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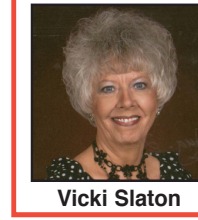
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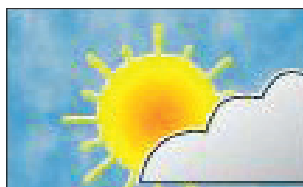
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Water park awash in rumors, says mayor

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As the city gets ready to move forward with a proposed \$4.2 million aquatics center to replace the municipal swimming pool, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said there have been a slew of misconceptions

circulating in the Crossroads area concerning the project. McEwen said questions ranging from water usage to the cost of building an aquatics center have swirled since the council decided to move forward with the measure after the existing swimming facility was shut down last year

for failure to meet federal and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. “When we initially talked about (the pool issue), we talked about four different options,” said McEwen. “We could get out of the pool busi-

See **PARK**, Page 3A

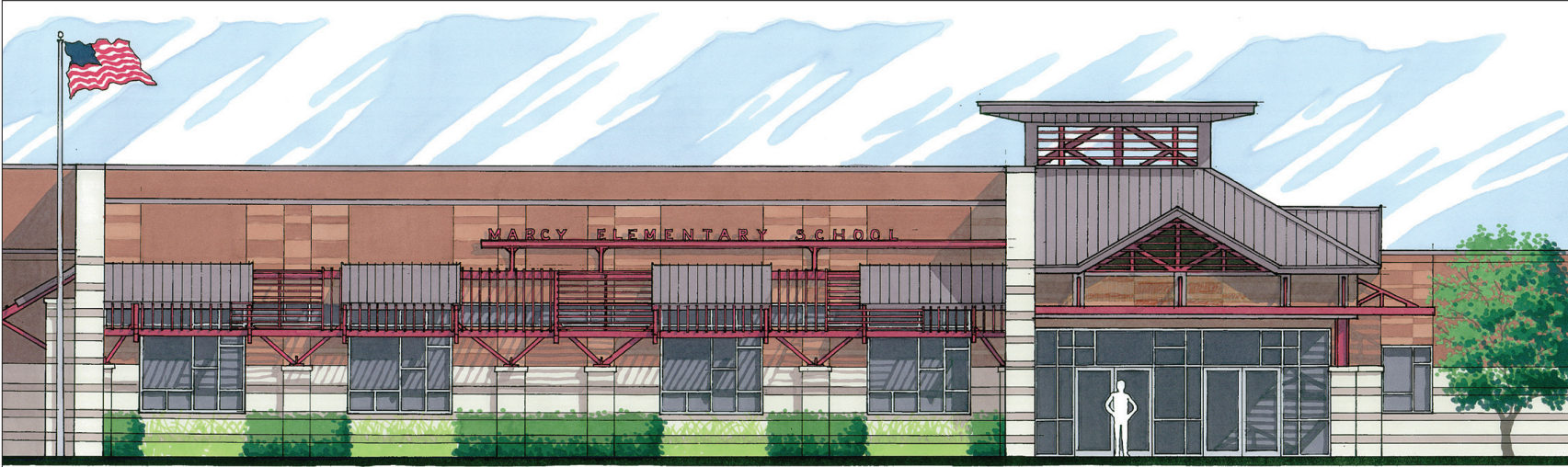
“About 65 percent of the people in Big Spring are economically disadvantaged, and when you look at a program like this, I’d like to be able for the city to provide to those children who can’t leave town for vacation or for fun.”



McEwen

Shown is a conceptual drawing of the proposed new Marcy Elementary. Big Spring school trustees are expected to formally call for a \$60 million bond election when they hold a special meeting Thursday.

Parkhill, Smith and Cooper illustration



BSISD to call for bond election

Trustees will convene Thursday to put \$60 million in capital improvements on ballot

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The question of a Big Spring Independent School District bond election is about to change from “if” to “when.” After considering and studying the issue for most of the past two years, BSISD

trustees are expected to formally call for a May 8 election to ask voter approval of \$60 million in proposed facility improvements when they hold a special meeting Thursday evening. The wording on the ballot proposition will be somewhat

vague — simply asking voters to OK \$60 million in capital improvements — but BSISD officials have very specific plans for the money:

- The majority of the bond money — \$42 million — will be used to construct three new elementary campuses

while closing existing buildings at Bauer, Washington and Marcy elementaries, as well as Goliad Intermediate. In addition, Moss Elementary would receive eight new classrooms, a physical education gymnasium and a new cafeteria/auditorium.

The new buildings will be constructed to house approximately 550 students in grades kindergarten through fifth and will be built adjacent to current facilities at Washington, Marcy and Goliad.

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Voting slow in primaries

Early polls will be open late Tuesday and Thursday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County election officials say early voting has been slow during its first week, but are hopeful extended hours at the polls next week will help more local voters cast their ballots before election day. County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom said balloting started slow Tuesday, but has picked up some speed since then.



Bloom

“Between Tuesday and Thursday we had 271 people come in and vote, and received 145 mail-in ballots,” said Bloom. “Things picked up a little Friday, with more than 100 votes cast, including in-person and mail-in ballots. So I’m hoping this will pick up next week.” More voters will certainly have the opportunity to cast their ballots this coming week, as election officials

See **VOTE**, Page 7A

Who’s running?

Early voting in this year’s political party primaries continues from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through Feb. 26. Polls are set up at the Howard County Elections Administrator’s office, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. The election is slated for March 2. Call 264-2273 for more information.

Howard County Commissioners Court Precinct 2	
Democrat:	Richard Belew, Jim Sinclair.
Republican:	Donnie Baker, Melanie Gambrell. Jerry Kilgore (I).
Precinct 4	
Democrat:	Gary Simer (I).
Republican:	Roy Beauchamp, John Cline.
Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2	
Democrat:	Ricky Hughes.
Republican:	David Baird, Kathryn Wiseman (I).
118th District Judge	
Democrat:	None.
Republican:	Mike Thomas, Tim Yeats.
Texas House District 85	
Democrat:	Joe Heflin (I).
Republican:	David Andrews, Jim Landtroop.
Libetarian:	Robyn L. Burwell.
U.S. Representative 19th District	
Democrat:	Andy Wilson.
Republican:	Randy Neugebauer (I).
Libertarian:	Richard “Chip” Peterson.

Software upgrade on county agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to consider purchasing an upgrade for county computer systems Monday morning, the second phase in a project designed to get the government entity through the next several years. County Judge Mark Barr said the upgrade, which will cost the county approximately \$15,000, should allow the county to operate until a newer, more up-to-date software can be purchased in the coming years. “We began this process several weeks ago by getting all of

our servers and switches up to speed with Basin 2-way,” said Barr. “This upgrade to the Able Term software system will hopefully get us through the next two or three years, until better software is available.” Barr said the court is already aiming at software currently being developed by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC), expected to be available in the next several years. “We’ve talked to TAC, which we are a member of, and they are working on a software system that would be univer-

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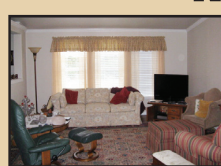
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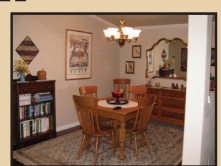
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Coahoma Bulldogs ready for 2010 baseball

BY MATT PRICE

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma High School's varsity baseball team is ready for a new season and its prospects can be summed up in four words.

"Better than last year," said Bulldog second year head coach Shane Fuller.

Those four words are saying a lot about a program and team that was knocked out in the regional quarter finals last year by a Holliday team that went to Austin. Yet, it is hard to argue the point when one sees what players — and at what position — are

coming back.

Coahoma returns its two ace pitchers for their senior years on the diamond. Rey Gutierrez went 10-0 last year and Chance Hart went 10-2, which is simply dominating at any level of the game and devastating to opponents at the high school level. Both of those pitchers had ERAs under 2.00.

"Our main strength is pitching," said Fuller. "We have two dominant pitchers with a handful of others who will be able to fill in any gaps. Our junior varsity team went 10-0 last year before district."

Combined with pitching is a team

that is solid on defense with an outfield that sports the fastest boys in the school — most of whom run track when they are not running down fly balls in the gaps.

The Bulldogs return six seniors from last year's team and add another who transferred in. There are also two juniors who come back and a load of underclassmen who, by their record last year, also know how to win.

At the plate, Fuller will employ a philosophy that has become a trademark of Bulldog baseball — run, run,

See **COAHOMA**, 2B



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Jonathan Hull

Senior Lupe Abrego returns to a loaded Coahoma Bulldogs baseball team.

Smyer ends Lady Buffs' season

BY JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

SLATON — The Forsan Lady Buffs knew they had to stop Smyer super sophomore Haley Fowler if they were to have a chance against the state's No. 10 team.

Friday night just wasn't that night for Forsan.

Fowler dropped 17 points in the second quarter alone, including a stretch of 13 straight, on her way to 27 overall as Smyer ousted Forsan 67-50 in the area round of the playoffs.

"They have a lot of firepower — no doubt about it," Forsan coach Robert Hillger said.

Fowler seemed to do it all for Smyer — blocking shots, putting back rebounds, controlling the paint and even hitting a few 3-pointers from outside.

"She's a special player," Smyer coach Leland Bearden said. "The other girls around her help her, too, because it's hard to double on her. Everybody else can shoot the ball."

Amanda Longorio scored 16 points to lead Forsan. Morgan Forshee added 14 and Kelsey Jones chipped in 12.

Smyer scored the first three points of the ball game before Shelby Jones converted a three-point opportunity to tie the score.

But that was the only tie of the ball game as



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

Amanda Longorio lets a shot go in the paint Friday night at Slaton High School. Longorio scored 16 points for the Lady Buffs but Forsan couldn't keep pace with 10th-ranked Smyer, which won the game 67-50.

the Lady Bobcats took off on runs of 7-0 and 7-2 to end the first quarter up 19-11.

And that was Fowler's down quarter. She scored just three points and picked up two fouls.

"We had a 'come to Jesus' talk in the first quarter when she picked up those two

fouls, and she responded well in the second quarter," Bearden said.

Fowler ripped off her team's next 13 points in the second frame as Smyer opened up its lead to 15 through halftime. Forsan went into the break down 38-23.

The Lady Buffs showed some life mid-

way through the third period, using an 8-0 spurt to cut the lead to 14. Morgan Forshee engineered the run with four of those points.

Smyer would keep Forsan at arm's length from there, finishing the game off to advance to the area quarterfinals against Farwell.

Stanton can't erase early Tahoka lead

Herald Staff Report

ANDREWS — The Stanton Lady Buffaloes are missing eight minutes from Friday night's area playoff game against Tahoka.

That quarter was stolen by Tahoka, which forced 11 Stanton turnovers in the first period and jumped out to an 18-0 lead after eight minutes.

Stanton outscored Tahoka 37-34 the rest of the way, but the game was essentially decided after that first period.

"We just didn't do a whole lot right (in the first quarter)," Stanton coach Jim Kinnear said. "You have to give them credit for that. But had we not dug ourselves an 18-0 hole, it could have been a different ball game."

Tahoka post Tyra Helms had a little to do with Stanton's troubles as well. Helms, a 6-foot-3 dominant player for the Lady Bulldogs, cruised to 20 points in the game. Against a Stanton lineup whose tallest player is 5-foot-9, Helms had a

decided advantage.

"She's able to play inside and post you up, and then she can step outside and hit the (3-pointer)," Kinnear said. "We didn't block her off the board very well, and she just had an outstanding game."

Rachel Fleckenstein led Stanton with nine points on the night. Kesley Jones and Tiffany Saucedo each chipped in seven.

Tahoka moves on to face defending champion Sudan, which soundly defeated McCamey in the earlier game at Andrews High School.

Stanton finishes 24-7 on the season with a share of the District 7-A, Division I title.

"Any time that you can win 20 games in a season, you have to feel good about it, and we're real proud of the effort we had this year," Kinnear said. "All the credit goes to the girls. They work hard, they're extremely coachable and they play with a lot of heart. They're fun to watch and coach."

Garden City falls, too

Herald Staff Report

ACUFF — The Garden City Lady Bearkats' hopes for a return to the state tournament fell hard Friday in a 31-29 loss to Guthrie in Acuff.

The Lady Bearkats only managed double digits in one quarter against Guthrie and

couldn't come back from an 11-6 first-quarter deficit.

Guthrie 11 9 6 5 — 31
Garden City 6 13 6 4 — 29
Guthrie: Jones 10, Reed 9, Elliot 6, Tarver 6
Garden City (27-2): Morgan Schwartz 15, Kate Halfmann 8, Paige Niehues 6
Free throws — Guthrie 9-20, Garden City 3-6. 3-point goals — Guthrie 2 (Jones, Elliot), Garden City 0; Total fouls — Guthrie 13, Garden City 18

Forsan Buffaloes baseball looking solid with key starters returning

BY MATT PRICE

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — All signs point to the Forsan Buffalo varsity baseball team having a great season — and quite possibly a season that will be remembered for a long time to come.

Last year the Buffs were district co-champions, won their bi-

district game and then were stopped in the area game. They sat out the rest of the postseason and watched Miles — a team that they had defeated twice earlier in the year — go on to win a state championship.

"It was frustrating," said fifth year head coach Jason Phillips. "Our bats went cold at the wrong time and we

paid the price."

But that was last year, which is done and gone.

What is not gone for Forsan is a complete team save for three graduated seniors, one of which did not start.

Forsan returns a seasoned, experienced pitching staff that includes right-handed junior Dylan

Lowrey, sophomore Payton Parker and left-handed senior Evan Burton, who recently signed a letter of intent to play baseball and attend North Central Texas College at Gainesville.

"Our main strength is our pitching," said Phillips. "That and the

See **FORSAN**, Page 3B



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Jonathan Hull

Forsan's Evan Burton, a North Central Texas College signee, will be a key contributor this year.

Sports in brief

Softball season getting under way

Forsan, Big Spring and Coahoma softball kicked off this week as all three had weekend games.

Big Spring played Monahans and Grape Creek over the weekend, and Forsan and Coahoma each entered tournaments in Abilene and Lubbock, respectively.

Check Monday's Herald for results from the weekend's action.

Softball signups coming up

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will hold signups for the upcoming 2010 season for girls ages 4-14 as of Jan. 1.

Signups will be held each Saturday beginning Feb. 20 through March 13 at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration fee is \$75, including a full uniform. Late registration after March 13 will cost \$10 extra. For more info, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Big Spring native named West Texas golfer of year

Nine-year-old Jack Everett, a third grader at Elbow Elementary in Big Spring, was named the 2009 player of the year for ages 7-9 of the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Association.

Everett earned the most points awarded for top 10 finishes in four NTPGA tournaments last year.

Everett is the son of Buddy and Brooke Everett of Big Spring.



Turkey Ciabatta
With Bacon
and Avocado

Make Mealtime a Reason to *Celebrate*

FAMILY FEATURES

Kitchens across the country rely on tried and true favorites to keep hungry families happy. In the rush to keep mouths full, flavor sometimes gets lost. Easily turn these dinner-time standbys into prime time players. From burgers to hot dogs and sandwiches to party-ready dips, turn up the volume in your cupboard and you'll never miss flavor again.

By stocking your cupboard with simple ingredients that carry big flavors, it's never been easier to add some flare to your favorite meals. Here are a few recipes that are sure to bring back the power to your pantry.

Accentuate the flavor in Beef Franks with sweet pickle relish and a touch of *Grey Poupon* Hearty Spicy Brown mustard. The mustard's finely diced yellow onions add a distinctive taste, elevating these dogs and making barbecue season a reason to entertain. Or kick start that at-home meal with All Around Dip, featuring Harvest Coarse Ground Mustard crafted with whole mustard seeds. This event favorite — paired with fresh veggies from your favorite farmer's market — will provide all the flavor you need to get the party started. Finally, replace that dry turkey sandwich with a revamped Turkey Ciabatta. The crunch of warm bacon mixed with the robust flavors of fresh avocado and classic Dijon mustard will take this lunchtime favorite from dull to delicious in five minutes flat.

For more memorable recipes, visit www.greypoupon.com.



Take your burger to the next level. Earlier this year, President Obama sparked a national debate, later dubbed "Dijon-gate," when he chose spicy Dijon mustard to top off his burger. *Grey Poupon* urged the president to issue a "pardon" to all those who exercise their freedom of good taste.



Coarse Ground
All-Around Dip

Turkey Ciabatta With Bacon and Avocado

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 5 minutes
Makes: 1 serving

- 1 ciabatta roll
(5 x 2-1/2-inch), split
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1-1/2 teaspoon
Grey Poupon
Dijon Mustard
- 1 lettuce leaf
- 2 thin tomato slices
- 6 slices oven roasted
turkey breast
- 3 thin avocado slices
- 2 slices cooked bacon

Spread bottom half of roll with mayo; spread top half with mustard.
Fill with remaining ingredients.

Coarse Ground All-Around Dip

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 5 minutes
Makes: 1-1/4 cups or
20 servings,
2 tablespoons each

- 1 package (8 ounces)
cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup *Grey Poupon*
Harvest Coarse
Ground Mustard
- 2 tablespoons sour cream

Mix all ingredients.
Serve with assorted cut-up
fresh vegetables.

Beef Franks

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Total Time: 10 minutes
Makes: 1 serving

- 1 beef frank
- 1 hot dog bun, partially
split
- 1 teaspoon
Grey Poupon
Hearty Spicy Brown
Mustard
- 1 tablespoon sweet pickle
relish
- 1 tablespoon chopped
onion
- 1/4 cup sauerkraut,
drained
- Dash celery salt

Heat frank as directed on
package.
Place in bun. Drizzle with
mustard.
Top with remaining
ingredients.



Beef Franks



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Obituaries

Harold W. 'Curly' Graves

Harold W. "Curly" Graves, 80, of Stanton died Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010, at Evergreen Cemetery Chapel with the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010, at the funeral home.

He was born April 13, 1929, in Martin County and married Lola Jean Goolsby Nov. 29, 1947, in Martin County. She preceded him in death Dec. 20, 2008.

Curly was a lifelong resident of Martin County and had farmed in the Grady Community for many years. He moved to Stanton in 1977 and continued farming until retiring in 1999.

He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and Sissy Graves of Stanton; one daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Wayne Barber of Greenwood; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one brother and sister-in-law, I.T. and Gwen Graves of Dumas.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; six brothers; one sister; and a great-grandson.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Evergreen Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 1087, Stanton 79782.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com



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Maria Wilson

Maria S. Wilson, 71, of Big Spring, died on Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, in a local hospital. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, 2010, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Father Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



A rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Maria was born Oct. 22, 1938, in Eagle Pass and married Elmer L.

Wilson, who preceded her in death in 1978.

She was a longtime resident of Big Spring and had worked at Wal-Mart for a number of years.

Survivors include two daughters, Rose Marie Guthrie of Big Spring and Patricia Sue Smith and husband Mark of Coahoma; one son, Elmer Lee Wilson IV of Lubbock; one sister, Hortencia Carter of Del Valley; eight grandchildren, Charles Michael Wilson and wife Nicole, Sara Jane Booth and husband Nathan, Jessica Marie Wilson, Jordan Marie Wilson, Bryan Heath Pearson and wife Nikki, Robert Richard "Booger" Pearson and wife Ashley, LeAnne Smith and Ashley Smith; and 12 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Marie was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Elmer Lee Wilson III.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121 or the Scleroderma Foundation, Attn: Donations, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105, Danvers, Mass. 01923..

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

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Friday:

- SHAQUITA SNEED, 19, Snyder, was arrested on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
- JESUS MANUEL RAMIREZ, 52, 1611 Donley, was arrested on a charge of theft over \$50 but less than \$500.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2400 block of Gregg.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Donley.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 200 block of 12th.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1000 block of Lamesa Highway.
- FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY was reported in the 2500 block of Langley.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Friday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 01-22-39-42-46, Mega Ball: 36.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-13-27-32-37. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,926. Winning ticket purchased in: Georgetown.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-7-8-0. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-6. Sum It Up: 7.

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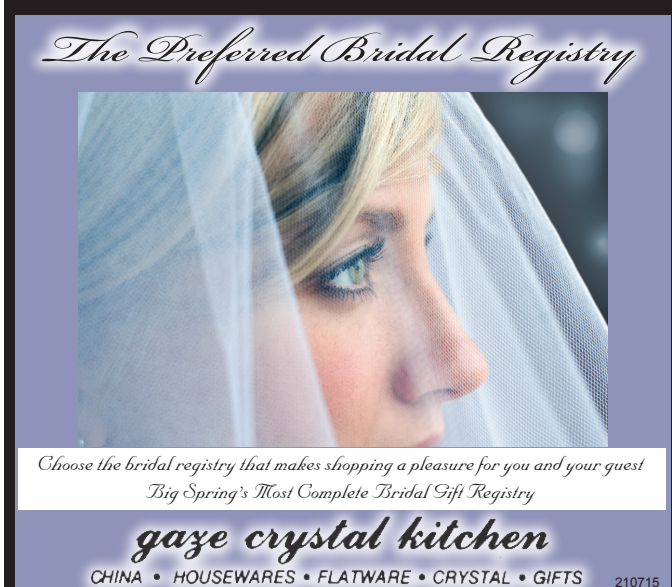
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Inside The Big Spring Mall 267-6335

▶ COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW

A capsule look at some of the top college baseball teams to watch this season (coaches' records at current schools entering season):

CAL STATE FULLERTON

Coach: Dave Serrano (88-38, third season).

Last Season: 47-16, College World Series appearance.

Key Players: OF Gary Brown (.340, 3 HRs, 40 RBIs, 23 SBs), SS Christian Colon (.357, 8, 40, 15), RHP-OF Tyler Pill (11-3, 4.06; .269, 0, 6), 1B-LHP Nick Ramirez (.287, 10, 31; 3-1, 2.61, 7 saves), RHP Noe Ramirez (9-2, 3.33), RHP Daniel Renken (11-3, 2.69).

Extra Bases: Titans have sights set on fifth national title after winless trips to Omaha last year and in 2007. ... Entire weekend pitching rotation (Renken, Noe Ramirez and Pill), closer (Nick Ramirez) and handful of core hitters return from last season to complement one of top recruiting classes in country. ... Titans had nation's fourth-beat ERA last season, and pitching expected to be strength again. ... Noe Ramirez was Big West co-freshman pitcher of year, while Pill set school freshman record for victories. ... Nick Ramirez will serve as team's closer and starting first baseman, while Pill will play RF when

not pitching. ... Colon, one of top defensive infielders in country, has fully recovered from broken leg in summer with Team USA. Led Big West in hits last season. ... The speedy Brown, who was third in Big West in SBs, will start in CF after playing all three OF spots a year ago. ... Freshman OF Anthony Hutting is former Titans batboy and cousin of big leaguer Aaron Rowand.

TEXAS

Coach: Augie Garrido (567-269-2, 14th season).

Last Season: 50-16-1, College World Series runner up.

Key Players: RHP Cole Green (5-3, 3.34), RHP Taylor Jungmann (11-3, 2.00), 1B Kevin Keyes (.305, 9, 46), OF Connor Rowe (.277, 8, 40), RHP Chance Ruffin (10-2, 3.32, 2 saves), C Cameron Rupp (.292, 11, 46).

Extra Bases: Longhorns are ranked No. 1 in every major national preseason poll after being runner-up to LSU at CWS. ... Lofty ranking based largely on what many consider the best and deepest pitching staff in country that was second in nation with 2.95 ERA. ... Jungmann, Green, Ruffin and RHP Brandon Workman could be No. 1 starter on most staffs, but Ruffin, son of former big leaguer Bruce Ruffin, will move to closer's role because of depth. ... Workman

threw no-hitter in second weekend last season before being limited rest of the year because of an injury. ... RHP Austin Dicharry also has outstanding stuff, but will make mostly midweek starts. ... Pitching is expected to make up for losses of three of team's top four hitters from offense that hit only .288 last season. ... Rowe, Rupp and Keyes give Longhorns three powerful bats in lineup that has decent speed and ability to play station-to-station baseball. ... Texas led country with 104 sacrifice bunts, with SS Brandon Loy tied for No. 1 with 25. ... Garrido, 71, is Division I career leader in victories, and has already won five national titles — two with Texas and three with Cal State Fullerton. Looking to win a CWS championship for the fifth straight decade.

FLORIDA STATE

Coach: Mike Martin (1,583-538-4, 31st season).

Last Season: 45-18, super regionals appearance.

Key Players: LHP Brian Busch (6-2, 3.97), SS Stephen Cardullo (.376, 10, 51, 20 SBs), LHP Sean Gilmartin (12-3, 3.49), CF Tyler Holt (.401, 5, 28, 34 SBs), OF-RHP Mike McGee (.379, 19, 78, 13 SBs; 6-2, 4.04), 3B Stuart Tapley (.316, 13, 60).

Extra Bases: Seminoles

looking to return to Omaha and deliver program's first College World Series title after surprising run to super regionals. ... Martin, who has led Seminoles to NCAA tournament in each of his seasons, is 17 victories from becoming third Division I coach to reach 1,600 victories. ... Seminoles have most wins of any Division I program since 2000 with 504 and looking for 33rd consecutive regional appearance, the second-longest active streak in nation. ... Florida State has all three weekend starters (Gilmartin, Busch, McGee) and seven position-player starters back from a year ago. ... RHP Andrew Durden, transfer from Indian River State College, could get first shot at closer's role. Hard-throwing LHP John Gast might also get the call to save games. ... Seminoles' top three hitters from last season (Holt, McGee and Cardullo) are back from offense ranked second in nation in doubles (163) and first in sacrifice flies with 46. ... Holt won national Gold Glove award for outstanding play in CF, committing one error in 142 opportunities.

GEORGIA TECH

Coach: Danny Hall (690-313-1, 17th season).

Last Season: 38-19-1, regionals appearance.

Key Players: OF Chase Burnette (.351, 8, 29), SS Derek Dietrich (.311, 10, 54), RHP Deck McGuire (11-2, 3.50), 1B Tony Plagman (.354, 16, 73), OF Jeff Rowland (.340, 8, 39, 21 SBs), 3B Matt Skole (.302, 17, 58).

Extra Bases: Yellow Jackets boast solid offense with two of nation's top power hitters in Plagman and Skole, and one of country's best starters in McGuire. ... Speedy Roland is outstanding leadoff man with

some pop. ... McGuire, who could be first college pitcher selected in draft in June, was ACC pitcher of year last season. Has good command of four-pitch repertoire that make him dominant. ... RHP Mark Pope had eight saves as a freshman, but could move into weekend rotation. ... Hard-throwing RHP Kevin Jacob (5-3, 4.69) could step in as closer after offseason in which he was named top prospect in Alaska League. ... Yellow Jackets running back Roddy Jones, who rushed for 345 yards and three TDs last season, is joining baseball team as outfielder.

LSU

Coach: Paul Mainieri (134-62-2, fourth season).

Last Season: 56-17, College World Series champions.

Key Players: 1B Blake Dean (.328, 17, 71), C Micah Gibbs (.294, 6, 42), 2B Tyler Hanover (.321, 5, 47), OF Leon Landry (.300, 12, 41), RHP Matty Ott (4-2, 2.68, 16 saves), RHP Anthony Ranaudo (12-3, 3.04).

Extra Bases: Defending College World Series champions look to repeat for second time in school history, joining 1996-97 Tigers. ... Mainieri, who came to LSU from Notre Dame four years ago, hoping to lead LSU to third straight trip to Omaha. ... Ranaudo, Collegiate Baseball newspaper's preseason player of year, finished third in nation last season with 159 strikeouts and was winning pitcher in deciding game of CWS. ... RHPs Austin Ross (6-8, 5.18), Daniel Bradshaw (4-0, 3.04) and Joey Bourgeois (transfer from Louisiana State-Eunice) top candidates to join Ranaudo in weekend rotation. ... Ott was Southeastern Conference co-freshman

of year after setting school's single-season record for saves. ... Dean moves from OF-DH to 1B after deciding to return for final season after being 10th-round pick of Minnesota last June. ... Hanover shifts from 3B to 2B, while redshirt freshman Wet Delatte moves in at 3B. ... Sophomore Austin Nola is back at SS after earning job late last season with outstanding defense, despite hitting just .240. ... Landry and Mikie Mahtook, MVP of SEC tournament, give Tigers outstanding athleticism in outfield. ... Gibbs considered one of best defensive catchers in country.

UC IRVINE

Coach: Mike Gillespie (87-33, third season).

Last Season: 45-15, regionals appearance.

Key Players: RHP Christian Bergman (9-3, 3.50), LHP Daniel Bibona (12-1, 2.63), 1B Jeff Cusick (.293, 6, 40), C Francis Larson (.310, 9, 43), RHP Eric Pettis (5-2, 3.86, 17 saves), 2B Casey Stevenson (.346, 3, 41).

Extra Bases: Anteaters made it to NCAA tournament, hosting their first regional, after going 22-2 in Big West play and becoming first team to go undefeated at home in conference play at 12-0. ... Bibona was Big West pitcher of year and Golden Spikes semifinalist, and returns as Anteaters' Friday night starter, while Bergman and junior RHP Crosby Slaughter (8-0) are also back. ... Pettis could serve in dual roles for Anteaters: as a Sunday starter and as a dominant closer. He's scheduled to make first start since 2007 College World Series in season-opening series vs. Loyola Marymount.



Rich History, Big Possibilities

CITY OF BIG SPRING BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the City of Big Spring Blood Drive this week! City employees who made a donation were entered into a drawing for a free day off compliments of the City of Big Spring as well as a drawing for a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card that was donated by United Blood Services. Firefighter Eric Barber won the free day off and firefighter Steve Hedges won the gift card. The next City of Big Spring Blood Drive will be held in June 2010. These blood drives are open to everyone. You do not have to be a City employee to make a blood donation.

CONGRATULATIONS POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES!

Four new police recruits made a solemn pledge to protect and serve our City when they were sworn in as peace officers earlier this week. Officers Amie Soles, Peter Boen, Larry Bridges, and Jared Moren, sworn in by Police Chief Lonnie Smith, will join the Big Spring Police Department. All four candidates completed the rigorous seventeen week training program at the Odessa College Law Enforcement Academy.

LARGE ITEM PICKUP

Large Item Pickup is fast approaching. In previous years, the City of Big Spring has offered assistance to our citizens that either need help removing large items from their property or do not have the ability to remove these items. We plan to continue large item pickup this year with a few expansions to the program. This year, large item pickup will be coordinated with target areas of concern through Code Enforcement.

As each district's month arrives Code Enforcement will identify target areas within each district that are in most need of attention. We will also expand our services of how and where items are to be picked up. Our goal is to help our citizens that do not have the means of cleaning or removing items from their property. Code Enforcement will be concentrating on problem areas in enforcing our City ordinances. Weedy lots, accumulated items and rodent control will be our primary areas of concern within the target areas.

We will identify substandard structures in these areas and begin concentrating on these properties in the future.

Continue to watch for further details and schedules for large item pickup in all local media. Our efforts are to keep everyone informed of our plans and make this large item pickup a tremendous success. If you are in need of assistance or know someone that is, please contact our office as your district's Large Item Pickup comes up. We need our citizens' help in getting this information out. If you know of anyone that could benefit from our assistance, please make certain that they know about our program.

The City of Big Spring will be coordinating with Keep Big Spring Beautiful to find volunteers to help assist those in need. We have a responsibility as a community to help one another. By joining together as a community we can truly make Big Spring a clean, beautiful and safe place for everyone to live, work and play. Let's take pride in our City and show that we are a community and not simply individuals living in the same area. Big Spring – Rich History, Big Possibilities

Chad Averette

Code Enforcement Supervisor
432-264-2505
caverette@mybigspring.com

State of the City Address

Mayor Russ McEwen

Community Luncheon

March 2, 2010
Dora Roberts Community Center Ballroom
Tickets: \$12.00 per person

Serving Line starts at 11:30 a.m.
Catered by Great Western Dining

Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber Office, 215 West 3rd or call 263-7641 by February 25, 2010

Tickets WILL NOT be available at the door.



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concerning Big Spring and Howard County

Tuesday Morning at 11:00 am

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► Engagements



Sharie Ritchey and Shane Dunn

Ritchey and Dunn

Bim and Patsy Ritchey announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharie Ritchey of La Vernia, formerly of Colorado City, to Shane Dunn of Lubbock.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Colorado High School and is employed as

an agency producer with Farmers Insurance.

The prospective groom is the son of Darrell and Fran Dunn of Lubbock. He attended Texas Tech University and is a graduate of Lubbock Christian University.



Justin Stannard and Trisha Nichols

Nichols and Stannard

Trisha Nichols and Justin Stannard of Sanderson have announced they will exchange wedding vows in July.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Martin and Lesli Nichols of Knott and the granddaughter of JoAnne and Rey Hyer of Big Spring, Repps Guitar of Clyde and June Nichols of Knott.

A 2000 graduate of Sands High School in Ackerly, she received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Texas Tech University in 2005. She is employed as a teacher and coach by the Terrell County Independent School District in Sanderson.

The future groom is

the son of Robert and Nancy Stannard of East Longmeadow, Mass., and the grandson of Mildred Stannard of Cherry Hill, N.J.

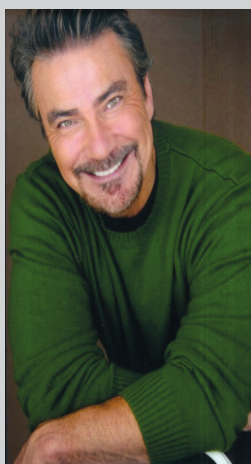
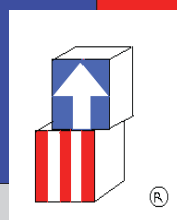
He is a 2001 graduate of East Longmeadow High School and received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice in 2005 from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He is employed by the United States Border Patrol in Sanderson.

They plan to be married July 24, 2010, at the Second Baptist Church in Midland.

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Victor Rivas Rivers
Child Advocate/
Author/Actor

On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 7 p.m. we have the great honor of having Victor Rivas Rivers to speak at our Opening General Session.

He is a child advocate, author, and actor. Mr. Rivers became involved in preventing violence against women and children in 1999 and became the leading activist for this cause.

Focus: Father Power Graduation
Topic: Domestic Violence: "It's Everyone's Issue"

Place: MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome, 6201 E. Hwy. 80, Odessa, TX

Tickets: Individual Tickets—\$50 each person
(Includes dinner and dance)

Event Sponsor Tables for 8 people—Red—\$1,000
White—\$750
Blue—\$500

Please be seated ten minutes before 7 p.m.

17th Annual Staff Recognition/Training Conference March 9-12, 2010

On Friday, March 12, 2010, at 1 p.m. we have the distinguished privilege of having Judge Glenda Hatchett to speak at our Community Partners Luncheon and Staff Service Awards.

Judge Glenda Hatchett, is a Reality TV star, author and 2 time Emmy nominee. She wrote the national bestseller, Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say, which is about her professional experiences as a jurist and her experiences as a mother of two boys.

Topic: "A Promise To Keep"

Place: MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome, 6201 E. Hwy. 80, Odessa, TX

Tickets: Individual Tickets—\$35 each person

Event Sponsor Tables for 8 people—Red—\$1,000
White—\$750
Blue—\$500

Please be seated ten minutes before 1 p.m.



Judge Glenda Hatchett
Former Juvenile Court
Judge/Authority on Youth
and Social Issues

For tickets or information please contact :

Velma Hinojos 337-1352 Ext. 223
Estella Willard 337-1352 Ext. 220

► Menus

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday — Chopped barbecue on a bun, potato salad, onions, relish, coleslaw, peach cobbler, milk, V8 juice.

Tuesday — Baked chicken, buttered potatoes, green peas and mushrooms, biscuits, fruit cocktail, milk.

Wednesday — Soft beef taco with cheese, baked beans, guacamole/salsa,

lettuce, tomatoes, cherry cobbler, milk.

Thursday — Pepper steak with mushroom gravy, rice/mixed greens, cornbread, sugar cookies, milk, V8 juice.

Friday — Chicken soup, pimento cheese sandwich, mixed green salad, crackers, chocolate cake, milk, V8 juice.

See **MENUS**, Page 3C

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Take Note

• The Junior Class of 2011 will be fund-raising at Pizza Inn on Monday. Please come out and support the junior class. Donations are accepted. All proceeds go toward Big Spring Junior/Senior Prom. Prom is April 24 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Also the junior class will meet this Sunday at the Big Spring High cafeteria to talk about Prom. Students and parents please make plans to attend the meeting.

• The public is invited to meet Republican candidates for office from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Gregg’s Grill in the Big Spring Mall. For more information, contact Dana Baker at (432) 816-6258.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

An additional \$1 million is targeted to renovate Kentwood Elementary.

Officials say the four campuses targeted for closure are either obsolete — as in the case of Bauer and Washington — or too expensive to renovate to bring them up to modern educational standards.

“We looked at renovating Marcy and Goliad and, quite frankly, it would cost more to renovate them than to simply build new campuses,” said Dr. Michael Stevens, special assistant to BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar.

• \$2.7 million will be spent at Big Spring Junior High to install a fire suppression system and construct 11 new classrooms. With the additional classroom space, officials will move the district’s sixth graders to the junior high.

• \$12 million in improvements are planned at the high school, including installation of a new roof and fire suppression system and upgrading the building’s science labs.

• An additional \$2.5 million is being asked for improvement to campus grounds, parking lots and driveways.

This year’s election comes two years after voters decisively rejected a \$34 million bond issue to construct a 1,200-student elementary and finance improvements at the high school.

School officials point to several benefits that the district will accrue if the bond passes — increased student performance, lower maintenance costs, increased pride in the school district throughout the community and increased ability to recruit and retain qualified staff.

To finance the new bond, BSISD officials estimate the district’s tax rate — currently \$1.12 per \$100 valuation — will increase by 35 cents for the life of the 20-year bond. That would raise taxes on a median-priced home in Howard County (\$42,000) by approximately \$70 a year. Owners of a home valued at \$100,000 would see their taxes rise by about \$240 a year.

Stevens understands concerns over increased taxes, but said this is a case where need exceeds the added costs.

“Any place you go, no one wants to pay more in taxes,” he said, “but they will pay for quality ... if they know you’re trying to do the right thing for their children.”

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

PARK

Continued from Page 1A

ness, renovate what we have right now, basically build a copy of what we have right now or to build a family aquatic center. The first option obviously has no cost but we’re out of the pool business. The second one has a cost that’s very difficult to estimate because once you get into the 80-year-old plumbing, you also have an ADA non-compliant building and facility. The cost of the building (pool house) alone is \$1 million.

“If we build a new pool similar to the one we currently have we’re looking at about \$2.5 million. So, the difference between renovating and building a new pool like what we have is minimal. In fact, they could very well be the same cost, or renovation could actually be more expensive. Once you get to \$2.5 million, you look at an aquatics center, and is it more expensive? Yes, it is. It’s \$4.2 million, but when you look at the incremental cost and what you get for it, all of a sudden you can see there’s some logic behind it. And that is because the amount of incremental tax difference shows it doesn’t make sense to build anything other than the aquatic park.”

McEwen also addressed concerns a new aquatics center would greatly increase the fiscal deficit the pool has operated at over the past several years and the amount of water — already a precious commodity in West Texas — it consumes.

“There really is no comparison to what we have right now. We have an 80-year-old pool that leaks like a sieve, and we’ve done everything we can think of in the past years to try to fix it,” said McEwen. “There is no way we will use as much water (with an aquatic center) as we’re using right now (with the existing pool). I believe there will actually be a net decrease in the amount of what is used.

“We have looked at the

number of additional life guards we will need, but based on the information we’ve been able to gather from other pools in the area that are similar to this aquatic center, that we will be able to break even, which is something we’ve never been able to do with the pool. The pool has operated at a deficit in the past of \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year.”

“It would sit on the same property and we’re not having to close any roads or anything like that.”

—Mayor Russ McEwen

Other concerns McEwen said he’s heard within the community include how much space the new aquatic center will take up in Comanche Trail Park and how it will be utilized.

“Kids, parents and grandparents don’t use pools today like they did 80 years ago when the existing pool was built,” said McEwen. “If you went out to the pool when it was last open, everyone was in the shallow end, on the slides and that big expanse of deep water in the middle where people used to swim was empty. People don’t swim like that anymore. The aquatic center we’re talking about has a maximum depth of four feet, and that’s where the activities are. There’s a play area for kids.

“Also, the footprint of this aquatic center is essentially the same as the footprint of the existing pool. I think some people are hearing that this is a water park and thinking it will be this gigantic thing. It would sit on the same property and we’re not having to close any roads or anything like that. There have been some misconceptions floating around out there. I’ve even heard people say that we’re going to do away with the swimming pool and pave that area so the golfers will have more room to park. And that’s simply not the case.”

Comparisons between the proposed aquatic center and a private,

for-profit water park located between Midland and Odessa that closed its doors several years back also drew fire from the mayor.

“There are two parks very similar to this one the city of Odessa built that are five years old,” said McEwen. “And their attendance today is overwhelming. They built two aquatic centers and a splash area. Brownfield has one with the slides and the lazy river, and they haven’t been open that long. However, what the people in Brownfield are finding out is people from all over the area are coming in. Comparing what we’re doing and what these other cities have done to a private, for-profit operation, simply isn’t comparing apples to apples. It’s apples and oranges.”

In the end, according to McEwen, what an aquatic center can accomplish in Big Spring goes well beyond just a chance for area residents to cool off in the heat of summer.

“About 65 percent of the people in Big Spring are economically disadvantaged, and when you look at a program like this, I’d like to be able for the city to provide to those children who can’t leave town for vacation or for fun,” said McEwen. “It’s hard to understand, but there are kids in Big Spring that don’t have a Christmas. There are kids who will never get the chance to go to Schlitterbahn or Disneyland. They simply won’t get to leave Big Spring, and this aquatic center will be their Six Flags or their Schlitterbahn. And we can go into what the parents are or aren’t doing with their money, whether they are smoking or drinking it up, but the fact that these kids can take \$3 and get into this proposed aquatic center is huge for them.

“A kid that goes into the legal system in Howard County costs the county an average of \$25,000. So, if you’re keeping kids out of mischief and out of the judicial system, then we are, in fact, saving

money. We have city county meetings, and during the most recent one we heard from different law enforcement officials and people who work with kids and they are saying the thing they like about the aquatic center is that we’re in a position that tells the kids somebody cares. Those kids need to know somebody cares, because they are in an environment where, in so many cases, no one cares.”

As for the cost of the facility to local taxpayers, City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the average homeowner will pay under \$16 a year if their tax assessments don’t increase.

“The average cost of a home in Big Spring is \$41,118. With the homestead exemption, they will pay tax on approximately \$33,000 of that,” said Walker. “The part of the tax rate that would pay for the aquatic center is 4.2 cents per \$100 valuation, so the cost to the taxpayer will be approximately \$15.50 a year. On a \$100,000 home, with homestead exemption will drop that number to \$80,000. So that homeowner, as long as their assessment stays the same, will pay \$37.48 a year.”

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

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Inventor’s stroke of brilliance made snowboarding

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Shaun White might be better known as a skateboarder and Torah Bright might be surfing today if it weren’t for Sherman Poppen.

Poppen is the man who, in an attempt to get his kids out of the house on Christmas Day in 1965, rigged a couple of skis together, attached them to a rope and created the ‘Snurfer’ — the contraption that would later morph into the snowboard.

Nearly 45 years after creating the first-generation snowboard, Poppen lives in the Atlanta area. He’s 79 and hasn’t been on the hill for a few years. When he watches the Olympics, he’s amazed and humbled to see how far his creation has come.

“It just makes me feel good,” Poppen said. “It makes me smile and think, it all started in my garage and backyard as a simple something to get children outside.”

Like so many great ideas, it was born out of a combination of desperation and inspiration.

It was Christmas Day and Poppen’s wife was extremely pregnant and not faring well with the baby. Poppen already had two kids, who were antsy. Dad simply needed to find something to do with them.

Poppen, a wannabe surfer at heart, looked at the snow-covered sand dunes behind the house in Muskegon, Mich., and saw the possibilities. A permanent wave, he thought. He bound the two skis

together with a rope, pulled the rope in front of the skis, “and the kids started having a ball,” he said.

The Brunswick bowling company saw Poppen’s invention and signed a manufacturing deal with Poppen. Together, they sold about a million Snurfers over 10 years.

The boards were largely thought of as a sled-like toy for the back hills and backyards until the late ‘70s, when Jake Burton saw them and realized they could be refined and turned into something much more.

“I had a vision there was a sport there,” Burton said. “There was more than just a sledding thing. I didn’t invent it. It had been around. I credit myself with knowing that it

could be more than that. But I had no clue whatsoever that you’d be building parks and halfpipes and that kind of thing.”

Burton became a multimillionaire by bringing the boards to the masses and introducing them to ski resorts, which initially had no use for them. He has always credited Poppen for the invention.

“He never, ever made any bones about that,” Poppen said. “If you go to his factory in Vermont, there’s a big wall with the history of the snowboard, and the Snurfer’s on there.”

About two years ago, Poppen went to Taos Ski Valley Resort in New Mexico to participate in a ribbon cutting when it became one of the final holdouts to allow snowboarders on

the terrain.

That resort, like so many others, came to realize snowboarders spend lots of money and aren’t as rogue and dangerous as so many people thought early on.

“Turned out, there were good friends of the management who said, ‘You won’t let my kid snowboard and I’ve got to go where he’s going,’” Poppen recalled. “That’s all that took.”

Now, snowboarding is an industry valued at between \$500 million to \$1 billion a year, depending on whether apparel is included in the math.

With their Olympic performances, White and Bright could shoot the numbers even higher. Bright’s win was the fourth gold medal for he

country of Australia, not known for its winter sports but certainly in possession of a new winter star. White has already made millions, though more impressively, he snapped a six-year winning streak for “American Idol.” More than 30 million watched the NBC broadcast that included his winning run, which beat Idol on Wednesday night.

“Everyone else saw the future, but I have to be frank, I didn’t,” Poppen said. “Except during that winter of ‘66. We’d go out and ride heavy snow on dunes because it was really good in deep powder. They said, ‘Ya know, this is too much fun, it’s going to be in the Olympics.’ And sure enough, they were right.”

AP Interview: Sochi needs Russian medals for success in 2014

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — With Russian athletes flopping in the Vancouver medals race, Russian organizers are counting on a much better showing when the Winter Games are held on home soil for the first time in 2014.

“The games wouldn’t be successful in my country if the Russian team didn’t perform well,” Dmitry Chernyshenko, head of the organizing committee for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, said Friday in an interview with The Associated Press.

“It is crucial for the general impression of the games to have athletes on the podium with

medals,” Chernyshenko said. “It creates an additional atmosphere.”

The Soviet Union or Russia has topped the gold medal table eight times since competing in the Winter Games for the first time in 1956, and has always finished in the top five.

But, after seven days of competition in Vancouver, Russia ranked tied for 10th with one gold and five medals in all — compared to six gold and 20 overall for the United States.

“Thank God I’m not responsible for that,” Chernyshenko said with a smile, noting that the Russian Olympic Committee prepares the

athletes. “Maybe it’s a Russian special way, a Russian secret to keep quiet ahead of Sochi.”

Russia’s only gold medalist so far is Nikita Kriukov, winner of the men’s individual classic sprint in cross-country skiing. He met with Chernyshenko on Friday and was appointed an “official ambassador” of the Sochi Games.

“Nikita has made Russia proud with his gold medal performance,” Chernyshenko said. “We hope he has inspired other young athletes” to succeed in Sochi.

Arriving next week in Vancouver will be Russian President

Dmitry Medvedev. He is due to attend the closing ceremony on Feb. 28, where the Olympic flag will be handed over to Sochi’s mayor during an eight-minute segment featuring elements of the next host country.

“We are rehearsing and preparing some secrets,” Chernyshenko said.

Chernyshenko and his team have been in Vancouver and Whistler observing Canadian organizers to learn lessons for 2014. The Russian met Friday with Vancouver organizing chief John Furlong at Sochi World, a science museum which has been converted into the

home of the Russian delegation for the games.

Chernyshenko said Furlong offered some personal advice, including the need for organizers and volunteers to smile and foster a festive atmosphere.

“The key to success is the people, not

the infrastructure,” Chernyshenko said. “It’s one thing to build the venues; it’s another thing to train people and create the same atmosphere as Vancouver. It will be a little bit a Russian way, but we will make it the modern Russian way.”

COAHOMA

Continued from 1B

run.

“We are a small ball team that will challenge the opposing defenses to make perfect throws,” said Fuller. “We’re all about taking that extra base. If we hit home runs, it will be because one of the guys got under a pitch. I want doubles

that come off line drives in the right-center field gap. The longer we stay up at the plate, the more we can run our opponent into submission.”

Success for the Bulldogs mean that they go farther into the post-season than they did last year.

Fuller thinks that this year’s team has the players in place to do just that.

“Our guys go out in every game and fully expect to win – no matter what the team – no matter the size of the school,” said Fuller. “For us, it comes down to whether we perform at the plate — our pitching is going to keep us in every game.”

Coahoma is a 2A school that will compete at higher levels whenever they have the chance.

“It just makes us better when it comes to that District 7 tournament and beyond,” said Fuller.

After playing a few scrimmages, the Bulldogs will take the field Mondady at 4:30 p.m. against cross-county rival Forsan at Forsan. “We’re ready to play,” said Fuller. “Whether it’s cold outside or hot.”

FORSAN

Continued from 1B

fact that except for our catcher, we return our entire infield.”

The Buffaloes sport a traditional baseball team set-up when it comes to offense. “We have power in the third, fourth and fifth hitting positions and we have speed on either ends of the lineup,” said Phillips. “We like to run when we can and it’s the team that capitalizes on the little mistakes that is going to win ball games. Our players are savvy baseball guys – they love the game and are students of it.”

Phillips goal for his team is quite simple. “We have progressed over the years since this program began five years ago,” said Phillips. “We started out wanting to win districts. With what happened last year and the team that we bring back – we want a trip to Austin. We have to win a lot of games first – but we want to make sure that we are peaking at the right time to bring our best game to the field when

it counts.

The toughest test may be the first the game of the season for Forsan when they step up in class and host the Coahoma Bulldogs today at 4:30. “They may be the best ball club we face all year long,” said

Phillips. “Some of our players are just getting their arms stretched out because of basketball – but make no mistake, we will come to play. I like the fact that we will play a tough game to start the season – we can learn a lot about

ourselves in that kind of game.”

Win or lose today, Forsan has set high goals and will need to keep their core 11 players healthy all season in order to compete for the prize at the end of the school year.

sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Now You See It, Now You Don't

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 5
♦ J 8 6 4
♣ A 9 7 4

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ 4 3 2
♦ A K 9 2
♣ J 8 5 3

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

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

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 2♥
East 2♣

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

There are certain plays in bridge that resemble a feat of magic, since they make a seemingly certain loser disappear into thin air. The most familiar of these are the squeeze, coup and endplay, but a less-well-known play that achieves the same effect is the dummy reversal.

This deal provides an unusual example. South is in four hearts, and the defense gets off to a fast start when West leads K-A and another diamond, ruffed by East. East then returns the king of clubs to dummy’s ace, South discarding a spade.

It may seem that declarer, hold-

ing the A-7 of spades opposite the Q-2, must lose a spade trick. This would be fatal since the defenders already have three tricks. The obvious approach — draw two rounds of trumps in hopes that the missing trumps are divided 2-2, then discard a spade from dummy on South’s fifth diamond — does not work.

However, the actual declarer, encouraged by East’s ruff with the six of hearts at trick three, saw another possibility. After taking the ace of clubs, he ruffed a club with the jack, then led the nine of hearts to the queen and was gratified to see East’s ten fall.

South next ruffed a club with the king, led the seven of hearts to the eight and ruffed dummy’s last club with the ace of hearts. Dummy was then re-entered by leading a diamond to the jack as West helplessly followed suit.

Thanks to these machinations, declarer now had no trumps in his hand, while dummy had the five of hearts and West the four. South then cashed the five, discarded his spade loser and scored the last two tricks with the ace of spades and queen of diamonds to make his game.

Note that if East returns a trump at trick four, declarer will be an entry short for the dummy reversal. Nevertheless, South should be given full credit for capitalizing on the defense he received.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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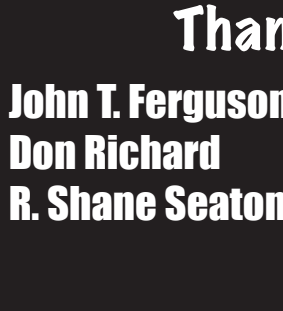
Local Attorneys endorse **YEATS** for District Judge



The undersigned attorneys endorse **TIM YEATS** to be our next District Judge. It is imperative that we have a qualified, hardworking, and experienced trial lawyer to assume the role as District Judge. Not only has **TIM YEATS** been actively involved in many civic organizations, he has also been the lead trial attorney in excess of 100 jury trials. He has full knowledge of all aspects of the law, including civil, criminal and family law.

TIM is also a certified Mediator, and has mediated civil as well as family law disputes. As a Mediator he has assisted parties in reaching an amicable settlement which is precisely a skill a District Judge must possess. In summary, **TIM** has the experience, knowledge and temperament necessary for the job. On behalf of all of us we request that you vote for **TIM YEATS** in the Republican Primary regardless of party affiliation.

*The winner of the Republican Primary will be your next **District Judge!!***



Thank You,

**John T. Ferguson
Don Richard
R. Shane Seaton
Glynna Mouton
Rick Hamby
Robert D. Miller
Drew Mouton**

Pol. Ad. paid for by R. Shane Seaton, Glynna Mouton, Robert D. Miller, Drew Mouton, Don Richard, Rick Hamby.

MENUS

Continued from Page 2C

Big Spring ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Cereal, cheddar cheese, juice, milk; Lunch: Nacho grande, ranch beans, lettuce and tomato salad, sliced apples, milk.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage patty, cinnamon

biscuit, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken enchiladas, re-fried beans, garden salad, fruit cocktail, oatmeal cookies, milk.
Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit cup, milk; Lunch: Barbecued chicken, baked potato, green beans, peaches, rolls, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: PBJ, juice, milk; Lunch: Char meatballs, mashed potatoes, pears, green peas,

rolls, milk.
Friday — Breakfast: Honey Bun, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken patty, baby carrots, lemon pudding, fruit, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Muffin, banana, juice, milk; Lunch: Barbecue on a bun, Cool Ranch Doritos, corn on the cob, pickle spears, chilled pears, milk.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Barbecue hotdog, tater tots, ranch style beans, sliced bread, Orange Smiles, milk.

Wednesday — Breakfast: French toast, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Meat and bean chalupa, Spanish rice, lettuce, tomato, rosie applesauce, milk.
Thursday — Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken and noodles, cooked carrots, tossed salad, crackers, pineapple tidbits, milk.
Friday — Breakfast: Cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken friend steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, apple, milk.

Stanton ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Waffles; Lunch: Chicken patty on bun or country steak on bun, potato puffs, sandwich salad, apple, milk, Teddy Grahams.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Oatmeal; Lunch: Baked fish or corndog, macaroni and cheese, carrot coins, peaches, French bread, milk.
Wednesday — Breakfast: Biscuit, sausage and gravy; Lunch: Pizza or chicken and dumplings, green beans, garden salad, mixed fruit, milk.

Thursday — Breakfast: Pizza; Lunch: Beef taco, flour or corn tortilla, pinto beans, lettuce and tomato salad, pineapple, cornbread, milk, salsa, shredded cheese.
Friday — Breakfast: Burrito; Lunch: Hamburger or cheeseburger, baked chips, western beans, hamburger salad, Orange Smiles, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday — Breakfast: Donuts, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, sliced carrots, oranges, rolls, milk; Hot Pockets.
Tuesday — Breakfast: Sweetened rice, sausage,

juice, milk; Lunch: Tacos, pinto beans, salad; Burritos.
Wednesday — Breakfast: Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken and dumplings, sweet peas,

pear cups, milk; Sub sandwiches with salad tray.
Thursday — Breakfast: Pop Tarts, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Lasagna, salad, bread sticks, mixed fruit, milk; Corn dogs.

Friday — Breakfast: French toast, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburgers, baked chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, Jell-O with fruit, milk.

Births



Kellan Mae Fishpaw

Kellan Mae Fishpaw, a girl, was born Dec. 12, 2009, at 2:41 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

She is the daughter of Jim and Kim Middleton-Fishpaw of Keller. Grandparents are John and Cindy Middleton of Big Spring and Gloria Fishpaw of Bucyrus, Ohio. Great-grandparents are Harry and Janet Middleton of Big Spring and Eldon Carroll of Lubbock.

She was welcomed home by her sisters, Victoria and Raegan.



Jules Hadley Nichols

Jules Hadley Nichols, a girl, was born Jan. 5, 2010, at 8:05 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Kyle and Kayla Jo Nichols of Big Spring. Grandparents are Allen and Cara Nichols of Big Spring, Keith and Debi Smith of Greenwood and Teresa Combs of Lubbock.

She was welcomed home by a big brother, Jack.

UPTOWN

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CLASS OF 2012

To all parents of Graduation Class of 2012 (Sophomores)

1st Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at the Big Spring High School Library, 6:00 p.m.

Questions Contact: Valerie Robertson 432-213-8315

000123

PUBLIC INPUT & INFORMATION MEETING

Education for Children with Disabilities

February 25, 2010

Region 18 Education Service Center

2811 LaForce Blvd., Midland (by Air Terminal)

We want your feedback on Special Education questions regarding the following. The comments and suggestions given at the meeting will be sent to the Texas Education Agency.

(1) parent involvement to improve student outcomes
(2) positive behavior supports to keep students in classrooms; and
(3) improve performance in reading and math

FREE REGISTRATION

Call: (432) 563-2380 or Register online www.esc18.net

Descriptive flyer and RSVP form also online

Registration time: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

REFRESHMENTS – DEAF & SPANISH INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

CHILDCARE NOT PROVIDED

REUNIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN Y PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA

Educación para Niños con Discapacidades

25 de Febrero, 2010

Region 18 Centro de Servicio Educación

2811 LaForce Blvd., Midland (cerca del Aeropuerto)

Queremos su opinión sobre preguntas de la Educación Especial con respecto a: Los comentarios y sugerencias dadas en la junta, serán enviados a la Agencia de Educación de Texas.

(1) participación de padres en mejorar los resultados de los estudiantes
(2) comportamiento estimulante de apoyo para ayudar a mantener los estudiantes en sus clases, y
(3) mejoramiento de ejecución en matemáticas y lectura

REGISTRO GRATIS

Para registración: Llaman (432) 563-2380 - o - www.esc18.net

Registro: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Reunión: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 medio día

REFRESCOS – INTEPRETES DE ESPAÑOL Y SORDOS DISPONIBLES – EL CUIDADO DE NIÑOS NO ESTÁ DISPONIBLE

EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Now is the time to handle facility needs of BSISD

It's been said that hindsight is 20-20, and nothing could be more evident in the situation Big Spring Independent School District officials find themselves in — needing way more money to make facility improvements than they can even hold a bond issue election for.

That's right, the amount of money BSISD officials need to really bring all their facilities up to snuff is considerably more than the \$60 million they're currently considering on asking voters to approve in a yet-to-be-called bond election.

The school board gave its blessing to a preliminary \$60 million facility improvement plan during a special early meeting last month. The plan, which would finance three new elementary campuses and renovations at every other school, is expected to go before school district voters this May.

For now, officials are in the process of trying to explain to the public just how serious the district's needs are. It's a message we believe the community needs to not only understand, but embrace.

Trustees have been trying, for several years now, to update the district's school facilities which, with the exception of the 10-year-old junior high, averages more than 60 years in age. A 2007 facility study conducted by the Texas Association of School Administrators, concluded that both Bauer and Washington elementary campuses were obsolete and in need of demolition.

Most recently, trustees floated a \$34 million bond issue before voters in 2008, but that plan was resoundingly defeated.

And there is no doubt in our minds that what school district officials are considering today will run into plenty of opposition. Bond issues always face opposition, no matter what they're meant to accomplish and no matter how much the amount.

Unfortunately, the cost of construction and renovation of existing buildings isn't getting any cheaper.

Time is nobody's friend in this situation.

Need we remind readers of the situation county commissioners faced when it was clear Howard County needed a new jail? In 1994, the county sought passage of a \$3.5 million bond issue to build a 96-bed jail facility. That bond issue was defeated by a narrow margin, and by the time voters finally approved a bond for a 96-bed jail 13 years later, the facility cost taxpayers more than \$10 million.

No doubt there will be those who want to blame past school boards for letting the district get into this situation.

But fixing blame on perceived past mistakes won't solve the problem. We still have to do something and we must do it now.

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Our success is assured when we bravely accept Your advice, Lord.

Amen

Look, it's Palin's 'Tea Party'

The Divine Sarah has spoken. "How's that hopey-changey thing working out for you?" That's what she said, Sarah Palin. She said it to the Tea Party at their recent convention (or was it the Tea Party Party?) in Nashville.

She said other things too. For example:

"If you can't ride two horses at once, you shouldn't be in the circus."

"People look to Alaska as a beacon of hope."

"We need a Commander-in-Chief, not a professor of law."

Also:

"I am so proud to be an American."

"Happy birthday to Ronald Reagan."

"It is inspiring to see real people."

And: "This is bigger than a charismatic guy with a teleprompter." (She said that despite the fact that during an interview, she kept referring to notes she had written on the palm of her hand.)

OK, so it wasn't a great speech; at least she didn't use a teleprompter. She read from a text in front of her on the lectern. And...uh...her hand.

But the Tea Party Nation ate it up, couldn't get enough of her. "Run Sarah Run," some of them were shouting.

Well, why not? Maybe it's about time we had a woman for a president. I even have a campaign slogan for her:



DONALD KAUL

"No idea larger than the palm of your hand."

It just might be crazy enough to work.

I was a little disappointed with the Tea Party Party's party itself, however. Only about 600 registrants showed up. That hardly constitutes a mass movement.

On the other hand, it cost quite a bit to get to Nashville and to pony up the registration fee, so maybe a lot of people who are going through hard times were there only in spirit.

In any case, you can look at the attendees as the shock troops of the movement, expected to go forth and proselytize their friends and neighbors until there's an army of converts out there, ready to go forth to do battle.

(I was also disappointed in the way the attendees looked. Unkookish, even drab. The few who chose to come in protest costume came in colonial dress — three-cornered hats, etc. — unaware, perhaps, that the original Tea Party protesters dressed as Indians or "Redskins," as they were inappropriately called. I want to see some loincloths and war-paint at their next meeting.)

Still, at first glance it's easy to dismiss the Tea Partiers as bumpkins with the political acuity of a box of rocks.

That's true at second glance also.

But give them a third glance and what you see are people who are, in the words of "Network" character Howard Beale, "mad as hell and not going to take it any more."

What are they mad about? Everything, more or less. They're

mad at liberals, conservatives, corporations, immigrants and the government. Especially the government.

They're mad at being taken for granted by arrogant politicians, abused by corporations and told what to do by people who know nothing about them — and probably don't care, either.

I don't happen to agree with much of what they say at meetings like the one in Nashville, but I certainly can see where they're coming from. What we should be asking ourselves is, what's wrong with the rest of us? Why aren't we mad?

Aren't we being taken for granted by those same politicians and bullied by those same corporations?

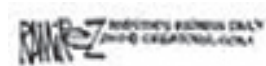
The Tea Party is a legitimate political movement. It has a distant precursor in the "Mugwump" rebellion of 1884, when reformist Republicans bolted the party to support Grover Cleveland, who disappointed them by being insufficiently reformist too.

That tends to be the fate of reformists. Their champions seldom live up to the expectations of purity thrust upon them. Governing is always messier than it sounds during the campaign. And that's with or without a teleprompter.

The best the Tea Partiers can expect from a (God forbid) President Sarah Palin is a better-looking, even dumber version of George W. Bush.

Washington doesn't give good hopey-changey.

Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.



NOTES FOR SARAH PALIN

www.800thebooks.com/cartoon

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I don't know if all of you are aware that there is another choice on the Republican ballot for Texas governor beside the two professional politicians most are familiar with.

Her name is Debra Medina and she is one of us. If you are for limited government, state sovereignty (not secession), gun rights and the protection of private property, I encourage to consider Mrs. Medina.

She is our best choice if you are for a Constitutional Texas.

SUSAN STEINBERG
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

February 8 we were in San Angelo. Gas prices ranged from \$2.26 to \$2.39 per gallon for unleaded.

Here in Big Spring, the prices ranged from \$2.58 to \$2.67 per gallon for unleaded.

Can anyone explain this huge difference?

PAULA HENRY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Spring is definitely in the air

this morning! Even though it's February and tomorrow the north wins will blow, my dogs and I just returned from a walk in the park. Part of our walk took us by Whipkey Drive and the tennis center. The park is a wonderful gift for our Big Spring families. Sadly, many who use the park or just drive through the park throw out litter.

In the past few years I have been a 'trash picker-upper.' I have picked up trash with Keep Big Spring Beautiful on its designated days. I have picked up trash with teens and picked up trash with friends. I have even picked up trash by myself, and I have witnessed other individuals doing the same thing.

Now, if we could get most of Big Spring picking up trash, we'd have an amazingly clean town.

Our city council is proposing the building of a \$4.2 million water park for Comanche Trail Park. How sad to think that we want to invite people into Big Spring without first cleaning up our trash. (I would never invite people into my home without first cleaning and straightening. That's just good manners.) Picking up trash doesn't re-

quire a committee meeting or the blessing of any organization. It's simple. Get some black trash bags (or better yet, you can recycle the plastic bags from your grocery shopping), grab your family or a friend and begin to pick up the litter you see.

Picking up litter is a great family activity that doesn't cost a thing. While you are with your family, you are talking and laughing and building a relationship with your kids that beats watching television or playing video games. There is an added benefit — exercise in the fresh air and sunshine.

Big Spring has received record rainfall since the beginning of January. This precipitation prepares our area for a beautiful spring of wildflowers, gardens and budding trees.

If we all do a small part in getting the litter under control, the view of our streets, roadways and park areas will not be hindered by unsightly litter. We'll be able to enjoy seeing a gorgeous West Texas spring like we haven't seen in years.

SUZANNE HANEY
BIG SPRING

Basketball’s easiest shot can also be its most vexing

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Clevin Hannah takes a breath and walks up to the line, straddling his feet squarely over the midpoint. The Wichita State senior spins the ball once, dribbles three times, spins it again, then gets a good grip before letting fly. Swish! Nearly every time.

If only it were that easy for everyone.

Cool and confident under pressure, Hannah is one of a handful of players around the nation who has mastered the art of the free throw, a shot that’s at once the easiest and most vexing in basketball.

“I hate to see guys miss free throws,” said Hannah, third in the nation at 92.5 percent through Monday. “As my coach always said, they’re free and you’ve to make ‘em to help your team win.”

Shooting a free throw seems so easy. The shooter stands at the line, no hand in his face, no one chasing from behind, just him and the basket. Heck, a guy named Fred Newman once hit 88 in row blindfolded.

It’s far more compli-

cated under the bright lights.

There’s fatigue, particularly in the closing minutes, that makes muscles weak and concentration poor. Some players have a hard time finding a rhythm, the stagnancy of standing at the line tougher than shooting in the flow of the game. It’s not easy shooting when opposing fans are waving and jumping up and down, either, not to mention the pressure of having all eyes on you, particularly with the game on the line.

“Shooting’s difficult. It’s more difficult than people realize,” said Bob Fisher, a shooting coach from Centralia, Kan. “Everybody makes the comment, ‘These guys should be able to make that shot. They’re just standing there and should be able to make that shot.’ Well, it’s not that easy.”

Just ask Texas.

The 15th-ranked Longhorns have been befuddled at the free-throw line all season, particularly over the past month, when they’ve lost five of eight in a precipitous drop from the top of the

polls.

Texas shot 10 of 27 from the line in a nine-point loss to Oklahoma, missed 12 in an overtime loss to Baylor and went 9 for 22 in a 71-62 loss to Kansas State. On the season, the Longhorns are shooting 61 percent, 323rd in the nation.

“They all know their problems and they all work on it in practice,” Texas coach Rick Barnes said. “The problem (is) when it gets to the game and it’s time to do what you’re supposed to do, they don’t trust whatever they’ve done up to that point. That, from my point of view, is what I think has to happen. They’ve got to trust what they’re doing.”

Mostly, it comes down to mechanics, being able to repeat the same motion every time.

Fisher has mastered that part of it.

The former high school coach and soil conservation technician has turned his analytical mind to the study of shooting free throws, filling his home with books, graphs, physiology manuals, medical studies, gadgets he created. He’s

approached free-throw shooting from every possible angle, so to speak, filling binders with information on everything from stance and arc to physics and anatomy.

Last month, Fisher earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records by making 50 free throws in a minute.

He did it by calculating the 48 factors that affect a shot, from the strongest position of his wrist based on the bucket-carrying angle of his elbow (about 7 degrees ulnar deviation) to the digit ratio of his index and ring fingers to determine which of the four release points — and corresponding hand position — fits best.

Yeah, he’s serious about free-throw shooting.

“It’s all mechanics,” said Fisher, who runs Fisher Sharp Shooters from his home on the Kansas plains. “The reason people struggle with free-throw shooting is because they’re trying to steer the ball into the basket. That wrist snap in the last .15 of a second, they’re deviating, trying to

steer it. That is not a repeatable motion.”

OK, it’s about repeating the same motion every time. Problem is, we’re human beings, not robots. Precisely repeating the same motion is impossible, even for the best shooters. There are just too many variables. One way to minimize deviations is to take the same approach to every free throw. Golfers have routines when they putt or hit a shot, and a similar tactic works for free-throw shooters, giving them a way to block out everything else going on around them.

Appalachian State’s Donald Sims likes to plant his right foot five boards from the nail in the middle of the line, spin the ball, dribble three times, then spread his fingers across the ball’s seams to get a comfortable grip before shooting. Sims is doing something right; he leads the nation at 95.5 percent.

“It goes back to the consistency aspect — you want to do the same thing every time you shoot one,” Sims said. “Doing the same rou-

tine every time helps me shoot the same way every time.”

Of course, nothing works better than confidence.

Miss a few shots and suddenly the hoop seems a little smaller, the ball a little tougher to grip. Memphis experienced the downward spiral of failing confidence in the 2008 national championship, missing one free throw after another to give Kansas a chance to win the title in overtime.

Good free-throw shooters go to the line knowing they’re going to make it, shrug it off and move on to the next in the rare occasions they do miss. That’s how it works for Portland State’s Dominic Waters, second in the nation at 92.6 percent.

“It’s having the confidence and knowing you’re going to do it is the main thing for me,” Waters said. “It’s not about the crowd or anything. I don’t really notice them at all. It’s just concentrating on the hoop and having the confidence of knowing it’s going in. It’s like a layup for me.”

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Looking for leaders in making: Applications due March 15

Special to the Herald

COLLEGE STATION — Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program is seeking applicants for its new class which will begin in June.

TALL is a two-year leadership development program managed by the Texas Agri-

Life Extension Service. Applications for the next class, Class XII, are due March 15. Application forms may be found online at <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

“Texas agriculture has a need for individuals who can lead our industry as it faces new and unique challenges.

These individuals will provide the leadership, insight and direction to ensure the viability for the future,” said Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, AgriLife Extension leadership program director.

Typical class members are 25-50 years old, he said, and active in the agriculture in-

dustry.

The program invests 455 hours of intensive training per person in seminars, speakers and domestic and international trips over two years, Mazurkiewicz added. Class XII member will travel to India.

The course is the equivalent

of 38 credit hours or a master’s degree in agriculture. The typical class size is about 25, and tuition is \$2,000.

Participants include traditional crop producers and ranchers, bankers and lawyers, as well as those who work in lumber and landscaping industries.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGENCY OPENS



Courtesy photo

Crystal Stone, assistant director of the Office of Dispute Resolution, cuts the ribbon at the facility’s symbolic opening with Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce officials and members. The ribbon cutting was held Wednesday.

Oil and Gas:

Producing a safer workplace

When working with heavy equipment and moving machinery in a job that requires intensive manual labor, you must have comprehensive safety plans to protect your workers.

The oil and gas industry covers several hundred thousand miles of pipelines that move across the United States and Canada — a production requiring a high number of jobs and major output ability. As of Jan. 15, there were 1,248

active rotary rigs in the United States, according to Baker Hughes, an oilfield services company. Active rig numbers and worker numbers fluctuate often due to constant change in industry demand.

Oil and gas workers have an occupational fatality rate eight times higher than the rate for all U.S. employees, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). High volumes of workers coupled with long hours, often 12 hours on and 12 hours off for two-week periods, test workers’ resilience.

Often, these long hours are extended to cover gaps in shift changes or no-shows, forcing workers to go beyond their regulated hours and increasing fatigue.

Fatigue, rushed work and lack of experience are often contributors to workplace accidents in oil and gas production and service. Below are tips to prevent the three most commonly reported accidents for oil and gas production and service workers, along with general safety tips for on- and off-site production.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving can be dangerous because it depends on your awareness and awareness of those sharing the road with you. Add extraneous circumstances, such as lack of sleep or a heavy load on a trailer, and the probability of an accident increases:

- Drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts, even if they are driving a short distance from the drill site to their accommodations.
- Drivers should check trailer loads before and throughout the trip to ensure that everything is secure and stable.
- Encourage workers to get enough rest before transporting pipes or other machinery.
- Ensure drivers receive proper breaks when they are working long hours so they stay mentally sharp while traveling.
- Promote situational awareness. Drivers should be aware of road conditions, length of travel and weather forecasts.
- Educate drivers on foods that boost energy, including bananas and nuts.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Those who work in the oil and gas industry are surrounded by hazardous materials, some that are highly flammable and others that are silent threats:

- For on-shore sites, educate local fire departments on proper procedures for extinguishing oil and gas fires.
- For off-shore sites, incorporate a misting system, which continuously cools machines.
- Routinely review fire safety procedures with workers to refresh and re-educate employees.
- Monitor all production and drilling systems for leaks.
- Monitor Hydrogen Sulfide, or sour gas, levels as it is odorless, colorless and extremely toxic, even at low levels.
- Educate workers on the warning signs of overexposure to hazardous gases.
- Ensure workers receive proper breaks when they work long hours so they stay mentally sharp.
- Promote situational awareness. If workers see components conducive to a fire, they may be able to prevent it.

CONTACT WITH OBJECTS AND EQUIPMENT

To someone unfamiliar with oil and gas equipment, the machinery can be intimidating. To most workers in the industry,

however, these machines and tools are part of their daily routine and non-threatening. But no one should ever take the power of these machines for granted:

- Enforce proper attire on-site. Gloves, work boots, safety goggles and hard hats should be worn when working with machinery.
- Make sure workers do not wear loose clothing that could become tangled in moving parts.
- Adhere to Lockout/Tagout practices and procedures that protect workers from unexpected energization or startup of machinery and equipment.
- Keep machinery updated with the latest safeguards.
- Replace older equipment as soon as possible to avoid rusted and broken parts.
- When using tools, make sure workers communicate with their teams so everyone is aware of increased hazards.
- Ensure employees receive proper breaks when they work long hours so they stay mentally sharp.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS:

- Monitor weather conditions for your site.
- Practice and routinely review action plans for fires and extreme weather conditions.
- Keep a kit on hand that includes extra sunscreen, water, hardhats, and damp washcloths to help workers stay cool and hydrated during extreme heat.
- Encourage those on the front lines to report health, safety or environmental problems. They may see it before you do.

In addition to these tips, be aware of new hires’ education of safety practices.

An Occupational Employment Statistics study from 2003 to 2007 found that workers who were employed for less than one year made up one-fourth of oil and gas production fatalities. Make sure new workers understand all standard safety practices and procedures.

Much of this responsibility falls on supervisors. Yes, everyone

See **SAFETY**, Page 5C

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wells Fargo Advisers Midland office.

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



The old song, “What a Difference a Day Makes, 24 little hours” describes today’s stock market mood to a tee — that is if we change the “hours” to three weeks. As the song states, “There’s a rainbow before me, skies above can’t be stormy,” and that was the general mood of the stock market just three weeks ago. Today, confusion and concern are way up and bullishness is down.

Of course, the cause of this mood flip-flop is the stiff market correction.

Three weeks ago, the stock market made new highs. Today many are concerned the big bull run from the March 9, 2009, lows was a mistake.

But remember, our economy does not change that much in a short period. What changes quickly is the mood of investors when stocks drop sharply. The recent correction is normal. Stocks cannot go straight up without pullbacks.

Several weeks ago, we advised investors not to get too concerned about a possible normal correction. We hope the advice worked.

Aside from having to deal with a correction, investors also were hit with mixed economic news. Economic reports showed that manufacturing is expanding more broadly but the service sector expanded only marginally. Consumer spending remains modest.

Then the big news came Feb. 5, January non-farm payrolls declined 20,000 while most were looking for a modest increase. The unemployment rate declined to 9.7 percent from 10 percent in December, better than expectations. However, the drop was largely due to the fact that many discouraged, unemployed workers have probably stopped looking for work and are thus no longer counted as unemployed.

Yes, a mixed employment report, but the continued increase in temporary hiring supports our opinion that the labor market will improve by spring.

OK, what has really changed the past two weeks? The big change is that most stock prices are down and fear is up — those are good things.

What hasn’t changed is that the economy continues to slowly recover and will continue to do so unless our politicians on both sides of the aisle do some incredibly dumb things — just moderately dumb things the economy can survive.

Yes, we continue to have great confidence in the resilience of our economy and the “can do” attitude of most Americans. No one knows how much lower this market will drop or how long it will take before the bull is restarted.

What we do know is that currently, alternative assets like bonds are not offering much competition for potential stock purchases. We do know that the time to do some select buying is when it is uncomfortable to buy and that is what we advise in additional pullbacks.

We believe there “is a rainbow before me.”

Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced Feb. 9, 2010, by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring
David Lee Powell Jr., 2511 Broad-way, Big Spring
Nina Powell, Highway 103 East, Lufkin
Ruth Heinen Privett, 5822 Oak, Big Spring
Rickie Dan Pruiett, 979 FM 977, Lamesa
Karla Quimby, 1005 W. Debaca, Hobbs, N.M.
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Park-way, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Orange Street, Bacliff
David C. Redmon, 807 Willia, Big Spring
Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City
Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 High-way 81, Bowie
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Jose L. Riojas, 4309 Lewis, Chris-toval
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
Mercie Robles, 1404 N. First St., Lamesa
Mandi E. Cevalos Rodriguez, 406 North Scurry, Big Spring
Magaly Romero, 1900 MLK Blvd. Apt. 603, Big Spring
Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Kenneth Wayne Ross, 12101 Dessau Rd., Big Spring
Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper
Jennifer Roth, 2630 Dow, Big Spring
Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Ten-nessee, Midland
Blanca L. Saenz, 1202 N. Sam Hous-ton Ave., Odessa
Rudy Andrew Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring
Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lancaster, Big Spring
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring
Stephanie Serrato, 1306 Wright, Big Spring
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook

Road, Big Spring
Wally Shifflett, 6901 Tumbleweed, Odessa
Korina Sirmon, 608 W. 15th St., Big Spring
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City
Cory Smith, 2109 E. Ninth St. Apt. 8, Odessa
Anthony Solis, 1303 Elm St., Big Spring
Rosa Soto, 407 E. Vealmoor, Coahoma
Janie Spurgeion, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Allen Stanford, 774 E. Eighth, Colorado City
Mickey Jermain Starnes, 402 Holly Oak Dr., Tyler
Karen Stearns, 613 Glenn Apt. 133, San Angelo
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX
Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson Dr. Apt. 5, Big Spring
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Debra Ann Tatum, 1105 E. Estes, Midland
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Mose-ley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Curtis Taylor, USS Tarawa LHA-131, California
Ashley Lauren Teagarden, 6002 103rd St., Big Spring
Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview
MR Test, 222 W. 10th St., Big Spring
Paula Valdez, 2220 S. First, Lamesa
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
Elizabeth Vela, 1012 N. 12th St., Lamesa
Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Rene O. Villa, 106 Circle Dr., Big Spring
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Amy Wagner, PO Box 784, Blanco
Michael Wagner, P.O. Box 428, Denver City
Irshaad A. Walee, 1306 S. Detroit, Lamesa
James M. Ward, P.O. Box 279, Colorado City
Jim Bob White, 412 Davis Rd., Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 Run-nels, Big Spring
Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring
Georgianna Williams, 907 E. I-20 Apt. 24, Big Spring
Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell St., Sweetwater
Brandi Woodard, 642 Westview Dr., Abilene
Richard M. Wren, 3303 91st Street, Lubbock
Chad Matthew Wright, 211 E. Robin-son, Big Spring
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth
Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 211 Chan-ning St., Big Spring
Dennis Anthony Zaragoza, 4534 Sinclair, Big Spring
Shuang Cheng Zhang, 1201 Gregg St., Big Spring

District Court Filings:
Susan Louise Alanis vs. Mario Meza Alanis, divorce.
In Re Desiree N. Ortega, family.
Francisco Morales vs. John Ken-nmnr, injury or damages.
In Re Andrew Allen Lopez, name change.
The State of Texas vs. Israel Vela, seizure.
Larry Steen vs. Kelley Steen, divorce.
In Re Navrose Aulakh, name change.
In Re Jose Gonzales-Martinez, family.
Thomas Victor Cobos vs. Erica Ann Cobos, divorce.
Lori Vashon Speck vs. Michael Jay Speck, divorce.
Concerned Citizens Council vs. the

city of Big Spring, civil.

Marriage Licenses:
Charles R. Bush Jr., 37, and Ruolea-na P. Ahern, 33, both of Big Spring.
Matthew Ryan Renner, 23, of Rowl-ette, and Josephine Kipola Wachter, 21, of Jefferson.
General Bryant, 47, and Monica Mo-nique Taylor, 42, both of Big Spring.
Jose Jesus Burciaga, 26, and Jo Lavonne Ledesma, 20, both of Big Spring.
John Andrew Tschapp, 71, and Maria DelRefugio Alvarez, 74, both of El Paso.

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Keith Ellis
Grantee: Angela Hamilton
Property: The W/56 feet of Lots 1-2 and N/5 of Lot 3, Block 8, Parker Addition
Date: Feb. 11, 2010

Grantor: Elizabeth Treece and Wil-liam Treece
Grantee: Rocky Salazar Jr.
Property: Lot 21, Block 11, Monticello Addition
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Lawrence F. Travis
Grantee: Lawrence F. Travis and Emma Travis Revocable Trust
Property: Section 23, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Lawrence F. Travis
Grantee: Lawrence F. Travis and Emma Travis Revocable Trust
Property: Section 14, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Lawrence F. Travis
Grantee: Lawrence F. Travis and Emma Travis Revocable Trust
Property: Section 39, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Lawrence F. Travis
Grantee: Lawrence F. Travis and Emma Travis Revocable Trust
Property: Section 13, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Dorothy Adkisson
Grantee: Michael M. Hardwick
Property: A tract out of Section 32, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Tyler A. Baxter and Rae Baxter
Grantee: Prudential Relocation Inc.
Property: Lot 9, Block 17, College park Estates No. 2
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Tommy Williams
Grantee: William H. Bokelman and Drew G. Bavin
Property: A tract out of Section 46, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 17, 2010

Grantor: Kenneth Ray Lane
Grantee: Dan Patterson
Property: Lot 12, Block 10, Monticello Addition
Date: Feb. 17, 2010

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Marvin E. Patterson
Grantee: Robert Dunn and Connie Dunn
Property: A 1.5-acre tract out of Section 44, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: Feb. 12, 2010

Grantor: Albert Eugene Kelley
Grantee: Daniel Roberts and Judy Roberts
Property: The N/75 feet of the S/2 of Block B, Boydston Addition; and Lot 10, Block 56, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Feb. 17, 2010

Safety

Continued from Page 4C

in the field should be trained extensively in work- place safety and know what do to if an accident

NRCS accepting applications for Wetlands Reserve Program

changes the process for determining the ease- ment value, directing NRCS to pay the lowest of:

- the fair market value of the land according to the Uniform Standards of Professional Apprais- al Practices or an area- wide market analysis;
- the geographic area rate cap as determined by the Secretary of Ag- riculture; or

the landowner's offer.

WRP offers three en- rollment options:

- Restoration Cost- Share Agreement. This is an agreement for a minimum of 10 years in duration to reestablish degraded or lost wet- land habitat. NRCS pays 75 percent of the cost of the restoration activity. This does not place an easement on the prop-

erty. The landowner provides the restoration site without reimburse- ment.

- 30-Year Easement. This is a conservation easement lasting 30 years. Easement pay- ments are 75 percent of what would be paid for a permanent ease- ment. NRCS also pays 75 percent of restoration costs.
- Permanent Ease-

ment. This is a conser- vation easement in per- petuity. NRCS pays for the easement, as well as 100 percent of the costs of restoring the wet- land.

Wetlands provide hab- itat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce

flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scien- tific, and limited recre- ational activities.

For more informa- tion about WRP, contact your local NRCS office to determine if your land is eligible or visit the NRCS Texas Web site at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/ programs/wrp](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp).

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War vet rescues people from IRS office

AUSTIN (AP) — Robin De Haven was driving the company truck to a job when he saw something that didn't look right — a small plane, flying extremely low over a heavily congested area of Austin.

The 28-year-old Iraq war veteran recalled Friday how he then saw black smoke billowing from the glass building and rushed to the scene. There, where the plane had exploded into flames in a suicide attack fueled by anti-government hatred, De Haven found five people trapped on the second floor of the burning office housing Internal Revenue Service employees. "I wanted to go help," said De Haven, who works for a glass company.

"I thought, 'I'm going to go ahead and do it.' I thought my boss would understand," he added.

He quickly hurled his 17-foot ladder onto the building, climbed up and went inside to help the workers escape.

Authorities have credited stories of heroism like De Haven's for keeping the death toll so low in Thursday's crash. The pilot, Andrew Joseph Stack III, and one other person were killed when the software engineer fueled with rage against the IRS slammed his plane Thursday morning into the hulking Echelon 1 building.

"When you look at the building, it's hard to say we were lucky, but we were," said Ernie Rodriguez of the Austin/Travis County EMS. He credited the actions of "many heroic" people who were at the scene.

Stack, 53, apparently targeted the lower floors of the office building, where nearly 200 IRS employees worked. Thirteen people were injured and one remained hospitalized at an Army burn unit in San Antonio.

Authorities have not identified the other person killed. But in a message to employees Friday, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said the agency believes an IRS worker was killed, though he cautioned it hadn't been officially confirmed.

"It has left many of them and their families anguished and traumatized and seeking answers as to why anyone would commit such a wanton act of violence and why anyone would take such cruel action against innocent men and women," Shulman said.

In a ranting manifesto posted on a Web site, Stack lashed out at the government — especially its tax code — claiming they robbed him of his savings and derailed his career. In the note, Stack says he realizes "violence not only is the answer, it is the only answer."

U.S. law enforcement officials were trying to determine if Stack put anything in the plane to worsen the damage. One law enforcement official also said they were looking into whether a marital dispute precipitated the attack. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Six miles away from the charred office building Friday, arson crews inspected Stack's home — which he apparently set on fire before taking off Thursday from an airport 30 miles north.

Across the street, a representative for his wife, Sheryl Stack, told reporters that she thanked her friends and family for their kindness.

"Words cannot adequately express my sorrow or the sympathy I feel for everyone affected by this unimaginable tragedy," the statement read, adding there would be no further comment.

The grandmother of Sheryl Stack's adolescent daughter said the family "had nothing" after the fire.

"I was with her all day yesterday. How would you expect she is doing? She's totally distraught," Jacquelyn "Jackie" Mann said as she was rushing out the door Friday to bring the family clothes.

In a suburb of Los Angeles, the husband of Joseph Stack's ex-wife said she also was distraught and unwilling to answer questions.

Wiggs Mendoza said Ginger Stack only occasionally mentioned her former husband — who she divorced in 1999 after 18 years of marriage — but said he was a kind man who had deep affection for the children of her daughter from another marriage.

Crash exposes gaps in U.S. air security

GEORGETOWN (AP) — After 9/11, cockpit doors were sealed, air marshals were added and airport searches became more aggressive, all to make sure an airliner could never again be used as a weapon. Yet little has been done to guard against attacks with smaller planes.

That point was driven home with chilling force on Thursday when a Texas man with a grudge against the IRS crashed his single-engine plane into an office building in a fiery suicide attack. One person inside the building was also killed.

"It's a big gap," said R. William Johnstone, an aviation security consultant and former staff member of the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks. "It wouldn't take much, even a minor incident involving two simultaneously attacking planes, to inflict enough damage to set off alarm bells and do some serious harm to the economy and national psyche."

The suburban Georgetown Municipal Airport that pilot Joe Stack entered hours before his airborne attack in nearby Austin had the casual atmosphere of a sleepy parking garage. Pilots were not subject to baggage checks, metal detector scans or pat-downs. And they are usually not required to file flight plans.

"How are they going to stop it? This guy had a hangar, and he had access to the airport," said Beth Ann Jenkins, president of Pilot's Choice, a flight school near where Stack kept his Piper.

Travis McLain, manager of the airport, said: "I don't know of a rule or regulation or safety precaution that could have prevented what happened yesterday."

The easy access and lack of security are the result of years of debate — and stalemate — over how much of a threat small aircraft pose as terror weapons and how they could be regulated without stifling commerce and pilot freedom.

While the airlines quickly accepted tougher security after Sept. 11, the general aviation industry, which includes everything from privately owned propeller-driven planes to large corporate jets, have aggressively fought new measures.

The proposed rules would require that operators of medium and large general-aviation aircraft demonstrate that flight crews have undergone a criminal background check.

They would also be required to verify passengers are not on the no-fly lists already used by large airlines.

Private pilots fly approximately 200,000 small and medium-size planes in the U.S., using 19,000 airports, most of them small.

The planes' owners insist the aircraft have nothing in common with airliners but the sky.

"I don't see a gaping security hole here," said Tom Walsh, an aviation security consultant. "In terms of aviation security, there are much bigger fish to fry than worrying about small aircraft."

He said most would-be terrorists would draw the same conclusion — that tiny aircraft don't pack a big enough punch.

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Texas Railroad Commissioner

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Keeping Texas Energy Strong

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in the Republican Primary!**

**Early Voting: February 16th - 26th
Election day: March 2nd, 2010**

MEET Commissioner Victor Carrillo

EDUCATION

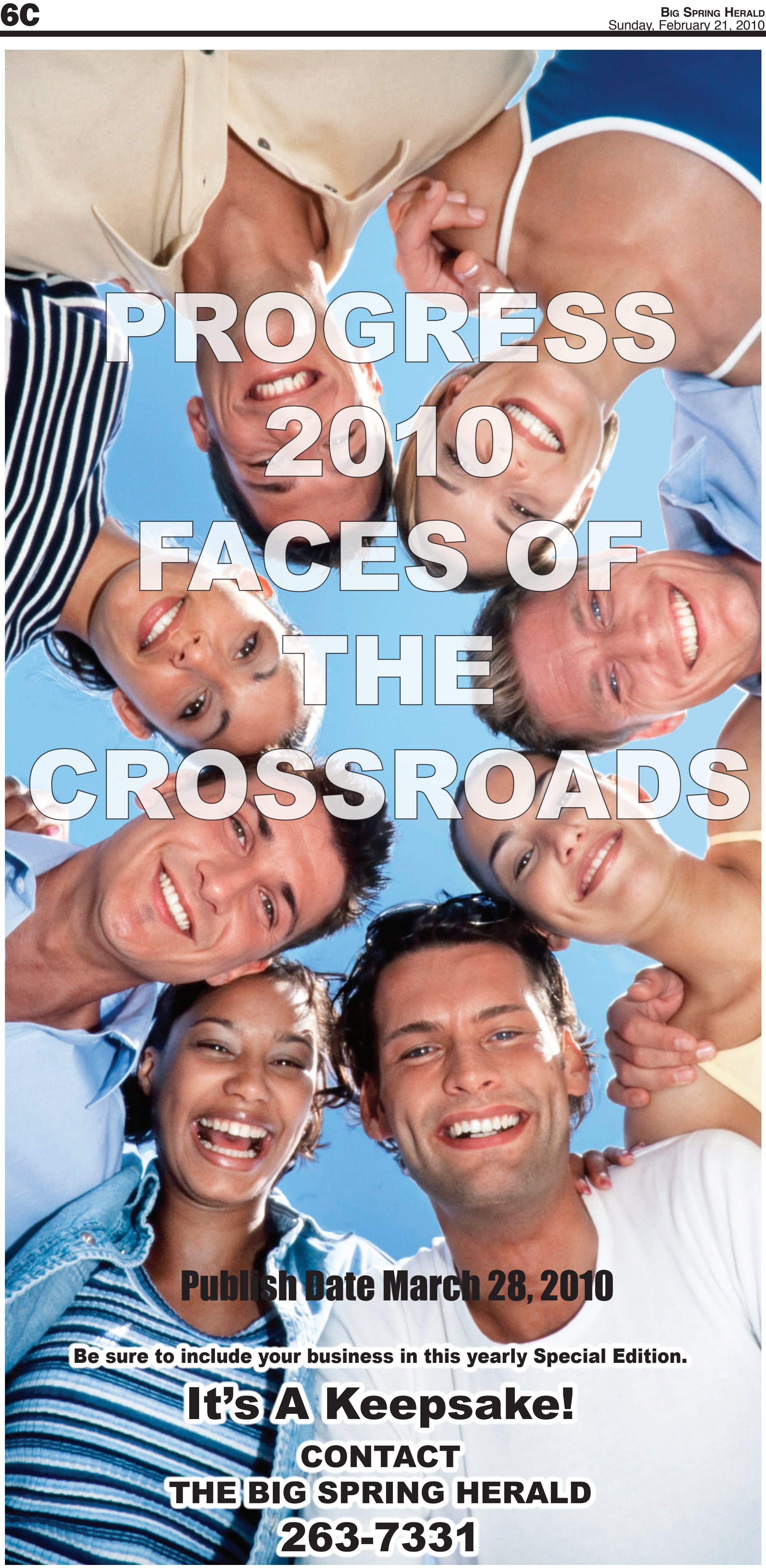
- University of Houston Law School, J.D.
- Baylor University, M.S. - Geology
- Hardin-Simmons University, B.S. - Geology

PERSONAL

- Married to wife, Joy, for over 25 years
- Three daughters: Laura, Christina, & Grace
- Family attends Redeemer Presbyterian Church
- Pro-life, pro-liberty, homeschooling family

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prior work as petroleum geophysicist, college professor, attorney and judge
- Texas licensed geoscientist and attorney
- Elected as Abilene City Councilman
- Elected Republican County Judge
- Chairman, Texas Energy Planning Council
- Member, Texas Bioenergy Policy Council
- Chairman, Outer Continental Shelf advisory board to U.S. Secretary of the Interior
- Former Vice Chairman, Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission
- Gas Committee, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- Advisory Board, *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas & Energy Law*, Univ. of Texas Law School
- Named to 100 Most Influential Hispanics in Nation by *Hispanic Business Magazine*



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263-7331**

"It's very important to remember you can vote in either the Republican primary or the Democratic primary, but you can not vote in both," she added. "The primaries act as a nominating process to decide who will be on the ballot in the November

The meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact the county judge's office at 264-2202.

With more than a dozen local residents vying for their party's nomination going into the November election, area voters will have plenty of decisions to make during the

The Precinct 4 seat on the commissioners court drew fewer competitors this year, as Democratic

Also facing off in the Republican primary are

Both Neugebauer and Heflin are seeking reelection. Heflin, who is unopposed on the Democratic ticket, will have to face either Jim Landtroop or David Andrews — both of whom are running on the Republican ticket.

Bloom said anyone with questions regarding the election can contact her office at 264-2273 for more information.

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

On Behalf of the
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West Texas Centers for MHMR
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Western Container
Tim Yeats

Auction Items Donated by:

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Don Knight – BSHS Graduate of 1978

Moss Creek Ranch / Bob & Jessica Price
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Capital Flags – State Rep. Joe Heflin

Auctioneer & “Helpers”

State Representative Joe Heflin

Mark Barr
Kurt Coor
Jan Foresyth

Jan Hansen
Richard Steel

Color Guard

Big Spring Police Department

Entertainment:

Donny Green

MC

Jay Hendricks/CBS 7

National Anthem

Jonathan Smith – Howard College Diplomat

A Special Thanks to:

Classic Klealers; Howard College Diplomats and Student Government Association;
Great Western Dining, SWCID Diplomats;
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Staff, Stan, Calvin, Tommy & Clinton.

Banquet Committee:

Verna Davis, Jan Foresyth, Jan Hansen, Gloria McDonald, Debbie Wegman,
Debbie ValVerde, Nancy Davenport, Vicki Stewart

And to everyone that attended, Thank you for your continued support of the Chamber, Big Spring and Howard County.

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1901 North Highway 87
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EYE ASSOCIATES Inc. is accepting applications for contact lens technician. No experience necessary. Apply at 2311 Scurry Street. No phone calls please.

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West Texas Centers for MHMR

MR Support Service Tech: Provides services to individuals with mental retardation in the community and person's home. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 annually) Depending on experience. Benefits.

MR Part time Direct Care Staff: Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED. Salary \$8.20hr. hours vary.

MR Admissions Coordinator: Responsible for admission and related activities for individuals with mental retardation. Includes supervision of staff that performs intake, liaison, and eligibility activities. Will oversee and/or complete enrollments into General Revenue services, TxHmL, HCES, ICF-MR, and State Supported Living Centers. Also performs/oversees OBRAA, IHFS, and Interest List Management activities. Work involves independent judgment, good interpersonal skill, good computer skills, and travel within the 23 county service area and state. May be required to use personal vehicle to perform job duties. Bachelor's Degree with major specialization in social, behavioral or human services or related fields; plus two years of experience in the DADS service delivery system or High School Diploma or GED; plus six years of work experience in social behavioral or social or related fields; with at least two years in the DADS service delivery system. Salary \$17.36 hr (\$1388.77 bi weekly \$36,108 annually).

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769.EOE

210922

News in brief

Mom sentenced to life in slayings of her babies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The 22-year-old mother of two babies whose bodies were found stuffed under a San Antonio house in 2007 has been sentenced to life in prison without parole.

State District Judge Mary Roman sentenced Valerie Lopez in San Antonio on Friday.

The sentence was part of a plea deal after Lopez agreed to help prosecutors in the case of her ex-boyfriend, 31-year-old Jerry Salazar.

The couple shared the home where the bodies of 4-month-old Sebastian and 14-month-old Sariyah were found wrapped in plastic after they moved out.

Salazar reached a separate plea agreement in December and was received a life sentence.

2 SWAT members recovering after shooting

FORT WORTH (AP) — Two members of Fort Worth’s special-tactics team have been released from the hospital after they were shot during a raid.

Police say the SWAT team was called to a house of suspected drug dealers Thursday night, and the two officers were shot after entering the garage.

One was shot in the hand, and the other in the leg.

Three men in the house were arrested and face multiple charges, including attempted capital murder and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Authorities say police seized semiautomatic pistols and assault rifles, crack and powder cocaine, marijuana, and \$8,500 in cash.

Police say one suspect was shot by another person in the house and was listed Friday in good condition in a Fort Worth hospital.

Six Flags wins more time for reorganization plan

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Theme park operator Six Flags Inc. will have more time to gain support for its bankruptcy reorganization.

A Delaware judge on Friday extended the company’s exclusive right to reorganize until April 5. If the plan isn’t approved following a trial next month, however, a group of noteholders could submit an alternative.

Under Six Flags’ plan, holders of senior secured notes issued by Six Flags Operations Inc., a subsidiary, would receive about 93 percent of the equity in the reorganized company.

Holders of junior notes issued by Six Flags Inc. would receive only about 5 percent of new equity under the company’s plan.

They claim to have lined up \$1.8 billion in financing for an alternative plan that would increase the recovery for creditors.

Six Flags operates three attractions in Texas: Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Arlington and Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio.

Remains ID’d of those of teen missing since ‘92

SAN ANGELO (AP) — For nearly two decades, Monica Joy Martinez’s family did not know where her ex-boyfriend and another man dumped her body. Remains found in November 2008 at a reservoir have now been identified as those of Martinez, who was missing since 1992.

Law officers and court officials announced Thursday that DNA testing led to the positive identification of remains discovered by deer hunters at Twin Buttes Reservoir.

Her family did not attend the briefing.

Details on how Martinez died were not released by law officers.

“I think it’s satisfying we can bring closure to the family,” said district attorney investigator Diane Wilson.

The 18-year-old Martinez was reported missing April 1, 1992.

Police said her disappearance was declared a homicide.

In 1997, her ex-boyfriend, Robert Villescaz, and Timothy James Rodriguez pleaded guilty to murder, even though no body was recovered.

Villescaz was sentenced to 40 years.

Rodriguez received a 75-year prison term.

Testing done at the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification identified the victim as Martinez.

Roots run deep in the center of Texas

CENTER CITY (AP) — About 140 years ago, surveyors declared a giant live oak tree here the geographic center of Texas. Excited residents then changed the community name from Hughes Store to Center City.

And when the state announced it was carving a new county out of this no man’s land between Gatesville and Brown wood these same settlers laid out 50 acres with streets and lots and a block for a county courthouse. Shouldn’t the community sitting at the heart of Texas be the seat of newly formed Mills County?

Well, no.

The state chose Goldthwaite, 10 miles west, because it sits on a main railroad line. Center City has been fighting for survival since.

The post office closed in the 1920s, the public school in 1938. The state highway department wanted to bulldoze the tree for a highway project in the 1930s. Locals objected, so engineers routed State Road 7 (now U.S. 84) around the tree. But they fenced it in with a short concrete wall. And the early surveyors must have read their instruments wrong. They changed their mind, said the center of Texas is about 40 miles west in McCulloch County.

About 10 or 20 years ago — nobody can remember exactly when — lightning struck the old oak. The tree is now a 15-foot wooden torso. Like Venus de Milo, no arms.

Old roots run deep

Center City’s population has dwindled from about 100 in the late 1800s to a handful today. Keeper of the flame is a father and son team — Darrel and Darrel Wayne Head.

They talked on a recent rainy afternoon inside their business, the only one left, called Head’s Hardware, a straight shot 90 miles west of Temple on U.S. 84.

Darrel Head, 83, still pulls a

32-foot flatbed trailer with his one-ton Ford pickup, delivering steel fence posts, barbed wire and other ranch products across central Texas and beyond. He chews Beech-Nut because he had to give up smoking 20 years ago. His spittoon — a 30-gallon garbage can.

Darrel displays the Texaco red star on his gray work shirt. Keys jingle from his hip. Showing the live oak, rain seeped into his hearing aid, and with steady showers pounding on the steel roof, we had to stand close to carry on a conversation. Still, this octogenarian can climb a chair and grab a shop

manual from a top shelf like a 30-year-old.

One recent year, Head Hardware turned about \$3 million in revenue. It once shipped 57 miles of fence materials to a West Texas ranch.

Head’s family roots in the community grow as deep as the gnarled oak tree one block away. His great-grandfather, J.B. Head, was the first judge in the county. Son Darrel Wayne says he will carry on the family business, but his four children have moved away.

“We’re the only ones now. Used to be another store, but it closed up.”



JUSTICE REBECCA SIMMONS
Upholding the law, on and off the bench.

- ▶ Baylor University School of Law
- ▶ Briefing Attorney, Texas Supreme Court
- ▶ 20 years in private practice specializing in complex litigation
- ▶ Republican District Judge, Bexar County
- ▶ Republican Justice, 4th Court of Appeals
- ▶ Adjunct professor, St. Mary’s School of Law, ‘94-2010
- ▶ Recipient, State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation

JUSTICE REBECCA SIMMONS
Respect for the law.

- ▶ Raised in Mexia, Texas where her father served as Republican County Chairman for over fifteen years
- ▶ Fifth generation Texan; third generation attorney
- ▶ Religious education teacher, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
- ▶ Married to Richard Clemons, M.D. with 3 children

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SIMMONS
REPUBLICAN *for* TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 3

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Experience

Justice Rebecca Simmons is the only Republican candidate with experience on three courts - having served as a district court judge, appellate court justice and specially commissioned Texas Supreme Court Justice. She needs no on-the-job training.

Efficiency

Justice Rebecca Simmons authored over 100 opinions in 2009 — more than any other candidate in this race. Justice Rebecca Simmons’ current court has no backlog. The Texas Supreme Court does. She has the knowledge and experience to work with the other Justices to fix this problem and ensure that justice is not delayed.

Learn more at
www.simmonsforjustice.com

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FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. \$500.00 Weekly. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

HIRING PART time church secretary, hours 8:30am to Noon Monday through Friday. Apply in person at 201 South Avenue in Coahoma. Phone (432)394-4348.

LEARNING TREE Academy now hiring friendly energetic Pre-school Teacher with High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience preferred, but will train right person. Must pas background and drug test. Apply in person.

LOCAL PRODUCT Chemical Company seeks motivated employee: Delivery Treater Service Tech. Insurance, 401K, dental & optical available. Send resume to: Box 909, Big Spring, 79721

MATURE LADY needed for part time overnight position. No phone calls please, apply in person to Comanche Flats at 1315 S Baylor.

OILFIELD TRUCKING Company has opening for experienced safety man in Big Spring. Call Danny (432)264-1579.

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now hiring a Charge Nurse. Competitive Pay, Benefits, Health Insurance Bonus, Retirement. Great family working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

PART TIME position wanted for split shift. Must be willing to work weekends. No phone calls. Apply in person to Comanche Flats at 1315 S Baylor.

WANTED PART time clerk. Qualification: Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must type at least 40 WPM. Must know Microsoft Word/Excel. At least 1 year experience. No criminal background. If interested apply at the Howard County Juvenile Probation Office at 315 Main Suite C.

Help Wanted

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area.

Operations Maintenance Technician- Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells. Entry to intermediate level position. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwld.org.

PRODUCTION PLANNER- duties to include issuing purchase proposals and reconciling inventory levels. Prefer ERP experience and power transmission experience a plus. \$16.00 hr. Job is located in Big Spring, Call Kelly Services (432)689-9801.

PROPERTY CLAIMS Inspector Wanted. Supplemental Income. Local Claims. Need digital camera, ladder, & internet. Email employment@compass-claims.com for more info.

PT BREAKFAST attendant, excellent customer service, detail oriented, able to handle inventory list, ability to clean a must! 5:45am-10am, 6 days, apply in person at Super 8, 2900 East I-20.

SPECIMEN COLLECTOR needed in Big Spring area. Must have good driving record. Will train. Salary DOE. Please call 432-570-6160.

SUBSTITUTE CAREGIVERS for Christian preschool. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd. Must be able to pass a criminal history background check.

TEXAS NURSE Connection, Ltd. RN' LVN'S CNA's NEEDED FOR ALL SHIFTS (325)670-0090 Texasnurseconnection.com

WANTED EXPERIENCED wench truck, pump truck and vacuum truck drivers. Experience necessary, previous jobs will be contacted. Apply at 1300 Hwy 350. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted

TravelCenters of America, Truck service has immediate openings for skilled truck technicians, and lube technicians. Excellent pay, benefits, and, ongoing training.

Truck Technicians experience in hvac, electrical, drivability and own tools required. **Lube/tire Technicians** experience preferred but will train the right candidate.

For both positions, a valid drivers license, And high school diploma, GED, or ASE Certification required.

Apply in person, at 704 west I-20 truck service shop, or fax resume to: 432-267-4262.

WAIT STAFF needed for day and evening shift. Preferably experienced, but will train. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

WANTED----- PULLING Unit operator with crew. Apply at 1300 Hwy 350. No Phone Calls Please.

Items for Sale

APEX WORKSHOP/ Storage Shed, Like New, Too Much to list. \$2375 OBO. Big Spring Area. Aaron 817-694-3695.

DOUBLE OR full size plush top mattress set, NEW!!! never used, w/warranty. \$130. Twin size mattress set, \$100. Metal bed frame, adjustable \$45. 806-549-3110.....

FIREWOOD. SEASONED OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818, 512-913-8297 or 325-650-4544.

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Miscellaneous

KING SIZE solid wood bedroom suite, includes bed, dresser, mirror, and nightstand, brand new, \$800. 806-549-3110.....

Two toned sectional, great color, brand new with original tags. List \$2980, sacrifice \$890. Must sell quickly, 3 pc coffee WOOD coffee table set \$125. 806-438-0081.....

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to find work before you get the job. For free information about avoiding employment service scams, write the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 800-876-7060.

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25 "The Boy Orator of the Platte"
26 Check
27 Make a formal record of
29 Chicken ____
30 Lodges
31 Common quintet
33 Follower of "yes" or "no"
34 Undercover agent?
38 Iroquois Confederacy member
39 Brand name from the Russian for "capital"
40 Five-star
41 '70s Peace Prize decliner
42 Seat of County Clare
46 Went up
47 Wrench
49 "When We ____" (Janet Jackson tune)
50 Switch sides
51 1980 Summer Olympics mascot

DOWN
1 Extreme scarcity
2 Group founded by Bill W.'s wife
3 Help a neighbor, perhaps
4 Euro predecessor
5 Cell-phone stat
6 Big name in canine care
7 Fla-Vor-Ice competitor

53 Admit
54 Slicker
56 Ski-patrol transporter
58 Scrolled reading material
59 Talk-radio format
60 Delegate
61 Least cool

8 Chilling comment
9 Space on a liner
10 Its flag has a khanjar dagger
11 Five cu. ft. of sugar
12 Steak source
13 The father on TV's *Life With Father*
14 Basement layout, at times
21 Strain
24 Gain
26 Kissinger in *Nixon*
28 Like some winds
30 Sort (through)
32 -ess relative
33 Subject of the 2009 documentary *You Don't Know Jack*

34 Checked out, in a way
35 Subject to local rules
36 Spills
37 Instrument near a drum
41 Former frequent flier
43 Headlock accompanier, often
44 Bill Bryson and Buffalo Bill
45 Frost form
47 Clipped
48 Dahlia, for one
51 Member of the amaranth family
52 Hold together
55 Shiba ____ (Japanese dog)
57 Les, in Livorno

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2/20/10

News in brief

Sunni party drops out of Iraqi elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Sunni wing of Iraq’s leading nonsectarian political coalition said Saturday it will drop out of next month’s election as a result of alleged Iranian influence on a Shiite-led vetting panel that blacklisted hundreds of candidates.

The announcement raises the likelihood that the legitimacy of the March 7 parliamentary vote will be called into question. U.S. and United Nations diplomats have expressed fears that a disputed result could also open the door to a new round of violence and delay plans for American troops to leave Iraq.

Further raising the stakes, the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue called on other parties to join it in withdrawing from the vote. It stopped short, however, of advocating a boycott by Sunni voters — a strategy blamed for depriving Sunnis of a political voice in the past.

In a statement explaining the step, spokesman Haidar al-Mullah said the party decided to pull out of the vote after U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and Army Gen. Ray Odierno, the top American military commander in Iraq, each described the Shiite leaders of a candidate-vetting panel as having ties to Iran.

He described the panel’s work as an Iranian-influenced process and said, “The Iraqi Front for National Dialogue cannot continue in a political process run by a foreign agenda.”

The vetting panel is led by Shiite politicians Ali al-Lami and Ahmed Chalabi. It banned more than 440 candidates whom it described as loyalists to Saddam Hussein’s outlawed Baath party.

Obama says bipartisan meeting will test lawmakers’ ability to solve more than just health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Saturday the health care meeting he’s holding next week with Democratic and Republican lawmakers will test their ability to solve not just this problem, but other problems, too.

Republicans said lawmakers must scrap current proposals and start over, lest the meeting turn into a charade.

“After debating this issue exhaustively for a year, let’s move forward together,” Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address. “Next week is our chance to finally reform our health insurance system so it works for families and small businesses. It’s our chance to finally give Americans

the peace of mind of knowing that they’ll be able to have affordable coverage when they need it most.”

A starting point for talks at Thursday’s meeting at Blair House, across the street from the White House, is a yet-to-be-seen version of two health care bills passed separately by the Democratic-controlled House and Senate.

Speaking for Republicans in their weekly address, Michigan Rep. Dave Camp said people want Obama and the Democrats to “scrap their misguided plan of a government takeover of health care” and start over by taking a step-by-step approach.

Senate to hold hearings on Bush administration lawyers’ so-called ‘torture memos’

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is closing the books on its probe of the Bush administration lawyers whose legal memorandums authorized the CIA to waterboard terrorism suspects, but the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee says he remains offended by the memos and will hold hearings

An internal review said the department lawyers showed “poor judgment” but did not commit professional misconduct in giving CIA interrogators the go-ahead at the height of the U.S. war on terrorism to use harsh interrogation tactics.

President Barack Obama campaigned on abolishing waterboarding, a simulated drowning technique, and other tactics that he called torture. He left open the question of whether anyone would be punished for authorizing such methods.

Liberal Democrats had pressed for action against the authors of the so-called torture memos, and they indicated they aren’t finished discussing the matter.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said he was “deeply offended” by the legal memos and planned to hold a hearing Feb. 26.

FBI concludes federal scientist Ivins acted alone, closes deadly 2001 anthrax-letters case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wrapping up one of its most vexing investigations, the FBI concluded that Army scientist Bruce Ivins acted alone in the 2001 anthrax mailings that killed five people and further unnerved a nation still reeling from the 9/11 attacks.

The agency formally closed the case Friday, ending the long, frustrating hunt for the killer after

years of false leads, no arrests and public criticism.

Ivins killed himself in 2008 as prosecutors prepared to indict him for the attacks. He had denied involvement, and his family and some friends have continued to insist he was innocent.

Many details of the case have already been disclosed, but newly released FBI documents paint a fuller portrait of Ivins as a troubled researcher whose life’s work was teetering toward failure at the time the letters laced with anthrax were sent. As the U.S. responded to the mailings, that work was given new importance by the government, and he was even honored for his efforts on anthrax.

The documents also describe what investigators say was Ivins’ bizarre, decades-long obsession with a sorority. The anthrax letters were dropped in a mailbox near the sorority’s office in Princeton, N.J.

Lautenberg’s illness another challenge for Democrats as they cling to Senate majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerns about New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg’s health pose yet another challenge for Democrats struggling to retain control of the Senate.

Lautenberg’s announcement Friday that he’s suffering from stomach lymphoma and will receive treatment over the next few months could complicate matters for Democrats as they seek to muster enough votes to overcome Republican delaying tactics over jobs, health care and more.

Even before his illness, Democrats had lost their 60-vote supermajority when Republican Scott Brown won the special election to replace the late Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy. That deprived them of the numbers needed to head off any GOP filibuster. Now, they’re staring at the possibility of further erosion — and momentum gained by newly emboldened Republicans — going into the midterm elections.

Indiana Democrat Even Bayh is planning to step down, a surprise decision that followed a flurry of other Democratic retirements, including Sen. Christopher Dodd in Connecticut.

In Delaware, Vice President Joe Biden’s son decided against a Senate run, boosting Republican hopes to take over the seat Biden held for 36 years. In Illinois,

Republicans like their chances in trying to win President Barack Obama’s old Senate seat. That’s now held by Democrat Roland Burris, who was appointed by a scandal-tainted governor and has decided not to seek a full term.

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Sandra Thomas

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Mike Thomas

Early Voting begins February 16, 2010

Primary Election March 2, 2010

Tomorrow’s Horoscope

As the first quarter moon shifts from earthy Taurus into intellectual Gemini, our ideas about productivity change, too. The work you do with your back and your brawn may cause you to stop and ponder. Is there a way that will be less taxing on your muscles? Perhaps there’s a machine or tool that can be employed for a quick, smart outcome.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Air your unsettling feelings, even if you only do it to yourself in your



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE:
This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 19, 2010. You have until September 15, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1005 Bonus Break the Bank** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.81. This Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off game will close on March 22, 2010. You have until September 18, 2010, to redeem any tickets for this game: **#1262 Houston Texans** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.84. These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on April 28, 2010. You have until October 25, 2010, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#1186 Happy Holidays!** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.62, **#1187 Snow Dough** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 3.93, **#1205 Cash Bounty** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.93. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at **1-800-37LOTTO** or visit the Lottery Web site at **www.txlottery.org** for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.** The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #6443 February 21, 2010

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6054-69-001 for MISCELLANEOUS BRIDGE REPAIR in HOWARD County will be opened on March 09, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$354,740.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor’s list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT’s website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 32076
State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#6429 February 14 & 21, 2010

own password-protected document. Once you can put your feelings into words, you’ll know what to do with them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you handle all that is in your control, there are certain forces that are not. And it doesn’t mean that these forces are necessarily against you. In fact, it’s more likely that they are plotting for your pleasure and contentment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will get exactly what you need. Your gracious acceptance of this gift will determine the number and magnitude of future gifts you will receive. It is easy for you to dwell in appreciation and gratitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be slow to judge, and consider forgoing judgment altogether. After all, who is to say what form your good luck will take? To illustrate the point, something terribly inconvenient will turn out to be terrifically fortuitous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Will your approach be romantic or pragmatic? If you go the first way, very little will get done, but you’ll endear yourself to someone anyway. The

second way will bring progress, but you’ll feel like you’re in the same place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your diplomacy makes you popular. You sense that to achieve your goals, you’ll have to help someone else meet theirs. You have that rare kind of ambition that actually helps the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You’ll be in a hospitable mood and will welcome new friends into the outer circle of your life. As for the inner circle, it remains for the chosen few who have, over the years, proved their dedication.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will be easy to satisfy but not so easy to please. It takes a standout personality to turn your mildly cheerful mood into a truly marvelous frame of mind. An Aries might be up to the task.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You prefer to show the affection you feel. Maybe it’s not the coolest thing to do, and it may indeed net an awkward response. But years later, when you look back, you won’t regret your demonstration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are involved

in mankind. You sometimes take the triumph of people you don’t know as your own victory. And you take human loss as your own loss. Today, you’ll be happy for the sense of connection you feel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It will take a combined effort to meet your goal. Many different types of people will help you along the way, including optimists, pessimists, those with street smarts and those with book smarts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is someone who is always happy to see you. Your bond goes beyond what you can both comprehend in this lifetime. This is better felt and not talked about.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 21). You know how to turn even the most ordinary day into a party, which is why you’ll be so popular this year. In March, you’ll take a chance purely for the fun of it. And then you’ll find out that the endeavor is more solid than you thought it would be. July brings a windfall. You’ll exchange promises in August. Aquarius and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 44, 23 and 18.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: A conjunction of the sun and Jupiter magnifies the mysterious phenomenon of the Pisces sun. Even though this conjunction will not be exact until Feb. 28, Pisces energy turns up our awareness of the spirit that animates our world. Everything has a vibe — rocks, trees, walls, animals, people, machines. There’s no getting around it. Even things that aren’t technically alive have a feeling to them, a resonance. And an increasing number of people are becoming aware of the subtle information that vibrates from even the oldest dead thing around. A fossil in the ground has a story to tell. Whether or not you want to become an interpreter of that story is the question this week. There is still such a thing as too much information, and just because we know more doesn’t mean we’re more powerful or better off in any way for the knowledge. So great care must be taken this week to keep ourselves grounded and productive. Let your heightened sensitivity and instincts signal you to feed

yourself, and your soul, better nutrition. And note that you will be more impressionable than usual, so stick with people you wouldn’t mind becoming more like.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ashley Greene plays a vampire who can see the future in the “Twilight” movies. Is it possible that her characterization isn’t so far off the mark from her real nature? Pisces people are, after all, considered the most psychic of the zodiac, and Greene has her sun, Mercury and Jupiter all in the prescient sign. Another strong influence in Greene’s natal chart is the otherworldly energy of Sagittarius.

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

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Annie’s Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I am in my late 40s with grandchildren of my own. The problem is my mother. She has lived with a pedophile for the past 42 years.

This man abused my sister and me, and my mother did nothing to stop it.

Later on, we forgave him because those are the religious values we were raised with. He then went on to abuse my nephew.

I tried to have a relationship with my mother apart from her husband, but she kept shoving him down my throat.

So I cut her out of my life because I didn’t want this twisted man to spread his poison to my children and grandchildren.

Now she tells me he has become “born again” and is a changed man. The success rate of curing pedophilia is abysmally low. My sister, the one whose son was abused, says I am too harsh and should forgive him.

I refuse. I will not be responsible for his next victim. My mother enables him. I say he has tried to destroy two

generations of our family and someone has to take a stand. What do you think? — *Tired of the Dysfunction*

Dear Tired: We’re wondering why no one has reported this man to the police. Finding religion is hardly a guarantee that his pedophilia is “cured,” and forgiving someone does not mean you have to subject your grandchildren to abuse.

You absolutely must keep this man at a safe distance, and if that means your mother chooses not to be part of your life, so be it.

Dear Annie: I am a 48-year-old male. I have always been attracted to women, but have never had a girlfriend, been on a date or even kissed a girl.

No woman has ever approached me in any situation. I worry that I will die without ever knowing one of the greatest pleasures on this planet.

I have talked to different people about this, and they all say maybe it’s not meant to be.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

But this only makes me feel sad and lonely.

I admit my income is not much, but I am a nice person. That doesn’t seem to be what women are looking for. What can I do? — *Depressed in Ohio*

Dear Ohio: A “nice person” is exactly what some women are looking for, so either you are attracted to inappropriate women, or you aren’t projecting enough personality to get your niceness across.

And we’ll be frank — at 48, your total lack of experience with women can make them assume you are asexual (or gay), or they may believe something is wrong with you.

It makes finding someone more complicated, but it is not an insurmountable problem.

Women are attracted to intelligence, humor and confidence. Since your friends can’t seem to pinpoint the problem, the next step is counseling. Please try it to see whether it helps bring your personality to the fore.

Dear Annie: I could have written the letter from “Bad Daughter-in-Law.” My husband’s two brothers have always been in and out of trouble with the law, their creditors and their wives.

They used to come to us for money when they needed it, and my mother-in-law was always chiming in with, “Poor Danny this” or “Poor Terry that.”

They tried to make us feel guilty because we were responsible with our money.

My terrific husband handled his family wisely. He listened to their troubles, expressed sympathy and then kept repeating, “I’m really sorry for your troubles, but I have five children

and only one income. I have a duty to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads, so I won’t be able to help you right now.”

After a few years of this, they finally quit calling. Danny moved out of state and got a job, while Terry decided he liked the prison life, so we don’t have to worry about him coming around anymore. — *Sister-in-Law*

Dear Sister-in-Law: Your husband sounds like a smart man.

Annie’s Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie’s Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie’s Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

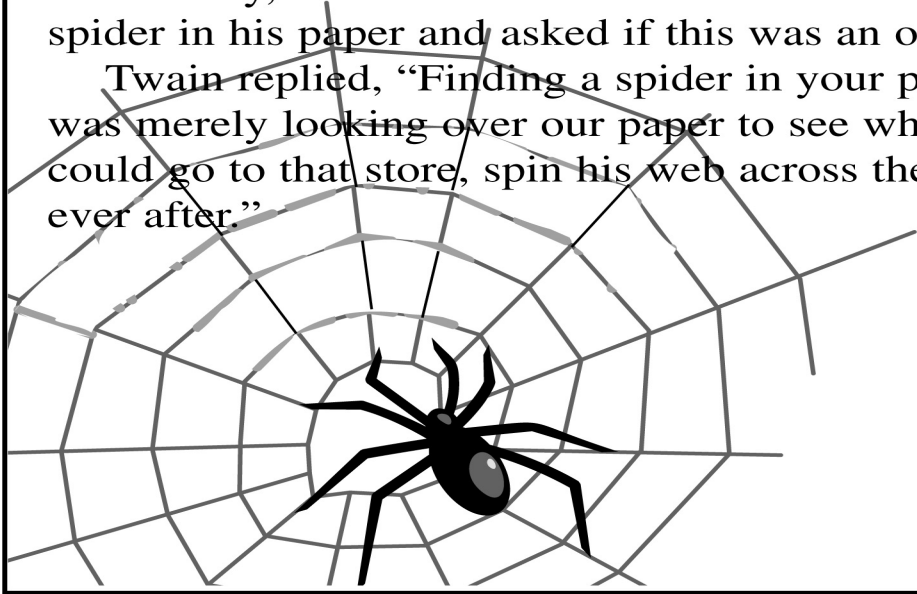
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The Spider

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

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

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



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Credit cards: Then and now

What you need to know about credit card reform

CANDICE CHOI
EILEEN AJ CONNELLY
AP Personal Finance Writers

NEW YORK — The new credit card law is finally here. Starting Monday, banks will need to abide by new regulations on terms and disclosures. The idea behind the landmark law was to prevent banks from using practices that often dug borrowers deeper into debt.

A look at how the credit card law affects key aspects of your account.

INTEREST RATES

THEN: Banks could raise the interest rate on an account at any time, including the rate on an existing balances, even if you weren't late on payments.

NOW: The rate cannot be raised in the first year after an account is opened unless an introductory rate has come to an end. After that, cardholders must be notified 45 days in advance of any rate change.

For existing balances, rates can't be raised unless the account is at least 60 days past due. If payments are made on time for six consecutive months, the original rate must be restored.

There's still no cap on rates.

DISCLOSURES

THEN: The fine print on cardholder agreements was often difficult to understand. Rates, fees and penalties for other services such as cash advances, for example, could be hard to find. The impact of the interest rate on paying down a balance was hard to compute.

NOW: Cardholders will see how

many months it will take to pay off a balance if only minimum payments are made. Statements will also indicate how much needs to be paid each month to pay off a balance within three years.

SERVICE FEES

THEN: Banks could charge as much as they wanted. They could assess annual fees, activation fees and other fees. This was mostly a problem for subprime cards marketed to those with poor credit scores. One popular card, for example, the Premier Bankcard, charged \$256 in first-year fees for a \$250 credit line.

NOW: Service fees, such as activation and annual fees, will be capped at 25 percent of the credit limit during the first year of use. After that, there is no cap.

GRACE PERIODS

THEN: Some card companies sent out statements not long before payments were due, and sometimes shifted payment due dates from month to month, meaning that payments would not always have enough time to arrive and get processed before being deemed late. As a result, some cardholders ended up getting charged interest or late fees even when they thought they were sending in payments on time.

NOW: The law requires that due dates remain consistent. Statements must be sent out 21 days before the payment due date, and finance charges and fees cannot be applied before that period is up. In practice, about half of card issuers have extended

grace periods to as long as 25 days.

OVER-THE-LIMIT FEES

THEN: Banks set credit limits, then routinely allowed charges to exceed those limits. When that happened, though, the customer was charged an over-the-limit fee as high as \$39. These fees were often triggered by interest charges or late-payment fees that pushed a balance over the credit limit. What's more, multiple over-the-limit fees could get charged in a single billing cycle if the balance was paid down and another charge pushed the balance back over the limit.

NOW: The cardholder must specifically agree to permit transactions that exceed the credit limit. Only then can over-the-limit fees be charged. But the fees can't be triggered by other fees or interest charges. Only one over-the-limit fee may be imposed during a billing cycle. No over-the-limit fees may be charged unless the cardholder has specifically agreed to permit transactions exceeding their authorized credit limit. These fees can no longer be triggered by other fees or interest charges imposed by the card issuer, and only one such fee may be imposed during a billing cycle.

In practice, several of the largest card companies have dropped these fees. Some banks are using pop-up boxes on their Web sites or other methods to obtain consumer authorization.

UNIVERSAL DEFAULT

THEN: If you made a late payment on one credit card or loan, or even late payments for obligations like utility

bills, that could trigger interest rate hikes on other credit card accounts.

NOW: Card companies cannot raise interest rates on existing credit card balances. Interest rates can't rise during the first year an account is open, unless the original agreement spelled out a promotional rate for a limited time.

Consumers with older accounts must be informed of any interest rate increase on new charges at least 45 days in advance. They must also be given a chance to opt out of the hike by canceling the account and paying down the balance at the old interest rate. If an interest rate is increased, the card company must review the account once every six months to assess whether the rate should be dropped.

STUDENTS

THEN: Students arriving on college campuses often confronted a gauntlet of credit card marketers handing out T-shirts, pizza and other gifts in exchange for filling out card applications. Credit cards were frequently handed out without checking the applicant's income sources. In 2008, 84 percent of undergraduates had at least one credit card. Average balances topped \$3,100.

NOW: Credit cards may no longer be issued to anyone under age 21, unless the applicant has a co-signer, or can show enough income. Colleges must disclose any marketing deals they make with credit card companies. Banks are not allowed to hand out gifts on or near campuses or at college-related events.

Despite reforms, costly loans and cards remain

CANDICE CHOI
Personal Finance Writer

NEW YORK — You can still get credit if your finances are a mess. It will just cost dearly.

A sweeping credit card law that takes effect Monday was supposed to prevent banks from employing tactics that yanked borrowers deeper into debt. Yet an

array of loans and cards with crushing terms still beckons from every corner.

Consider a subprime credit card that now comes with a 59.9 percent interest rate. There are also payday loans and prepaid cards, both of which can come at steep costs.

The lenders serving

risky borrowers say high fees and interest rates are necessary because their customers are more likely to default on loans. Restrictions on what they charge could put them out of business, and leave the neediest with no options at all, they say.

President Barack

Obama is nevertheless pushing for the creation of a consumer protection agency that would consolidate oversight of such products, but its fate is uncertain amid negotiations for broader financial reforms.

Meanwhile, advocacy groups say the crescendo of public anger toward the credit card industry, and the resulting reforms, shows the need for greater consumer protections.

Already, about a quarter of U.S. households either don't have a re-

lationship with a bank or nevertheless rely on alternative financial services such as payday loans, according to first-of-its kind FDIC study.

"It's in nobody's interest to lend people money they can't afford to repay," says Kathleen Day of the Center for Responsible Lending. "If the economic crisis we're in now doesn't underscore that for lawmakers, what will?"

In the absence of closer oversight, here's a look at three common resources for strapped

borrowers: Payday loans, prepaid cards and subprime credit cards.

PAYDAY LOANS

There are about 22,000 payday lending branches around the country, compared with 14,000 McDonald's restaurants.

Their widespread presence makes payday lenders easy to turn to in a pinch; about 19 million people did so last year, according to industry figures.

See **COSTLY**, Page 11A

Vote

John Cline

for

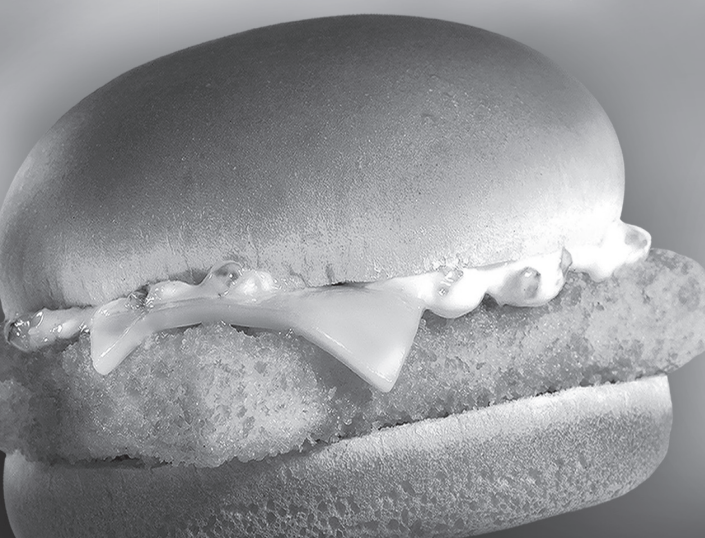
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Legals

CAUSE NO. T-5784

HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS.
LOUISA BAUER, ET AL
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF SUIT TO
FORECLOSE TAX LIEN
PURSUA NT TO PROPERTY
TAX CODE SECTION 33.57

Pursuant to Order of the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, notice is hereby given to the individuals named herein, and all other persons claiming an interest in the property the subject of this suit, that suit has been filed for foreclosure of the tax lien against such properties. A copy of the Petition filed on behalf of the various taxing entities is attached hereto, and such petition describes the properties against which foreclosure is sought, as well as the owners of record of any interest in such parcels.

Notice to all owners of an interest in such properties is hereby given as follows:

1. A petition to foreclose the tax lien against each parcel shown on the Petition was filed on the 4th day of February, 2010 commencing foreclosure proceedings;

2. The legal description, tax account number, and, if known, the street address for each parcel, is shown in the Exhibits to the Petition attached hereto;

3. This notice is addressed to each owner of an interest in each parcel as shown in the Exhibits to the Petition attached hereto;

4. Final hearing on the Petition is scheduled for the 30th day of March, 2010 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.;

5. Each and every owner of any interest in each parcel the subject of this suit may lose whatever property interest they own in such parcel as a result of the hearing and any subsequent tax sale;

6. A person's interest in any parcel may be preserved by paying all delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, attorney's fees and court costs before the date of the scheduled hearing on the petition, or, you may contest the Petition by filing with the clerk of the court a written response to the petition not later than the seventh (7) day before the date scheduled for hearing on the petition and specifying in the response any affirmative defense. A copy of such response must be served on the taxing units' attorney of record in the manner required by Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;

7. The name, address and telephone number of the taxing units are as follows:

Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432)264-5000
Howard County
300 S. Main
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432)264-2332
City of Big Spring
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432)264-2401
City of Coahoma
P. O. Box L
Coahoma, TX 79511
Telephone number: (432)394-4287
City of Forsan
P. O. Box 714
Forsan, TX 79733
Telephone number: (432)457-2355
Big Spring ISD
708 11 Place
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432)264-3620
Forsan ISD
P. O. Drawer A
Forsan, TX 79733
Telephone number: (432)398-5444
Howard County Water Control and Improvement District
7917 N. Service Rd.
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone number: (432)393-5233
Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District
P. O. Box 1314
Stanton, TX 79782
Telephone number: (432)756-2136

The name, address and telephone number of the attorney for the taxing units is shown at the bottom of this notice;

8. Coahoma ISD may also impose taxes on one or more of the parcels the subject of this suit and may intervene in this case without further notice and set up its claims for delinquent taxes.

Respectfully Submitted,
MOUTON & MOUTON
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 1030
Big Spring, TX 79721
Telephone No.: (432) 264-7465
Telecopier No.: (432) 263-8686
By: Drew Mouton
State Bar No. 14606400
ATTORNEY FOR ALL
PLAINTIFF TAXING UNITS

CAUSE NO. T-5784

HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL
VS.
LOUISA BAUER, ET AL
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
118TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL
PETITION
TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF
SAID COURT:

Now comes THE COUNTY OF HOWARD, which brings this action for itself and as agent for HOWARD COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT, CITY OF BIG SPRING, BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, CITY OF COAHOMA, CITY OF FORSAN, FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, HOWARD COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #1, and PERMIAN BASIN UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, hereinafter called Plaintiffs, whether one or more, and for cause of action would show the Court the following:

Defendants are those persons and legal entities named and de-

scribed in the attached Exhibits "1-58" if living, and if any or all of the named Defendant(s) be deceased, the unknown heirs of each of such deceased Defendant(s); the unknown owner or owners of any of the property the subject of this suit; the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees of the any Defendant; and any and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or having any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon any of the property the subject of this suit, on which property there are delinquent taxes, penalties and interest, assessed and justly due, owing, and unpaid to Plaintiffs in the amounts and for the years shown on the Tax Statement(s) made a part of each Exhibit attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference as if repeated verbatim, on each property separately assessed for all delinquent years up to and including 2008.

All of the property is located in Howard County, Texas, and all volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, are to the Deed Records, Howard County, to which instruments reference is made for a more complete description of each tract.

The total amount of delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney's fees owed exceeds the appraised value of each parcel, or, in the alternative, there are ten (10) or more years for which delinquent taxes are owed on each such parcel.

II

All taxes were authorized by law, and each political subdivision in whose behalf this suit is brought was legally constituted and authorized to levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes on property, and all of the taxes were legally levied and assessed against the property and the owners thereof; that Plaintiffs now have and assert a lien on each separately described property to secure the payment of all taxes, penalties, interest; and recover costs and expenses in accordance with the provisions of Property Tax Code § 33.48; and all things required by law to be done have been legally performed by the proper officials.

III

All of the above described property was, at the time the taxes were assessed, located within the boundaries of the Plaintiffs and of each political subdivision in whose behalf this suit is brought, and the tax was imposed in the county in which this suit is brought.

IV

The attorney whose name is signed hereto is legally authorized to prosecute this action on behalf of Plaintiffs.

V

Plaintiffs have incurred certain expenses for procuring data and information as to the name, identity, and location of necessary parties and in procuring necessary legal descriptions of the property, which expenses are reasonable abstractor's costs. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants for foreclosure of the tax lien against the above described property securing the amount due against each tract which is the total amount of delinquent taxes due and owing on each such parcel at the time of the filing of this petition, as well as all taxes becoming delinquent thereafter up to the date of judgment, all interest, penalties, costs and expenses in accordance with the provisions of Property Tax Code § 33.48 accruing up to and including the day of judgment, plus attorney's fees of 20% of all tax, penalty and interest as provided by law, an order of sale, post judgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law; and for such other relief to which the Plaintiffs may be entitled; provided, however, that personal judgment for such taxes, penalties, interest and attorney fees is not sought against any Defendant named herein.

Respectfully Submitted,
MOUTON & MOUTON
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 1030
Big Spring, TX 79721
Telephone No.: (432)263-7676
Telecopier No.: (432)263-8686
By: Drew Mouton
State Bar No. 14606400
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS

EXHIBIT 1

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 3, Bk 7 Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,586.57
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Louisa Bauer

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Louisa Bauer
509 NW 11th St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
Louisa Bauer
704 NW 5th St.
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 2

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 11, Bk 60, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

TOTAL DUE:.....\$2,272.10
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Martha E. Birdwell

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 3

Property and Amounts Owed
W/2 of Lt 12, Bk 99, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

TOTAL DUE:\$1,601.30
Years owed:
2000-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Earnest Byrd and Addie Byrd
P. O. Box 145
Big Spring, TX 79720

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 4

Property and Amounts Owed
W/20' of Lt 2, all Lt 3, Bk 24, Boydston Second Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$2,560.86
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Lee Canales, Jr.
1206 Dixie Ave.
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 5

Property and Amounts Owed
S/50' of NE/4 of Bk 30, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE: \$707.48
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Jessie Cervantes and wife, Jessie Cervantes
1403 Stanford
Big Spring, TX 79720

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 6

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 6, Bk 17, Monticello Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

TOTAL DUE: \$495.61
Years owed:
1991-2008
The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone

directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Dorothy Cope
P. O. Box 1775
Fort Stockton, TX 79735
Bob Bowland
P. O. Box 1775
Fort Stockton, TX 79735
Tara Bowman
P. O. Box 1775
Fort Stockton, TX 79735
Julie Ann Cope
P. O. Box 1775
Fort Stockton, TX 79735
Bill Jay Cope
P. O. Box 1775
Fort Stockton, TX 79735

EXHIBIT 7

Property and Amounts Owed
Lts 2, 3 and E/2 of Lt 4, Bk D, Moore's Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE: \$620.79
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

John A. Currie
903 Dallas
Big Spring, TX 79720
John A. Currie
P. O. Box 1271
Big Spring, TX 79720
The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 8

Property and Amounts Owed
N/2 of Lt 9, and all of Lt 10, Bk 1, Porter Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

TOTAL DUE:\$3,408.52

Years owed:

1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Billie May DeBarra

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 9

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 12, Bk 4, Lakeview Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

TOTAL DUE: \$444.06
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

C. A. Gore

EXHIBIT 10

Property and Amounts Owed
N/10' of Lt 10, Bk 14, McDowell Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$1,932.03
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

N. Graham
1508 Scurry St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
Josie Graham
1508 Scurry St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring

Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren

310 Nolan

Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 11

Property and Amounts Owed
A tract of land being a part of NE/4 Sec. 44, Bk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas; described by metes and bounds on the attached exhibit
TOTAL DUE:\$5,707.59
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Grace Grandstaff

EXHIBIT 12

Property and Amounts Owed
1.25 acres out of the E/2 of Sc 18, Bk 31, T2N, T&P Ry Co Survey, Howard County, Texas; described by metes and bounds on the attached exhibit
TOTAL DUE:\$178.49
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Clara Greak, Individually and as Ind. Exec. of the Estate of Annie Pachal, Deceased, John Greak, Henry Pachal, Lola Pachal, Olga Lamkin, Alva Lamkin, Hulda ThuSchweke, Fenton G. Schweke, Hattie Lamkin and Louis Lamkin

EXHIBIT 13

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 9, Bk 21, Jones Valley Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$66.82
Years owed:
1991-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

C. R. McHenry

EXHIBIT 14

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 3, Bk 21, Jones Valley Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$66.06
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Ralph Pierce

EXHIBIT 15

Property and Amounts Owed
Lts 1 & 2, Bk 8, Brown Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$727.86
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Ruth Marie Pierce
2102 S. Church St.
Georgetown, TX 78626

EXHIBIT 16

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 5, Bk 25, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$1,593.93
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Gayland Pitman

EXHIBIT 17

Property and Amounts Owed
Lts 1, 2, 3 & 4, Bk 2, Douglas Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$11,374.86
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Defendant Plainsmen Corporation, a Domestic For-Profit Corporation has forfeited its authority to do business in the state of Texas. Service is proper to W. Goodrich Hejl, 108 E. Louisiana, Midland, TX, 79702, under Art. 8.10 Business Corporation Act because W. Goodrich Hejl is listed as Registered Agent on the most recent records of the Texas Secretary of State and may be served with citation by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested to: Plainsmen Corporation by and through Registered Agent for Service W. Goodrich Hejl 108 E. Louisiana Midland, TX, 79702

EXHIBIT 18

Property and Amounts Owed
W/2 of Lt 6, Bk 99, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE: \$366.50
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Isabel Ramirez

EXHIBIT 19

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 2, Bk F, Moore's Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County
TOTAL DUE: \$248.51
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Trannie Randle

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring
Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 20

Property and Amounts Owed
Lt 7, Bk 31, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:\$1,489.87
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appro-

COSTLY

Continued from Page 10A

To obtain a payday loan, consumers give the lender a postdated check for the amount of the loan plus a fee, usually \$15 or so for every \$100 borrowed. The lender holds the check for about two weeks, at which point the check is cashed. Often the loan can be rolled over for another fee.

Sylvia Brown, a 42-year-old office manager, pays \$76 nearly every other Friday for a \$600 advance on her paycheck because she can't make ends meet week to week. She's been getting loans regularly for about five years now. In just one year, that would add up to about \$1,800 in fees.

"I've thought about what I'd do with that money. For one thing, I could put it toward paying off my medical expenses," says Brown, who lives with her mother in Grass Lake, Mich.

The fee is easy to understand, at least on the surface. But translate that average fee on a \$100 loan into an annualized rate, as on a credit card, and you're looking at interest of 391 percent.

This passes muster even under the new credit card law, however, since there's still no cap on rates.

The industry group for payday lenders notes that its fees are cheaper than the alternatives for desperate borrowers. A late credit card payment could trigger a \$37 fee, for example. Overdraft fees for checking accounts can be \$29 or more.

Still, a dozen or so states have effectively banned payday lending. Lawmakers elsewhere worry about choking off a key source of cash for low-income borrowers.

PREPAID CARDS

Rows of prepaid cards dangle from the racks of just about any Walmart or convenience store. Consumers are pitched their benefits online and through the mail.

The cards offer a vital convenience for those who don't have credit or debit cards. They can be used to pay bills online,

book airplane tickets, and generally provide a sense of security that cash may not.

Users load them with cash and replenish as needed. The cards carry a Discover, Mastercard or Visa logo and can come with a tangle of fees. It costs as much as \$29.95 just to buy one.

The fees vary wildly too, so navigating them can be dizzying. There are monthly maintenance fees, ATM withdrawal fees, balance inquiry fees, bill pay fees and inactivity fees.

"Pretty much every time you use it there's a fee," says Manny Villalobos, a 36-year-old sales rep in Pacoima, Calif.

His credit was wrecked in the aftermath of a layoff, divorce and a string of panic attacks that landed him in the emergency room. Now he can't get a credit card from a major bank.

Not all cards are so fee-heavy. But even one of the more affordable cards costs \$4.95 to buy, and charges a \$5.95 monthly maintenance fee unless certain usage requirements are met.

Despite the costs, an estimated \$36.6 billion will be loaded onto prepaid cards this year, double the \$18.3 billion last year, and more than four times the \$8.7 billion total of 2008.

"More people are starting to look to these as it becomes more challenging to get credit cards or even checking accounts," says Kirsten Trusko, president of the Network Branded Prepaid Card Association.

Considering there's no risk for issuers, however, the costs can be steep.

Take the Millennium Advantage card, which charges a \$29.95 activation fee and \$5.95 monthly maintenance. Any use of the card seems to come with a fee. It's \$1.95 per ATM withdrawal, for example, and \$1 per minute to call a customer representative.

Yet for all the fees, issuers of prepaid cards aren't required to provide the same legal protections as for credit or debit cards, such as limited liability if they're stolen. The Federal Reserve is studying whether to change that, but hasn't set a deadline on a decision.

SUBPRIME CREDIT CARDS

Subprime cards, mar-

A look at credit card terms for risky borrowers

The Associated Press

The new credit card law bans surprise rate hikes and caps first-year fees to 25 percent of the credit line. After that there is no cap. Cards marketed to subprime borrowers can still come with significant costs.

A look at the terms of the Premier Bankcard, one of the most widely circulated subprime credit cards for risky borrowers.

- Credit limit — \$300
- Processing fee (paid before the card is issued) — \$45
- Annual fee — \$75
- Interest rate (annualized rate) — 59.9 percent
- Additional card fee — \$29 annually per card

- Late payment fee — \$29 for balances up to \$500, \$34 for balances greater than \$500
- Over-limit fee — \$29
- Credit limit increase fee — 50 percent of the increased credit amount
- Wire transfer fee — \$5
- Transaction fee for cash advances — \$5 or 3 percent of the amount, whichever is larger. The fee is capped at \$10, and not charged in the first year the account is open
- Initial cash advances are limited to 10 percent of your credit limit
- Monthly account maintenance fee — \$3 on closed accounts with an outstanding balance of \$20 or more

Source: First Premier

keted to those with poor credit scores, typically come larded with fees despite credit lines that are often only a couple hundred dollars. Just about anybody can get one.

Starting Monday, fees will be capped at 25 percent of a card's credit

limit. But the issuers of subprime cards have already adapted.

Because there's no cap on interest rates — an area that's historically been left to state regulators — interest rates on subprime cards have reached as high as 79.9 percent. And so long as

cardholders are given 45 days notice, they could climb higher still.

First Premier, the biggest player in the subprime credit card arena, even found a way around the cap on fees. It now charges a \$45 processing fee before a card is issued.

If approved, cardholders are charged a separate \$75 annual fee, which is exactly 25 percent of the \$300 credit line. That fee is deducted from the credit line, so the card arrives with a \$75 balance before it's even used.

UPGRADE YOUR FAMILY FOR LESS THAN YOU THINK.

NEW! Samsung Intensity™
Slick messaging slider
FREE
\$50 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.

Samsung Alias™ 2
Unique dual-flip action
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
\$29.99
\$79.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.
Add'l phone: \$50 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.
Requires a voice plan with data pak \$9.99 or higher per phone.

LG Chocolate® TOUCH
The popular music phone goes touch
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
\$49.99
\$99.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.
Add'l phone: \$50 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card.
Requires a voice plan with data pak \$9.99 or higher per phone.

BOB CRAIG:

the Conservative Choice for State Board of Education

"I am Bob Craig, your representative on the State Board of Education District 15, and I am asking for your vote for re-election in the Republican Primary. My pledge to you is to continue my strong support for local control, as well as flexibility in course offerings for our students. I believe in a fair, accurate and well-balanced curriculum with parental and public input in the textbook adoption process. I will continue my fight for honesty and transparency in the oversight and financial stewardship of the Permanent School Fund.
I need YOUR VOTE!" — BOB CRAIG
www.electbobcraig.com

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The Honorable Warren Chisum, Texas House of Representatives - Pampa	The Honorable Kel Seliger, Texas Senate - Amarillo
The Honorable John T. Smithsee, Texas House of Representatives - Amarillo	The Honorable Robert L. Duncan, Texas Senate — Lubbock
The Honorable David Swinford, Texas House of Representatives - Dumas	

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EXHIBIT 48
Property and Amounts Owed

FBI probing Pa. school webcam spy case

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A Pennsylvania school district accused of secretly switching on laptop computer webcams inside students' homes is under investigation by federal authorities, a law enforcement official with knowledge of the case told The Associated Press.

The FBI will look into whether any federal wiretap or computer-intrusion laws were violated by Lower Merion School District officials, the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the investigation, told the AP on Friday.

Days after a student filed suit over the practice, Lower Merion officials acknowledged

Friday that they remotely activated webcams 42 times in the past 14 months, but only to find missing student laptops. They insist they never did so to spy on students, as the student's family claimed in the federal lawsuit.

Families were not informed of the possibility the webcams might be activated in their homes without their permission in the paperwork students sign when they get the computers, district spokesman Doug Young said.

"It's clear what was in place was insufficient, and that's unacceptable," Young said.

The district has suspended the practice amid the lawsuit and the accompanying

uproar from students, the community and privacy advocates. District officials hired outside counsel to review the past webcam activations and advise the district on related issues.

Remote-activation software can be used to capture keystrokes, send commands over the Internet or turn computers into listening devices by turning on built-in microphones. People often use it for legitimate purposes — to access computers from remote locations, for example. But hackers can use it to steal passwords and spouses to track the whereabouts of partners or lovers.

The Pennsylvania case shows how even well-intentioned plans can go awry if officials

fail to understand the technology and its potential consequences, privacy experts said. Compromising images from inside a student's bedroom could fall into the hands of rogue school staff or otherwise be spread across the Internet, they said.

"What about the (potential) abuse of power from higher ups, trying to find out more information about the head of the PTA?" wondered Ari Schwartz, vice president at the Center for Democracy and Technology. "If you don't think about the privacy and security consequences of using this kind of technology, you run into problems."

The FBI opened its investigation after news of the suit broke on Thursday, the law-enforcement official said. Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri

Ferman may also investigate, she said Friday.

Lower Merion, an affluent district in Philadelphia's suburbs, issues Apple laptops to all 2,300 students at its two high schools. Only two employees in the technology department were authorized to activate the cameras — and only to locate missing laptops, Young said. The remote activations captured images but never recorded sound, he said.

No one had complained before Harriton High School student Blake Robbins and his parents, Michael and Holly Robbins, filed their lawsuit Tuesday, he said.

According to the suit, Harriton vice principal Lindy Matsko told Blake on Nov. 11 that the school thought he was "engaged in improper behavior in his home." She allegedly cited as evidence a photograph

"embedded" in his school-issued laptop.

The suit does not say if the boy's laptop had been reported stolen, and Young said the litigation prevents him from disclosing that fact. He said the district never violated its policy of only using the remote-activation software to find missing laptops. "Infer what you want," Young said.

The suit accuses the school of turning on Blake's webcam while the computer was inside his Penn Valley home, allegedly violating wiretap laws and his right to privacy.

Blake Robbins told KYW-TV on Friday that a school official described him in his room and mistook a piece of candy for a pill.

"She described what I was doing," he said. "She said she thought I had pills and said she thought that I was selling drugs."



KIM L. BANGO, MD
Board Certified in Family Medicine

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210857



Yeats
REPUBLICAN For District Judge

Personal Information: 52 years of age, lifetime resident of Howard County, married to Tammy Yeats for 28 years, two sons, Ryan (23) and Ethan (17).

Education: Graduate of Forsan High School, Howard College, Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University School of Law.

Community Service: Served on Board of Directors of United Way of Howard County (Immediate past president), Howard County 9-1-1 Emergency Communication District, YMCA, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Boys Club of Big Spring, Big Spring Civil Service Commission, Big Spring Main Street, Inc. Member of Big Spring Rotary Club.

Church: Active member of College Baptist Church.

Legal Organizations: Member of Howard County Bar Association, Texas Bar Association, American Bar Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, American Board of Trial Advocates. Admitted to practice in all District Courts in the State of Texas, Northern District Federal Court, Western District Federal Court, and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Legal Experience:

Broad legal background with over 27 years experience in civil, criminal and family law. Over 150 jury trials in Courts throughout West Texas. Certified mediator with over 100 disputes mediated and resolved.

Conservative Judicial Philosophy

Strong Work Ethic

Courtroom Experience

I am asking for your vote in the upcoming Republican primary election for District Judge. I believe I have the experience, character, and work ethic required for the position. It would be an honor and privilege to serve as your next District Judge.

EARLY VOTING
FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26

PRIMARY ELECTION:
MARCH 2

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Legals

Lt 5, Bk 60, Original Town of Big Spring, an addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$2,096.55
Years owed:
1993-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Florinda Viera

EXHIBIT 49Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 7, Bk 2, Denton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,092.03
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

George A. Weatherall

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring

Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 50Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 8, Bk 2, Denton Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,024.18
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Peggy Brown Weatherall
17523 Northfork Dr.
Houston, TX 77084-1637

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring

Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren
310 Nolan
Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 51Property and Amounts Owed

N/100' of NE/4 of Bk 13, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,770.12
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

records of the Secretary of State.

E. R. Weatherman

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring

Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren

310 Nolan

Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 52Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 4, Bk 1, North Park Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,011.71
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Frank Weaver, Jr.

EXHIBIT 53Property and Amounts Owed

S/2 of Lts 7 & 8, Bk 12, Jones Valley Addn., City of ig Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$330.22
Years owed:
1991-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Ramona Lee Lawson White
1606 S. Main
St. Big Spring, TX 79720

Rory Jay Lawson

1606 S. Main St.

Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 54Property and Amounts Owed

A tract of land being part of the N/2 of Tract No. 25, of the Wm B. Currie Subdivision SE/4, Sc 42, Bk 32, T1N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas; described by metes and bounds on the arrached exhibit
TOTAL DUE:.....\$881.78
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Dee Scaggs

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Bobbie L. Williams

fka Bobbie Scaggs

816 S. 11th St.

Frederick, OK 73542

The following are lienholders and may be notified at:

City of Big Spring

Attn: City Attorney Linda Sjogren

310 Nolan

Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 55Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 9, Bk 2, Sunset Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,115.81

Years owed:

1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

V. P. Wilson

EXHIBIT 56Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 1, Bk I, Moore's Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$248.51
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

Joe Willie Wrightsil

aka Willie Wrightsil

EXHIBIT 57Property and Amounts Owed

Lts 1 & 2, Bk 7, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$1,464.90
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Prospero Yanez
P. O. Box 2276
Big Spring, TX

Prospero Yanez

1506 Sycamore

Big Spring, TX 79720

EXHIBIT 58Property and Amounts Owed

Lt 6, Bk 7, Bauer Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
TOTAL DUE:.....\$732.45
Years owed:
1989-2008

The following defendants are owners of a property interest in, or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified by Citation by Publication and Citation by Posting. No address is shown for any one or more of those listed below, and no address was disclosed in the taxing units' tax records, the appraisal district records, the title search, telephone directories in Howard County or the area of any last known address for each such Defendant, the voter registration records for Howard County, Texas, nor, where appropriate, the assumed name records of the Howard County Clerk or the records of the Secretary of State.

The following Defendant(s) are owners of a property interest in or lien against, the property described in this exhibit and may be notified at

Juan Zubia
aka Juan Subia
602 NW 7th
Big Spring, TX 79720

#6430 February 14 & 21, 2010

Legals

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

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

All of Lt 8, Bk 8, McDowell Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$4,548.82, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against TONY CARL AND CHRISTINA CARL and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on August 31, 2008, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. TONY CARL AND CHRISTINA CARL, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5719 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

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

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

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 15th day of March, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 28th day of January, A.D. 2010.

Colleen Barton,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6432 February 14 & 21, 2010

Legals

GREAT DANE STORAGE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Great Dane Storage which is located at 1510 West 4th Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale will be at held 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2010, at Great Dane Storage. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale consists of household items from contents of the following tenants:
Lisa Chavarria
Rosemary Huanaco
Marie Young
#6435 February 14 & 21, 2010

Don't throw those unwanted items away!
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263-7331 and place your garage sale in the **Herald Classified** section and receive a **Garage sale kit Free!**
Call Today!

Legals

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

TO: Floyd Clifford Coates
and Eddie Marion

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

All of Lots 5 & 6, Bk 9, Brown's Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$4,485.58, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against FLOYD CLIFFORD COATES and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on January 28, 2010, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. FLOYD CLIFFORD COATES, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5782 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

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

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

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 15th day of March, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 28th day of January, A.D. 2010.

Colleen Barton,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6433 February 14 & 21, 2010

Legals

Destruction of Records Notice

To the parents and adult disabled students who were served by the Big Spring ISD, Special Services Department prior to 2003.

Big Spring ISD will be destroying all special education records of those persons who have graduated, moved, or been dismissed from special education prior to August 1, 2003.

If you desire to pick up these records, please notify Big Spring ISD Special Education Services Office at 432_264-4106, before March 31, 2010.

Aviso del destruccion de los Expedientes Academicos
Para los padres y a los estudiantes adultos con discapacidades que fueron servidos por Big Spring ISD departamento de servicios Especializados antes de 2003.

Big Spring ISD destruira todos los expedientes de la education especializada de las personas que se han graduado, se han mudado o se han despedido de la educacion especializada antes de 1 de Agosto de 2003.

Si usted desea tomar estos expedientes, por favor notifique al departamento de Servicios Especializados de Big Spring al 432-264-4106, 31 de marzo 2010. #6439 February 17, 21, 28 and March 3 & 7, 2010

BUY•SELL•TRADE
In the
Big Spring Herald Classifieds
263-7331

Legals

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

TO: Evelyn Gray and all natural children of Evelyn Gray

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

Lts 1, 2 & 3, Bk 21-A, Amended Fairview Heights Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas: Assessed Value-\$29,088.00
Amt. owed-\$6,827.63

Lts 4, 5 & 6, and 10' of alley adjacent to Lt 6, Subdivision "A", Fairview Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas: Assessed Value-\$9,763.00
Amt. owed-\$1,315.14

Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$8,142.77, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and cost thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL as Plaintiffs, against IRENE C. FLORES, ALFREDO FLORES, JR. AND EVELYN GRAY and others, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on none, in a certain suit styled HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. IRENE C. FLORES, ALFREDO FLORES, JR. AND EVELYN GRAY, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is 5149 that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.

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

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

You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 15th day of March, 2010 before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 28th day of January, A.D. 2009.

Colleen Barton,
Clerk of the District Court
Howard County, Texas,
118th Judicial District.
#6431 February 14 & 21, 2009

Legals

ELECTION NOTICE

Filing for the May 8, 2010 election of Board of Directors of the Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District are now open for Precincts Three (3), Four (4). Those wishing to file need to do so in the Water District office at 132 North Main St. in Garden City. Filing will close on the 8th day of March 2010. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm.
Archivando para la eleccion del dia 8 de Mayo de 2010 para la junta directiva del condado de Glasscock subterraneo de conservacion del agua esta abierto para el precincto tres (3), cuatros (4). Esos dese-ando de archivar necesitan registrase en la oficina de distrito de Conservacion de agua en la calle 132 North Main en Garden City. Archivando se cerrara el dia 8 de Marzo, 2010. Las horas de oficina son de lunas a vienes de las 8:00 de la manana asta las 4:00 de la tarde.
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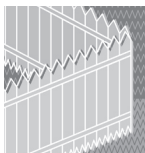
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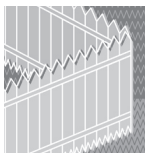
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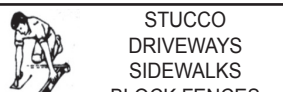
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Dear Margo

Dear Margo: I'm a 34-year-old wife and mother, with no problem having friends or family casually touch me during conversation. I am normally open to friendly hugs. However, my husband has two friends who insist on touching me, and for some reason they trip my creepy-alarm.

These guys are single, never-married brothers (50 and 52) who live together. They visit at least weekly. If I am cooking, for example,

one of them will come up behind me and put his hands on my neck or shoulders. They will insist on a hug even when I back away. Obviously,

they have no concept of personal boundaries and do not pick up on body language. I have drawn back and even said, "Please stop." I may not be the smartest person in the world, but if somebody became rigid every time I touched or hugged them, or told me to quit when I put my hands on them, I would get the message.

My husband is not good with confrontation at all. To top it off, I spoke to my sister-in-law about this, and she said that a few years ago her husband had to speak to them about the same issue because these guys felt free to pat her bottom and such. She said other people in the family have the same issue with these guys being touchy-feely. Do you have any sarcastic, funny or even nice-but-firm comments I could try? — Tired of Feeling Trapped

Dear Tired: Sarcastic or funny will not work with this pair. These bachelor brothers sound like two impervious creeps trying to cop a feel. The confirmation from your s-i-l should tell you your instincts are correct. Because the roaming-hands duo comes over often (and because your husband is clearly not up to making the announcement), tell them the next time that just like (name of s-i-l), you must request that they keep their hands to themselves because you do not appreciate the physical contact they initiate.

You need not be hostile to people who don't have very good sense. Go as far as necessary to make yourself understood — including slapping their hands or slithering out of their grip and saying, "I am not kidding." — Margo, defensively

Dear Margo: I'm curious what you think of people who go to church but are not true believers. I recently had a child and would like to join a church for the community, moral messages and music. I grew up going and got a lot from it. Exploration throughout my 20s made me realize I didn't believe what was being taught. I tried hard to accept the doctrines, but I truthfully think I never will. Is it deceptive to start attending

again? — Baffled

Dear Baff: I think it's fine to go to church (or a temple) without accepting all their dicta. I would guess many people of every denomination have a range of questions or quibbles about some of the tenets, yet they go for the reasons you cite: community, moral messages and the music. Religious services offer peaceful surroundings and encourage thoughtfulness, if not spirituality.

By all means, send your child, when the time comes, to the Sunday school of a church you find most in tune with what you do believe. When your child grows up, he or she may follow in your footsteps of nonbelief, but at least they will have had the chance to be a part of a religious group. Just as no person is entirely without flaws, one cannot expect any religion to be 100 percent in concert with one's own thoughts. And you might want to explore Humanist congregations, Quaker meetings and Unitarian gatherings. — Margo, spiritually

Dear Margo: My best friend of 20-plus years thinks she is in a relationship with a man who has a wife and four kids with different women. He has been in and out of jail the past two years for selling drugs, and I am concerned because she drops everything to wait for his phone calls and take him places where he's not allowed to drive because of parole restrictions. She has been seeing him on and off for four years, and he always hurts her.

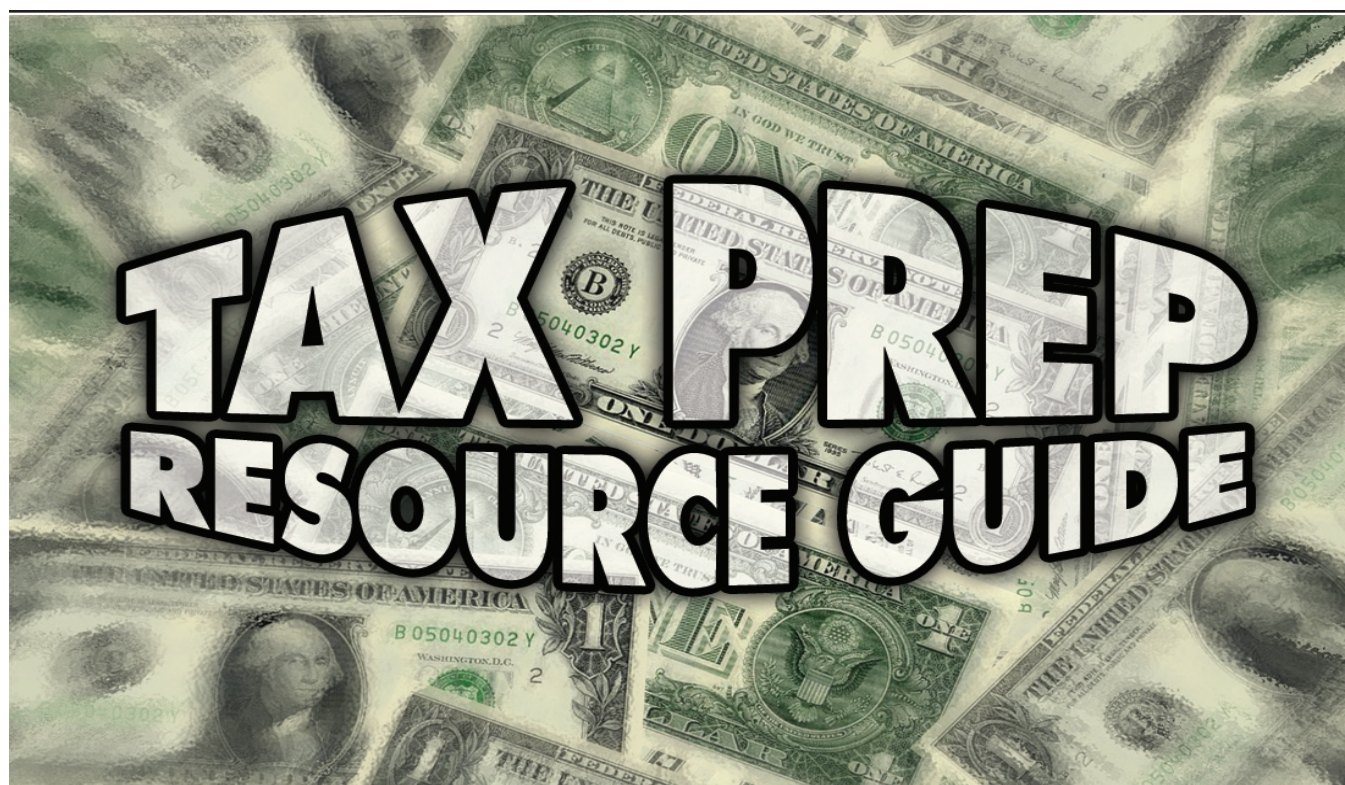
She still allows him to use her vehicle and take her money, and often buys his children clothes since he can't find a job due to his past convictions. She's told me she would like to have his child. He has already made it clear to everyone around her that he is using her ... and she is allowing it. I would like to tell her how I really feel about him, and that she's only setting herself up for more heartache, but she thinks they are soul mates. She is almost 30, and I can't understand why she is still so blind after all these years. — Louisa

Dear Lou: If I hear of one more ne'er-do-well who is someone's "soul mate," I'm gonna barf. It has become such a trite word — especially applied to a drug dealer, married (!), who goes in and out of the slammer. My honest opinion is that you could tell your friend that this guy is a modern-day Jack the Ripper and it wouldn't make any difference. It's too bad she doesn't have any sense, not to mention judgment, but there you are. Some things, and some people, are irredeemably hopeless. — Margo, rationally

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



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"Se habla espanol"

Twitter-esque Blippy asks, ‘What are you buying?’

RACHEL METZ, AP

Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — By asking what’s happening or what’s on our minds, Facebook and Twitter have prodded people to broadcast just about anything, from what they ate for lunch to what movie they’re going to see. Now a new site wants to unearth more — by asking people to automatically reveal things they buy.

Blippy, which is backed by a Twitter co-founder, asks people to share their spending habits. If you register a credit card with the site, every transaction bought on the card would be displayed to your friends on Blippy.

It might sound like ridiculous oversharing, but Blippy is serious. While there already are plenty of Web sites focused on what people are purchasing, the site’s founders think it offers a new way to learn about deals and new products. And knowing your spending habits are being transmitted to a flock of friends might make you think twice before spending \$500 on a pair of designer shoes.

Charities could use Blippy to show the public that their donations are being used responsibly, too.

Co-founded by entrepreneur Philip Kaplan, the joker behind a profane Web site that mocked failed startups during the dot-com bust, Blippy encourages you to connect credit cards and accounts at e-commerce sites like eBay and Apple’s iTunes Store to your profile on the site. Then, whenever you buy something in person or on the Web — a cup of coffee at Starbucks or, say, a pair of boots at Zappos.com — the purchase is immediately posted for your friends to see and comment on. They’d see something like “Joe1234 spent \$2.98 at iTunes.”

Some purchases are more descriptive than others. If you buy an iPhone game Blippy can show its name, not just how much you paid. But — at least for now — if you spend \$250 at a grocery store using a linked credit card, Blippy would just indicate the total amount rather than everything you put on the conveyor belt. Users can enter more de-

tails about their transactions on their own.

Blippy doesn’t store its users’ credit card numbers. Instead you give the site the username and password that you use to access your credit card account online. Other sites, such as the popular personal finance site Mint.com, have a similar setup.

For those wary of baring all, Blippy lets you hide individual purchases from your activity stream or make it so only approved friends can see your transactions.

The idea for the site emerged late last year when Ashvin Kumar and Chris Esreich, the site’s other founders, started thinking about how people are comfortable sharing all sorts of information on social networking sites, but not financial transactions. They decided to see what would happen if people could easily share that information with others.

At first, it was a tough sell. Kumar says the founders needed to convince a handful of friends to try an early version of the site. Even Kaplan admits that at first he shared

only one credit card that he didn’t use that much.

“There is a hump people need to get over, including me, before you feel comfortable sharing this information,” he says.

But since launching publicly in January, Blippy has gotten more than 13,000 consumers to do the same.

Chris Broyles, a Blippy user who works as a litigation consultant in Chicago, understands the site isn’t for everyone — including his wife. Still, he sees it as a way to keep track of what he’s spending while saving up to move his family of five to a new home.

Broyles shares two credit cards and several online accounts on Blippy and says it has helped him cut down on nonessential purchases. He was recently tempted by a \$300 Blu-ray disc player from Best Buy, but hesitated when he thought about how the information would be shared and where the money could go instead.

“I’m thinking that by being more outwardly exposed with what I’m purchasing, it’s go-

ing to help,” says Broyles, 37.

Blippy has also piqued the interest of investors, snagging about \$1.7 million from Sequoia Capital and Charles River Ventures, where Kaplan had been the entrepreneur in residence. Twitter co-founder Evan Williams also has invested.

Kaplan thinks there are several ways Blippy could make money. Companies might pay to mine the posted data in order to get in touch with the best customers. Blippy also could link to products that users have bought online and get a fee when another Blippy user clicked through and purchased the same thing.

Kumar noted that people were initially wary of sharing such detailed information on sites such as Facebook, but now it’s common.

“For people that already talk about what they buy on Twitter, this could be harnessing that kind of energy,” says Amanda Lenhart, a senior researcher at the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

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