

**BIG
SPRING**

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

September 11, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 62°-64° TOMORROW 86°-89°

BRIEFLY

RACING PAGE

That's Racin', the special auto racing feature page that appears each Thursday in the Herald, has been moved to Friday this week only. The move was made to accommodate the Voter's Guide, which appears on Pages 2B and 3B.

ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY

Election day in this year's Constitutional Amendment Election is set for Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at local polling places. Early voting in the election ended Tuesday, turning out 1,092 ballots during the eight-day run. In comparison, the last Constitutional Amendment Election drew only 325 voters during early voting.

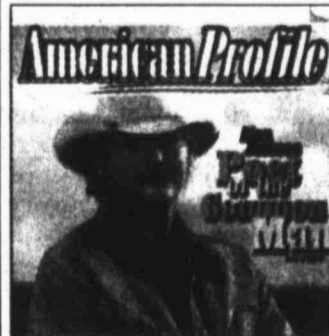
INSIDE

VOTER'S GUIDE

With Election Day being Saturday, the Herald offers its readers a look at each of the 22 proposed amendments on the ballot, with descriptions and arguments both for and against.

See Pages 2-3B

COMING SUNDAY



Country singer Alan Jackson has emerged as this generation's spokesman for the common man. He talks about how his values were shaped while growing up in Newnan, Ga.

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Vol. 99A, No. 263

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Bus trip available for hearing in El Paso

Register at chamber for Sept. 18 event

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Reservations are now being taken for a chartered bus trip to the Capital Assets Realignment for Enhances Services (CARES) Commission hearing in El Paso on Thursday, Sept. 18.

"We need to know as soon as possible the number of people desiring to go so that we can finalize arrangements with the bus and the hotel," said Pam Welch, Moore Development for Big Spring assistant director.

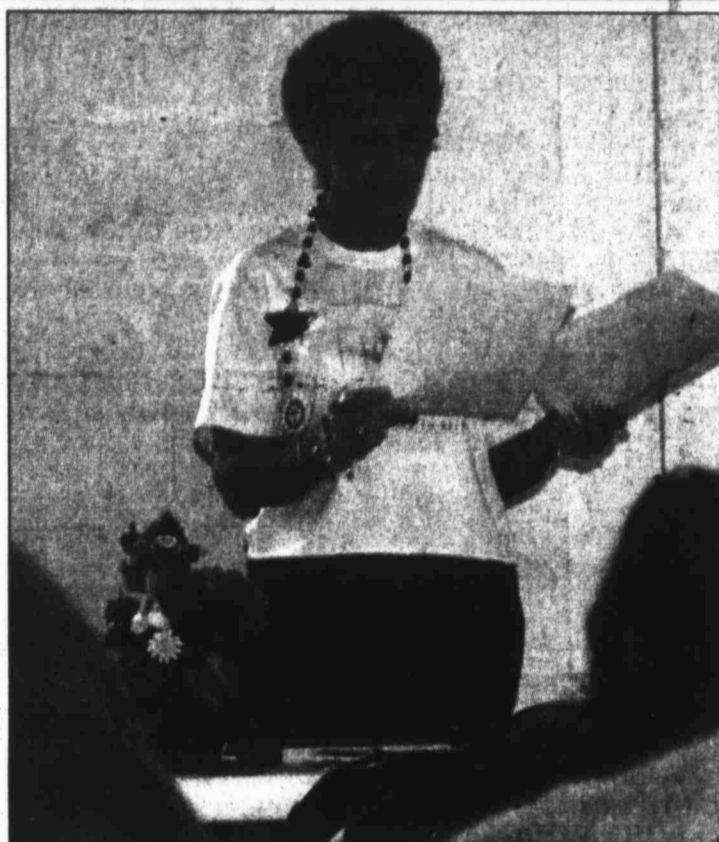
The CARES Commission will hear testimony from invited speakers on the national CARES draft plan to realign health care services in the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

The plan includes major mission changes at 13 facilities, including closures of hospitals in Canandaigua, N.Y., Pittsburgh; Lexington, Ky.; Brecksville, Ohio; Gulfport, Miss.; Livermore, Calif.; and Waco.

Part of the proposal recommends not only closing inpatient surgical care at the Big Spring facility but also a feasibility study to shift medical care services to the Midland/Odessa area — a move that would essentially close the Big Spring hospital.

The bus trip, organized

See **BUS**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Diane Wood, a Relay for Life committee member, reads the testimony of a first-time Relay for Life participant during the committee's kick-off meeting Tuesday at Gale's Sweet Shoppe. Teams are currently forming to participate in the 2004 Relay for Life.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Initial planning under way for cancer unit fund-raiser

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Plans are already under way for the 2004 Relay for Life, the largest fund-raiser for the Howard Glasscock Unit of the American Cancer Society.

"Relay looks good for us this year," said Turney.

Although a slow economy — coupled with the possible closure of the VA Medical Center — is of

concern, Turney said committee members are as committed as they ever have been to ensuring a successful event.

"Of course we're concerned with the economy and with the VA issue. That's a scary thing because they are always a large fund-raiser for us but we're going to kick it up a notch and we're going to do it," Turney said.

Committee members met Tuesday night to begin the initial planning for the 2004 Relay for Life, set for May 7-8 at Big

See **RELAY**, Page 3A



WELCH



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Not everything escaped Wednesday evening's storms unscathed, as this tree at 1600 Owens came down, damaging an automobile. Resident Marsha Sturdivant said the tree gave way to high winds between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Herald welcomes 2 veterans to staff

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Herald announces the addition of two experienced professionals to the news department team.

Marsha Allen took over the features editor's position on Tuesday while Thomas Jenkins returned in August as the Herald's governmental affairs reporter.

Allen has more than 30 years of journalism experience and plans to primarily focus on in-depth feature stories of the Crossroads area.

"I hope lifestyles section will focus on ordinary people doing unusual things. They are the engine which makes communities and this nation run," Allen said.

Allen began her writing career as a copy writer for a major department store in Memphis, Tenn. There she also served a display artist, fashion coordinator and fashion show commentator for Memphis area fashion shows.

From there she joined the United States Marine



ALLEN JENKINS

Corps, serving as a photo-journalist and public information officer where she wrote news releases for the Washington Post among other capital publications. During her service as a Marine, Allen earned several awards and commendations for her work.

Allen's extensive career includes free lance writing and graphic design in places such as the greater Los Angeles area, graphic design work for the aerospace industry, and working as a journalist and graphic artist for several Arkansas newspapers and businesses, where she won many APA journalism awards.

Allen joins the staff at the request of Herald General Manager

See **HERALD**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Cavan McMahon, left, former president of McMahon Concert, shakes the hand of Greg Curlee, Transit Mix Concrete & Materials' West Texas area manager, in front of the McMahon building. Also pictured is Clyde McMahon Jr. The Big Spring business sold to Transit on Friday, ending three-generations of McMahon ownership.

A deal made in concrete: McMahon sells business

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

The official sale of McMahon Concrete and Supplies Corp. to Transit Mix Concrete and Materials took place last week, ending a three-generation legacy in Big Spring.

"The timing was right," said Cavan McMahon, former president and the grandson of the companies' founder, Clyde McMahon Sr.

After four years of negotiations, the companies were sold, Friday for an

See **SALE**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Henry Oliver

Henry Oliver, 89, of Midland, died at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2003, at Sempercare Hospital in Midland. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Rev. Wanda Hill of the First United Methodist Church of Coahoma, officiating.

He was born Dec. 24, 1913, in Aquilla. He had been a resident of Midland for more than 40 years. He was a retired farmer and a Baptist.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Gladys Thompson King of Big Spring and Gracie White and her husband Tommy of Midland.

Mr. Oliver was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Oliver and Nellie Robinson Oliver; three brothers; and one sister.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Take note

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** set up to help defray medical costs for Heidrun Meiser who underwent cancer surgery. The account is at American State Bank, P.O. Box 271, Big Spring 79720. The bank's physical address is 1411 Gregg.

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** established at Wells Fargo bank to help defray medical costs of Carl Newell of Big Spring. While undergoing neck surgery, it was discovered that Newell has Hepatitis C. Funds are needed for tests and treatment. Newell has no insurance and is unable to work.

□ **A CANCER FUND HAS** been set up at First Bank of West Texas, 1810 FM 700, in Big Spring for long-time Forsan resident Clarence Williams.

□ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families.

Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

□ **THE-MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

□ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.**

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Support groups

THURSDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

□ Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

FRIDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

□ Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Wednesday until 8 a.m. Thursday:

• **JOHN GAINES PEARCE**, 35, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday on a Howard County warrant for forgery.

• **JOHNNY CORBET COLEY**, 18, of 1506 E. 17th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **ASSAULT** was reported:
- in the 2000 block of Merrily.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 700 block of N. Lancaster.

• **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 600 block of Tulane Road.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
- in the 1100 block of E. 13th Street. Items valued at \$1 reported stolen. Damages estimated at \$50.

- in the 1600 block of Austin. Items valued at \$44 reported stolen. Damages estimated at \$50.

- in the 600 block of Elgin. Home stereo electronics and other items valued at \$1,689 reported stolen. Damages estimated at \$70.

Sheriff's report

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

• **JOHNATHAN MONROE CASEY**, 21, was arrested by the BSPD and transferred to the Howard County Jail on Wednesday.

• **SUMMER DAWN TEETERS**, 20, was arrested by the BSPD and transferred to the Howard County Jail on Wednesday.

• **JOHNNY LOPEZ DELACRUZ, JR.**, 23, was arrested by the BSPD and transferred to the Howard County Jail on Wednesday.

• **VIRGINIA JUAREZ DIAZ**, 44, was arrested by the BSPD and transferred to the Howard County Jail on Wednesday.

• **STEVE RANDAL O'BRIEN**, 41, was arrested by the BSPD and transferred to the Howard County Jail on Wednesday.

• **PATRICK RIVAS**, 25, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-11-13-14-23.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$38,630.
Winning tickets sold in: Brownsville, Brownsville Val-Mart LLC, 2804 Southmost Road.
Matching four of five: 210. Prize: \$83.
Matching three of five: 5,669. Prize: \$7.
Matching two of five: 49,655. Prize: \$2.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-18-28-34. Bonus Ball: 14.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching five of five: 4. Prize: \$8,552.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 17. Prize: \$1,826.
Number matching four of five: 764. Prize: \$87.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 603. Prize: \$98.
Number matching three of five: 27,340. Prize: \$5.
Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,025. Prize: \$5.
Number matching one of five, plus Bonus Ball: 30,411. Prize: \$3.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$16 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-9-9

Weather

Tonight... Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Locally heavy rainfall possible. Lows around 60. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday... Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 80. North winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday night... Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Saturday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Sunday through Monday... Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs in the lower 80s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring County Club, Driver Road.

American Legion Auxiliary, 6 p.m., 3203 W. Highway 80, 263-2404.

Arts, Crafts & Quilting Club, 6 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Masonic Lodge 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster St.

Masonic Lodge 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

Neighbors & Newcomers Club, 268-9335.

FRIDAY

Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

AMBUCS, noon, La Posada, 206 NW Fourth St.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring County Club, Driver Road.

Spring City Senior Citizens Center Country & Western Dance, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., 1901 Simler. All area seniors or invited.

SATURDAY

Howard County Scottish Rite club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st & Lancaster. Breakfast served.

Antique Automobile Club of America showcase, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Comanche Trail Park

Free eye glasses, 9 a.m. to noon, Bob's Custom Woodwork, 409 E. Third.

Hangar 25 Air Museum, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

SUNDAY

Hangar 25 Air Museum, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

MONDAY

Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. People age 50 and older are invited to participate, 268-4721.

Big Spring Howard County Retired Teachers Association, 11:30 a.m., Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47, 6:30 p.m., 610 Abrams.

Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., La Posada, 206 NW Fourth Street.

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, 267-1628.

Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Big Spring Art Association, 7 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Big Spring Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Senior Circle Stretch & Tone, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

432-263-7331

(Main switchboard)

432-263-7335

(Circulation calls only)

(Fax) 915-264-7205

Chuck Williams Publisher.....Ext. 250
Susanne Reed General Manager.....Ext. 225
John A. Moseley Managing Editor.....Ext. 230
Angie Worley Circulation Manager.....Ext. 240
Tony Hernandez Production Manager.....Ext. 256
Dianne Marquez Business Office Manager.....Ext. 255

The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Thomas Moore surveys a wreck that occurred Tuesday afternoon on the south service road of Interstate 20 near mile marker 182. According to Moore, a Ford pickup truck driven by Ronnie Covert of Big Spring was heading eastbound on the south service road and was entering the on ramp to I-20 when it collided with a Ford Aerostar driven by Johnny Payne of Big Spring. Both men were briefly pinned in their cars before being taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. According to Moore, Payne failed to yield at the yield sign.

BUS

Continued from Page 1A

by Moore Development and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, is meant to bring a strong area show of support for the Big Spring VA Hospital at the hearing. The bus will leave on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. from the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum parking lot, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Each person is responsible for hotel rooms and meals. No fair will be charged for the ride.

Welch is currently making arrangements to obtain hotel rooms at a discount price.

"If you're taking your private vehicle and would still like to take advantage of group rates at the hotel, please contact us as soon as possible," Welch said. "Also, we would like everyone whose planning to attend — whether or not they take the bus — to call us so we can have an accurate count."

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, who will be testify at the hearing, encourages the public to

take time to attend.

"I think the more the better," McEwen said. "I think it's important to know we aren't idly sitting by. We do care about the VA hospital and the veterans in this area."

For more information or to make a reservation, call or visit the Chamber of Commerce at (432) 264-7641 or 215 W. Third St.

The CARES El Paso hearing will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at Soldiers Hall on the U.S. Army base, Fort Bliss. Day passes for those traveling in their

own vehicle can be obtained by entering through the Robert E. Lee or Chaffee Gate. To obtain a day pass, you must have a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance.

For more information, contact Monti Walthall, voluntary service officer, at the VA Hospital in El Paso, at (915) 564-7882 or (800) 672-3782.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

Spring High School's Blankenship Field. This year, committee members will celebrate 10 years of Relay in Big Spring. "Ten years, no I can't believe it," Turney said. "Just thinking back to that first Relay and the progress made today is

almost unbelievable."

The fund-raiser began with just 10 teams and raised \$20,000. In 2003, 74 teams took to the field for the overnight event and raised almost \$128,500 of the \$188,391.41 gross total.

All through its existence, the Howard-Glasscock unit has been able to a minimize the cost for the Relay campaign. Last year, expenses were held to a little

more than 7 percent.

This year, the committee has set a gross total of \$200,000 for its goal.

"Two-hundred-thousand dollars is a lofty goal but I think its just going to make us work that much harder and show what we can do," Turney said.

Teams are already forming for the 2004 Relay.

"We are gearing up, ready to go," said Joanne Sayles. "The old teams

going to be hearing from us and we're wanting new teams."

Anyone interested in forming a team should contact Sayles at 267-3841 or Turney at 268-6630 or 267-2004.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

SALE

Continued from Page 1A

undisclosed amount, said McMahon, who plans to stay through the transition.

One of the largest ready mix businesses in Texas, Transit Mix doesn't expect any personnel changes from the change in management, said Greg Curlee, Transit Mix's area manager for West Texas.

The central location of Big Spring made the local plant very attractive, Curlee said.

"The refinery is real attractive to us ... just the work there being done and on the interstate," Curlee said. "We have plants in Midland, Abilene and Lubbock and we have future plans for San Angelo. Big Spring ties them all together. So that's why we came here."

Established in 1939 in Beaumont, Dallas-based Transit Mix has grown to become one of the largest concrete material suppliers in Texas with more than 80 plants in the

state.

"In the future, we're going to upgrade the (Big Spring) ready-mixed facility, put in a new plant and bring in new trucks," Curlee said.

Even with the new upgrade, Curlee doesn't expect an increase in personnel.

McMahon Concrete was established in 1952 by Clyde McMahon Sr., who first moved to Big Spring to produce the gravel and sand for the present location of Howard College, said his son, Clyde McMahon Jr.

Clyde Sr. purchased a ready mix concrete plant

in 1952, and continued as a businessman and active civic leader until shortly before his death on June 26, 2002.

Although the leadership of the business eventually passed through to his son and grandson,

Clyde Sr. stayed very active on the business side until his late 80s.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

HERALD

Continued from Page 1A

Susanne Reed.

Jenkins returns to the Herald after a five-year break in which he served as the Big Spring bureau chief and anchor for NewsWest 9 and in private business. He replaces Roger Cline, who left to pursue other career interests.

"I'm glad to be back, and most of all I'm glad to be serving the community again. I get the chance to be the eyes and ears for the people of the Big Spring area, and that's truly an honor," Jenkins said. "I get the chance to work with some great people here at the Herald, and out in the community, and that's just the icing on the cake for me."

Jenkins said his true responsibility is providing accurate, unbiased news to the reader.

"I felt the same way when I worked with NewsWest 9," Jenkins said. "It's an awesome responsibility to keep people informed, especially when some of the things going on are things most people would rather just turn their head and pretend don't exist. It's important to give people a balanced view of what's going on."

Jenkins added he was glad to return to the newspaper field.

"There's a sensationalist approach to television news I simply don't care for. There is such an emphasis placed on ratings and the dollars they bring in. A lot of the time the truest of messages can get lost in the hype," he said. "It's just like any business, and I understand it has to make

money, but when that money comes at the expense of quality, it's just not worth it in my opinion. The media should offer an unbiased and researched representation of the situation, no matter whose ego is at stake."

Although Jenkins is passionate about his job, fatherhood takes precedence in his life.

"The most important thing in my life is my little girl. That's why I do this. I want her to be able to look back on my life and career and be proud of her father. She's not even four and she already loves to read, and I hope she passes that same passion on to her children someday. In the meantime, I'll just collect my gray hairs like any father would."

Born in Big Spring, Jenkins grew up in Sumter, S.C., and attended Central Carolina Technical College and the University of South Carolina, where he majored in psychology.

Jenkins also runs his own Web design agency, AngryChair Enterprises.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Carroll Trantham, died Monday. Memorial Services were at 2:00 PM Thursday at Myers and Smith Chapel.
Henry Oliver, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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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.

Chuck Williams
PublisherSusanne Reed
General ManagerJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

It's important we never forget September 11, 2001

Anger, shock and disbelief subside with time. And sadly, to some extent, so does resolve. We as Americans survived the best terrorists could muster two years ago and started battling back.

Today we call it Patriots Day and honor those whose lives were forever changed on Sept. 11, 2001.

While there are still plenty of questions that we may never have answers to, as a nation we've been able to rebound from the shock of that day and begun a war on terror against those avowed to deprive us of our way of life.

There's no longer a shred of doubt in anyone's mind that Osama bin Laden and his fanatical following were responsible for the hijacking attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon two years ago today.

What has become even more evident in the past year of this war on terrorism in which we are now engaged is that it is unlike any war the United States has ever waged — one that's we're all still getting used to.

There were perhaps a few pivotal battles for territory or other traditional military objectives during the invasion of Iraq, but now occupation of that nation and our efforts to rebuild it become a more and more a political football with each passing day.

Perhaps we need to remember this war is a test of faith.

Will the truths our forefathers termed "self-evident" outlast religious fanaticism?

We still believe they will.

None of us wants to erase the Muslim faith, but those fanatics who would try to destroy the freedoms Americans have fought and died for during the past 228 years still need to understand that we can be ruthless and have been when it was necessary.

And most of all, we will never forget.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we pray and walk with you, Lord, others see the difference in our lives.

Amen

Punch-card lawsuit is a sham

The legal eagles in charge of the ACLU obviously have decided to ditch the pretense that they care about all Americans' civil rights. Only schoolchildren — and very naive ones at that — believe that pose anyway.

So the ACLU has set out to destroy an election in order to save voting rights.

Joining with other left-leaning groups, the ACLU filed suit to stall California's Oct. 7 recall election. The ACLU brief argues that six counties — including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, Solano and Mendocino, representing 44 percent of voters — use punch-card ballots. Because those counties contain a higher-than-average percentage of minorities, and because minorities experience a higher level of voting irregularities with punch-card systems than non-minorities, the recall election would "discriminate against minority voters."

The ACLU's remedy: Stall the recall until March 2004, when all 58 counties are supposed to be punch-card free.

Or, as Team Davis apparently believes: Stall the recall until March 2004, when support for the

recall should have run out of steam.

After U.S. District Judge Stephen Wilson in Los Angeles turned the ACLU down, the civil litigators turned to the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco (a.k.a., the infamous Ninth Circuit) to complete its anti-voter handiwork.

The Ninth is known for its blatant disregard for legal niceties when it comes to decisions that grate against the court's rarefied politics. But postponing the election is bad for government — whether you support or oppose the recall.

The longer the recall election campaign lasts, the longer uncertainty plagues state finances and keeps the state from finding a fixed path.

Attorney Chuck Bell, who represents recall backers, believes the ACLU suit is results oriented — that is, filed not for the principle, but to delay the recall election for so long that it runs out of energy.

Paul Ryan of the good-government Center for Intergovernmental Studies doesn't believe that the ACLU is suing in a bald attempt to foil the recall. To Ryan, the punch-card system is inadequate, presenting the danger of a Florida-style recount debacle if a tight race requires a recount.

Two problems: First (and this is a biggie), Gray Davis was elected governor under this system, with major counties using the punch-

card ballots. If the old system was so flawed and unfair, the ACLU should have filed suit to stop the November 2002 election, which Davis says he won "fair and square" — with 47 percent of the vote.

Second, as Ryan admits, new techno-ballots could have big problems, too.

The ACLU brief explains that it couldn't sue to stall last November's election because a court victory "would give rise to a full-fledged constitutional crisis." Well, the same logic applies for a recall.

The ACLU brief also argues that the court could at least let the recall go forward, but postpone a vote on Proposition 54, the initiative that would prohibit the state from gathering racial data, to protect voters of color. In their dreams the judges are going to rule that punch cards discriminate in an election for a ballot measure, but not the recall.

What's the rationale here? The ACLU argues Proposition 54 is "racially charged."

Again, the ACLU doesn't even bother to hide its political agenda.

To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The vote of Howard County residents is most important in the election on Sept. 13. The medical liability crisis in this country is real.

Proposition 12, a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to set caps on non-economic (pain, suffering, etc.) damages awarded by juries, is hoped to deter frivolous lawsuits, bring down malpractice insurance premiums and improve access to more affordable health care.

There are no liability limits for economic (medical bills, loss of wages, etc.) damages. This issue is of interest to medical malpractice prosecuting attorneys because the higher awards bring higher legal fees.

This issue is critical to physicians because rising malpractice insurance premiums and the increasingly "defensive" focus in medical practice are literally decimating our profession.

Physicians are required to discuss the risks and benefits of medical procedures in order that their patients may give "informed" consent for those procedures.

I am writing this so that you will be more informed regarding the risks vs. benefits of Proposition 12. For additional information, please go to www.yeson12.org.

Doctors do not attend college, take the MCAT, attend medical school, take their state board exams, attend residency, take their specialty board exams and attend continuing medical education for the purpose of money, power, killing, maiming or destroying rights, health or personal freedoms. The incentive is generally sincere gratitude for the privilege to serve, to the best of one's ability, our suffering fellow man, regardless of his socioeconomic status.

Personal devastation by a preventable bad outcome is usually sufficient punishment for us to "clean up our act." Large monetary awards are rarely necessary. Health care providers and institutions are now "legislated" to the point of distraction from actual patient care. Why should the judicial system be immune?

DR. BONNIE MCKENZIE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Since my last correspondence with the readers of the Herald, I have become very distressed over Gov. Perry's characterization of Proposition 12. In his television ads, he is stressing the medical malpractice issue and does not even mention how Proposition 12 will really affect all of us.

Gov. Perry is using scare tactics when he states that we won't have doctors available to provide medical services to us if Proposition 12 is defeated. In fact, a limit on damages on medical malpractice has already occurred. Proposition 12 goes way beyond that. Proposition

12 masquerades as medical malpractice reform, but the words and other actions allow the Legislature to restrict what judges and juries can do to hold any wrongdoer responsible for his actions: drunk drivers, polluters, manufacturers of dangerous drugs, negligent makers of unsafe tires, exploding gas tanks or corporate criminals who have robbed their corporations and destroyed the life savings of their pensioners and employees.

Proposition 12 is supported by special interest groups. Do you really want insurance companies and politicians (to whom insurance companies pay tremendous amounts of money) telling you how much your injury or death or that of a loved one is worth? I should think not!

If insurance companies keep having to pay out outrageous amount of money for claims, they should look at the people they are insuring before the sell them the insurance. I won't hire anybody before I do a background check on them. If a doctor or company has a bad record, simply refuse to sell them insurance!

The elimination of our right to a trial by jury in an injury claim is completely against all principles that the founders of our form of government fought and died for. To prevent access to the court system eliminates the balance of power. The framers of the Texas Constitution drafted a document and a Bill of Rights which balanced the three branches of government, ensuring that no one branch is too powerful and guaranteeing citizens a voice for justice with the rule of law in our courts, judges and juries.

You must vote no to Proposition 12 and preserve your rights.

WALTER A. DICKERSON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to recent letters in the Herald, there certainly is a problem with not only medical liability and insurance, but with liability for all businesses. Our civil liability system has run amuck. Proposition 12 will bring some sanity back to the system. It has nothing to do with your right to trial by jury, but everything to do with runaway monetary rewards.

While Proposition 12 does not change the ability to recover actual expenses and damages, it does cap the nebulous and impossible to clearly define "pain and suffering" awards. When awards on this mostly emotional and ill defined category are capped, there simply is no windfall left over for making attorneys rich on one lawsuit.

We don't need \$3 million awards for spilled cups of coffee. Big and unreasonable awards punish our society in insurance costs and costs of products we buy every day.

When a surgeon has to perform 50 gallbladder surgeries per year just

to pay his insurance premium, something is wrong. While we can point the finger at insurance companies, they are paying out more than they are collecting in premiums and they are leaving our state.

Proposition 12 is not perfect; but probably sooner than later, something is going to give in this system. Likely, it will be lower amounts of coverage available to pay claims and fewer available physicians.

Few, if any doctors or small businesses have anywhere near the personal ability to pay the types of claims we have been seeing. We need to take care of the wronged and injured, but it is not supposed to be like winning the lottery.

DR. ROBERT B. McFAUL
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

If the honorable Margarita Durand Hollis would spare a moment from reading the Republican Party bible and just glance at the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, she would thank the Democratic senators presently residing in Albuquerque for saving her Republican governor the embarrassment of having a federal judge throw out the Republican redistricting bill for being unconstitutional.

For those of you who haven't gotten around to reading their country's constitution or bill of rights, the law says each 10 years after a federal census, the congressional districts shall be redrawn to be as nearly equal as possible. This has been done in Texas by a legislative committee controlled by Republicans, twice, and approved by the federal courts.

The Republican governor of Texas seems to think that it is his party's privilege to redraw the districts any time they want solely to give his party control of the delegation. It isn't even his idea. He is following the orders of the bug killer from Houston. Republicans better wake up. If this were to be allowed, we would be redistricting every time party control changes. Is this what you want?

Instead of blindly blaming Democrats, it is a Republican governor and legislature calling one special session after another and spending money that could be better used to provide better schools, medical care and all the other things Texas needs.

Your time would be better spent recalling your governor instead of being critical of Democrats, who are patriotically trying to save the taxpayers' hard-earned money.

BOB HUTTE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank you and your staff for the Big Spring Herald's coverage of the 2003

See LETTERS, Page 5,

LETTERS

Continued from

Howard News articles, news contest result accurately an was also great pictures.

I would all thank all of the es which help the fair such and fun to the visited.

It is great entire comm together for a wide event better every y

TOM

HOWARD C

TO THE EDITOR:

My name Marinelli. I Canandaigua small city of people. Our V like yours, i closing. Our c lizing to o unjust action.

Our city c passed a resol ing the closin Hospital an Hospital as w

Would your consider doin I'd like to proj consider fo alliance; I'll media and g in the other 5 for closing as

Together w vide a formida To see what w far, please v munity w <http://www.sa.va.org>

Please cons opposed to th your hospital on own.

JEFF CANAND

TO THE EDITOR: I would like late Jean Wa her years of te ative writin

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

Howard County Fair. The articles, news stories and contest results were done accurately and timely. It was also great to see all the pictures.

I would also like to thank all of the businesses which helped to make the fair such a success and fun to the many who visited.

It is great to see the entire community come together for this county-wide event which gets better every year.

**TOMMY CORWIN,
PRESIDENT
HOWARD COUNTY FAIR
BOARD**

TO THE EDITOR:

My name is Jeff Marinelli. I live in Canandaigua, N.Y., a small city of about 11,000 people. Our VA Hospital, like yours, is slated for closing. Our city is mobilizing to oppose this unjust action.

Our city council has passed a resolution opposing the closing of our VA Hospital and any VA Hospital as well.

Would your city council consider doing the same? I'd like to propose that we consider forming an alliance; I'll contact the media and governments in the other 5 sites slated for closing as well.

Together we can provide a formidable defense. To see what we've done so far, please visit our community website at <http://www.save-the-cdga-va.org>

Please consider us as opposed to the closing of your hospital as we are to our own.

**JEFF MARINELLI
CANANDAIGUA, N.Y.**

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to congratulate Jean Warren for all her years of teaching, creative writing and her

informative and most enjoyable *Big Spring Herald* feature column.

Mrs. Warren was my creative writing teacher at Runnels Junior High School. I enjoyed her class and enjoyed serving on the school paper staff under her guidance and leadership.

I will miss reading the column and her absence will be a great loss to the *Herald*.

In closing, I would like to wish Mrs. Warren much joy and happiness in the future and wherever her path leads.

**DEAN KRAUS
BIG SPRING**

TO THE EDITOR:

I was talking with my son in Iraq yesterday and I got the impression from him that our soldiers seem to think they are forgotten.

We forget them. The current politics that have been in the media has overshadowed our soldiers. They are spending their birthdays, anniversaries, their children's birthdays, school plays, activities, and holidays that should be with family.

I want our community to rally and send our soldiers a message. Tell them thank you and let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

**ANITA MASSEY
BIG SPRING**

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to ask Mr. Smith of Horizon Publications a few questions in reference to his editorial criticizing the current President on Tuesday.

First, what price is appropriate to combat terrorism and radical dictators around the world? He makes many statements about the "staggering" amount President Bush is asking Congress for in the next few weeks.

The 2003 federal budget submitted and approved by Congress was in excess of \$2.2 trillion. The \$87 billion is an extra 4 percent on top of that. That would be the same as a family making \$30,000 being asked to pay \$1,200 for an extra budget item in a year. That's \$3.28 per day for a year for that entire family.

You can also compare the \$87 billion versus the U.S. population — \$87 billion spread out among 260 million people is \$335 per citizen. Is Mr. Smith's life worth \$335? Are his children's lives worth \$335? Are yours?

Secondly, where are the budget hawks when the largest social service programs in this country require more and more money? Where are they as Social Security goes down the tubes? Where are they as a \$400 billion (or more) Medicare prescription drug package is being tossed around both houses?

Mr. Smith states that homeland security is "foundering in red tape." Mr. Smith, name us one federal program that isn't!

We did not start this war, but we will end it. The people we are dealing with only understand force and they are not going to sit at a table and agree to make the peace (just ask the Israelis).

If Mr. Smith or anyone else out there feels that spending further money in this war is wasteful, let me ask him and other logical citizens to stop and think:

How much is your life worth?

Who's going to take a stand and stop this terror?

And, finally:

How many more 9/11's will occur if we don't finish this campaign against evil?

**KEVIN ARMSTRONG
BIG SPRING**

DEAR EDITOR,

Kentwood Elementary third graders just held their third annual grandparent celebration at the Kentwood Older Adult Activity Center. The celebration was a huge success due to the wonderful members of our community and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

Thanks go to Dakota's, Johansen's, and Timeless Design for donating beautiful plants and flowers for centerpieces, Halfmann's Creations for the colorful balloon bouquets, HEB for the fruit trays and punch, plus allowing Cheryl Edmundson and Fred Griego to come serve refreshments, Culligan's for ice and water, Pollard Chevrolet for the cookies baked by Kelley Fuqua, and Target of Midland for cups, plates and napkins.

Also, a huge thank you to parents, Molly Weber and Kim Pollard for picking up many of the other expenses, and going above and beyond to prepare, decorate and run last minute errands for our GrandParty. Thanks to all other parents who helped decorate and do various other chores in preparation.

We also appreciate the support we receive from our own campus — Mr. Pierce for the rental cost of the center, Mrs. Averitt for the music part of the program; and Kelley

Fuqua for photography.

Additionally, we want to thank our third grade students who worked hard to address invitations, write their favorite memories, learn songs, and complete art projects used for decoration. A huge thank you to the grandparents for their attendance. Without them there would be no reason to celebrate.

And last but, of course, certainly not least — the media coverage which includes Lisa Brooks from KBST, and Lyndel Moody from the *Big Spring Herald* who always writes a wonderful article about this special event.

We live in a wonderful community which is always so willing to pitch in and do whatever it takes, especially when it comes to our children. For this, we are especially thankful.

**SINCERELY,
BRENDA DUNLAP
CONNIE KENNEDY
THIRD GRADE TEACHERS
KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY**

TO THE EDITOR:

We only want to let the driver of the car that hit our little pet dog know that even though the accident was not the driver's fault, having him or her just keep going was cruel and heartless.

We have never had children, so our little dogs are our babies. To us, that was our baby girl.

Perhaps another pet

lover that has this happen will have someone to at least stop and say they are sorry and offer any help possible.

It could have easily been a child that was hit because the car was speeding.

**CALVIN AND LINDA
BORDOPFKE
BIG SPRING**

TO THE EDITOR:

I was pleased to hear when the Big Spring City Council meeting was broadcast on Channel 23 that Joel De La Garza had been appointed to the Moore Board.

What shocked me was to hear that this fulfilled the minority requirements. I have known Mr. De La Garza for a number of years and have never thought of him as anything except a very nice man.

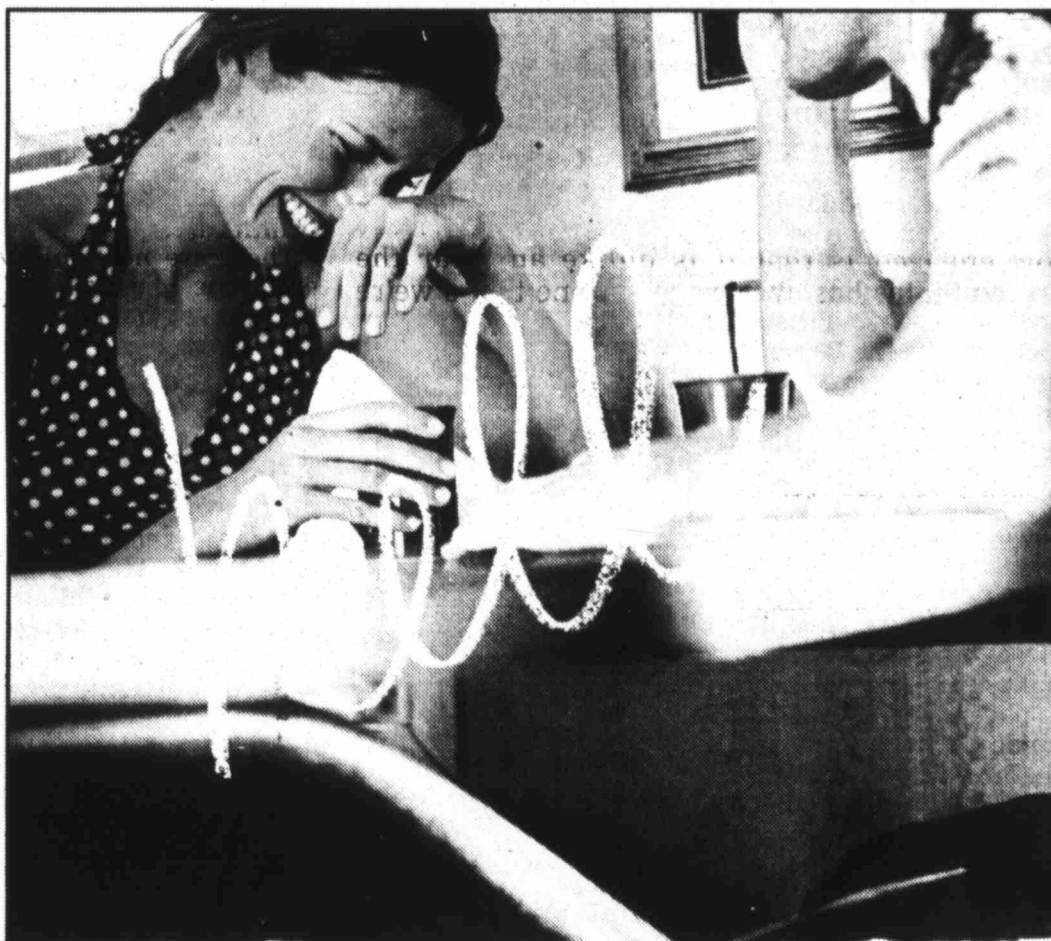
I'm a woman, but I have never thought of myself as a minority either.

I hope the day will come when people are placed in a responsible position because of their qualifications only, not to fill a quota.

Congratulations, Joel.

**PHYLLIS GRAUMANN
BIG SPRING**

Church News and Club News should be turned in by Wednesday noon before the Friday they are to appear.



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On September 13, You Have the Chance To
Save Your Family Doctor

On September 13, Texans have the chance to go to the polls and cast a critical vote for the future of our health care by voting YES on Proposition 12.

Your "YES" vote will:

- ✓ **Make medical care affordable.** Patients and employers spend less money on medical care when doctors and hospitals spend less on liability insurance.
- ✓ **Restore confidence in and improve accessibility to our health care system.** Medical lawsuit reform enables more doctors and hospitals to stay in business by limiting excessive damages.
- ✓ **Cap arbitrary non-economic damages in medical liability lawsuits against doctors at \$750,000.** Actual economic damages such as lost wages and medical bills, will continue to be awarded without limit.
- ✓ **Hold down liability insurance costs.** By limiting frivolous multi-million dollar lawsuits, doctors will pay less for insurance.



Proposition 12 means more patients and employers will be able to afford health insurance, more doctors and providers will stay and serve their communities, and an end to medical lawsuit abuse.

ALERT!

Early voting begins Aug. 27 and runs through Sept. 9.
Election Day is Sept. 13. Don't forget to vote!

YES ON 12!

Please Vote!

Permian Basin Medical Society

P.O. Ad pd by Permian Basin Medical Society
Dr. Pablo Trevino Sec./Treas.

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New library books are fun and inspirational

Are you addicted (like I am) to the Trading Spaces show on TLC?

We have just received "Trading Spaces: Behind the Scenes" (745.4572 TLC) where you can get the entire lowdown on Hildi, Doug, Frank, perky Paige, Vern and all the crew. There are bios on each designer and the carpenters; hints on how to create the same effect in your home and even posters of each designer! Too, too, cool! We also have "Trading Spaces: COLOR!" (747.9 TLC).

"Picturing Texas: The FSA-OWI Photographers in the Lone Star State, 1935-1943" (Oversized 779.9976 REI R) compiled by Robert L. Reid is fascinating.

It is filled with photographs documenting the Dust Bowl days in Texas and captured a rich panorama of everyday life in rural Texas, small towns and big cities. Reid traces the history of FSA (Farm Services Administration) and discusses photographers Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein and Robert Lee and the impact that these photographs have had on our history. A great book.

Here is another "instant book" - "34 Days of Terror: The Compelling True Story of the Hunt and Capture of the Beltway Snipers" (364-1523 CAN A) by Angie Cannon. This book is compiled from accounts that were written by staffers of U.S. News and World Reports.

Robert H. Goddard is the forgotten man of the space age. In his day, he was more famous than Einstein or Edison, Goddard was the father of rocketry and space flight. In "Rocket Man: Robert H. Goddard and the Birth of the Space Age" (629.4092 CLA D) you will read of the forgotten hero.

"But, Mom, the dog-cat-snake-horse, followed me home!! Can't we keep it?" These are words that strike fear into the heart of parents! If you do decide to keep said animal, how do you take care of it? This is when you go to your friendly Howard County Library, look up "pet care" in the OPAC and you find this book, "The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care" (636.0887 CAR D). Split into various chapters, you will find out how to care for dogs, cats, small furry animals (hamsters, rabbits, etc.) birds, reptiles and fish. It also talks about how to choose an appropriate pet, care for it, and when death comes (as it will) how to console your children (and yourself).

Dorothy Allred Solomon, the only daughter of a polygamous, fundamentalist Mormon, could well have called her story Secrets and Lies to indicate the tenor of the early life that she looks back on with remarkable clarity and even humor. The twenty-eighth of 48 children, she was instilled, as were her many brothers, by her father with the sense of



WHAT'S NEW AT THE COUNTY LIBRARY
HOLLIS MCKNIGHT

the family's difference, which the world beyond its circle, even most other Mormons (the church officially abolished polygamy in 1890), wouldn't welcome. Solomon's book "Predators, Prey, and Other Kinfolk: Growing up in Polygamy" (289.3092 SOL D) has written a rare story, indeed, told with much grace and

humility. "Amazing Kitchen Cures" (640.41 GRE J) by Joey Green is chockfull of ways to prevent and cure common ailments with brand name products. Does your dog have fleas? To kill them, use a few drops of Dawn dishwashing liquid, rinsing the dog well.

After the bath, rinse the dog with two ounces of Skin-So-Soft per gallon of water.

This will repel the fleas, ticks and gives dog a shiny coat. This is just one of the hints or solutions you will find in the book. Fascinating!

Do you want to know how to make simple home repairs?

The Library has just received several books published by Stanley on: "Basic Plumbing" (696.1 MER S); "Basic Wiring"

(621.3192 MER S); "Advanced Wiring" (621.3192 MER B) and then there is always "Advanced Wiring" (621.3192 MER B) when you want to do the heavy duty stuff.

Even though the days are getting cooler, we still have to mow here in Big Spring. Has your mower gotten reluctant to start?

Then check out "Walk-Behind Lawn Mower Service Manual" (635.9647 PRI B).

It includes complete service information for walk-behind lawn mowers. These books can be found in our non-fiction section. "How to Hold a Crocodile" (031.02 DIA G), published by the Diagram Group is full of hundreds of practical tips, fascinating facts and wisdom.

Wondering how to calculate the surface area of

a cylinder? See page 89. How about dandelion wine? (Please come to my yard and pluck all the dandelions you desire!) Find out on page 63.

Here is my favorite: How to give a pill to the cat, see page 53.

This book is interesting but beware - not everything will work!

The Library is still accepting books for the Friend's of the Library annual book sale.

We cannot accept condensed books, National Geographic or magazines

- please bring your gently used books to the library. Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The Internet, Video room closes one-half hour before closing.

The Library is located at 500 Main St. The phone number is 264-2260.

The library's website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

The online catalog is online. The email is hmcright@hotmail.com.

Texas peanuts - nutritious snacks; big agricultural industry

Take one sack full of Texas peanuts and add social gatherings and you have nutritious snacking.

From West Texas to the Panhandle and south of the Alamo City, Texas peanut producers are ready to bring in this year's peanut crop.

This is peak season for peanut picking in Texas. Once considered a lowly legume, peanuts have elevated their status not just in Texas but also across the entire country. Today, peanuts are America's number one snack nut.

Unlike many snack food in the marketplace, peanuts are actually good for you. In a nutshell, peanuts provide protein, vitamins and fiber and the monounsaturated fat found in peanuts has been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Everything is big in Texas, including the pride in its peanut industry.

Texas is the nation's second largest peanut-producing state and is one of only two states growing all four U.S. peanut varieties, Runner, Spanish, Virginia and Valencia.

The Texas Peanut Producers Board is the state's oldest commodity check-off board, according to a press release from the Board.

In 1969 the peanut producers in the Lone Star State recognized a need



Roasted Texas peanuts make snacks for football gatherings and family TV time nutritious and delicious.

for Texas peanut research, market development, education and promotion. They voted that year to establish a \$1 per net ton voluntary check-off program based on farmer stock.

Under authorization of the 64th Legislature and the Texas Commodity Referendum law, growers voted by a more than two-thirds margin to create the Texas Peanut Producers Board to administer the check-off program.

In 1990, growers again voted on the check-off and increased it to \$2 per net ton.

Texas now has more than 264,000 planted

peanut acres with 75 percent of the crop in West Texas, according to the press release.

Peanuts are a major player in Texas agriculture.

In fact, the Texas economy benefits by up to \$1 billion annually from the peanut industry.

So whether enjoying eating them from the can or in a Thai-inspired sauce, from soup too nuts the friendly Texas peanut farmers have more free recipes than you can shake a stick at.

For delicious recipes using Texas peanuts, contact the Texas Peanut Producers Board, 1-877-748-9693.

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmore
Photos submitted

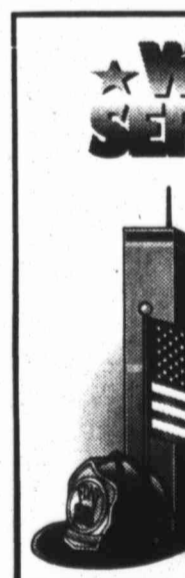
The Gilmores on their wedding day, far right

Cele

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Big Spring Clu

The Big Woman's Club 25, 2003. The m... held in the... room of Child... Services, 501... Lane. Teresa V... President, og... meeting by we... members an... Paula Moses, r... the club's O... Improve Proj... Rainbow Room... Protective Ser... chosen as the... currently in t... year of support... the room was... The Rainbow R... emergency sup... for CPS casew... addition to hel... from the Wor... recently funde... new shelving... room. Commit... been formed fo... community pr... members of ea... tee met to dis... for the year... were distrib... Cynthia Scott... currently sell... Foster wrapping... a fund raiser... interested in...



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Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmore
Photos submitted



The Gilmores on their wedding day, far right

Celebrating 25 years of marriage

Robert and Susan Gilmore will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Sept. 17 with an evening spent alone dining and sharing their anniversary event. The couple was married Sept. 17, 1978 in California. Mrs. Gilmore, Susan Jacobs, met her husband at her brother's home. Mr. Gilmore was a neighbor.

They lived for many years in San Bernadino and Riverside, Calif. prior to relocating to Big Spring six years ago. Gilmore is a cook and Mrs. Gilmore is a homemaker. They have three children, Stacy Robbins, Snyder Esther Lopez and Julie Gilmore. Gilmore loves watching John Wayne movies and Mrs. Gilmore enjoys playing Bingo. They have seven grandchildren. The couple relishes the fact that they have maintained a close, enduring marriage relationship.

Club News

Big Spring Woman's Club

The Big Spring Woman's Club met Aug. 25, 2003. The meeting was held in the conference room of Child Protective Services, 501 Birdwell Lane. Teresa Warrington, President, opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests. Paula Moses, reported on the club's Community Improve Project. The Rainbow Room for Child Protective Services was chosen as the CIP and is currently in the second year of support. A tour of the room was conducted. The Rainbow Room is an emergency supply center for CPS caseworkers. In addition to helping stock the Woman's club recently funded and built new shelving for the room. Committees have been formed for various community projects, and members of each committee met to discuss plans for the year. Yearbooks were distributed by Cynthia Scott. The club is currently selling Sally Foster wrapping paper as a fund raiser. Anyone interested in ordering

wrapping paper can contact a member of the Big Spring Woman's Club, or call Teresa Warrington at 268-1163. All money raised during the year will be returned to the community in the form of donations to a variety of organizations or projects. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m. at Displays Of Splendor.

Catholic Communities

If you would like to inquire about the Catholic faith or if you are an adult who has not received one or more of the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, or Marriage, you are invited to attend RCIA sessions held weekly on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart Of Mary Church. It is located at 1009 Hearn Street and sessions are held in the house between the Church and school. For more information call Elfi Tucker after 5 p.m. at 393-5313 or leave a message at 915-816-6247. You may also call one of the church offices or you may attend without calling. Immaculate Heart phone

is 267-4124; Sacred Heart 263-7884; St. Thomas 263-2864; St. Joseph 394-4751.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful held its first fall meeting at Gayle's Sweet Shop II on Monday, Sept. 8. Dates to remember include Oct. 25 Make a Difference Day and Nov. 15 Recycle Day. A community clean-up will be held on Oct. 25 and groups and organizations are urged to call Pat Simmons at 264607 to participate. Collection of aluminum cans will be a continuing fund-raiser for the group now that Tim Blackshear at Big Spring Salvage will buy aluminum cans once more. Individuals wishing to contribute to the efforts of Keep Big Spring Beautiful can deliver cans to the salvage facility (on Highway 87 North just past the FM 700 intersection. Such deliveries can be credited to the KBSB fund.

The October meeting will beat Gayle's Sweet Shop II on Oct. 6 at noon. More volunteers are welcome.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Mountain View Nursing Home resident Tricia Thompkins gets a hug from Kentwood Elementary fourth grader Jonathan Martinez Friday following a Grandparents Day presentation by the school's two fourth-grad classes. Kentwood teachers Tonya Graves and Carol Boyd's classes sang several songs to the Mountain View residents to celebrate grandparents.

Guns and knives to display unique items

For twenty-five years, thousands of Texans all across the state have come to dozens of Texas Gun and Knife Shows to see the best in collectible guns, knives and accessories, presented by the Texas Gun and Knife Association (TGKA).

On Sept. 20-21, the association will present their third West Texas Gun and Knife Show for 2003 at the Midland - Center.

Collectors and exhibitors from throughout the West Texas area will be on hand to buy, sell and trade some of the most extraordinary guns, knives and accessories ever made.

"These items you simply can't find every day," explains Don Hill, president of the association.

"And even if you could, you certainly couldn't find them all together in one place at one time like this."

Hill expects scores of exhibitors to be on hand at the upcoming show, and he himself will be available to visit with the public during the event.

As in every Texas Gun and Knife Show, guns and knives are just part of the picture at the show.

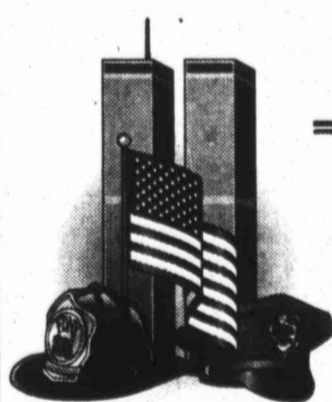
There will also be a great selection of outdoor sports items, wildlife art, historical artifacts,

"Texana" items, and Native American and military memorabilia, and for the ladies, superior displays of excellently priced gold and silver jewelry.

The West Texas Gun and Knife Show will take place Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

To celebrate their 25th anniversary, TGKA will offer a special "two for the price of one" admission during the first hour of the show on both Saturday and Sunday. Children under 12 are free. For more information, call 830-257-5844.

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By TOMMY V Sports Editor
Sometimes birds ... and almost every inable.
The Howa Society is h mean addit weekend" w Dorothy Gar Golf Tourna from the to the animal rently draw through don

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By TOMMY V Sports Editor:
For weeks head coach F pondered to lineup. Shc shouldn't sh four return in an effort the Big Spr team's attack Saturday dropping the a dual Lubbock Co Abilene High ter LaKenya made the c her.
"Kim came said let's cha Daggett. "S and the othe ready to try made them b Armed with support, Dag her team's utes before t with Abile Wrightsil to inserting Ke at setter a senior Linds the right.
The moves diate divid Braxton an each recor double ef Phillips pick son-high 18 Spring clipp the No. 7 1 Class 5A ran games, winn 21, 25-21, 25- Adams r assists in the "We playe said Daggett of the girls fi ing to try new."
The efforts by Wrightsil first time th BSHS playe ed double-d kills and dig game. Prior only two Lac recorded do all year.
Braxton fi 14 kills ar Wrightsil, earned her double of th hours—befc Coronado, fi 10 and 11, Against Co BSHS senior kills and 17 (Ka'Rissa M the Lady Ste Abilené, add Timmie picked up 10 Offensivel Steers were serve of P Shannon Phillips rec acs in th Higgins had go with her 1 Big Spring to travel to Saturday to p a dual Monahans a

HCHS to hold benefit golf tourney this weekend

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Sometimes golf really is for the birds ... and dogs ... and cats and almost every other animal imaginable.

The Howard County Humane Society is hoping that fact will mean additional funding this weekend when it stages the Dorothy Garrett-Margaret Lloyd Golf Tournament. Funds raised from the tournament will go to the animal shelter, which currently draws its only support through donations.

"We're excited about this tournament," said tournament organizer Lisa Emmerson. "We want to encourage every golfer to come out and play for a good cause."

The Howard County Humane Society was founded in the mid 1900s when Garrett and Lloyd became involved in helping homeless animals. Through their efforts the HCHS sprang to a meager beginning as dogs were kept at various people's homes. Today, the Humane Society has its own facilities and treats animals from throughout the area.

HCHS' 2003 Dorothy Garrett-Margaret Lloyd Golf Tournament.
What: Benefit tournament.
When: Saturday
Where: Comanche Trail.

\$300, respectively.

In addition to the prize money available, golfers also will have the opportunity to walk away with other items as part of two hole-in-one events, including a CD from Chad Lyons at Edward Jones and a new vehicle from the New Car Dealers Association.

As an added attraction, tournament organizers will also be holding an auction Saturday and a drawing for a set of Titlist irons.

For more information or to register a team for the event contact Scott Emerson at 213-1284.

IN BRIEF

Forsan boosters set hamburger supper

The Forsan Booster Club will hold a hamburger supper on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

The cost for the meal is \$5 per person.

BSHS cheerleaders to hold cheer camp

The Big Spring High School cheerleaders will be holding a mini-cheer camp for youths ages 5-13 on Sept. 27.

The cost for the camp is \$20 per child. Participants will have the opportunity to perform at the varsity football game on Oct. 3.

HCHS to host golf tournament Sept. 13

The Howard County Humane Society will be hosting the first Dorothy Garrett-Margaret Lloyd Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday at Big Spring Country Club.

The 4-person scramble is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.

For more information call 267-5354.

Westbrook boosters to hold tournament

The Westbrook Wildcats Booster Club will hold a golf tournament Saturday at Wolf Creek Golf Links in Colorado City. The 3-person scramble will begin at 9 a.m.

The entry fee for the tournament is \$30 plus cart. First, second and third places will be awarded, as well as a longest drive and closest to the pin winner.

For more information call Abel Alvarez at (325) 728-5514.

Clarrett suspended for rest of season

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State suspended running back Maurice Clarrett for the season for violating NCAA rules. Clarrett was punished because the school determined he accepted thousands of dollars in improper benefits and then lied to NCAA and school investigators.

Even though the infractions date back to 2002, the school is not in jeopardy of having last year's national title stripped.

Clarrett will remain on scholarship this school year.

Montreal Expos' future still in doubt

SAN JUAN (AP) — Baseball's relocation committee has not ruled out any option for the Montreal Expos next season.

Commissioner Bud Selig said that the options for the team include finding a buyer, playing all 81 home games in Montreal, or playing a split home schedule between Montreal and San Juan or Montreal and Monterrey, Mexico.

The Expos are being sought by Virginia, Portland, Ore., and Washington, D.C.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Sept. 11		
Event, Time	Station	
Rangers vs. Seattle, 8:30 p.m.	1490	
Sept. 12		
Event, Time	Station	
Herford vs. Big Spring, 6:06 p.m.	1490	
Herford vs. Big Spring (Spanish) 7 p.m.	1400	

Changes pay big dividends for BSHS

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

For weeks, Big Spring head coach Revis Daggett pondered toying with her lineup. Should she or shouldn't she arrange her four returning all-staters in an effort to diversify the Big Spring volleyball team's attack.

Saturday night after dropping the first game of a dual meet with Lubbock Coronado and Abilene High, senior hitter LaKenya Wrightsil made the decision for her.

"Kim came to me and said let's change it," said Daggett. "She said she and the other guys were ready to try anything if it made them better."

Armed with her team's support, Daggett shuffled her team's lineup minutes before their matchup with Abilene, shifting Wrightsil to the left side, inserting Kendal Adams at setter and moving senior Lindsay Phillips to the right.

The moves paid immediate dividends. Leina Braxton and Wrightsil each recorded double-double efforts and Phillips picked up a season-high 18 digs as Big Spring clipped Abilene — the No. 7 team in the Class 5A ranks — in four games, winning 23-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-21.

Adams recorded 43 assists in the game.

"We played so well," said Daggett. "I'm proud of the girls for being willing to try something new."

The double-double efforts by Braxton and Wrightsil marked the first time this year two BSHS players had collected double-digit stats in kills and digs in the same game. Prior to Saturday, only two Lady Steers had recorded double-doubles all year.

Braxton finished with 14 kills and 17 digs. Wrightsil, who had earned her first double-double of the year only hours before against Coronado, finished with 10 and 11, respectively. Against Coronado, the BSHS senior collected 17 kills and 17 digs.

Ka'Rissa Magers aided the Lady Steers' upset of Abilene, adding 13 kills. Timmie Blackshear picked up 10 digs.

Offensively, the Lady Steers were led by the serve of Phillips and Shannon Higgins. Phillips recorded three aces in the matchup. Higgins had two aces to go with her five kills.

Big Spring is scheduled to travel to Monahans Saturday to participate in a dual meet with Monahans and Wink.



Oklahoma Sooners' head coach Bob Stoops celebrates after his team scores late in a game last season. Stoops helped change the momentum in the Sooners' game against Alabama Saturday with a fake punt play that resulted in a first down.

Sooners' Stoops up to his old tricks

By JOEL ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

When the game is tight and Bob Stoops is on the other sideline, Big 12 coaches had better beware.

A fake punt call in the third quarter of Oklahoma's 20-13 win over Alabama again reminded everyone in the conference why the Sooners' head man is so tough to plan against.

"I thought it was great — it worked," Texas coach Mack Brown said Monday. "It was a momentum changer. I thought Bob made a great call."

Few coaches are willing to take gambles in big games like Stoops, who risked the Sooners' No. 1 ranking Saturday night by dialing up a little trickery with Oklahoma at fourth-and-10 on its own 31, the crowd in a frenzy and Alabama trailing only by three points.

The play called for punter Blake Ferguson, someone who hadn't thrown a pass in a game since ninth grade, to toss a pass out in the flat to reserve defensive back

Michael Thompson, someone whose career — and life — was nearly ended two years ago in a car wreck.

Risky business, indeed.

But it worked, with Thompson hauling in Ferguson's floater after a few juggles and picking up 22 yards. On the next play, quarterback Jason White threw a 47-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Jones to give the Sooners a 20-10 lead.

"What a gutsy call," new Alabama coach Mike Shula said after the game. "That's why coach Stoops is a pretty good coach. They pick and choose their times when they're going to take their shots, so to speak: when they're going to take a chance for a big play."

The play brought back painful memories for Missouri coach Gary Pinkel, who last season was the victim of a Stoops' fake field goal call that led to a touchdown and the game-winning two-point conversion.

"As you look at that, you're talking about a bold call," Pinkel said.

"I admire him to do it. I certainly did think about that (fake field goal call last year)."

Stoops has a history of resorting to chicanery when the game is on the line.

In addition to the Missouri game last year, Stoops dipped into his bag of tricks in the 2000 Big 12 title game, calling an option pitch on fourth-and-inches against Kansas State. Quentin Griffin ran for 22 yards on the play, propelling the Sooners to a 27-24 win and into the national championship game.

To Stoops, it's simply a matter of believing that the plays you practice work in games.

"I don't believe that I'd call it if I didn't believe our opportunity to be successful wasn't real good," Stoops said. "I think too much is being made of that play."

Rest assured, however, that his Big 12 brethren took note of the trickery.

"When you play him, you better watch out for that," Pinkel said. "I respect his boldness."



Herald Photo Tommy Wells
Ryan Tannehill and the Big Spring freshmen will try and nail down their first win this evening in Andrews. The BSHS junior varsity hosts the Midland High sophomore team today at 5 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Astros regain top spot in NL Central title race

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jeriome Robertson won his 14th game, the most among rookies the season, and the Houston Astros regained sole possession of first place in the NL Central by beating the Milwaukee Brewers 3-1 Wednesday night.

Houston, which scored three runs in the first inning, had been tied for the lead since Monday

with the Chicago Cubs, who lost 8-4 to the Montreal Expos.

Robertson (14-7) matched the Astros' rookie record for wins, set when Roy Oswalt went 14-3 two years ago, and sent Milwaukee to its sixth straight loss. He allowed six hits, struck out five and walked three, winning for the fourth time in his last five starts.

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Constitutional amendments election, Sept. 13, 2003

This Voters Guide is funded and compiled by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, a 501(c)3 organization, to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. This educational organization, associated with the League of Women Voters of Texas, operates exclusively for educational purposes in the general areas of government and public policy, carrying out its objectives through research, publication of educational materials, and other appropriate projects. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed participation of all citizens in their government. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The Voters Guide and other helpful information are available online at the League's Web site: www.lwvtexas.org.

PROPOSITION 1

The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds.

Explanation:

This proposed amendment would allow the Veterans' Land Board (VLB) to use excess assets and receipts, not needed to pay principal and interest on revenue bonds, to pay debt service on Texas veterans homes. During the Texas republic, the VLB gave land as a reward to Texas veterans. Land is no longer given, but in its modern version the program provides veterans with low-interest loans for land, home purchases, and home-improvement loans. In 2001, voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow the use of excess funds to provide for veterans cemeteries. This proposed amendment would allow the VLB to use assets from the fund to plan, design, operate, own, and maintain or improve homes for aged or infirm Texas veterans.

Arguments For:

•Texas has more than 500,000 veterans over the age of 65, for whom long-term care is a high-priority issue. This proposed amendment would allow the VLB to use excess assets to build and maintain these needed facilities.

•The state would save money by not having to issue revenue bonds specifically to fund these homes. Using existing funds lowers bond transaction costs to the state and could result in lower fees to seniors who live in these nursing homes.

Arguments Against:

•This proposed amendment grants the VLB sole discretion to determine its excess assets and how to distribute them fairly.

•The proposed amendment allows the VLB to direct money away from other worthy VLB programs such as low-interest home loans and home-improvement loans.

PROPOSITION 2

The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale.

Explanation:

This proposition would lengthen the current six-month redemption period after a mineral interest is sold at a tax sale, to correspond with the two-year redemption period that currently applies to residence homesteads and land designated for agricultural use. The proposed amendment allows the legislature to limit the application of the extended two-year redemption period to residence homesteads and agricultural land if a mineral interest is sold pursuant to a lawsuit brought to enforce collection of delinquent taxes. Texas collects taxes on mineral interests from each individual mineral interest owner. Because

Texas is large in area and a large producer of oil and gas, there are many individual mineral interest owners. Mineral interest tax rolls are maintained by private oil and gas companies, and often only those individuals with holdings above a certain value receive tax notices. Private company records, the basis for sending out the notices, can be incomplete or out of date.

School districts by law must collect 96 percent of their tax revenue due or face the loss of state funding. As a result, mineral interests are more often foreclosed for back taxes.

Arguments For

•The proposed amendment would make the redemption period for mineral interests uniform with the one for residence homesteads and land designated for agricultural use.

•This amendment would offer some protection to mineral interest owners from the possible consequences of inaccurate or incomplete private company records.

Arguments Against

•Extending the redemption period on mineral interests to two years may further burden school districts already struggling to collect their mandated 96 percent of taxes due in oil and gas-rich counties.

•The proposed amendment is only a stopgap measure to provide limited relief to mineral interest owners, instead of addressing the real need to properly maintain the mineral interest tax rolls, and create a structure to efficiently collect the mineral interest taxes due.

PROPOSITION 3

A constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility.

Explanation:

This proposition would amend Section 2(a), Article VIII, of the Texas Constitution to add to the list of properties the legislature may exempt from taxation by general laws, under certain conditions: 1) property owned by a religious organization for the purpose of expanding the place of religious worship it owns, as long as the property does not produce any revenue whatsoever for the organization; and 2) property owned by a religious organization and leased by that organization to a person and used by that person as a school or for educational purposes.

Religious organizations are currently exempt from ad valorem taxes on their places of worship, adjoining parking lots, and property owned for the purpose of housing clergy. Property that a church may acquire for the purpose of expanding or relocating is taxed until used for one of the exempt purposes. A public policy shift toward faith-based initiatives may open up new possibilities for the utilization of church property for public purposes.

Arguments For

•This proposition might encourage development of unused land for socially desirable purposes.

•Adding this exemption may offer relief to growing congregations that must continue to maintain their principal place of worship while building up funds for expansion or relocation. Paying ad valorem taxes on property that yields a church no revenue may be an unfair burden.

Arguments Against

•The proposed constitutional amendment will deprive cities, counties, and school districts of needed revenue.

•Exempting property leased by churches for schools may hurt public school districts by not only depriving them of property tax revenue, but also creating a competitive advantage for private schools that compete for the same pool of students and the state monies that are distributed.

PROPOSITION 4

A constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts.

Explanation:

This amendment would permit the legislature to authorize certain conservation and reclamation districts to issue bonds for development and maintenance of recreational facilities and to collect taxes to pay for the bonds and maintenance of these facilities. The proposed amendment would apply only to a conservation and reclamation district located all or in part in

Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Travis, Waller or Williamson county, or to the Tarrant Regional Water District. The bonds could not be issued unless a proposition was first submitted to the qualified voters of the district and the proposition adopted.

Currently, water district tax receipts may not be used for the development of parks and recreational facilities, but many counties do not have the necessary funds to use for this purpose. If this amendment passes, the development of parks and recreational facilities would be recognized as a constitutionally authorized power of conservation and reclamation districts, and therefore eligible for tax-backed bond financing.

Arguments For

•This amendment would allow the creation of needed recreational facilities in areas unable to develop them currently.

•This amendment would not allow a conservation and reclamation district to incur indebtedness unless the district's voters adopt a proposition.

Arguments Against

•Existing state, county, and city mechanisms should be adequate to meet public recreational needs without granting the same authority to municipal utility districts.

•This amendment would allow another taxing authority to increase the tax burden on the district's taxpayers.

PROPOSITION 5

The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income.

Explanation:

Proposition 14, a constitutional amendment passed in 2001, was to have exempted certain travel trailers from ad valorem taxation. However it had an unintended consequence. Many school districts were not taxing travel trailers before 2001 and have since started taxing them because that amendment said they could not exempt them.

This amendment clarifies that all taxing entities can exempt travel trailers which are not residential dwellings, substantially affixed to real estate, or held or used for the production of income.

Arguments For

•This amendment clarifies the intent of the legislature and voters in 2001. It continues Texas' practice of not taxing personal property not used in the production of income.

•The proposed amendment promotes tourism and economic development in areas of the state where travel trailers can become temporary homes during the winter months.

Arguments Against

•Governmental entities that tax travel trailers will lose needed revenue. To make up the shortfall, they may raise taxes for other property owners.

•Persons who live in travel trailers should pay property taxes just like other homeowners, including those who live in manufactured homes.

PROPOSITION 6

The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage.

Explanation:

Reverse mortgages, which allow a senior citizen (age 62 or older) to obtain an extension of credit against his home equity, have been available since 2001, due to a constitutional amendment passed in 1999. The homeowner receives cash advances, and repayments are not due until the homeowner moves, sells the property, or dies. This proposition would reverse the constitutional consumer protections that have prevented a home equity loan from being converted into a reverse mortgage, and would not change the homestead protections that limit the ability of a lender to foreclose.

Arguments For

•The proposition would allow senior citizens more flexibility in obtaining income from the equity in their home, without giving up their homestead protections.

Arguments Against

•Refinancing a mortgage accrues principal and interest debt that must be repaid after the home is sold or the borrower dies.

PROPOSITION 7

The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial.

Explanation:

Currently the Texas

Constitution and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure require that all cases tried in a district court have a jury of 12 persons, regardless of the class of the alleged offense. At the same time the Constitution permits juries of six members for misdemeanors. This amendment is described as a cleanup or technical correction and would provide for the size of juries to relate the severity of the crime.

Arguments For

•This amendment would make it possible for rural/small community district courts to have six person juries to try misdemeanors, putting them on a par with larger communities that have specialized courts already using six-person juries for such cases.

•Passage of this amendment would save money in smaller communities and make it easier to empanel juries for misdemeanor trials.

Arguments Against

•All district court defendants should be entitled to a 12-person jury no matter what the offense.

•Cost savings is not an acceptable reason for changing the current system.

PROPOSITION 8

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office.

Explanation:

This amendment would allow a qualified candidate who is running unopposed in any statewide, district, county, or precinct election, to take the office if there are no declared write-in candidates. The Texas Constitution determines which offices require an election. Therefore an amendment is needed to cancel an election and make the required change in the Election Code. This proposition applies to state, district, county, and precinct elections, while Proposition 18 applies local political subdivisions.

Arguments For

•This amendment would promote efficiency in election administration and reduce the cost of elections. This amendment would not interfere with voter's rights, since anyone who is running unopposed in an election wins by virtue of being the only candidate for that office.

Arguments Against

•A voter has a right to vote for the candidate of his choice, and the candidate has a right to campaign and gain visibility. Voters have a right to know the positions of their elected officials.

PROPOSITION 9

The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund.

Explanation:

This proposed amendment would allow the state to access some of the capital gains realized in the Permanent School Fund (PSF) to be transferred to the Available School Fund (ASF) to provide textbooks and technology to Texas school districts. Currently, capital gains are put back into the fund for growth; only stock dividends and interest are used for the ASF. The proposed amendment would be a shift from an income-based approach to a total-return strategy.

In 1876, the Texas legislature created the PSF. The trust fund, consisting of stocks, bonds, and oil and gas royalties from state-owned lands, was set up to grow income into perpetuity to provide funds for Texas' schoolchildren. The fund generates nearly \$700 million a year in earnings.

Arguments For

•The income-based strategy is not keeping up with the needs of Texas' schoolchildren. Between 1990 and 2001, distributions from the PSF to the ASF rose by only 3 percent. In that same time period, capital gains in the PSF increased by 806 percent.

•Using the current income-based strategy encourages the adoption of riskier investments to produce the income needed by ASF. Only 2.5 percent of funds report using an income-based strategy. No college or university endowment fund with assets over \$500 million uses an income-based strategy.

Arguments Against

•Since 1876, the basic guidelines of the fund have not changed. Even during the depression, Texans did not "eat their seed corn." During this temporary budget crunch, there is a temptation to raid this large fund to ease existing budget woes.

•The proposed amendment would allow the state to take up

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the election.
- You must be registered to vote.
- You must not have been declared mentally incompetent by a court.
- You must not be on parole, probation, or in prison for a felony conviction.
- You may register to vote at any time. However, in order for you to vote in a particular election, your application for registration must be postmarked or received by the registrar at least 30 days before that election. (August 14 was the deadline to register to vote in this election.)

to 6 percent of the average market value of the fund each year and distribute the proceeds to Texas school districts. This strategy has the potential of decreasing the fund's principal, thus in the long term reducing the fund's overall value.

PROPOSITION 10

The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments.

Explanation:

The Texas Constitution prohibits the legislature from authorizing any county, city, or other political subdivision from lending or granting public money or anything of value to any individual or corporation. However, in recent years the Texas A&M System has been authorized to make available used or obsolete fire-fighting equipment to the Texas Forest Service for its use or for distribution to volunteer fire departments. Also, the Constitution was amended to allow municipalities to donate similar fire-fighting equipment and supplies to underdeveloped countries, such as Mexico. This proposition would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or other materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would then certify the equipment and donate it for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments.

Arguments For

•This proposed amendment would enable fire departments to donate their equipment to volunteer fire departments that operate with minimal funds. The Texas Forest Service would collect, evaluate, and distribute the donated equipment, insuring its distribution to those most in need.

•Passage of this amendment would not affect the continued donation of surplus equipment to Mexico, because volunteer fire departments often have higher standards than fire departments in Mexico. Municipalities would still be able to choose where their donated equipment would go. For example, Texas cities on the border could donate their excess equipment to Mexico if such an action was deemed in the municipality's best interest.

Arguments Against

•The Texas Constitution currently protects taxpayers by requiring compensation for any transfer of public property. This amendment would undermine this safeguard.

•Current law allows cities and towns to sell the equipment, but does not provide for reduced-cost sales. Texas municipalities should not be allowed to donate equipment outright, but should be allowed to sell it at a reduced cost to volunteer departments. Such sales of equipment to volunteer fire departments would provide support to these organizations while allowing communities to recoup part of their fire-fighting investment.

PROPOSITION 11

The constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state.

Explanation:

Under present provisions of the Constitution, the Texas wine industry is controlled by a combination of state and local laws. The legislature is authorized to regulate the manufacture, sale, possession, and transportation of intoxicating liquors. It is also

required to provide local options to qualified voters in various governmental entities concerning the sale of alcohol.

This proposed amendment would enable the legislature to enact laws and direct the Alcoholic Beverage Commission or its successor to set policies for all wineries in the state, regardless of whether the winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has or has not been authorized by local option. The proposed amendment would authorize properly permitted wineries to manufacture and sell wine for consumption on or off the winery premises. Wineries could also offer free wine for tasting on the premises. The enabling legislation requires that the wine must be manufactured in Texas and contain at least 75 percent by volume of fermented juice of grapes or other fruit grown in Texas.

Arguments For

•This proposed amendment would bring uniformity to the laws and regulations affecting wineries across the state. Presently, winemaking is permitted in several "dry" areas, but not all. Some wineries are allowed to offer wine sampling on their premises. Some can sell wine on their premises under specified conditions. This amendment would address the confusion and complication that now exists.

•By encouraging the wine producing industry, tourism and the Texas economy would benefit.

Arguments Against

•This amendment would take away rights currently granted to citizens to make decisions concerning the sale of alcoholic beverages in their communities. Over 50 counties and some precincts and municipalities choose not to permit such sale. Under current law wineries are not prohibited from expanding in Texas. They can locate in areas without restrictions or export their wine to other markets.

•The state of Texas has consistently been near the top in alcohol-related traffic deaths in this country. Consuming wine on the premises could lead to even higher death rates.

PROPOSITION 12

The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages.

Explanation:

The Medical Liability and Insurance Improvement Act of Texas was passed in 1977. This act included a \$500,000 cap on all damages except medical expenses for health care liability claims. However in 1988, the Texas Supreme Court held that the limitation on damages was unconstitutional. This proposition is an attempt to ensure that damage caps do not violate the "open courts" provision of the Texas Constitution. Non-economic damages are those for pain, suffering, disfigurement, and loss of loved one. Economic damages, which are the actual costs of medical care and loss of income during recuperation, would not be limited.

A separate piece of legislation, House Bill 4, was signed into law, placing a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages from all physicians and health care providers and a separate \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages from each health care institution. This law will probably be tested in the courts, whether

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VOTE

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or not voters pass 12. Currently, seven cap non-economic awards and five cap ages. This amendment authorizes the legislature January 1, 2005, to the limit of liability economic damages other than those related malpractice.

Arguments For

•Because economic would not be capped non-economic damages give plaintiffs the confidence that they deserve a windfall of cash.

•Unlimited damages mine the state's health care system, because high insurance premiums, doctors may sue or move to state insurance premiums.

•Eleven insurers have announced they will leave the Texas liability market. This could encourage more to do business in the

Arguments Against

•This proposition legislature the authority non-economic damages civil lawsuits, not malpractice cases, is

•Limits on non-economic would discourage suits on behalf of children, retirees, and employed people who no loss of income.

•Opponents claim insurance companies in an attempt to offset losses in a falling stock market because of loss economic damages, claim insurance premiums not fall until insurers are regulated.

PROPOSITION 13

The constitutional amendment to permit counties, towns, and junior colleges to establish a tax freeze on residential property.

Explanation:

Since 1978, the Texas Constitution (properly imposed) by school homesteads of the been frozen when the reached age 65. This freeze was extended to surviving spouses of the deceased. In addition, the elderly surviving spouses of their ad valorem tax one taxing jurisdiction. This amendment would provide a local option city, or junior college to adopt an ad valorem tax freeze on residential property and/or disabled spouses, in addition to the freeze on ad valorem tax levied by school districts.

Implementation of this amendment would require an affirmative vote by the governing body of the county, or junior college, or a majority vote of that is called by signed by 75 percent of registered voters.

Arguments For

•Seniors and their families on fixed incomes have been adversely impacted by rapidly rising property taxes throughout the state.

•This amendment would prevent elderly or disabled owners from having their homes become a financial burden.

•This amendment would provide a local option city, or junior college to adopt an ad valorem tax freeze on residential property and/or disabled spouses, in addition to the freeze on ad valorem tax levied by school districts.

Implementation of this amendment would require an affirmative vote by the governing body of the county, or junior college, or a majority vote of that is called by signed by 75 percent of registered voters.

Arguments Against

•This amendment would restrict property tax rates, and junior colleges, and prevents them from needed revenue to provide services. As a result, the burden would be shifted to remaining taxpayers.

•Property tax rates should be maintained to assure that wealthier taxpayers contribute their fair share to the tax system. Significant improvements in services are needed to meet government codes are made.

•The value of the homestead freeze would be proportionately transferred to a qualifying person different residence within the same county or junior college district.

PROPOSITION 14

The constitutional amendment providing for authority to issue notes or bonds for the purpose of a state transportation project, and the issuance of other public

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1212 Guadalupe St.
#107
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(512) 472-1100
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VOTE

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or not voters pass Proposition 12. Currently, seventeen states cap non-economic damage awards and five cap total damages. This amendment also authorizes the legislature, after January 1, 2005, to determine the limit of liability for all non-economic damages in actions other than those relating to medical malpractice.

Arguments For

•Because economic damages would not be capped, a limit on non-economic damages would give plaintiffs the compensation that they deserve instead of a windfall of cash.

•Unlimited damages undermine the state's health care system, because when liability insurance premiums rise too high, doctors may stop practicing or move to states with lower insurance premiums.

•Eleven insurance carriers have announced their withdrawal from the Texas liability insurance market. This proposition could encourage more insurers to do business in the state.

Arguments Against

•This proposition gives the legislature the authority to limit non-economic damages in all civil lawsuits, not just medical malpractice cases, in 2005.

•Limits on non-economic damages would disproportionately reduce suits on behalf of children, retirees, and other unemployed people who could claim no loss of income.

•Opponents claim that insurance companies increased premiums to offset investment losses in a falling stock market, not because of losses from non-economic damages. They further claim insurance premiums will not fall until insurance companies are regulated.

PROPOSITION 13

The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses.

Explanation

Since 1978, the amount of ad valorem (property) taxes imposed by school districts on homesteads of the elderly has been frozen when the homeowner reached age 65. In 1988, this freeze was extended to the surviving spouses of the elderly. In addition, the elderly and their surviving spouses could transfer their ad valorem tax freeze from one taxing jurisdiction to another. This amendment would provide a local option for a county, city, or junior college district to adopt an ad valorem tax limitation on homesteads of the elderly and/or disabled and their spouses, in addition to the freeze on ad valorem taxes levied by school districts. Implementation of this freeze would require an affirmative vote by the governing body of the city, county, or junior college district, or a majority vote in an election that is called by a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters.

Arguments For

•Seniors and disabled persons on fixed incomes have been adversely impacted by rapidly rising property taxes throughout the state.

•This amendment would prevent elderly or disabled homeowners from having to leave their homes because of rising property taxes.

Arguments Against

•This amendment places too much restriction on cities, counties, and junior college districts and prevents them from raising needed revenue when property values rise. As a result, the tax burden would be shifted to the remaining taxpayers.

•Property tax rates for seniors should be means-tested to assure that wealthy seniors contribute to the tax base. Property taxes may still be raised if significant improvements other than repairs or changes needed to meet government building codes are made that increase the value of the house. This tax freeze would be wholly or proportionately transferable if the qualifying person establishes a different residence homestead within the same city, county, or junior college district.

PROPOSITION 14

The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities

secured by the state highway fund.

Explanation

The state comptroller's review of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in January 2001 recommended that TxDOT be given the authority to borrow funds on a short-term basis for the purposes of cash flow management. This proposed amendment would authorize the legislature, by law, to authorize the Texas Transportation Commission to authorize TxDOT to issue notes or borrow money from any sources to carry out the agency's functions. Loans or notes would be prohibited from having a term of more than two years, and the legislature would appropriate money for the purpose of paying debt created by the notes.

This amendment would also allow TxDOT to issue bonds and other securities to fund transportation related projects. These bonds would be repaid through state highway fund revenue.

The enabling legislation, CSHB 471, determines the limits and amounts of future bonded indebtedness. This law and the Legislative Budget Board fiscal analysis lay out the sum of bond limits to be \$10 billion dollars.

Arguments For

•Increased population and increased highway travel is stretching road capacity in Texas to the limit. This bonding authority will help reduce and/or eliminate the large backlog of projects, fund and build projects faster, and save on inflation related costs.

•The state borrows money for all other major capital projects and should do so to fund highway improvement projects. Road projects at the local level are funded with bonds. The state should take advantage of this sound financing tool, subject to appropriate constraints.

Arguments Against

•Debt service, underwriting, and costs of issuing bonds would add to the cost of highway projects funded in this manner.

•Bonds borrow against the future by creating debt. Unlike voters at the local level who vote on local bond issues, state voters would not be able to have the same participation and oversight.

PROPOSITION 15

The constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired.

Explanation

The proposed amendment applies ONLY to public retirement systems created by local governments (except the City of San Antonio) for local government employees.

Unlike private sector pension plans, there is no Texas or federal law that guarantees public employees that they will receive the benefits they have accrued (earned) in their plan. Currently, even if a public employee has completed the requirements to receive a benefit, a law can be passed to reduce the benefit. Under this amendment, accrued benefits could not be "reduced or impaired" for retirees (and plan members who have enough years of service to receive a benefit) when plan benefits are changed.

Some plans currently have provisions to automatically reduce benefits if assets are insufficient. Other plans, including Dallas and El Paso, have agreements to increase both plan sponsor and member (employee) contributions when the required contribution rate increases. Both types of plan provisions are or may be prohibited under the proposed amendment.

The Legislative Budget Board analyzed the fiscal implications of the amendment for some major municipal plans under several scenarios. The Austin retirement systems have a current annual contribution of \$45 million, which could increase by as much as \$90 million. Dallas' current contributions are \$110 million, which could increase by as much as \$310 million. El Paso, Fort Worth, and Houston show similar potential increases in contributions. Municipalities may hold an election in May 2004 to be exempt from the requirements of this amendment.

Arguments For

•The amendment guarantees that accrued benefits could not be reduced for public employees who have completed the service requirements to receive the benefit.

•Many public employees are not covered by Social Security

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

Texas voters have approved 410 amendments to the Texas Constitution since its adoption in 1876. An amendment is proposed in a joint resolution that can originate in either house of the state legislature, during a regular or special session. A joint resolution specifies the election date and may contain more than one amendment. The joint resolution must receive a vote of two thirds of each house before it is presented to the voters. The governor cannot veto a joint resolution, although he may veto the enabling legislation, a bill to enact the amendment if it is passed by voters. Not all joint resolutions require enabling legislation. If the voters reject an amendment, the legislature may resubmit it.

The legislature prescribes the ballot language, and it is contained in the joint resolution. Once the amendment is approved by both houses of the legislature, the Secretary of State writes the brief explanatory statement, which is approved by the Attorney General. The Secretary of State also conducts a random drawing to assign each proposition a ballot number. The constitution specifies that these statements be published twice in each newspaper in the state that prints official notices; the first 50 to 60 days before the election, and the second the following week.

Amendments take effect when the official vote canvass confirms statewide voter approval, unless a later date is specified.

and could be left with little or no income if their pension benefits were reduced or eliminated.

Arguments Against

•The amendment would require significant increases in funding for many public plans. These costs will put an added burden on taxpayers at a time when many municipalities already are under financial stress.

•The proposed amendment does not specify what is included in accrued benefits, a complex determination, and does not delegate that responsibility to the legislature or any agency.

PROPOSITION 16

The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans.

Explanation

Home equity loans were approved in a constitutional amendment in 1997. Home equity loans are usually a lump sum with monthly loan repayments. Failure to make repayments can result in foreclosure on the home. The amendment would allow home equity lines of credit. A homeowner could borrow against the line of credit from time to time, repay the debt, and borrow again. Each advance is required to be at least \$4,000 and could not be made through a credit or debit card. Repayments of a home equity loan or a home equity line of credit advance must be in equal installments that are bi-weekly (every two weeks) or monthly. The line of credit would be limited to 50 percent of the home's fair market value and 80 percent when combined with any other debt on the home.

The amendment would allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan. A reverse mortgage loan is available to homeowners who are at least 62 years old. Repayments do not begin until the homeowner either no longer occupies the property or transfers it to another owner. (See Proposition 6 for more explanation of reverse mortgages.)

The amendment also defines how a lender can correct its failure to comply with its obligations and permits the legislature to authorize state agencies to interpret the home equity loan provisions.

Arguments For

•The amendment makes home equity loans more flexible and will better meet the needs of individual homeowners.

•Because interest on home equity loans is tax-deductible and interest rates are generally lower than interest on other loans, borrowing through either a traditional home equity loan or a home equity line of credit provides a potential savings over other kinds of loans.

•Allowing refinancing as a reverse mortgage benefits older adults by not requiring repayment for the duration of the reverse mortgage and providing an income from the loan.

•Allowing the legislature to let state agencies interpret home equity loan provisions prevents the necessity of further amending the constitution to define this issue.

Arguments Against

•Home equity lines of credit allow homeowners to risk their homestead for consumer spending.

•Many borrowers do not understand that they can lose their home if they do not make home equity loan repayments.

•Consumers need more pro-

tections such as easily understandable information about fees, charges, and other terms of the home equity loan or line of credit.

•Homeowners should be allowed to borrow all of the equity in their home, not an arbitrary portion of it.

PROPOSITION 17

The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person.

Explanation

The Texas Tax Code has several provisions that benefit homeowners who are over 65 years of age and/or are disabled and who declare the home they occupy as their principal residence or homestead. However, not all of the provisions apply to both over-65 and disabled homeowners. In the case of the school district ad valorem (property) taxes, the amount that can be assessed on a residence that is an over-65 person's homestead is limited to the amount that the homeowner paid in the first year in which the homeowner qualifies for the over-65 exemption. This proposition would apply the same limitation to the amount of school district ad valorem taxes paid by a disabled homeowner.

Arguments For

•This proposition would prohibit rising property values and concurrent increases in property taxes from causing disabled homeowners to leave their homes because they cannot pay the property taxes.

Arguments Against

•This proposition would reduce funding to school districts that are already financially strapped.

PROPOSITION 18

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office.

Explanation

This constitutional amendment would allow a qualified candidate who is running unopposed to assume the office of a political subdivision, such as a city or school district, if there are no declared write-in candidates. This amendment also would pertain to any special elections to fill a vacancy. The Texas Constitution determines which offices require an election. Therefore, an amendment is needed to cancel an election and make the required change in the Election Code. This proposition applies to local political subdivisions, while Proposition 8 applies to state, county, district, and precinct elections.

Arguments For

•This amendment would promote efficiency in election administration and reduce the cost of elections. This amendment would not interfere with the voter's rights, because anyone who is running unopposed in an election wins by virtue of being the only candidate for that office.

Arguments Against

•A voter has a right to vote for the candidate of his choice, and the candidate has a right to campaign and gain visibility. Voters have a right to know the positions of their elected officials.

PROPOSITION 19

The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts.

Explanation

Currently there are two types of special districts that provide services to residents within their boundaries: rural fire prevention districts (RFPD) and emergency services districts (ESD). RFPD's are prohibited from offering emergency medical services and have an ad valorem tax cap of three cents. ESD's can offer fire and emergency services and, with voter approval, can assess an ad valorem tax up to ten cents per \$1000 of evaluation. Senate Bill 1021, passed this session and signed by the governor, provides for the conversion of the remaining rural fire prevention districts to emergency services districts, and this proposed amendment would repeal the authority of the legislature to create rural fire prevention districts.

Arguments For

•Approval of the amendment will allow approximately 75 RFPD's (of a total of approximately 176) to convert to ESD's so that emergency medical services and fire prevention services may be provided by the same authority.

Arguments Against

•Ad valorem taxing ability is becoming limited in communities with little or no economic development to support increasing property taxes.

PROPOSITION 20

The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations.

Explanation

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) committee will review and evaluate all military installations. Texas bases will need to justify the military reasons for their existence and demonstrate that the surrounding area can support the military mission. Bases will be evaluated on adequacy of infrastructure, such as water availability, roadways, and railroads. This amendment would authorize the Texas Military Value revolving loan account to issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed \$250 million total, to provide low-interest, long-term loans for economic development projects in defense-related communities in Texas. SB 652 established the "Military Preparedness Committee" in the Governor's Office to oversee the fund. This fund will allow construction or reconstruction of infrastructure to meet DOD requirements or as a development project. Terms of loans would be considered individually by the Military Preparedness Committee, the State Financing Authority, and the community applying for the loan.

Arguments For

•Military installations are the major economic force in many communities and contribute \$43.4 billion to the state economy. Texas communities need every tool available to ensure their military facilities are not closed.

Arguments Against

•Receiving the loan will not guarantee the military base will not be closed if DOD decides to do so. The community must repay the loan even if the base closes.

PROPOSITION 21

The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district.

Explanation

In 2001, Texas voters passed a constitutional amendment that permitted school teachers, retired school teachers, or retired school administrators to be paid for serving on local governing bodies, including water district boards. Active or retired faculty members of public colleges or universities were not mentioned. This amendment specifically permits active or retired college or university teachers to receive compensation for serving on the board of a water district.

Arguments For

•This proposition would give college or university teachers equal treatment in regard to serving on water district boards. A faculty member serving on a water district board would be no different from any other citizen serving in this capacity.

•There may be college or university teachers serving voluntar-

ily on water boards now. Compensation would not affect their commitment to the work.

Arguments Against

•Faculty members, especially those who are still active and whose salaries are paid by the public, should not be encouraged to hold two such positions. The public should have the right to expect dedication to the full-time job. Inevitably, there would be conflicts between the two responsibilities.

•This proposition should have included all state employees who hold positions that are not elected or appointed. They should all be free to receive compensation for serving on local governing boards. Furthermore, if active and retired college and university teachers are allowed to serve with pay on water district boards, they should also be allowed to serve with pay on the board of any local governing body.

PROPOSITION 22

The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces.

Explanation

The Texas Constitution requires the governor to call an election to fill a vacancy in either house of the legislature, and stipulates that other vacancies in state or district offices shall be filled by appointment of the governor. The proposed amendment would stipulate that elected or appointed officeholders who entered active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces because they were called to duty, drafted, or activated, would not have to vacate their offices. If the officer will be on active duty for longer than 30 days, a temporary replacement could be appointed. If the vacancy normally would be filled by special election, the governor could make appointments for a state or district office. For a legislator, the state political party's executive committee could appoint a temporary replacement. Within political subdivisions, the governing body could appoint a temporary acting officer.

For other officeholders, the local authority could appoint a temporary replacement. The officer being replaced could also make recommendations to the appropriate officials.

The temporary officer would begin service no later than 30 days after the officeholder entered active duty, and would have all the powers, privileges, compensation, and duties of the office.

Arguments For

•Current law is not clear on how to handle temporary vacancies. The proposed amendment would allow for the needs of constituents to continue being served without the necessity of an election and would provide for a transition back into public office for the officeholder upon the completion of military service.

•Public officials who are members of the military have sworn to serve the constituents they represent in office and to defend the American people in time of war. This resolution would establish a process to allow them to honor both obligations.

•The procedures established by this amendment would be helpful to smaller governing bodies, such as three-member commissions, which may find it impossible to function without filling the vacancy.

Arguments Against

•Thirty days probably would not be long enough for the appropriate authority to make an appointment to an office. The proposal should set the more practical time period of 60 days.

•The voters should be allowed to choose their own representative in the case of a vacancy.

•This amendment allows the temporary appointee to serve as long as the officeholder is on duty. Opponents feel there should be a time limit on this appointment.

Please take the time to vote!

SEPTEMBER 11 2003

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1996 - 4 Door Chevy Lumina (white). Can be seen at 401 North First Street, Coahoma. Call 915-394-4479

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Like new '99 Chevy tail top Merry Mile van. Wide side doors, loaded. New tires, VCR-TV, NADA \$20K. Will take \$15K. 965-3412.

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\$1380 WEEKLY Stuffing envelopes at home. FT/PT. No skills, education or experience needed. Legitimate, honest, home employment. \$50.00 cash hiring bonus Guaranteed in writing. Call 1-2487-358-9819

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seeking Energetic, Quality-motivated RN'S/LVN'S for Staffing, Home Health, CBA - TILE Trained. Call 432-550-7593 for appointment.

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NURSING POSITIONS AVAILABLE RN'S 12 Hour Shifts LVN'S & CNA'S Competitive Wage Scale Paid Employee Insurance. 401K Contact the Human Resource Dept. Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432) 268-8387 (432) 268-1987 Equal Opportunity Employer

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DO YOU HAVE ALL THE MONEY YOU NEED? PT or FT available. Top performers earn six-figure income. Start immediately. Free information at www.tw26.com

HELP WANTED

Security Finance is now looking for people with experience in Collections or Cashiering. We offer competitive pay (\$7.50 hr. w/raise to \$8.00 after 30 days), good benefits with opportunity for advancement. Send resume or apply in person at SECURITY FINANCE 204 S. GOLIAD, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for clerk/cashier/cook. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700. Neighbors Convenience Store.

HELP WANTED

Howard County Master Gardeners coordinator position. 25-30 hours a week. Computer knowledge & flexibility preferred. Applications available at Howard County Extension Office, courthouse basement or call 264-2236.

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FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS WITH ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL

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Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction Room Additions Carports Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Painting Interior & Exterior Wallpaper Hanging Ceramic Tile Installation & Repair All remodel needs of any room in your home. Call 263-8285

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Coastal Transport is a leader in the transport of pet products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & has dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Our 25 with class A & year driving experience Call Bill 888-524-0287

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Big Spring Thursday, 9

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StarTek Outsourcing Inc. With recent cutback with other compar StarTek USA would like to expand a hire during this time of re

We are currently looking to hire 30 Customer Service Representatives. If you have a friendly speaking voice, can use a microphone, enjoy helping people and type at least 2 WPM, you're just what we're looking for! Both English and Bi-Lingual positions open, we feel that have the career for

StarTek offers great benefits including competitive pay, part time offer after 90 day immediate childcare reimbursements, a more.

Apply at StarTek Inc. 501 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call (915) 264-2236

DON'T MISS OUT THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY

LONG JOHN SILVER Day and Evening Shift Available. Must energetic. Apply person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls please

Looking for Part-Time Full-Time employees Apply to: FILED 1000 Gregg EOE

Mountain View Learning Center Position of LVN/ RN Great Benefits. Great Working Conditions NO PHONE CALLS Apply in person 2009 Virginia M-F 8am-5pm

Need experienced drillers & roughnecks for Big Spring company. Must be able to pass drug test. mobile 432-664-058 267-6654

Need part-time to work varied shifts. Apply 1315 Baylor.

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CDL Truck Driver needed. Flat Bed, Field experience preferred, but required. Call 1-800-636-5084.

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StarTek
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With recent cutbacks with other companies StarTek USA would like to extend a hand during this time of need.

We are currently looking to hire 30 to 50 Customer Service Representatives. If you have a friendly speaking voice, can use a mouse, enjoy helping people and type at least 20 WPM, you're just who we're looking for! With both English and Bi-Lingual positions open, we feel that we have the career for you.

StarTek offers great benefits including competitive pay, paid time off after 90 days, immediate childcare reimbursements, and more.

Apply at StarTek USA INC.

501 Birdwell Lane
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Day and Evening Shifts Available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls please.

Looking for Part-Time & Full-Time employees.
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Now Hiring for the Position of LVM/RN
Great Benefits
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CDL Truck Driver needed. Flat Bed, Oil Field experience preferred, but not required. Call 1-800-636-5084.

Dental Hygienist
Guaranteed Base + Commission

Full time hygienist to become our interceptive periodontal therapist in a progressive east Odessa office. Voice activated periodontal charting, intra-oral camera, and hygiene assistant. Excellent benefits. Fax your confidential resume to 915-367-0636

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SINGERS!
Christian Music, Pop, OR Clean Country! Sing or play your CD over the telephone to audition to come to Branson, Missouri for \$100,000 recording contract. Call Judy @ 417-272-9760

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We are growing again! RN Needed Spanish Speaking bonus.

Good Benefits. Excellent Pay. Call 432-520-1510 Fax 432-520-1511 e-mail: sucashome@msn.com

Wanted Exp. Pump Mechanic. Knowledge of Stationary Engines & Machine shop helpful. Fax resume 432-267-8155

Public Awareness Coordinator needed at Best Home Care. Hours are Monday - Friday 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Please apply at 1706 Marcy Drive.

Rainbow Christian Pre-School needed part-time. Come by 409 Goliad to apply.

RN position available with Best Home Care. Salaried position with good benefits. Please apply at 1706 Marcy Drive.

Warehouse/Delivery needed to move furniture. Good driving record required. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person Credit World 1611 Gregg.

West Texas Centers for MHMR part-time direct care. \$8.20 per hour. Apply at 409 Funnels. EOE

Wrecker Drivers & Dispatchers needed. Personable appearance a must. Apply in person at Mitcham & Sons 5715 W. IH-20. No phone calls please.

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MBA; Over 15 yrs exp-business mgmt, education & computer. People-oriented, active in community. 267-7263.

Need someone you can depend on? Mature woman with clerical & bookkeeping skills. Computer literate. 234-6555

Seeking work. 20 years experience in Medical Records. Office skills. Type 40 wpm. Call 268-9173 or 263-3212

Will do private sitting & live in care. Have references, 25 yrs experience. Call 264-6550 leave message.

Will sit with patients in Hospital or in their home. Experienced. Call Gladys Kenney @ 432-268-9886

GARAGE SALES

HUGE CHURCH GARAGE SALE: Sat. 8am-1pm. Church of the Nazarene Gym, 1400 Lancaster. Too Much To List!

Huge Sale: Sat. Only, 108 Matt Loop (87S), to Jeffery Rd. to Matt Loop). Furn., appl., lawn Equip., tools.

GARAGE SALES

1751 Purdue, Sat. 8-7. Furn., Decor, toys, beanies, clothes - Boys/girls, XXXL men's/ladies, misc.

3 Family Yard Sale: Sat. 8-4, 810 & 812 W. 18th. Baby & youth clothes, Furn., appliances, stereo box w/amp, trampoline, lift chair, bicycle, computer, mens clothing & lots more.

707 E. 15th, Sat. 8-5. Exercise bike, crib, furn., dishes, baby to adult clothes, misc. & Burritos.

Carport Sale, Fri. & Sat. 2710 Cindy. Husband's complaining; wife's crying. HELLO!

Garage Sale: 2609 E. 24th., Sat. 7-2. Kitchen items, books, decorating items, clothes, mattress, recliner, lots of goodies.

Garage Sale, 200 Banks Rd. (Salem Rd. Exit in Sand Springs). Sat. Only. Furn. & antiques.

Garage Sale: 3 Glenwick Cove, Sat. 8-7. Clothes, furn. and lots of misc.

Garage Sale: 714 Craigmont, Sat. 8-7. Nice ladies clothes (22-24), household items and misc.

Garage Sale: Fri. & Sat. 8-7, 7709 Heaton Rd., N. Service Rd. (Sand Springs). Microwave, stereo, bar-b-que pit, gold velvet couch, 2 gold recliners, dishes, luggage & more.

Garage Sale: Fri. Sat. 8:30-1:00, 3705 Old Colorado City Hwy. Vanity, canning jars, fabric, weight bench, furn., misc. & burritos.

Garage Sale: Fri. & Sat. 9 am-7 pm. Some Collectables & Antiques, lawn mower, tiller & table saw, women clothes (7, 9, 12 & 13), plus some boys & mens clothing. 3505 Gall Hwy.

Garage Sale: Sat. 8-7, 2702 Lynn Drive. Linens, jewelry and lots of misc.

Multi Family Garage Sale, Saturday, 7-7:53 Highland. Furniture, boat, clothes, misc.

Rain or Shine Sale: 1704 Yale Sat. 8-7. Lawn items, kitchen items, clothes, home deco., lots of misc items.

Three cushion, full size leather sofa in excellent condition. Call 263-4474

FOUND / LOST

Found 2 small dogs, Westover Rd. (11w/blue halter collar, 11collar wbox. 268-4960.

BY JOYCE JILLSON

Work becomes much more challenging with the Aries moon because we can take on more. The afternoon brings a rapid-fire series of decisions that must be made. Resolve a problem you may have avoided in the past. You may feel like there are not enough hours in the day to complete everything on your list, but you get far trying.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Giving to others gets your mind off your troubles. Keep your word, even if it puts you out; next time, don't make such a restricting agreement! At work, contracts are better than expected and should be entered into immediately.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You make excellent first impressions. Rituals keep family close. Share dinner preparations, gather with loved ones, and talk about the day's events. Parents find new ways of inspiring kids to behave at the dinner table.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be sure to leave plenty of time to get where you are going. When it comes to getting around town, being lost can be half the fun, as long as you are alongside someone groovy. Rebellious vibes are fun to give into.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's no need to

impress by telling stories.

Your vibe says it all. Your appeal is amped up when you do everything a little slower. Be reserved, aloof and hard to reach, and you'll drive that certain someone absolutely crazy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The exchange of money is based on spiritual principles. People who have creativity or information to offer have a tendency to give too much away for free now. Any change in your work pattern will be lucky.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Insist on the best from friends and loved ones by leading with your most evolved self. Gossip hurts business deals, so steer clear of it. Though work dynamics are complex, there is really no question who's in charge: you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Figure out who needs your services and how to get to these people. Recognizing how you work will help you cut to the chase. When you're in synch with your own style, you'll make money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Put worries aside. Moving forward means accepting that you don't know it all and being willing to learn. In your personal affairs, you'll have to prove you are principled to someone who doesn't know you well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Have a little more faith that the right thing will happen. In your love life, new facts come to light. Contracts pave the way for creative success and more independence, so don't be afraid to com-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

mit. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll enjoy the tribal feeling of working with a core of motivated people. Give yourself credit too, though. Financial tip: Freedom lies in awareness of how things are calculated and where you're really spending.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let people see who you really are; you'll have more energy when you don't feel you have to pretend. Romantic luck revolves around special training or new fields of study. Choose new partners very carefully now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know yourself better right now than you have in a long time, and you make choices based on what you know you'll be thrilled to do. (Of course, passion is what you're going for, and you won't settle for mere enjoyment.)

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Could you please show which sign goes with which body part? I know you've run it before, but I have found it to be fascinating and wondered if you can print it again so I can show my girlfriend."

Sure. Each sign is associated with a body part, and that part is an energy center where that sign expresses a unique concentration of power. ARIES rules the head. Its key focus or strength is self-assertion. TAURUS rules the throat, neck and cerebellum. Its strength is determination. GEMINI rules the lungs and arms. Its key focus is versatility. CANCER rules the stom-

ach. Domesticity is its focus. LEO rules the heart, and affection is its focus and strength. VIRGO rules the digestion. Its key focus is critical thought. LIBRA rules the kidneys and focuses on partnership. SCORPIO rules the sex organs. Its key focus is nature's secret forces. SAGITTARIUS rules the hips and has its focus on aspiration. CAPRICORN rules the knees. Its strength is honor. AQUARIUS rules the ankles. Altruism is its key focus. PISCES rules the feet and focuses on the supernatural.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: When everyone else in the music industry was complaining about how the Internet and MP3s were stealing all the profits, Moby was busy finding innovative ways to make money with music. His melding of the commercial and artistic side of music made him very rich and a respected artist at the same time, but what more would you expect from a Virgo? Business is an art when Virgo is at the wheel.

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

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are you looking for a house, but have had credit or no credit? I can help. Call Annette at 915-262-5822 or 915-413-0549.

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Cool Pines in Cloudcroft, 2 or 3 Bdrm, new roof, very large lot, picnic/garden area, dog run, very easy access \$70,000. Call 505-687-2214

For Sale By Owner
Owner Financing Provided.
Low down pay - low monthly payments.
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GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD. 3/2/2 Lovely House. New carpet & paint, fireplace & utility room. Call 432-466-0847

Just Completed 4 Brand New Homes, \$69,900 each, 3 Bdrm 2 bath, 2 car garage on 1300 Block of Marjorie. Reasonably good credit required, Down payment assistance and lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now 520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

No Owner Financing. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath with den. Makes good rental. Steens. Call 267-5420.

PRICED REDUCED! 1305 JOHNSON. Nice. Large lot. 2711 ANN. Kentwood's Best! Call today for details. Charles Smith @ Home Realtors 263-1284

Priced Reduced. CISD, 1896 sq. ft. 3/2/1 Brick, 4 acres. Formal Living & Dining room, City & well water, sprinkler system. Call 393-5304

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 2902 Cherokee, 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$14,000. 432-267-6667

1906 Winston \$300 dn., \$270/mo. 3 Br, 1 1/2 bath, Garage, CHA, New carpet & paint. Excellent credit required. Owner finance. 325-665-4844

Barcelona Apartments "Call For Move-In Specials" All Bills Paid 1511 Taylor St. 263-1282

7500 S. Service Rd. 2 Bdr., 1 bath, CHA, garage, additional covered parking, Coahoma ISD. \$350. mo. \$150. dep. 263-1792 or 816-9984

1102 Lancaster 2 Bdrm, 1 bath; No Pets. 267-3841 or 517-0642

1202 Pennsylvania 3 bdr. CHA - Nice Canyon View \$550/mo. \$500/dep. 263-1792 or 816-9984

1308 Baylor. Clean 3 Bdrm, CHA, stove & ref. Call 432-728-3177.

2405 Alabama: 3 or 4 bdr. 2 bath, stove & ref. furnished, CHA/A. No pets. \$475/mo. w/first & last month rent to move in. Call 557-5507

3705 Connally. Clean 3 BR, 2 bath, CHA, fenced yard. Stove/Ref. furnished. \$450/mo. \$250/dep. Call 267-1543

3BR 1 1/2 bath. Office \$450/mo. \$250/dep. References req. 1314 Mt. Vernon. 263-3535 after 6.

505 Aylesford, 4 bdr., 1-1/2 bath, \$385. mo. HUD accepted. Call 816-6385.

5 Family Yard Sale: 4209 Dixon St. Sat. 8-2. Clothes, toys, furn., dishes, Knick-knacks, lots of misc.

816 HERALD 263-7331

FURNITURE

For Sale: 3 piece La-Z-Boy Sectional. \$500. Call 263-6839 leave message.

Rustic Southwest living room set \$1400 OBO. Call 432-263-8278 for more info.

Three cushion, full size leather sofa in excellent condition. Call 263-4474

LOST & FOUND

Found ladies diamond ring. Please call 394-4803.

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35 ft. Mobile home to be moved also a prefabricated room 12x14. CKC male Chihuahua puppy. Kenmore washer. Call 263-1701

MISCELLANEOUS

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ACREAGE FOR SALE

Acres, south of Big Spring. Water well, septic, fenced. Call 432-466-0296

BUILDINGS FOR SALE

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft. down town office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. Call 267-3126

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

1514 E. Hwy 350. Large building with 3 offices & lots of storage on fenced 4 acre lot. \$650/mo. plus dep. Westex Auto Parts, Inc. 263-5000.

HOUSES FOR SALE

3 Bdrm, 1 bath in Coahoma. CH/A. Includes 1 Bdrm, 1 bath rent house. \$15,000. Call 432-263-0658

For Sale By Owner, 3 bdr, 1 bath brick, good starter home. 1421 E. 6th. \$20,000. o.b.o. Call 213-0547 or 268-8281.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 BR, 3 bath, 3 car garage on one acre in Forsan ISD. \$79,000 OBO. Call 264-9907

2/1 car garage, large back yard, new CH/A & electric. 1222 E. 16th. \$30,000. Call 432-267-7631 or 413-0733

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