast: cinnamon rolls, yogurt, juice, milk

Lunch: carne guisada, refried beans, seasoned corn, flour tortillas, orange smiles, milk

Wednesday

Breakfast: breakfast pockets, juice, milk

Lunch: barbecue chicken, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, corn bread, chilled pears

Thursday

Breakfast: donuts, juice, milk

Lunch: cheeseburgers, lettuce, tomatoes & pickles, tater tots, baby carrots w/ranch, chocolate pudding cups, milk

Friday

Breakfast: cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk

Lunch: popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, hot rolls, frozen cherry bars, milk

Big Spring ISD

Monday

Breakfast: cinnamon biscuits, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: meatball sandwich, potato rounds, orange smiles, milk

Tuesday

Breakfast: sausage rolls, fruit cups, milk

Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, brownies, rolls, pineapple chunks, milk

Wednesday

Breakfast: cinnamon breakfast pastry, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, carrots, pears, milk

Thursday

Breakfast: French toast sticks, pineapple cups, milk

Lunch: turkey, yams, strawberries, rolls, milk, cranberry sauce

Friday

Breakfast: ham/cheese biscuits, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: chicken wrap, sweet potato fries, lettuce/tomato salad, Rosy applesauce, bananas, milk

Stanton ISD

Monday

Breakfast: waffles

Lunch: chicken wrap or beef wrap, western beans, lettuce/tomato salad, fruit cocktail, milk, cheese, salsa

Tuesday

Breakfast: oatmeal

Lunch: spaghetti or Salisbury steak, corn on cob, garden salad, applesauce gelatin, bread sticks, milk, ranch dressing

Wednesday

Breakfast: biscuits, sausage & gravy

Lunch: pizza or pizza cheese sticks, green beans, garden salad, strawberry cups, milk, ranch dressing

Thursday

Breakfast: pizza

Lunch: beef tacos, corn or flour tortillas, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato salad, pineapple, corn bread, milk, cheese & salsa.

Friday: No School

Coahoma ISD

Monday

Breakfast: waffles, ham, apple juice, milk

Lunch: spaghetti, corn on cob, French bread sticks, sliced strawberry cups, milk

Tuesday

Breakfast: donuts, ham, applesauce cups, milk

Lunch: hamburgers, tater tots, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, chocolate pudding cups, milk

Wednesday

Breakfast: pancakes, sausage, syrup, grape juice, milk

Lunch: chicken fajitas, onions, peppers, refried beans, salad, grapes, corn dogs

Thursday

Breakfast: oatmeal, sausage, orange juice, milk

Lunch: hot dogs w/chili, baked beans, baby carrots, apples, hot pockets

Friday

Breakfast: pancakes, sausage on stick, grape juice, syrup, milk

Lunch: baked ham, macaroni, carrot coins, oranges, burritos

BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION
Area Art Show -- Howard College
Marie Hall Performing Arts Center

Public Viewing
Sat. May 2, 3-5 pm
M-F May 4-8 8-5 daily
Sat May 9 11 am - 5 pm

Drop off - Fri May 1, 10 am- 4 pm
Judging - Sat May 2, 11 am - 1 pm
Patron Viewing 1-3 pm
Call 263-4033 for details

Artist's reception 3-5 pm Sat May 9
All area artists welcome. No limit for entries.
Entry fee $8 each, $6 for BSAA members
Prizes: $200 - 100 -75- 50 and max. 6 honorable mentions at $30
Pick up artwork Sat May 9 5 pm.

Lazy S B.B.Q.
For BBQ & Hamburgers Galore
• To Go Orders Welcome
• Dine-In
808 E. 4th St. 264-1777
173371

BARGAIN MART
Discount Foods
403 Runnels, Big Spring, TX
Open Mon.-Sat. 9-6:30
Sale Starts April 20th
Sale Ends April 25th
CLUSTER TOMATOES BEAUTIFUL 79¢ LB.
J HIGGS BOWTIE PRETZELS 12-OZ. BAG 4/$1.00
BREAKSTONE COTTAGE CHEESE 24-OZ. 2/$1.00
HERSHEY KISSABLE CANDIES 1.5-OZ. 6/$1.00
PIZZAS SAUSAGE TOPPING 5-LB. BAG $1.99
BEEF FAJITAS 99¢ LB. FROZEN
TEXAS 1015 SWEET ONIONS 29¢ LB.
MALTO-MEAL BAGS CEREALS 21-OZ. BAG 99¢
OTIS SPUNKSMEYER CHOC CHIP COOKIES - 2-PK. 6/$1.00
TOTINOS TRIPLE CHEESE PIZZAS 7.5-OZ. 2/$1.00
SOUTHERN STYLE CHICKEN WINGS 79¢ LB.
17378

a. a much-needed road trip
b. paid for with pennies
c. saving memories
d. all of the above



They grow up so fast. And then they begin building their own lives, taking family memories with them. Save for those times with **ASB's good***cents* program. Use your **ASB** debit card and we'll round up the amount to the next whole dollar and deposit the difference into your savings account. Saving memories couldn't be easier.

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Legals

NOTICE OF ELECTION

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF GLASSCOCK §

TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an election will be held within Glasscock County Independent School District, on Saturday, May 9, 2009, as provided in the Order Calling Bond Election passed by the Board of Trustees of Glasscock County Independent School District, a substantial copy of which Order is printed below.

ORDER OF GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CALLING A SPECIAL BOND ELECTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION AND OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF GLASSCOCK §
GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT §

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Glasscock County Independent School District (the "District") held a regular meeting on March 2, 2009, and that said meeting was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given, all as required by the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551; and,

WHEREAS, the District deems it advisable to call the Special Bond Election (the "Election") hereinafter ordered; and,

WHEREAS, it is hereby officially found and determined at said meeting that it is in the public's interest for the District to hold the hereinafter called Election on May 9, 2009, a uniform election date established by section 41.001 (a) of the Texas Election Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DISTRICT:

1. The statements contained in the preamble of this Order are true and correct and adopted as findings of fact and operative provisions hereof. The District shall hold a special bond election ("Election") between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2009. Said Election shall ocur at the designated plooing place(s), and be conducted by the election officers hereby appointed to hold said Election, as set out in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes.

2. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two (2) but no more than five (5) qualified election clerks to serve and assist in conducting the Election; provided that if the Presiding Judge actually serves as expected, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall be one of such clerks.

3. Early voting shall be conducted by personal appearance at the Main Early Voting Place at:

Glasscock County Court House
117 East Currie
Garden City, TX 79739

Early voting shall be conducted during the period early voting is required or permitted by law, being April 27, 2009 through May 5, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on each day, excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal state holidays, when there shall be no early voting by personal appearance. The Main Early Voting Polling Place shall at all times remain open during such hours for early voting by personal appearance.

4. The Early Voting Clerk for the Eelction shall be Susie Hillger. The Deputy Early Voting Clerk shall be Rebecca Batla.

5. Applications for early voting by mail shall be sent to Susie Hillger, Glasscock County Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 190, Garden City, TX 79739. Application for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 1, 2009.

6. An Early Voting Ballot Board shall be created to process early voting results of the Election. Susie Hillger shall be the Presiding Judge, who shall appoint at least two (2) other members to serve on the board.

7. All qualified electors of and residing in the District shall be entitled to vote at the Election.

8. At the Election, the following PROPOSITION shall be submitted in accordance with law:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Trustees of Glasscock County Independent School District be authorized to issue bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of $12,000,000 for the construction and equipment of school buildings in the District, the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings, the renovation and equipment of school buildings in the District, the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings, the renovation of existing school buildings and the purchase of new school buses, with the bonds to mature, bear interest, and be issued and sold in accordance with the law at the time of issuance; and shall the Board of Trustees be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes, on all taxable property in the District, sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds?

9. The official ballots for the Election shall be prepared in accordance with with Texas Election Code so as to permit the electors to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the aforesaid PROPOSITION with the ballots to contain such provisions, markings and language as required by law, and with such PROPOSITION to be expressed substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION

---- FOR
---- AGAINST

) THE ISSUANCE OF $12,000,000 OF BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS, THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, RENOVATION OF EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW SCHOOL BUSES IN AND FOR THE GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE LEVYING OF THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.

10. A substantial copy of this Order, in both English and Spanish, shall serve as proper Notice of the Election (the "Notice"), and the President of the Board of Trustees shall cause the Notice to be published at least one time, not earlier than the 30th day or later than the 10th day prior to the date set for the Election, in a newspaper published in the District or, if none is published in the District, in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. In addition, not later than the 21st day prior to the date set for the Election, or not later than the next business day if the 21st day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal state holiday, the President of the Board of Trustees shall cause the Notice, in both English and Spanish, to be posted on the bulletin board used for posting notices of meeting of the Board of Trustees, and at any other location(s) and by any other method as the District deems fit or may be required by law.

11. A substantial copy of this order delivered to the Election Judges and Alternate Election Judges within the time required by law shall be proper notice as required under Texas Election Code, and the President of the Board of Trustees shall cause this order and all other necessary notices to be posted and delivered to the Election Judges and any Alternates stated herein, as may be required by law.

12. In all respects the Election shall be conducted in accordance with the Texas Election Code and any other applicable state or federal law. At least one (1) voting machine, which has been certified by the Texas Secretary of State for use in Texas elections as an accessible voting system, shall be used at each election day polling place and at each early voting polling place. Voting by mail shall be by paper ballots.

EXHIBIT A
GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOND ELECTION MAY 9, 2009
ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

Voting for the Glasscock County Independent School District Special Bond Election shall be between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2009, at the following designated polling places that are within the boundaries of Glasscock County ISD, and with the following election officers, who are appointed to hold said election:

Polling Place I:
Saint Lawrence Hall
2400 FM 2401
Garden City, TX 79739
Shall consist of
Glasscock County
Voting Precinct 1
Presiding Judge: Joyce Halfmann
Alternate Judge: Barbara Fuch

Polling Place 2:
Garden City Church of Christ
200 S. Main St.
Garden City, TX 79739
Shall consist of
Glasscock County
Voting Precinct 2
Presiding Judge: JoAnn Turner
Alternate Judge: Doris Schwaratz

Polling Place 3:
Drumright Community Center
2200 Drumright Road
Garden CIty, TX 79739
Shall consist of
Glasscock County
Voting Precinct 3
Presiding Judge: Helen Glass
Alternate Judge: Sandy Allen

Polling Place 4:
Garden City
Senior Citizen Center
600 N. Main
Garden City, TX 79739
Shall consist of
Glasscock County
Voting Precinct 4
Presiding Judge: Christy Long
Alternate Judge: Maritha Blalock

EXHIBIT A

AVISO DE ELECCIONES

ESTADO DE TEXAS §
CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK §

A LOS ELECTORES REGISTRADOS DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK:

MEDIANTE ESTE DOCUMENTO SE COMUNICA QUE se celebraran elecciones en el Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock, el sabado 9 de mayo de 2009, segun esta previsto en la Orden de convocatoria de elecciones para la emision de bonos aprobada por el Consejo de administracion del Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock, cuya copia fiel se incluye a continuacion:

ORDEN DE CONVOCATORIA DE ELECCIONES ESPECIALES EN EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK PARA LA EMISION DE BONOS Y ESTABLECER LAS NORMAS PARA PROCEDER EN LAS ELECCIONES Y DEMAS ASUNTOS INHERENTES A LAS MISMAS

ESTADO DE TEXAS §
CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK §
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK§

POR CUANTO, el Consejo de administracion del Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock (el "Distrito") se reunio el dia 2 de marzo de 2009, estando dicha reunion abierta al publico, y habiendose dado aviso publico de la hora, lugar y proposito de dicha reunion, segun lo exige el Capitulo 551 del Codigo gubernamental de Texas; y

POR CUANTO, el Distrito considera aconsejable convocar las elecciones especiales para la emision de bonos (las "Elecciones") que mas adelante se ordenan, y,

POR CUANTO, en dicha reunion se declaro y determino oficialmente que es en interes publico que el Distrito celebre las elecciones que mas adelante se ordenan el dia 9 de mayo de 2009, fecha para la celebracion de elecione uniformes establecida por la seccion 41.001(a) del Codigo electoral de Texas; y,

AHORA, POR LO TANTO, EL CONSEJO DE ADMINISTRACION DEL DISTRITO ORDENA:

1. Las declaraciones contenidas en el preambulo de esta Orden son fieles y correctas y han sido adoptadas como decisiones sobre cuestion de hecho y disposiciones operativas del presente documento. Se celebraran Elecciones especiales para la emision de bonos (las "Elecciones") en el Distrito entre las horas de las 7:00 de la manana y las 7:00 de la tarde, el dia 9 de mayo de 2009. Dichas Elecciones se llevaran a cabo en los centros electorales designados y las llevaran a cabo los oficiales electorales como se establece en el Anexo "A" adjunto a este documento y que forma parte del mismo para todos fines y propositos.

2. El Juez presidente nombrara no menos de dos (2) ni mas de cinco (5) secretarios electorales cualificados para servir y ayudar en la celebracion de las elecciones. siempre que el Juez presidente ejerza sus funciones como tal, el Juez suplente sera uno de dichos secretarios.

3. La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo en el Centro electoral principal para la votacion adelantada situado en:

Juzgado del Condado
de Glasscock
(County Court House)
117 East Currie
Garden City, TX 79739

La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo durante el periodo requerido o permitido por la ley para la votacion adelantada, que comenzara el 27 de abril de 2009 y terminara el 5 de mayo de 2009, diariamente desde las 8:30 de la manana a las 3:30 de la tarde, excepto sabados y domingos o kias feriados estatales, en los que no se celebrara la votacion adelantada en persona. El Centro electoral principal para la votacion adelantada permanecera abierto durante el horario establecido para la votacion adelantada en persona.

4. La Secretaria para la votacion adelantada en las elecciones sera Susie Hillger, y la Secretaria delegada para la votacion adelantada sera Rebecca Batla.

5. Las solicitudes para la votacion anticipada por correo se enviaran a Susie Hillger, Glasscock County Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 190, Garden City, TX 79739. Las solicitudes de boleta para votar por correo deberan recibirse antes del cierre del horario comercial del dia 1 de mayo de 2009

6. Se creara un Consejo de boleta para procesar los resultados de la votacion adelantada. Susie Hillger sera Juez presidente, quien a su vea nombrara al menos dos (2) miembros mas para servir en el Consejo.

7. Todos los electores cualificados que residan en el Distrito, tendran derecho a votar en las elecciones.

8. En las elecciones, se presentara la siguiente PROPOSICION de acuerdo con la ley:

PROPOSICION

Se autorizara al Consejo de administracion del Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock emitir bonos del Distrito, en una o mas series, por un importe total de capital de $12,000,000, para la construccion y equipamiento de edificios escolares en el Distrito, la compra de terrenos necesarios para edificios escolares, la reforma de edificios escolares existentes y la compra de autobuses escolares nuevos, y cuyos bonos tendran fecha de vencimiento, devengaran intereses, y seran emitidos y vendidos de acuerdo con la ley en el momento de su emision y se autorizara al Consejo de administracion a gravar y avalar, y hacer que se calculen y recauden impuestos anuales ad valorem, sobre todas las propiedades sujetas a impuestos en el Distrito, suficientes, sin limite en cuanto a la tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital e intereses de los bonos?

9. Las boletas oficiales para las Elecciones se prepararan de acuerdo con el Codigo electoral de Texas, a fin de permitir a los electores votar "A FAVOR" o "EN CONTRA" de la PROPOSICION anterior, y dichas boletas incluiran las disposiciones, anotaciones y lenguaje que la ley exige, y cuya PROPOSICION quedara expresada esencialmente de la manera siguiente:

PROPOSICION

-------A FAVOR
-------EN CONTRA

) LA EMISION DE BONOS POR VALOR DE $12,000,000 PARA LA CONSTRUCCION, Y EQUIPAMIENTO DE EDIFICIOS ESCOLARES, LA COMPRA DE TERRENOS NECESARIOS PARA EDIFICIOS ESCOLARES, LA REFORMA DE EDIFICIOS ESCOLARES EXISTENTES Y LA COMPRA DE AUTOBUSES ESCOLARES NUEVOS EN Y PARA EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK Y EL GRAVAMEN DE IMPUESTOS PARA EL PAGO CORRESPONDIENTE

10. Una copia fiel de esta Orden, en ingles y en espanol, servira como Aviso apropiado de las elecciones (el "Aviso") y el Presidente del Consejo de administracion hara que dicho Aviso se publique en un periodico del Distrito o, si no se publicara periodico alguno en el Distrito, en un periodico de circulacion general en el Distrito, al menos una vez, en fecha no anterior a 30 dias ni posterior a 10 dias antes del dia fijado para las Elecciones. Ademas, en fecha no posterior a 21 dias antes del dia fijado para las Elecciones, ni posterior al dia laboral siguiente al dia 21 si este fuera sabado o domingo, o dia feriado etatal legal, el Presidente del Consejo de administracion hara que se coloque el Aviso, en ingles y en espanol, en el tablero de anuncios utilizado para la colocacion de avisos de las reuniones del Consejo de administracion y en cualquier otro lugar o lugares y de la manera que el Distrito considere apropiado o segun lo exija la ley.

11. Se entregara una copia fiel de esta Orden a los jueces electorales y a los jueces electorales suplentes en el plazo establecido por la ley, y dicha copia servira de aviso apropiado segun lo exige el Codigo electoral de Texas, y el Presidente del Consejo de administracion hara que esta orden y todos los demas avisos necesarios se anuncien y entreguen segun lo exija la ley.

12. En todos los respectos, las elecciones se celebraran de acuerdo con el Codigo electoral de Texas y cualiquier ley estatal o federal aplicable. En cada uno de los centros electorales el dia de las elecciones, y en cada centro electoral para la votacion adelantada, se usara al menos una (1) maquina electoral que haya sido certificada por el Secretario de estado de Texas para uso en las elecciones de Texas como sistema de votacion accesible. La votacion por correo se hara mediante el uso de boleta de papel.

ANEXO A
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONDADO DE GLASSCOCK
ELECCIONES ESPECIALES PARA LA EMISION DE BONOS
9 DE MAYO DE 2009
CENTROS ELECTORALES
EL DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES

La votacion en las elecciones especiales para la emision de bonos en el Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock tendra lugar entre las 7:00 de la manana y las 7:00 de la tarde, el 9 de mayo de 2009, en los siguientes centros electorales designados que se encuentras dentro de los limites del Distrito escolar independiente del Condado de Glasscock, y con los siguientes oficiales electorales, que han sido nombrados para celebrar dichas elecciones:

Centro electoral 1:
Salon Saint Lawrence
(Saint Lawrence Hall)
2400 FM 2401
Garden City, TX 79739
Compuesto por la
Circunscripcion electoral
1 del Condado de Glasscock
Juez presidente: Joyce Halfmann
Juez suplente: Barbara Fuch

Centro electoral 2:
Iglesia de Cristo de Garden City
(Church of Christ)
200 S. Main St.
Garden City, TX 79739
Compuesto por la
Circunscripcion electoral
2 del Condado de Glasscock
Juez presidente: JoAnn Turner
Juez suplente: Doris Schwartz

Centro electoral 3:
Centro Comunitario Drumright
(Community Center)
2200 Drumright Road
Garden City, TX 79739
Compuesto por la
Circunscripcion electoral
3 del Condado de Glasscock
Juez presidente: Helen Glass
Juez suplente: Sandy Allen

Centro electoral 4:
Centro para la Tercera Edad
de Garden City
(Senior Citizen Center)
600 N. Main
Garden City, TX 79739
Compuesto por la
Circunscripcion electoral
4 del Condado de Glasscock
Juez presidente: Christy Long
Juez suplente: Maritha Blalock

ANEXO A

#6117 April 19, 2009

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6168-52-001 for RDWY EXTENSION/ DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on May 20, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of $267,786.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 29590

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

#6116 April 19 & 20, 2009

Vehicles

ESTRAY
NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY

On the 8th day of April, 2009, I impounded the following estray:
Kind of Animal/or fowl: Cow
Breed: Miniature
Color: Black
Sex: Female
Size: 950 lbs
And on the 14th day of April, 2009, I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Howard County, Texas.
I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Howard County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, and contacted local owner of the estray but the search did not reveal the owner.
Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray, is not determined by the 6th day of May, 2009, said estray will be sold at public auction/ Sheriff's Sale at 500 N. Birdwell Lane.
Witness my hand this 14th day of April 2009.
Stan Parker
Sheriff of Howard County Texas
#6115 April 19, 2009

"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"

Legals

LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE
Pre-Kindergarten Notice

Big Spring ISD offers free Pre-Kindergarten classes for students at least four years of age by September 1 2009, if the following criteria are met:
1. Child is unable to speak or comprehend the English language and/or;
2. Child comes from an economically/educationally disadvantaged family according to standards set by the State Board of Education. (Qualify for food stamps or the Free or Reduced Lunch Program) and/or,
3. Child is homeless.
4. Child is under the care of Child Protective Resources and/or in Foster care.

If you know a child whom you feel meets these qualifications, please call (432)264-3600.

A minimum of 15 qualified students is required before the class will be offered.

Big Spring ISD ofrece clases gratis de Pre-Kinder para estudiantes que cumplen los cuatro anos de la edad antes del primero de septiembre de 2009:
1. Nino incapaz de hablar o comprender el idioma ingles y/o;
2. Nino que vienen de una familia desventajada economicamente segun el onjunto de estandares por el Consejo de Educacion del Estado. (Si califica para la tarjeta de Lone Star o el Programa Libre or Reducido de Almuerzo) y/o,
3. Nino sin hogar.
4. El nino esta bajo cuidado de los Recursos Protectores y/o en case de cuidado.

Si usted sabe de un nino o ninos que califican para este programa por favor de llamar al numero (432)264-3600. Un minimo de 15 estudiantes calificados seran escogidos antes que la clase se ofrecera.

#6113 April 17 & 19, 2009

Vehicles

ESTRAY
NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY

On the 8th day of April, 2009, I impounded the following estray:
Kind of Animal/or fowl: Cow
Breed: Cross
Color: White
Age: 6 months
Size: 375 lbs
And on the 14th day of April, 2009, I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Howard County, Texas.
I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Howard County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, and contacted local owner of the estray but the search did not reveal the owner.
Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray, is not determined by the 6th day of May, 2009, said estray will be sold at public auction/ Sheriff's Sale at 500 N. Birdwell Lane.
Witness my hand this 14th day of April 2009.
Stan Parker
Sheriff of Howard County Texas
#6114 April 19, 2009

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

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AMEND INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Apache Corporation, 6120 S. Yale, Suite 1500, Tulsa, OK 74136 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for an amended permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to amend the permitted injection interval in the San Andres formation for the Dora Roberts, Well #131WU. The injection well is located 2 miles East from Forsan, Texas in Howard Glasscock Field, in Howard County. Fluid is being injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2510 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within 15 days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, telephone (512) 463-6792.

#6119 April 19, 2009

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
1-877-748-4464
During the month of April
join us in support of
National Safe Digging Month

Call 811 before EVERY dig

National Safe Digging Month was designated to remind residents that our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

#6110 April 19, 2009

Discover Another World,
Read!
You never know what you might find.

Comanche Trail Park - the Heart of Big Spring



PAT SIMMONS

As I ponder over what this parks means to me and the citizens of Big Spring, it is within this park you will find the heartbeat of Big Spring, our historic spring. It was the spring that brought the Comanche Indians, Capt. Marcy and even Robert E. Lee our way, plus others, and then, the T&P Railroad. It was their thirst and our spring that brought them here.

It is our historic spring and the park in general that I consider a diamond in the rough for Big Spring. The topography of the park is beautiful — unlike any other in our West Texas region. My hope is that it can be restored to a beautiful attraction for visitors and promote tourism to Big Spring. Our beautiful golf course is another attraction of the park, and I've always said, "it could be a birder's paradise."

What I remember as a child is the beautiful park with all the roses and flowers. There was a wading pool, swings, slides and a monkey cage. A caretaker lived in the park with his family; the two daughters were my friends and we attended school together. It was a place that families enjoyed coming to for a Sunday picnic or a reunion and entertained themselves with croquet or tossing horse shoes. The people loved, respected and appreciated the park. When they had their picnics or a barbecue they cleaned everything up. I feel the park can bloom, with you help.

Presently, Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB) is working with the Parks Department to remove all the old trash barrels and hopefully replace them with barrels to be painted by KBSB. We have some beautification programs on the table to do some landscaping and beautification in the spring area and then move on to other areas of the park. Should anyone have a desire to become involved, contact me or a KBSB member.

We have five pavilions that could use some tender loving care and I would love to have an organization, school group, scouts, or church to adopt them by taking responsibility for the cleaning up, painting and planting shrubs or flowers around them. You can be the judge of what you can do. We will make a sign designating it as an adopted site by you. So, please will you step up to the plate and take responsibility for one. I have a scout troop looking at one at this time which I truly hope they adopt.

We must do something to secure our park and have control. It should not be abused and vandalized as it has been in the past.

This park could be a birders' paradise and attract bird lovers throughout the state and elsewhere. We used to have bird houses throughout the park, and if there is someone who is gifted in that area perhaps we could do that again. The Parks Department is not staffed for such things; that is why KBSB wants to help in enhancing the over all beauty of the parks. We have signs that need attention by painting and/or a complete workover.

I am asking the citizens of Big Spring to join us in the cleaning and beautification of this wonderful park sitting in our midst, a diamond in the rough!

We need everyone to help us clean and restore our community. I know we will never be 100 percent, but we can sure try. We need to take ownership of our community by striving to be responsible citizens, each taking care of your property and controlling the trash.

I will once again state to you the mission and vision of Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

Our Mission: To empower Big Spring citizens through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

Our Vision: Every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the cleanest, most beautiful city in Texas.

Please help us clean, beautify and restore our wonderful park!



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

From left, Jan Foresyth, Paschal Odom, Lee Harris, Pat Simmons and Skip Burcham stand beside a billboard touting Keep Big Spring Beautiful's "Help Make a Difference" slogan. The new sign, constructed by Harris and Burcham, is located near the Whipkey Drive entrance to Comanche Trail Park alongside Highway 87.

Hangar 25 Air Museum Presents The
2009 Kid's Klub Poetry Contest
Poetry Contest Theme
Pride in our Country's Heritage
AGE DIVISIONS
Captain's Division: 15-18 Cadet's Division: 11-14
Junior Cadet's Division: 7-10
For questions call 264-1999
175172

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&
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Precinct #1
Emma Puga Brown

Precinct #2
Jerry Kilgore

Precinct #3
William B. "Bill" Crooker

Precinct #4
Gary Simer



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175262

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sun enters Taurus, kicking off a beautiful time of the year. Taurus energy is focused on aesthetics and the splendor of nature. This applies on a literal and emotional level. What feels natural is probably the best choice. There's a reason we're attracted to certain people and things, and those motives are worth investigating.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are likely to be involved in a social situation that requires deft handling. Though your bold and funny manner will go over well with some, definitely size up your audience before you attempt to make them laugh.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you're around happy people, you match their glee. But you'll also be near those who are having a hard time, and you're right to tone it down. Your most vivacious mood comes when you're alone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will meet those who might be impressed by your accomplishments, were you to lay them all out on the table. An even more impressive approach for you would be to find out what these people need that you can provide.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will be let in on confidential information. It's so cool to be on the inside of a small group of people who know what you know, but it's also difficult not to reveal the secret.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Others believe you can go all the way with what you want to do. Ask for every means of support you can think of. With greater resources, more money and abundant praise, you will succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are things you have done in your life that seemed dandy at the time, and yet you wouldn't want to do them again. You will be asked to join an endeavor that you have happily outgrown.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You and your group may be trying to accomplish one goal, but there are as many perspectives on the matter as there are people involved. You are the one most qualified to unify the others and get everyone to work together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is time to mend a rift. The damage will only drag on if you don't, and this has been happening for long enough. Do not deny yourself the benefit of a close connection with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Informative people who are usually completely accurate may be somewhat off now. So do your own research and get your messages straight from the source. You'll clear confusion and gain confidence in the process.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The improvements you have made are undeniable, although the cost of getting to this point has been steep. You can be proud of your choice to make the sacrifices necessary to have what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though so many things are going right for you, there is an area that you still long to heal. Your fortunes in this regard are changing. A teacher appears to show you the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A problem that's been on your mind will miraculously disappear. Circumstances may not change much at all, but you will understand the situation differently and will therefore not perceive it as a problem anymore.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The sun enters the realm of Taurus, where it will continue to explore through May 20. As I report in my book, "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting It All": "If we could turn back the clocks to about 4000 BC, the sun's position on the vernal equinox — the date when day and night are the exact same length, which happens to be the beginning of the astrological year and the first day of spring — was actually in Taurus, not Aries, as it is now. So Taurus was actually thought to be the first constellation of the zodiac for early civilizations. (You see, we are drifting through the universe, and so our point of view changes to the tune of 1 degree every 71.6 years — a slow, but cumulative effect.)" This week you might feel that spring is reborn in your heart. New, gleaming prospects are on the horizon. Get ready to make the most of these opportunities. Many people get the shopping bug when the sun enters Taurus. It has to do with dressing for the role you want to take on. Be judicious, opting for the best quality you can afford. Avoid attaining possessions that aren't likely to stand the test of time.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Many babies born today would be Taurus. But in 1979, the sun was in Aries on the 19th, making Kate Hudson an Aries with Mercury and Mars in fiery Aries, too. It's a high-energy combination, though her Capricorn moon has a stabilizing effect. Hudson is equally comfortable with the role of movie star and dazzling red carpet diva as she is with roles like mom, friend and devoted daughter.

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

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The Spider

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

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

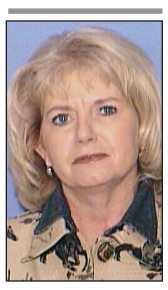
Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



BIG SPRING HERALD
Advertise to keep the spider away from your door.
Call today
(432) 263-7331

What's going on at the Big Spring State Hospital?

Invitations to the "Third Annual Cars, Stars and Handlebars" fund-raiser were mailed the latter part of February to hospital patrons. This year's event has been tweaked to optimize the fun to be had on the evening of April 25. Thanks to committee member Leslie Elrod for this year's theme, "Volunteers are Painting the Town Red." Co-chairs Stacy Barr and Robin Hallman have moved the festivities to a Saturday to give everyone plenty of time to enjoy the activities.



Billie Christie

But the volunteers have decided not to mess with a good thing and have invited the Guy Will Zant Band back to entertain on the patio. The event starts at 5 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 p.m.

If you did not receive an invitation or haven't bought a ticket, please call the volunteers at (432) 268-7271. The tickets to the reverse drawing are limited in number and sell fairly quickly. Only 750 are made available at $100 apiece. One ticket holder gives the ticket holder and his or her guest entry into the event and an opportunity for door prizes and a new $25,000 vehicle. A big-screen television will be given away as a consolation prize to the next-to-last ticket holder. All proceeds benefit the patients of Big Spring State Hospital. The volunteers plan to build a new family visitation area with the funds generated from the evening's activity.

•••

Please mark your calendar for April 30, when we recognize our volunteers at our Annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon. Local and state award winners will be recognized, along with service award recipients and the coveted Jack Y. Smith Award recipient to our volunteer of the year. We are always honored to have Jack Smith's widow, Edna Faye Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith's son, Steve, as special guests to present this award in the name of a man who meant so much to Big Spring State Hospital.

•••

The Chalet volunteers can always use an extra hands on their workdays. That is the time each month that they set aside to get organized and weed through the merchandise. New spring arrivals are out, so stop by and check out what's new for the warmer months. We have lots of renovations going on inside and outside the store, including street construction. The Chalet will remain open unless the street repairs force us to close. We appreciate the help of volunteer Jeannie Coor who is helping coordinate many of our decorating changes inside the store to better serve our customers. Tommy Corwin has prepared us for the warm summers by tending to our air conditioners. He is wonderful at maintenance and repairs, but he is not for hire! The Chalet is located at the corner of E. Second Street and Runnels. They are always in need of donations of household items and furniture, as well as your garage sale left-over's. Your donation is tax-deductible. Volunteer help is needed at The Chalet on Saturdays.

•••

Citizens Federal Credit Union has generously donated Christmas decorations for patients to enjoy during the 2009 holiday season. Any business that has items it cannot use can donate them to the patients at Big Spring State Hospital.

•••

Jeannie Knocke and Laura McEwen will co-chair this year's Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show. Volunteer Dorothy Sheppard started this tradition last year for our female patients. Ruth Nanny, who is organizing the Fashion Show, is in need of women's hats, which will be worn at the show and later donated to the female patients. Some enjoy fancy dress hats, while others choose sporty styles. Suzanne Markwell needs help for our Summer Fun Day, which gives patients a new wardrobe for the hot summer and a party to usher in the change in seasons. There's always room for you to get involved. Give me a call at 268-7535 and see about the exciting volunteer opportunities.

•••

Special thanks to Chaplain Rick Foster for giving an overview of Chapel activities at the March Volunteer Services Council Board meeting. Hallman recently asked employees to visit during board meetings to give the volunteers a better idea of the inner workings of the hospital. Volunteers will spend he next few meetings touring the hospital.

•••

April's VSC Board meeting has been cancelled because of the already heavy meeting schedule in April. We hope to see you at the luncheon. The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 7, at the Sheltered Workshop/ Horticulture building.

•••

We have a great volunteer opportunity for a group needing a project for a few hours — the Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Track Meet and Cook-out for the patients May 30. Call me if your group could take on this project.

•••

Congratulations to April's volunteer of the Month, Doris Hubreigtse. Doris served as Volunteer Services Council Board chair for 10 years. She still volunteers on the board and helps with many patient activities and fund-raisers.

Billie Christie is director of Community Relations at Big Spring State Hospital.



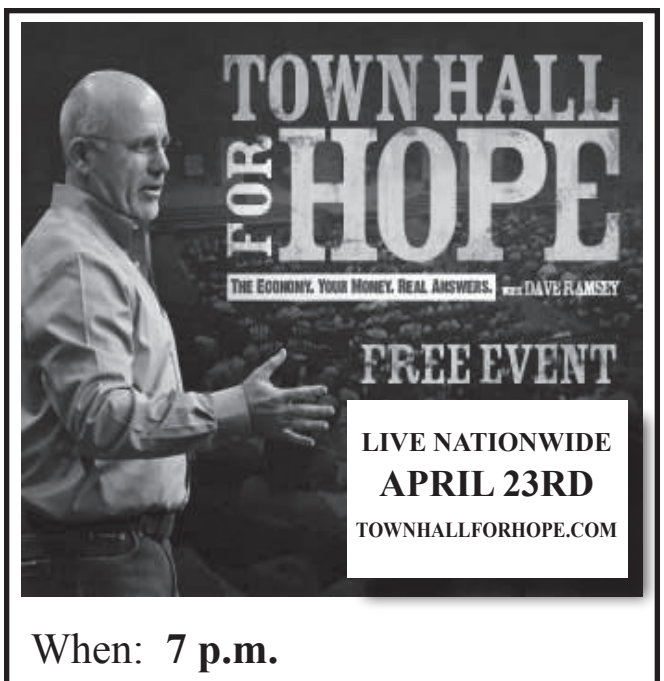
Courtesy photo

MaxAnn Bowlin, who works in the Big Spring State Hospital's Community Relations office, talks with Sherri Key on the telephone during the First Annual Cars and Stars fund-raiser in 2007. Encouraging her from behind is KOSA-TV Co-Anchor Jay Hendricks. Bowlin spent the last 30 minutes of the reverse drawing on the phone with Key who had to decide whether to hold onto her ticket and stay in the opportunity for a new vehicle or sell it to the highest bidder. Key held onto the ticket and won a new car from the Big Spring New Car and Truck Dealers.

The Family of Lennis Couch wishes to thank the many friends and relatives who enabled her life to be fulfilling and independent as long as possible. Special thanks - residents of Luther, caregivers and support members of Lamun Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, nursing staff and doctors at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, employees of Myers and Smith Funeral Home and Sammie Sims, minister and friend.

175222

Martha and Annette Couch



When: **7 p.m.**
Where:

- **Baptist Temple Church**
  400 E. 11th Place, 267-8287
- **First United Methodist Church**
  400 Scurry, 267-6304
- **Forsan Baptist Church**
  201 W. St., Forsan, 457-2342

175252

Big Spring High School

Proudly Presents

The Harlem Starz

Big Spring High School
April 20, 2009
Gate opens at 6:00 p.m.
Fun starts at 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price **$7.00**
Ticket Info **(432) 264-3641**

Don't Miss This Exciting Event!!

Be at the Steer Gym on Monday, April 20th @ 6 pm

Big Spring Coaches vs. The Harlem Starz

174781

Tickets can be purchased beginning Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the Athletic Training Center (A.T.C.)

Senior Circle is celebrating ten years of fun and friendship with a full calendar of activities, health education, parties, travel and more. Help us celebrate this milestone at the following events:

Business After Hours
Thursday, April 23 • 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
SMMC Senior Circle Room, Fourth Floor
Come-n-Go Event

10th Anniversary Dinner Party
Thursday, April 30 • 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Trinity Baptist Church Annex
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Call 268-4721

Limited-Time Membership Special
To celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we are rolling back the cost of Senior Circle membership to the 1999 price – one year for only $10, a $5 savings! Join or renew today! The application can be found on our website at **www.smmccares.com** by clicking on the Senior Circle tab.



It's our anniversary and you get all the goodies!

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
Caring People, Caring for People
www.smmccares.com

Senior Circle

News Briefs:

Iranian court convicts U.S. journalist of spying, sentences her to 8 years

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An American journalist jailed in Iran has been convicted of spying and sentenced to eight years in prison, her lawyer said Saturday, dashing any hopes for her quick release.

Roxana Saberi, a 31-year-old dual American-Iranian citizen, was arrested in late January and initially accused of working without press credentials. But an Iranian judge later leveled a far more serious allegation, charging her with spying for the United States.

She appeared before an Iranian court behind closed doors on Monday in an unusually swift one-day trial. The Fargo, N.D., native had been living in Iran for six years and had worked as a freelance reporter for several news organizations including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp.

The United States has called the charges against Saberi baseless and has demanded her release.

Somali pirates attack tanker; NATO frees 20 Yemeni fishermen

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A NATO spokesman says pirates attacked a tanker in the Gulf of Aden. NATO forces then detained seven Somalis behind the assault and freed 20 Yemeni fisherman being held hostage by the pirates.

NATO spokesman Lt.-Capt. Alexandre Santos Fernandes says a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker issued a distress call early Saturday after pirates attacked it with small arms and rockets.

He says a Dutch warship from the NATO force saw the pirates fleeing toward a Yemeni fishing trawler. NATO troops boarded the trawler, detained the pirates and freed the 20 Yemenis, who had been held hostage since Sunday.

He says the pirates were set free, however, because under Dutch law they could not be held at sea under the circumstances in which they were captured.

With humor and modesty, Obama extends hand to longtime hemispheric foes

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — With modesty and a touch of humor, President Barack Obama extended a hand to America's hemispheric neighbors — including its harshest critics — and offered a Cold War foe the hope of a "new beginning."

At the Summit of the Americas in this island capital, Obama signaled he was ready to accept Cuban President Raul Castro's proposal of talks on issues once off-limits for Havana, including the scores of political prisoners held by the communist government.

Obama also sought out Venezuela's fiery leftist president, Hugo Chavez, for a quick grip and grin.

In an opening speech to the 34-nation gathering, the president promised a new agenda for the Americas, as well as a new style.

"We have at times been disengaged, and at times we sought to dictate our terms," Obama said to loud applause. "But I pledge to you that we seek an equal partnership. There is no senior partner and junior partner in our relations."

Dogged by cyber threats, U.S. looks to hackers for help in digital defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wanted: Computer hackers.

Buffeted by millions of digital scans and attacks each day, federal authorities are looking for hackers — not to prosecute them, but to pay them to secure the nation's networks.

General Dynamics Information Technology put out an ad last month on behalf of the Homeland Security Department seeking someone who could "think like the bad guy." Applicants, it said, must understand hackers' tools and tactics and be able to analyze Internet traffic and identify vulnerabilities in the federal systems.

And in the Pentagon's budget request submitted last week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates hung out his own help-wanted sign, saying the Pentagon will increase the number of cyber experts it can train each year from 80 to 250 by 2011.

Amid dire warnings that the U.S. is ill-prepared for a cyber attack, the White House conducted a 60-day study of how the government can better manage and use technology to protect everything from the nation's electrical grid and stock markets to tax data, airline flight systems, and nuclear launch codes.

Obama says he'll ask agency heads to trim government spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Saturday he will ask all of his department and agency heads for specific proposals for cutting their budgets at his Cabinet meeting early next week as he searches for ways to streamline government spending.

Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address that he would make the request for cuts Monday at a Cabinet meeting.

"In the coming weeks, I will be announcing the elimination of dozens of government programs shown to be wasteful or ineffective," he said. "In this effort, there will be no sacred cows and no pet projects. All across America, families are making hard choices, and it's time their government did the same."

While discussing the need for more efficient government, Obama said Jeffrey Zients, a CEO, management consultant and entrepreneur, will join the administration as the government's chief performance officer and will also serve as deputy director for management of the Office of Management and Budget.

Spring snowstorm starts to weaken after closing stretch of Interstate 70

DENVER (AP) — A spring storm was weakening after dumping up to 3 feet of snow on the foothills west of Denver — stranding hundreds of people in shelters and forcing the closure of an 80-mile stretch of Interstate 70.

Transportation officials shut down I-70 between Vail and Golden in the late afternoon Friday because of wet, heavy snow and multiple accidents.

The American Red Cross opened a second shelter in Idaho Springs late Friday after its first shelter there filled to capacity with more than 300 people, said Jim Rettew, a spokesman for the organization's Mile High Chapter.

The stranded travelers didn't all get cots, but many got snacks, and most were in good spirits, he said.

The Colorado National Guard escorted a caravan of volunteers and supplies to the shelters after Clear Creek County declared an emergency and asked for state assistance. County officials were working to set up one or two more shelters in Georgetown.

It was unclear when the interstate would reopen. The spring storm had dumped up to 3 feet of snow on the foothills by Friday night but was starting to weaken, forecasters said.

Analysis: President Obama ushers in changes on pollution, interrogation

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a whirlwind week of change, President Barack Obama jettisoned Bush administration policy on greenhouse gases, shone an unforgiving light on its support for torture as an interrogation tactic and eased its restrictions on Cuba.

But there are limits, even to this new president's power, and a campaign pledge to seek a ban on assault weapons is an early casualty as a result.

And while the promise of change was arguably Obama's single most powerful asset in last year's campaign, the week demonstrated anew how carefully he calibrates its impact.

"We have been through a dark and painful chapter in our history," the president said in a statement that accompanied the release of once-secret memos outlining torture techniques the Bush administration allowed.

"But at a time of great challenges and disturbing disunity, nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past."

That was designed as a reassurance to the CIA employees who carried out waterboarding, which simulates drowning, and the other harsh interrogation techniques that former President George W. Bush once sanctioned and that Obama has now banned — much as his decision to leave combat troops in Iraq a few months longer than he once promised was a bow to the Pentagon.

Desert's dry reality is environmental challenge for solar power; low-water

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A westward dash to power electricity-hungry cities by cashing in on the desert's most abundant resource — sunshine — is clashing with efforts to protect the tiny pupfish and desert tortoise and stinginess over the region's rarest resource: water.

Water is the cooling agent for what traditionally has been the most cost-efficient type of large-scale solar plants. To some solar companies answering Washington's push for renewable energy on vast government lands, it's also an environmental thorn. The unusual collision pits natural resources protections against President Barack Obama's plans to produce more environmentally friendly energy.

The solar hopefuls are encountering overtaxed aquifers and a legendary legacy of Western water wars and legal and regulatory scuffles.


KIM L. BANGO, MD
Board Certified in Family Medicine
432-263-0500
1608 W. FM 700, Suite D
Big Spring, Texas
Center for Family Medicine
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Powerstroke Diesel XLT
6.4, Camper Pkg., Sirius Satellite, 6 Disc CD, Privacy Glass, Automatic.
MSRP $42,650
Less $11,428.38*
Your Price $31,221.62
STK# 1910
*Prices do not include Tax, Title and License.
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