



Recall election officially set, will have virtually no impact

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen will have the distinction of being one of the few elected officials to have their name on a ballot twice, as the city council acknowledged Tuesday night there will be a recall election during the May 12 election.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker told council members area supporters of the recall petition gathered 498 signatures in the effort to oust McEwen, 25 signatures more than the required 473.

However, any plans to remove McEwen from the council with the petition were null and void, as the recall election will be held on the



"Typically, this provision in our charter is used to remove an elected official prior to the end of their term. That's not the way this particular petition is going to work. They are going to vote on the same ballot."

—Peggy Walker, city finance director

same May ballot as a regular election for the mayoral seat.

"The recall election will be on the ballot first because it is for the prior period," said Walker. "It will ask whether voters are for or against the recall of the mayor. The very next item will be the election of a mayor.

"McEwen has stated he plans to

run for re-election, but the first day to officially file to run for the office is Feb. 12. So there's really no way to tell who will be running against him, and there's always the chance he'll run unopposed."

McEwen was targeted along with four council members for recall in

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen listens during Tuesday night's meeting of the city council as City Finance Director Peggy Walker explains how the recall election for the mayor will be held May 12.

Spay-neuter project gets \$15,000 boost

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department's Animal Friendly Spay-Neuter Project got a healthy shot in the arm Tuesday, as state officials gave the go-ahead for an additional \$15,000 for the program.

The program, which garnered \$25,000 from state supporters in September 2005 and was bumped up to \$30,000 in September 2006, has been a huge success, according to BSPD Lt. Terry Chamness, grant coordinator.

"Even with the additional funding this year, we started January with \$3,000. So we were fully expecting to run out of funds this month," said Chamness. "We received a call from Austin, however, and they asked us if we thought we could use some extra money for the project.

"They didn't tell us how much was available, so we requested \$10,000. They contacted us this week and asked if we could handle \$15,000. It was a very pleasant surprise."

Chamness said the requirements for the program are fairly simple, and pet owners will be able to use the veterinarian of their choice.

"The vouchers will pay up to \$80 for dogs and \$70 for cats," said Chamness.

"The owner of the animal must provide proof of vaccination against rabies, a state requirement, and a city license for the pet, a local requirement. They also need to provide the breed of the animal, and weight is very important with the dogs.

"Once all of the requirements are satisfied, they will be given a voucher to take to their vet. They can have the procedure done, after which the vet can turn the voucher in to us to be compensated."

Stray dogs are not eligible for the program, according to Chamness, unless someone in the community wants to take responsibility for the ani-

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Big Spring High School journalism students, from left, Sergio Gatica, Alex Emerson, Colin Hunnicutt and Casey Moore look over a copy of "El Rodeo," the BSHS yearbook which recently won a gold medal award in recent national judging.

Journalism students' yearbook adds gold medal award to mounting list of accolades

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring High School journalism students excelled in recent national judging.

"El Rodeo," the BSHS yearbook, earned a gold medal award from Columbia Scholastic Press

Association (CSPA) in New York, said BSHS journalism instructor Leland Mallett.

High school journalism classes from across the country annually submit publications to the CSPA for judging.

This year's BSHS yearbook, edited by Jessica Olivas and Jake

White, earned 934 points out of a possible 1,000. Page design and photography earned perfect scores from the judges, Mallett said.

"Last year we earned a silver medal," Mallett said. "We took many of the suggestions from last

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Texas Legislature convenes; Craddick re-elected Speaker

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — The 80th Texas Legislature convened its 140-day session Tuesday with a big pot of money to spend, a floor fight over House leadership that fizzled by late afternoon and lots of pomp and

circumstance.

Now it's time to start the work of setting the two-year state budget — the only bill lawmakers are required to pass

— and debating other myriad issues.

While first days of a legislative session usually bring promises of bipartisanship for a better Texas, Tuesday's action

in the House was dominated by the battle for House Speaker between Republicans Tom Craddick of Midland, who has held the post since 2003, and Jim Pitts of Waxahachie.

Craddick eventually won the test of wills. Pitts, who led the charge for disgruntled Republicans and Democrats, ended the historic coup attempt when he conceded and said he would vote for Craddick. Craddick was elected speaker on a 121-27 vote.

"The success of this session will not be judged by what has happened over the last few hours," Gov. Rick Perry said. "Texas is better off when

Republicans and Democrats work together. The issues are too important for anything but."

Craddick vowed to be a more responsive leader.

"If in some way I fall short of your expectations and needs, please tell me, and I will do my best to correct that shortcoming," he told lawmakers in his acceptance speech.

The Legislature, which meets once every two years in regular session, began its 4 1/2-month marathon at 12:06 p.m., when Secretary of State Roger Williams pounded the gavel bringing the House to order. The Senate convened 12 minutes later.

The session is scheduled to adjourn on Memorial Day.

The first weeks of the session often have a slow and deliberate pace, more like a train leaving a station than a sprinter's burst at the sound of the gun. State lawmakers took their oath of office Tuesday but Gov. Rick Perry's inaugu-

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Fort Worth Star Telegram photo/Rodger Mallon
Tom Craddick, R-Midland, won his battle to remain House Speaker as the 80th Texas Legislature convened for the first time Tuesday.

Obituaries

Carol Sue Rutherford



Carol Sue Rutherford, 71, of Midland passed away Jan. 5, 2007, at the Hospice Inpatient Unit at Midland Memorial Hospital. A memorial service was held Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at the Chapel at Manor Park with the Rev. Dick Spencer officiating. The memorial was preceded by a private gravesite service. Sue was born in Stamford on July 7, 1935 to Wm. E. (Lige) Prewit and Verna Yarbrow Prewit.

Sue graduated from Stamford High School in 1953, and married John William Rutherford in 1955. She resided in Colorado City, Rule, Big Spring, Monahans and Midland. She retired as an employee of the city of Midland in 1996. Sue was a resident of the Manor Park community and enjoyed doing volunteer work for Alzheimer's patients.

Survivors include sons Jeff Rutherford of Fairview and his wife Patricia; John S. Rutherford of Midland and his wife Deanna and Jim Rutherford of Sharpsburg Ga., and his wife Rebecca; seven grandchildren, Brian Rutherford and his wife Julie, Lauren Rutherford, Will Rutherford, Kaden Rutherford, Noah Rutherford, Kennedy Rutherford and Jacob Rutherford. Sue is also survived by brothers and sisters Jane Lloyd of Graham and her husband Bill, Faye Stubbs of San Angelo, Bob Prewit of Silver City, N.M. and his wife Dorothy, Verna Davis of Big Spring and her husband Don Finkenbinder, Jim Prewit of West Columbia and wife Linda, Carl Prewit of Corpus Christi and wife Janice; sister-in-law Doris Prewit, of Winters; sister-in-law Edith Prewit of Hobbs, N.M.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers, William M (Bill) Prewit, E.E. (Gene) Prewit, Donald L. (Don) Prewit, and Tommy J. Prewit; and two sisters, Linda Kay Prewit, and Lucy Prewit Jarmes.

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

Paid obituary

Rick Dyer

Rick Dyer, 55, of Big Spring, died at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa on Monday afternoon, Jan. 8, 2007. Ricky was born in Big Spring on Jan. 5, 1952, to Hubert H. and Mar Lou Dyer. After graduating from Big Spring High School in 1970, he followed his dad into the plumbing business. He achieved his "Master Plumber" license at a very young age and owned and operated Dyer Plumbing and Air Conditioning. He was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church. He was a business man and an entrepreneur. Ricky was interested in his community and ran for public office.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Raye Nell Dyer officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include one son, Richie F. Dyer and wife Carol of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Kendra and Kaylee Dyer, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Candra Pickett and husband Roy of Odessa and Pamela Rolfe of Big Spring; one brother, Rocky Dyer and wife Sharon of Midland; and several nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles and life-long friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Ricky was very close to his son, Richie, who was the joy of his life. He loved children and enjoyed taking his granddaughters for rides to get chocolate and toys! One of his life-long dreams was to learn to fly an airplane, which he did, and loved every minute he spent in the air!

Ricky saw life as an adventure and lived life to the fullest.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Memorial Program, in care of Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 15 To 20 mph. Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Colder. Lows 39 to 44. Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and Thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of Showers and thunderstorms. Lows 36 to 40. Sunday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Colder. Highs in the lower 40s. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the lower 20s. Martin Luther King jr day...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows 17 to 22. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

Eldred (Rudy) Noble



Rudy Noble, 54, was called home to be with his Lord, Jan. 8, 2007, following a sudden illness. Memorial services are 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, at Cornerstone Church with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating.

Rudy was born Feb. 6, 1952, in Fort Sill, Okla., the oldest child of Verda Lou and Eldred Allen Noble. The family moved to Big Spring in 1970. He had worked for 7-Eleven for the past 18 years.

Rudy was a believer in the Lord, Jesus Christ and seized the opportunity of working with the public to share the Gospel. He led many people to salvation and was well-known for his evangelical gifts.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his three children and their spouses, Ken and Jennifer Noble, Delana and Josh Eilenberger and Joseph Noble, all of Big Spring; his five grandchildren, Logan, Hannah and Isabella Noble and Allie and Ryan Eilenberger, all of Big Spring; his siblings and their spouses, Charles Noble, Dee and Johnnie Sevey, Deantha and Larry Cotton, Karen Thurman and Janet and Preston Daylong, all of Big Spring and Melinda and Jeff Murphree of Lubbock; and stepmother, Marjorie Noble of Clovis, N.M.

The family will be at 1201 Pennsylvania.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- KEITH KELLY, 23, of 600 W. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Monday on a charge of aggravated assault.
- KRISTINA ESCAMILLA, 24, of 1503 Cherokee, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- GARY PARTLOW, 37, of 1501 Lexington, was arrested Tuesday on a local citation.
- NANCY CUELLAR, 19, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Tuesday on a local citation.
- NAKEITHA MCVAE, 20, of 1209 Mesa, was arrested Tuesday on a local citation and a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 600 block of 12th Street.
- POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1100 block of 11th Place.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 2600 block of Ent.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
 - in the 700 block of Lancaster.
 - in the 1500 block of Scurry.
 - in the 3300 block of Highway 80.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of 11th Place. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Lynn. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. Service was refused.

Take Note

• ANGELFOOD MINISTRY ORDERS ARE BEING TAKEN from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Thursday and Friday at North Birdwell United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell. For more information, contact Madeline Boadle at 267-2203.

• HERITAGE MUSEUM IS WORKING with Tumbleweed Smith to produce a video documentary on the life of Pat McCormick, the famous woman bull-fighter from Big Spring.

If you have information to share about her, you are invited to come to the museum between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 55 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROBBY CARROLL ATKINSON, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.

• KEITH D. KELLY, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• PAUL VIERA JR., 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear - unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

• SABRINA GUTIERREZ PEREZ, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft, bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• ADRIENNE DANIELLE REYNOLDS, 17, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.

• KRISTINA ELAINE ESCAMILLA, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• CHRISTOPHER DAVID GONZALES, 32, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

• RICKIE DELL HAIR, 33, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated with a passenger under 15 years (two counts).

• NED RANDAL HILDEBRAND, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of running a stop sign and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 16-18-19-29-33
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-2-8

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Horrible Nightmare

Contract: Seven Diamonds.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 6 5 3 2
♥ A J 10 9
♦ K 9
♣ 4 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 9
♥ K Q 8
♦ 7 6
♣ K Q 8

EAST
♠ 8 7
♥ 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 5 4 3 2
♣ 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ 2
♦ A Q J 10 8
♣ A J 10 9 2

Dear Mr. Becker: I suffer from nightmares — bridge nightmares, that is. I have this recurring dream where I hold the West hand and find myself on lead against seven diamonds.

I always lead a trump, and South draws four rounds of trumps. I discard a club on the third trump lead, and so does dummy, but on the next trump lead I run into a serious problem.

Sometimes I discard the eight of hearts. When I do, South plays a heart to the ace and ruffs a heart, establishing the J-10 as tricks. He then plays the K-A of spades and cashes dummy's two high hearts, whereupon I get squeezed and declarer makes the rest of the tricks

— to the tune of 2,440 points. Sometimes I discard a spade at trick four. When I do, South cashes the K-A of spades and ruffs a spade, establishing two spade tricks in dummy. He then plays a heart to dummy's ace and cashes the 6-5 of spades. I discard a heart on the fourth round of spades, but on the fifth spade, I'm again hopelessly squeezed. Whether I discard my king of hearts or a club from the K-Q, South makes the rest of the tricks.

Sometimes I discard the queen of clubs at trick four, hoping declarer won't realize I've unguarded the king. But South is a real smart cookie and invariably sees through my scheme. He plays the ace, nails the king, and I wind up shelling out the same 2,440 points.

Now, even though the stakes are nominal and the whole thing's only a dream, the fact is that psychologically, I can't afford to continually lose that many points on one deal. I was therefore wondering whether you can suggest any way for me to escape this awful dilemma. I would be most appreciative of any help you might give me. Cordially yours, Constant Reader.

Dear C.R.: Happy to oblige. The next time this terrible dream recurs, I suggest you ask for a new deal. You have only 12 cards! Cordially yours, S.B.

Tomorrow: Wrong way to run a railroad.
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RECALL

Continued from Page 1A

an affidavit filed last month by citizens objecting to the city council's passage of a no-smoking ordinance. However, during the verification process, it was determined petitioners had not gathered enough valid signatures to force recall elections for District 1 Councilwoman Stephanie Horton, District 3 Councilwoman JoAnn Staulcup, District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald or District 5 Councilwoman Joann Knox.

And while pro-recall citizens succeeded in one of five efforts, Walker said the election will have no bearing on who does — or doesn't — take the mayor's seat on the council.

"I don't see how the recall election can have any influence on the electing of a mayor in May," said Walker. "Typically, this provision in our charter is used to remove an elected official prior to the end of their term. That's not the way this particular petition is going to work. They are going to vote on the same

ballot. "If a citizen does not want Russ McEwen to be mayor, they have the option to simply not vote for him, rather than not vote for him and vote for the recall. It's a redundancy. One will not supersede the other. It's a very unusual situation, to say the least."

Charging that the council "circumvented the will of the majority of electors" in passing a law banning smoking in public places, local residents Shannon Thomason and Robert "Steve" Campbell filed an affidavit with the city secretary's office Nov. 6 to recall the five members of the council.

Also turning in petitions were Thomas Tafuro, Willard Robinson, Cy Barg, John Huckabee and Cindy McGuire.

Councilmen Gregg Biddison and Manuel Ramirez Jr. — who voted against the smoking ordinance — were not named in the petition or affidavit.

McEwen said the recall election will have no impact on how he runs his campaign for re-election.

"This doesn't change how I plan to run at all," said McEwen. "I have a record, and if

people think it's a good record, then they should vote for me. If they think it's a bad record, then they shouldn't vote for me. Then they should vote for someone else. The situation (with the recall) doesn't change that at all.

"I can't conceive that I'll run unopposed," added McEwen. "There's a group of citizens that are out there saying they want to recall me, so you have to believe they are going to come up with some kind of candidate. The recall effort is still redundant because you have a recall election on the very same day I'm up for re-election. I still don't understand the reasoning behind this."

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council:

- Awarded the bid for lease purchase financing for various equipment and capital improvements.
- Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a renewal agreement with the West Texas Water Ski Club.
- Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a mutual release of all claims with Thomas A. Land regarding the city's

occupancy of and alleged damages to property.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a contract with Scenic Mountain Medical Center for its WorkSTEPS program.

• Approved emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a master lease agreement with Chase Equipment Leasing Inc.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a joint election agreement with Big Spring Independent School District.

• Approved first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an election services contract with the Howard County Elections Administrator.

• Approved first reading of a resolution establishing TexSTAR Investment Pool as an authorized investment and authorizing the mayor to execute an application for participation.

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

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

year's critique and applied it to this year's book."

"It's a pretty elite honor," he added. "Only about 5 percent of the publications submitted receive gold medals."

This is the second top honor the book has received this year. It also won fourth place in Best



Mallett

of Show at the national journalism convention in Nashville last November.

"We felt really proud of the book from the beginning," Mallett said. "It's always good to hear from students, teachers and now top organizations how well they liked it."

Because of top honors

for both student publications, Mallett has been invited to present at the national CSPA convention in New York this March. Mallett is also on CSPA's judging board for 2007.

"The Corral" should receive UIL ratings within the next month. Students plan to attend the 80th Annual Interscholastic Press Association's convention in April to find out if

either publication earns a Star Award — UIL's top honor to student publications.

The Corral has earned Star Awards the last three years.

Mallett said most of the credit for the slew of awards goes to the 19-member journalism staff at BSHS.

"Most people don't know it's pretty much a student-run operation — they write the stories,

they take the photos, they design the pages," he said. "I'm just here to organize and make sure everyone's on the same page."

Leland Mallett contributed to this report.

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

SPAY

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mal.

"If someone calls us and says they have a stray in their neighborhood and want to have it spayed or neutered, we can't do

that," said Chamness. "However, if that person is willing to take responsibility for the animal, get it's shots and city license, we can certainly provide them with a voucher."

Chamness said he hopes to see the program have a positive effect on the Big

Spring area.

"The grant comes through the Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Division," said Chamness. "The funds come from the sale of the animal-theme license plates. They recently

decided to take those funds and put them into the sterilization of pets.

"The state of Texas spends more than \$20 million each year for the euthanasia of animals. And while that number seems huge, we spend quite a bit on the same

thing here in Big Spring." For more information, contact the BSPD at 264-2550.

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

LEGISLATURE

Continued from Page 1A

ration and party won't come until Jan. 16.

Lawmakers face months of committee hearings and floor sessions that will test their spirit of bipartisanship on issues such as taxes, education, immigration and criminal justice.

Even the good news — a \$14.3 billion surplus that leaves the state in good financial shape — is sure to cause a fight later when lawmakers argue about how to spend it.

But the first day is more about fun.

Tuesday saw a flurry of activity in and around the

Capitol as visitors and lobbyists swarmed the hallways. Hundreds of people waited to get into the House gallery, the snaking up and down three stories through the rotunda more than two hours before the chamber opened.

Many hoped to get a glimpse of the action to come, although seating was limited in the visitors' gallery. The line was dominated by more than 200 supporters of freshman House member Paula Hightower, D-Arlington, many of them wearing blue and yellow "Paula" stickers on their chest or waving flags with her name.

Girl Scout Troop 736

from Austin was near the front of the line.

"I'm hopeful they'll see women can make decisions and lead," said Karen Dulaney Smith, whose daughter Ariel is in the troop.

Fifth-grader Zarina Adams was more impressed with the interior view of the massive Capitol dome and rotunda.

Senators elected Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston, president pro tempore, a mostly honorary position but one that occasionally wields power. The president pro tempore takes over the duties of the governor's office when the elected governor and lieutenant

governor are out of the state.

The Senate avoided a dust-up over the traditional rule that it takes a two-thirds majority to bring a bill to the floor for a vote.

Bombastic freshman Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, who is also a popular conservative radio talk-show host, asked senators to change the rule to require a simple majority. Republicans have a 20-11 majority, one shy of the two-thirds necessary.

He was voted down 30-1. By Wednesday, the pomp and circumstance will be largely gone. There will be moments of honoring sports teams, celebrities and war

heroes to break up the policy debates, but for the most part, lawmakers will get down to business.

CINEMARK
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Noe Blanco, 46, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Lighthouse Restoration Center with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Ruth Grantham, 87, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Rudy Noble, 54, died Monday. Memorial Services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Cornerstone Church.

"We are very grateful to each and everyone who called, came by, sent flowers, food and/or cards of comfort during this time of loss of our son, Kerry Simpkins. Thank you, the family of Gene and Frankie Simpkins"

BSISD trustees set for annual evaluation of superintendent

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will conduct their annual evaluation of Superintendent Michael Downes when they hold a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Downes has held the top spot at BSISD since 2002. Trustees will consider

the evaluation in closed session before announcing their results later in the meeting. Each time in the past, they've extended Downes' contract by a year.

In other business, trustees will consider resignations, retirements and hirings.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

County bent on repeating past failures

It's a do-over. A \$331,000 do-over. That's the decision Howard County commissioners came to on a 3-2 vote Monday, effectively chucking any and all previous designs for a new jail facility — along with project coordinator and local architect Phil Furqueron — in favor of starting the entire process over.

And while it may seem like a good idea to just start over when times get tough and the bickering and infighting threatens to drive everyone to the brink, it's hard to forget who will be picking up the tab for this colossal bungle: Howard County taxpayers.

Furqueron, who has worked on the project for more than two years, will not only walk away from the affair retaining all rights to the schematic drawings, specifications and other data he contributed for the future jail, but he will most likely walk away with a healthy parting gift in the form of contract termination penalties, part of his original agreement with the county.

So, why was Furqueron canned?

According to newly-elected County Judge Mark Barr, Furqueron is a casualty of the "political climate" coming out of a failed bond election to finance the proposed jail.

"Phil has done nothing but what we've asked him to do," Commissioner Emma Brown said during the meeting. "However, I feel like maybe we should go in a different direction. I hate to do this, but you have to do what you have to do."

Isn't that just another way of saying, "Sorry Phil, but we need a scapegoat on this project, and you're it?"

While Brown, who draws more than \$35,000 a year salary — excluding longevity pay — for serving two mornings each month on the commissioner's court, might not feel the full fiscal strain this do-over will put on county taxpayers, it's likely John Q. Public will.

It seems like he always does.

During the meeting, Barr said the citizens of Howard County deserve some answers to questions, including why an existing building can or cannot be used, or why the courthouse can or cannot be renovated to house a new jail.

However, as Barr begins to pry at the curious nature of his constituents, he may not be as pleased at some of the other questions they have.

For instance, why throw \$331,000 of the taxpayers' money out the window just to bring in a new architect to do what has already been done? Why terminate Furqueron's contract when it's been the inability of the commissioner's court to establish a clear direction that has delayed and defeated this project time and time again?

In the end, the commissioner's court now stands in the same spot it stood more than two years ago, no closer to designing — much less actually building — a new county jail.

And if this most-recent debacle seems like de-javu, it's not. The county danced through the same fruitless steps in the 1990s, spending nearly \$500,000 before throwing in the towel and completely ignoring the need for a new jail for the next decade.

Pointing fingers, playing the blame game and throwing away taxpayer money won't get a new jail built.

Sadly, it appears the decision to "start over" is really nothing more than repeating the past.

Say adios to Venezuelan democracy

Until now, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been able to claim that he rules over a democracy. But that is about to change.

You can't have a democracy if opposing the government becomes a crime, if the media is censored and only one political party is allowed to flourish.

Chavez's ambition to become a dictator should not take anyone by surprise. Over the last eight years, through a series of pseudo-judicial institutional transformations, he has progressively turned his democratically elected government into a communist, authoritarian regime.

He makes no secret of his admiration for Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and has already emulated the Cuban totalitarian system in many ways.

Yet Chavez had been able to claim to be democratic because, although reluctantly, he allowed the opposition to challenge him in elections and in the media.

However, after his December reelection, apparently he now feels ready to take more dramatic steps toward what he calls the "construction of socialism" in Venezuela.

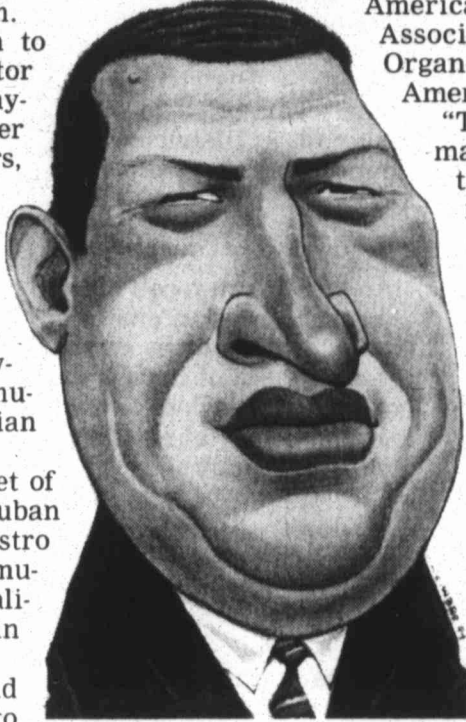
As he begins a new six-year presidential term this week, Chavez is vowing to shut down Radio Caracas Television, Venezuela's largest and oldest network, because it allows the expression of political ideas opposing the Chavez regime.

Since the TV station was among many media outlets that supported the bungled coup against Chavez in 2002 and a general strike against his government in 2003, the dictator-elect apparently feels he has consolidated enough power to retaliate.

"Go and turn off the equipment," Chavez said as he vowed to deny renewal of the network's license, which expires in May. In one more of his many bombastic speeches, Chavez said the network is "at the service of coups against the people,

against the nation, against national independence, against the dignity of the republic."

Of course, this threat of totalitarian censorship has been condemned as a grave violation of freedom of expression by many concerned observers, from press freedom groups like Reporters Without Borders and the Inter-American Press Association to the Organization of American States.



"The closing of a mass communications outlet is a rare step in the history of our hemisphere and has no precedent in the recent decades of democracy," said OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza, in a statement that also noted that the measure "serves as a warning against other news organizations, leading them to limit their actions at the risk of facing the same fate."

Insulza said he hoped "this decision will be revised."

But the dictator-elect is undaunted.

In a radio interview, he said the decision is "irrevocable" because RCTV "didn't pass the test to receive a renewal of a concession from a state that is serious, responsible, committed and respectful of the people."

Of course, the Venezuelan people know that if RCTV is "a coupist TV channel," as Chavez describes it, then Chavez is a coupist president. Although he was elected when he took office eight years ago, in 1992 he had tried to gain power through an ill-fated military coup.

The man is a huge hypocrite. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry even demanded that the OAS retract its remarks because Insulza supposedly "improperly meddled" in Venezuelan affairs. The Ministry noted that the OAS revealed an "unfortunate ignorance of reality in Venezuela."

But for suggesting the OAS has no right to comment on something as basic as the violation of freedom of expression in Latin America, the "unfortunate ignorance" actually belongs to the Chavez regime.



MIGUEL PEREZ

As if censoring the opposition in the media wasn't enough, the dictator-elect has just reshuffled his cabinet, replacing even Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel, and surrounding himself with even more faithful followers of his authoritarian style of ruling. He even appointed his brother to an important government post — yet another sign that he is emulating Cuba's model. But just like a good dictator, he declined to comment on the reasons for his moves.

Chavez apparently sees his 23 percent margin of victory in December as a mandate to finally become the dictator he has always aspired to be.

In a speech to his supporters after his reelection, Chavez formally announced plans to merge some 20 leftist political parties that currently support him into one single political party, called the United Socialist Party of Venezuela. And since he already controls the Venezuelan courts and the National Assembly, what's to stop him from making that party the only legal party in Venezuela?

These latest moves toward becoming Latin America's next Castro have created concern even among many of his supporters.

But it's really too late. They saw the writing on the wall, they ignored the warnings against creating a repressive dictator, and they kept giving him more authority to squash their civil liberties.

It's very unfortunate for the minority who opposed him. But for the majority of the Venezuelan people, whatever they get, they deserve.

To find out more about Miguel Perez, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

Cross Plains: One year later

Last year on my way back from spending the holidays with my son and his family I stopped in Cross Plains. The city was heavily damaged by a fire that started apparently from a cigarette that some careless driver tossed out. The blaze was fanned by strong winds and destroyed about 25 percent of the homes in the city (population 1,068). Two people died. Others suffered respiratory problems.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

I developed a strong feeling toward Cross Plains when I spoke at the chamber banquet there a few months prior to the fire. I was concerned about some friends there. When I spoke to them, their spirits were high. They personally had no damage and were busy helping others. As we drove around the town, the images of burned-out houses and scorched vacant lots looked like a war scene. The smell of smoke was still in the air a week after the fire, which occurred two days

after Christmas, 2005.

I interviewed half a dozen victims of the fire that day, both children and adults. Instead of the expected tears and sadness, they were full of adrenalin, thinking about rebuilding and getting on with their lives. I wondered if they were still in shock. I had a profound experience that day and left with a sincere sense of admiration for the people of Cross Plains.

In January 2006 my documentary class at The University of Texas at the Permian Basin in Odessa was just beginning. I gave the students a list of possible topics. One was the Cross Plains fire. They started asking questions about it and chose that as their semester project. In February we boarded a university van and went to Cross Plains to do some interviews. The students set up recorders in Sunday school classrooms at the First Baptist Church, which was headquarters for dealing with the fire's aftermath. The interviews revealed some dramatic stories:

"Evil-looking clouds of black smoke approached the city from the west just after noon. Funnels

of fire danced around town. It was an ocean of flames. The sky was brown, green, the sun was blood red. It was very eerie. You could hear explosions every few seconds from gas tanks, paint cans and houses. The fire was coming faster than a horse could run. I saw about 30 deer running, 5 or 10 of them on fire. A squirrel was on fire and it ran along setting other fires. Our appliances melted. Things were just powder and ash."

One hundred sixteen homes were destroyed. 36 more were damaged. The cost to rebuild is estimated to be \$10 million. In the midst of the devastation, there was an outpouring of love. People from out of town donated \$640,000 to a disaster fund and brought in truckloads of food and clothing. Many of the lots were cleared within days. New homes are being built. My students learned a lot more than just how to produce a documentary. They learned a lot about the human spirit.

Exactly one year after the fire, the citizens of Cross Plains got together for a barbecue.

Mostly it was a counting of blessings.

Parent's Corner: One for all and all for one!

Have you ever noticed how the actions of one individual can affect those around him?

We are all interconnected in one way or another. Sometimes we have no idea how the things that affect us can affect others too.

It has been said that life is a woven tapestry and every thread that crosses ours is there for a purpose. As our lives are woven together the purpose is there for us to discover.

An example can be discovered in the following story. A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in

the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it. Be assured you are in my thoughts."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The

cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap all alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house; the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife.

The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the

farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died.

So many people came for her funeral; the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, just remember, when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage and support one another. May our motto be, just as the Three Musketeers are credited to saying, "One for all and all for one!"

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL RYAN

Social networking meets social engineering

Over the past 12 months, Internet users got a little savvy to fake e-greetings and breaking news stories that tempt them to click on a link. They've learned through technology news headlines or first-hand personal experience that those links lead them to phishing sites and may secretly install spyware on their computers.



THOMAS JENKINS

What Internet die-hards probably didn't expect was social engineering scammers — scammers that depend on user-interaction to execute an attack against them — springing up on their beloved online networks, such as MySpace.com and YouTube.

As it turns out, for all the social engineering incidents of the past year, it was the worm and phishing attack against MySpace that woke the world up to what some security experts are calling the next big Internet threat.

The attack forced the online social networking giant to shut down hundreds of user profile pages after a worm converted legitimate links to those that escorted users to a phishing site. The sinister site attempted to obtain personal information, including MySpace user names and passwords.

With the rise of Web 2.0 — second-generation or Internet based services such as blogs, social networking sites and communication tools — and more social interaction on sites like MySpace, LinkedIn and YouTube, security experts warn that we will see more hackers insert malicious code into dynamically generated Web pages in 2007.

Much like the recent MySpace attack, the goal is to remotely change user settings, access account information, poison cookies with malicious code, expose secure connections and access restricted sites. These hackers are after two things: identities and cash.

"Social networking sites are goldmines of information, and a social engineer's dream. You don't even have to go dumpster diving anymore," said Chris Boyd, director of malware research for FaceTime Security Labs. "I've seen profiles where users give out their home number, address, places they hang out — the works. And that's before

the bad guy has even lifted a finger to use any sort of system based exploit."

The danger is real, according to a study conducted by CA and the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA). In October, the alliance issued its first social networking study examining the link between specific online behaviors and the potential for becoming a victim of cybercrime.

Despite all the publicity about sexual predators on sites like MySpace and FaceBook, the alliance took a different approach by measuring the potential for threats such as fraud, identity theft, computer spyware and viruses.

Although 57 percent of people who use social networking sites admit to worrying about becoming a victim of cybercrime, they are still divulging information that may put them at risk, as Boyd suggested.

Social networkers are also downloading unknown files from other people's profiles, and responding to unsolicited instant messages that could contain worms, the NCSA reported.

"The payoff is almost always financial — even if they're stealing login data, they're only doing it to spam sites that install adware, such as the recent MySpace worm," Boyd explained. "The impact on these sites can be gigantic. For example, the only real safeguard against the MySpace worm attack was to not use the service. You can't get a bigger impact than

that."

At a high level, social engineering attacks are Web 2.0 attacks. As more users go online to take advantage of Web 2.0 applications like social networking sites, blogs, wikis and RSS feeds, malware authors are going to be right behind them, predicted Dan Nadir, vice president of product strategy at ScanSafe.

"The explosion in the popularity and use of Web 2.0 sites has made them an irresistible target for malware authors," Nadir said. "Early signs of this were evident in 2006. In August, the ScanSafe Threat Center found that up to one in every 600 social networking pages host malware, and in recent weeks, malware on Wikipedia, MySpace and YouTube has been exposed," he said.

Web 2.0 user-contributed content means that the content on the thousands of URLs is constantly changing. Unfortunately, Nadir noted, many traditional Web filtering solutions rely on URL databases and honeypots — traps set to detect or deflect unauthorized users from accessing systems — and,

therefore, are not in a position to keep the dynamic content that characterizes Web 2.0 sites.

What's more, traditional antivirus solutions that require signatures will be slow to react to zero-day threats (threats that appear before a signature or patch is made available).

"Web 2.0 and the increasing shift toward Web services makes many existing Web filtering and Web malware solutions ineffective," Nadir warned. "The only way to keep up with the latest Web threats is to rely on a solution that actually scans the URL in real time every time it is requested, versus just comparing it to a dated list of URLs."

Security researchers report that confidence tricks are an extremely popular way to draw the eye of social networkers, especially if they can fool the user into thinking the rogue executable is somehow related to "increased security." Boyd has seen this a number of times on MySpace, and said certain sections of these sites are becoming "the equivalent of ghettos or red-light

districts: no-go zones," he said.

Randy Abrams, director of technical education at ESET, believes user education is a key to thwarting social networking attacks. Users should never click on any links that ask them to install something, for example, or links in strange messages from people they don't know.

"Users must learn to distrust e-mails that direct them to sites where they are asked to enter personal information," Abrams said. "If phishing disappeared overnight, another social engineering based attack would spring up to replace it. The real defense is to learn how not to fall victim to social engineering. Technology is a very, very useful supplement but can't solve this social problem."

Despite McAfee Avert Labs' prediction that social networks will be a central malware theme in 2007, not all security researchers believe that social networking attacks are the next big target for malware.

Though there have been some instances of worms that use these sites to

propagate, there have only been a few examples in the wild, according to Ed Moyle, a manager in CTG's Information Security Services practice.

Moyle said he understands the basis for the predictions, but still doesn't believe these attacks will see the same level of popularity as traditional malware. The majority of social networking sites have a few features that help make them less appealing to malware authors: they are centralized and offer community enforcement.

"In all these cases, I think it comes down to one thing: profitability," Moyle noted. "Most researchers agree that the motivation for malware development is increasingly financial. Given the features in these types of sites, I think it's less likely that malware authors can readily 'make a buck,' and are likely to instead spend their time and energy in writing malware where they can guarantee a return."

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

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

H&R Block Hosting National Tax Advice Day Rally

Tax professionals hit the streets to help Americans claim commonly missed tax benefits.

WHAT: H&R Block is hosting National Tax Advice Day 2007 with 50+ rallies across the country, including Big Spring, to kick off the 2007 tax season.

WHERE: H&R Block
1512 S. Gregg
Big Spring, Texas

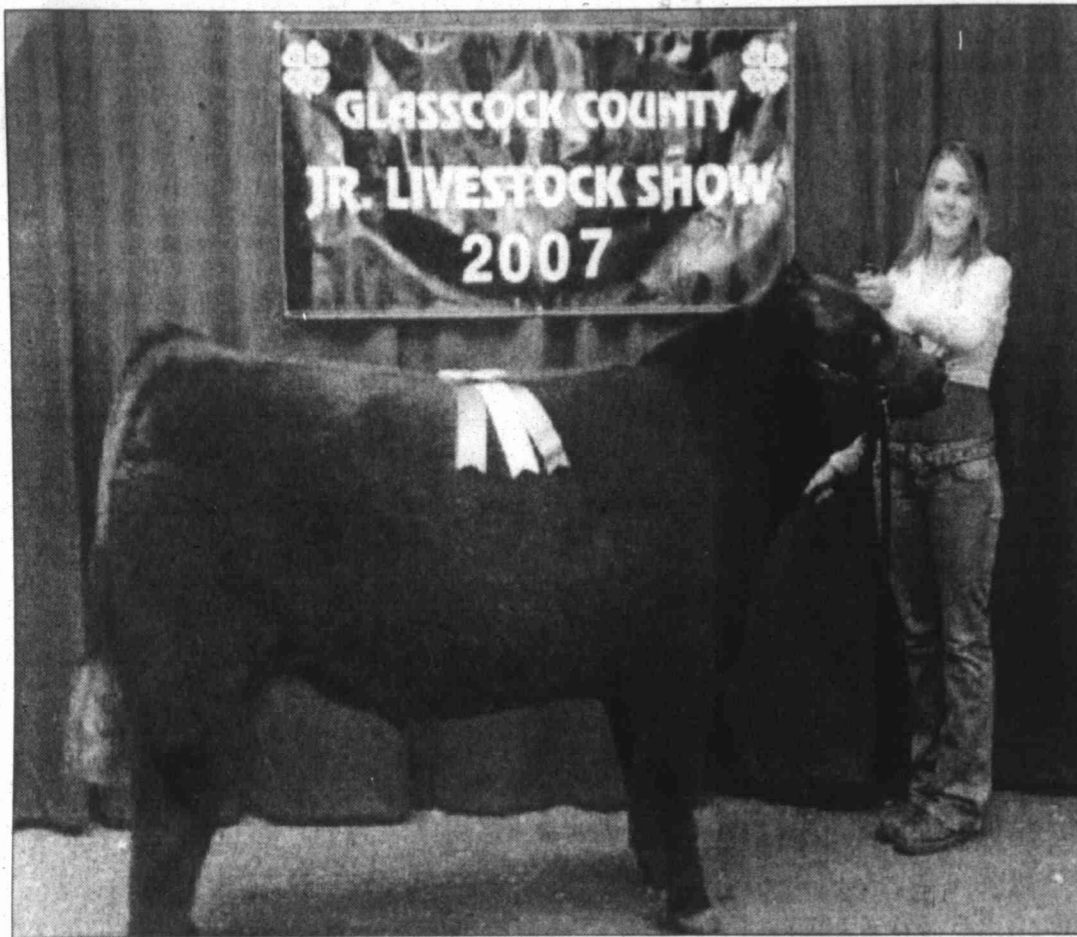
WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007
Open House 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
The IRS begins accepting e-filed returns on Jan. 12.

WHY: Americans overpay the IRS by \$1 billion each year due to overlooked tax deductions and credits. On Jan. 11, H&R Block tax professionals nationwide will hit the streets to inform taxpayers of new and existing tax benefits that could mean the difference between owing the IRS and getting a refund.

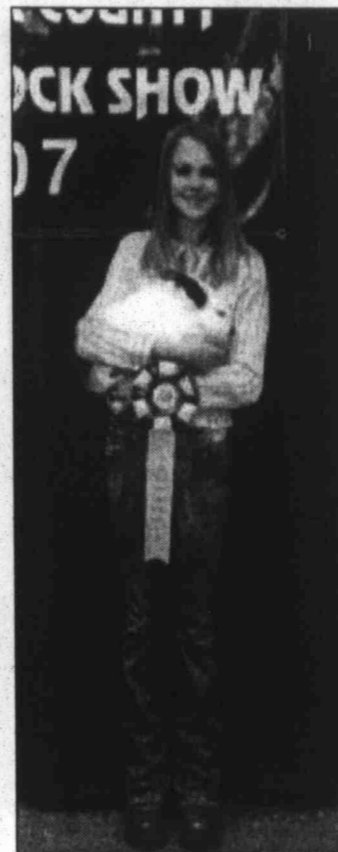
WHO: More than 14 local H&R Block tax professionals with over 100 years of experience.

Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show Grand Champions

Livestock show results



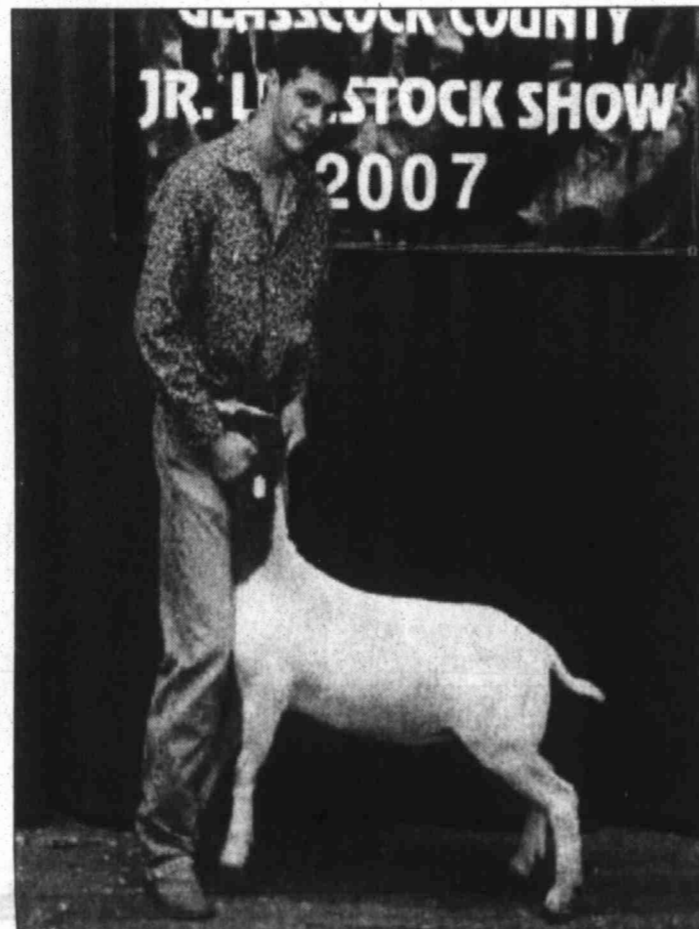
Grand Steer-Whitney Kellermeyer



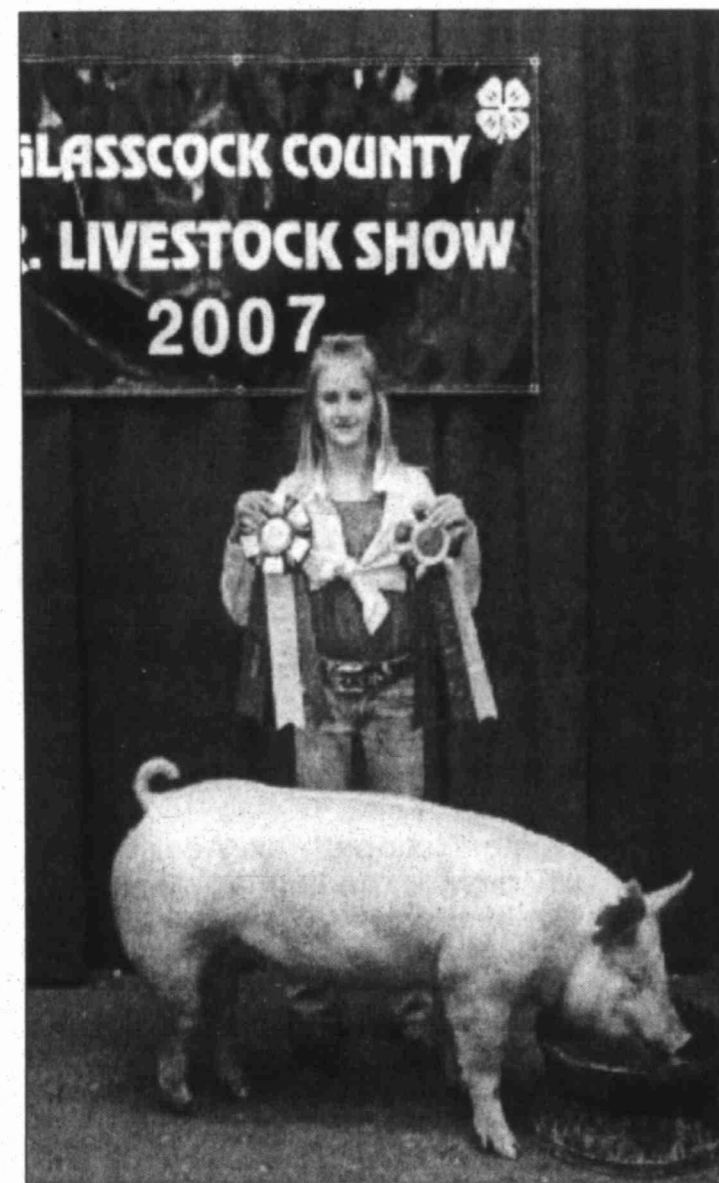
Grand Rabbit-Shanna Halfmann



Grand Lamb-Paige Sturtz



Grand Goat-Cade Halfmann



Grand Swine-Holly Halfmann

2007 Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show
Rabbits
 Fancy
 Fancy Champion: Britton Avery
 Reserve Fancy Champion: Britni Cook
Cook
 Commercial
 Champion Commercial: Shanna Halfmann
 Reserve Champion Commercial: Laura Halfmann
Grand
 Grand Champion Rabbit: Shanna Halfmann
 Reserve Champion Rabbit: Britton Avery
Showmanship
 Junior: Kamie Halfmann
 Intermediate: Shanna Halfmann
 Senior: Laura Halfmann

Wether Goats
 Nannies
 Champion Nanny: Kadden Kothmann
 Reserve Champion Nanny: Blaine Walker
 Light Weight
 Champion Light Weight: Brazos Hirt
 Reserve Champion Light Weight: Brody Halfmann
 Heavy Weight
 Champion Heavy Weight: Cade Halfmann
 Reserve Champion Heavy Weight: Cade Halfmann
 Angora
 Angora Champion: Carlie Hollingsworth
 Reserve Angora Champion: Carlie Hollingsworth
 Grand
 Grand Champion Goat: Cade Halfmann
 Reserve Grand Champion Goat: Brazos Hirt
Showmanship
 Junior: Kadden Kothmann
 Senior: Cade Halfmann
 Intermediate: Reggie Halfmann

Lambs
 Fine Wool Cross
 Fine Wool Cross Champion: Levi Schaefer
 Reserve Fine Wool Cross Champion: Erin Hirt
 Fine Wool
 Fine Wool Champion: Erin Hirt
 Reserve Fine Wool Champion: Brazos Hirt
 Medium Wool
 Medium Wool Champion: Paige Sturtz
 Reserve Medium Wool Champion: Erin Hirt
 Grand
 Grand Champion Lamb: Paige Sturtz
 Reserve Grand Champion Lamb: Erin Hirt
Showmanship
 Junior: Lexie Schaefer
 Intermediate: Cassie Hirt
 Senior: Erin Hirt

Steers
 European
 Champion European: Whitney Kellermeyer
 Reserve Champion European: Kelsey Jones
Grand
 Grand Champion Steer: Whitney Kellermeyer
 Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Kelsey Jones
Showmanship
 Senior: Whitney Kellermeyer

Swine
 Chester
 Champion Chester: Chapman Royall
 Reserve Champion Chester: Macy Schwartz
 OPB
 Champion OPB: Hope Halfmann
 Reserve Champion OPB: Blayne Batla
 Duroc
 Champion Duroc: Chapman Royall
 Reserve Champion Duroc: Macy Schwartz
 Hamp
 Champion Hamp: Rafe Royall
 Reserve Champion Hamp: Bryson Batla
 Cross
 Champion Cross: Rafe Royall
 Reserve Champion Cross: Brooklyn Batla
 York
 Champion York: Holly Halfmann
 Reserve Champion York: Ian Schaefer
 Grand
 Grand Champion Swine: Holly Halfmann
 Reserve Grand Champion Swine: Rafe Royall
Showmanship
 Junior: Bryson Batla
 Senior: Macy Schwartz
 Intermediate: Ian Schaefer

Pig Scramble Winners:
 4 years & under: Peyton Royall
 5 & 6 year olds: Mallory Staggs
 7 & 8 year olds: Holden Biemeret
Top Hand Award: Erin Hirt

Glasscock County Livestock Association Scholarship:
Douglas Plagens Memorial
 \$500: Cade Halfmann, Erin Hirt
Glasscock County Livestock Association Scholarship:
 \$250: Sam Long, Colton Schwartz, Marissa Schwartz, Blaine Walker, Jason Flores

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS
 Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning January 16, 2007. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

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8:00 AM	Water Aerobics	Water Aerobics		Water Aerobics	
9:00 AM	Pilates	Spin	Kickboxing	Spin	
10:00 AM	Water Aerobics	Water Aerobics		Water Aerobics	
11:00 AM	Water Arthritis		Water Arthritis		Water Arthritis
5:20 PM	Water Aerobics	Water Aerobics		Water Aerobics	
5:30 PM		Pilates		Spin	

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Convict set for execution for 1998 slaying
HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Katherine Jimenez wonders about her son, who by now would have been 12.
"He's not here. He won't ever be here," Jimenez said of her son, Anthony, who was murdered in 1998. "I can only dream of what he might look like. It's not fair, but he's gone."
Carlos Granados, 36, convicted of fatally stabbing the boy and seriously wounding Jimenez, was set for execution Wednesday evening.
Jimenez, 34, planned to be a witness at the first lethal injection of the year in Texas, the nation's most active death penalty state. At least four other inmates are set to die this month.
Suffering from some two dozen stab wounds and wrapped around her murdered child, Jimenez slipped into what she called "survival mode" at their apartment in Georgetown, north of Austin.
"I remember the entire thing," she said Tuesday. "It's not anything I would wish on anyone — ever, ever, ever."
Jimenez survived to testify against Granados, her knife-wielding boyfriend from New York City.

Border mayors invited to give input on fence
Some Texas mayors will meet with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff next week to discuss their concerns about plans to build a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.
Officials along the border have complained about the fence legislation, which determines where the barriers must be built. And some Democrats are vowing to roll back the law.
Under legislation approved last year, a double-layered fence would be built along 700 miles of the country's southwest border. More than 300 miles of the fence would be in Texas.
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Sen. John Cornyn, both of Texas, support the fence but also want border officials to have input. The private meeting with Chertoff next week will be in Hutchison's office. A date has not yet been announced.
The senators have invited about a dozen border mayors to talk about worries over commerce, livestock and other issues relating to the fence legislation. Some private property owners and county judges also have been invited.


El Paso Mayor John Cook said Tuesday he hadn't yet received an invitation.
Teacher sentenced to probation
LEANDER (AP) — A former high school teacher who pleaded guilty to groping a student has been sentenced to a month in jail and 10 years of probation.
Larry Bertrand Wallace, 53, also must give up his teaching license and pay a \$2,500 fine as part of Tuesday's sentencing.
Wallace pleaded guilty in November to having an inappropriate relationship with a student.
According to an affidavit, Wallace told a student in January 2006 that he wanted to have sex with her. He also touched her breast and grabbed her between the legs when she was in his classroom.

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**In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald**



Goobar says hey!

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Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2007 Ford Freestar SE - Silver Birch w/Black Leather, 4.2 V-6, Quad Bucket Seats, 3rd Row Stow In Floor, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$22,995. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995</p> <p>2006 Lincoln Town Car - Silver Birch w/Black Leather, Lt. French Silk, Stone Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Fully Loaded, 11,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$47,120. Was \$30,995 NOW \$28,995</p> <p>2006 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. Premium - Arizona Beige w/Camel Leather, All Power, 13,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$31,000. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. Premium - Arizona Beige w/Camel Leather, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$31,000. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Mercury Milan Premier - Vivid Red w/Camel Leather, 2.3-4 Cyl., All Power w/21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2.3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Dark Red, Gray Leather, 3.0 V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SE - Silver Birch w/Black Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 10,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$22,995. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tucson w/Black Leather, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 10,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$22,430. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Taurus SE - White w/Flint Cloth, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Silver Birch w/Black Leather, Sport Pkg., 6 Disc CD w/MP3, Spoiler, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport Pkg., 21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Freestyle SE - Silver Birch w/Black Leather, 3.0 V-6, Fully Loaded w/12,000 Miles, Moonroof. Was \$22,995 NOW \$20,995</p> <p>2006 Ford Freestyle SE - Redfire Metallic, Cloth, All Power, 10,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$19,995</p>	<p>*** CARS ***</p> <p>2005 Ford Mustang GT - White w/Black Leather, 5 Speed, Shake 1000, All Power. Local One Owner w/37,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p> <p>2004 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver Frost, Leather, All Power. Local One Owner w/27,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$22,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Satin White, Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/45,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Focus 4-DR SE - Tundra Green, Cloth, Automatic, All Power, One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2003 Lincoln Town Car Executive - Black w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/53,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2003 Mazda MX-6 Miata Convertible LS - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/40,200 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995</p> <p>1999 Pontiac Grand Prix SE - Green w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned. Was \$6,995 NOW \$6,995</p> <p>1997 Lincoln Continental - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Locally Owned w/10,000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$8,995</p>	<p>*** SUV's ***</p> <p>2002 Ford Expedition 4X4 XLT - Red/Tan, Tan Leather, Fiberglass Boards, One Owner w/80,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2002 Cadillac Escalade AWD - Sandstone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/41,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2001 GMC Yukon XL - Pewter w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner. Was \$13,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$8,995</p> <p>1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$6,995</p>
<p>2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XL 4X4 - White, V-4, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Frontier King Cab - Silver, 4-Cyl., Automatic, Air, Local One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2004 Ford F150 Supercrew STX 4X4 - Yellow w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/32,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Ranger Supercrew - Silver, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/47,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Blue/Silver, All Power, Local One Owner w/51,000 Miles, Leather. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2003 Ford Superduty - Silver, Diesel - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/only 37,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - Green/Tan w/Leather, All Power, Tonneau Cover, One Owner w/77,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 87,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White, 4.6 V-8, All Power, 79,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Dodge D150 Ram - Silver, 6 Cyl., 60,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab - Silver, All Power, Locally Owned w/45,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p>	<p>*** TRUCKS ***</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XL 4X4 - White, V-4, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Frontier King Cab - Silver, 4-Cyl., Automatic, Air, Local One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2004 Ford F150 Supercrew STX 4X4 - Yellow w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/32,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Ranger Supercrew - Silver, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$12,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/47,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Blue/Silver, All Power, Local One Owner w/51,000 Miles, Leather. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F150 Supercrew - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995</p> <p>2003 Ford Superduty - Silver, Diesel - Gray w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/only 37,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - Green/Tan w/Leather, All Power, Tonneau Cover, One Owner w/77,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 87,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White, 4.6 V-8, All Power, 79,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2001 Dodge D150 Ram - Silver, 6 Cyl., 60,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab - Silver, All Power, Locally Owned w/45,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p>	
<p>2006 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Black w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/4,300 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2005 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 40,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p>	<p>*** SUV's ***</p> <p>2005 Ford Escape Limited - Red w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/18,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2004 Lincoln Navigator - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/30,300 Miles. Was \$30,995 NOW \$28,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Explorer XLS - Tan w/cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Midnight Blue, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/52,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Pueblo Gold, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/34,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995</p> <p>2003 GMC Envoy XL SLT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/67,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2003 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2005 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 40,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995</p>	<p>*** MOTORCYCLE ***</p> <p>2004 Honda VTX 1800 - Red, Chrome Out, Windshield, Saddle Bags, Cobra Drag Exhaust, One Owner w/5,000 Miles. Was \$4,995 NOW \$7,995</p>

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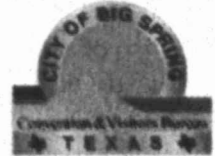
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Sports

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Sports Editor Mike Grimes at 263-7331, ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

IN BRIEF

NFL divisional playoff schedule

Saturday, Indianapolis at Baltimore, 3:30 p.m. (CBS).

Philadelphia at New Orleans, 7 p.m. (FOX).

Sunday, Seattle at Chicago, Noon (FOX).

New England at San Diego, 3:30 p.m. (CBS).



Slugger Mark McGwire was denied entrance to the Hall of Fame

Mark McGwire's Hall of Fame bid was met with a rejection as emphatic as his upper-deck home runs.

While the door to Cooperstown swung open for Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn, Mark McGwire was picked by less than a quarter of voters — a result that raises doubts about whether Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa or other sluggers from baseball's Steroids Era will ever gain entry.

McGwire, whose 583 home runs rank seventh on the career list, appeared on 128 of a record 545 ballots in voting released by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

The 23.5 percent vote McGwire received represented the first referendum on how history will judge an age when bulked-up players came under suspicion of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Texas-Permian Basin falls to Texas Pan Am in basketball

Brian Burrell scored 16 points and Texas-Pan American shot 56 percent from the field in a 91-51 win over Texas-Permian Basin on Tuesday night.

The Broncos (9-8) seized control with a 52-10 run that began in the first half and continued into the second. They closed out the first half with a 30-10 run and opened the second half with 22 straight points.

Johnathan Chatman came off the bench to score 12 points for Texas-Pan American and Dexter Shankle added 10. Colin Lien led the Broncos with six rebounds, helping them break a three-game losing streak.

Josh Trejo led the Falcons (8-10) with nine points. Matt Zaney added nine rebounds.

After Romo's bobble, K-Balls are a topic

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Even in perfect weather, some footballs can be too slippery.

While teams are allowed to practice with regular game balls during the week, the ones used on special teams are off limits until shortly before kickoff. They're shiny and new, and even have a name — the K-Ball.

There's one major problem, though: The balls are a bit slick because they're fresh out of the box.

"They're slicker than the plastic balls my kids play with," injured Philadelphia Eagles long-snapper Mike Bartrum said Tuesday.

Since 1999, kickers, punters, holders and snappers have complained to anyone who will listen that they don't like the K-Balls.

It took Tony Romo's bobbled snap to really get everyone's attention.

Romo led Dallas to the playoffs after replacing Drew Bledsoe as the starting quarterback and earned a trip to the Pro Bowl. But he'll be remembered for mishandling the snap on a 19-yard field goal in the closing moments of the Cowboys' 21-20 loss to Seattle in a wild-card playoff game Saturday.

The NFL introduced the K-Balls eight years ago after the competition committee decided teams were abusing their privileges and taking unusual measures to condition balls so they would fly higher and travel farther.



Dallas quarterback Tony Romo (9) mishandles the snap as kicker Martin Gramatica attempts a field against the Seattle Seahawks late in the NFC Wild Card game. The Seahawks defeated the Cowboys, 21-20 after the failed attempt.

Kickers and punters were accused of using strange methods to soften the leather, spread the seams and inflate the bladder. Rumors included instances

of balls being put in microwave ovens, dryers and saunas.

"The reason this was put in place was to prevent teams from doctoring balls for kicking,"

league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

So the night before a game, 12

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 2B

Hall closed to McGwire, Ripken and Gwynn gain entry

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Mark McGwire's evasions were met with a denial.

While the door to Cooperstown swung open for Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn on Tuesday, McGwire was denied baseball's highest honor, picked by less than a quarter of voters.

After hitting 583 home runs to rank seventh on the career list, McGwire appeared on 128 of a record 545 ballots in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The result that raises doubts about whether Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa or other sluggers from baseball's Steroids Era will ever gain entry.

"I hope that as time goes on, that number will increase," Gwynn said. "I hope that one day he will get into the Hall of Fame, because I really believe he deserves it."

The 23.5 percent vote McGwire received represented the first referendum on how history will judge an age when bulked-up stars came under suspicion of using performance-enhancing drugs. Baseball didn't ban steroids until after the 2002 season.

"We knew," Gwynn said. "Players knew. Owners knew. Everybody knew, and we didn't say anything about it."

Gwynn, with an infectious laugh and smile, and Ripken, with cool professionalism, were different on and off the field. They both said they knew McGwire would take some attention from their elections, but while Gwynn was open with his opinion on Big Mac, Ripken was guarded. Ripken said Goose Gossage and Jim Rice belong in the Hall, but stayed away from whether McGwire should gain the honor.

"I don't think it's my place to actually cast judgment," Ripken said.

He also rejected Gwynn's assertion that steroid use was common knowledge.

"I didn't know," Ripken said. "Looking back, maybe I can be the most naive and most ignorant person around."

As the announcement approached, fans, players and managers voiced their views. Many voters said McGwire was hurt by his 2005 congressional testimony, when he repeatedly evaded questions.

Jim Milner, McGwire's business representative, did not return telephone calls. McGwire, who lives in a gated community in Irvine, Calif., has made few public comments in recent years.

Commissioner Bud Selig declined comment on McGwire but readily praised Ripken and Gwynn.

"I have enormous affection for both individuals," he said. "They not only obviously had historic achievements on the field, but they represented the sport as well as it could be represented."

Ripken and Gwynn were rarities in the age of free agency, each spending his entire career with one team. They will be inducted during ceremonies July 29 at the Hall along with anyone elected from the Veterans Committee vote, which will be announced Feb. 27. Ripken, the Baltimore Orioles shortstop who set baseball's ironman record, was picked by 537 voters and appeared on 98.53 percent of ballots to finish with the third-highest percentage behind Tom Seaver (98.84) and Nolan Ryan (98.79).

Gwynn, who won eight batting titles with the San Diego Padres, received 532 votes for 97.61 percent, the seventh-highest ever, also trailing Ty Cobb, George Brett and Hank Aaron.

See **HALL**, Page 2B



Baseball great Cal Ripken Jr. waves his cap as he is honored on the field prior to game 4 of the 2002 World Series on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2002. Ripken voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame this week.

Big Spring freshman basketball team wins again

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

The Big Spring freshman boy's basketball team (13-3) accomplished something that had never been done before when it went on the road and won the Snyder Hoops Tournament.

On Thursday Jan. 4, the Steers wasted little effort in disposing of Clyde in the first game of the tournament and according to coach Larry Derean, the kids were on their game and had developed a sense of confidence that he had not seen before.

The win advanced Big Spring

to the winners bracket and on Saturday they challenged Lamesa for the right to play in the championship game.

Expecting some strong competition, the freshman team came out fired up and executed their half court offense with poise and precision as they cruised to a 67-47 victory. The Steers dominated the boards on offense and defense and they won the battle of turnovers en route to the championship game.

Having to defeat Cooper for the BSHS first ever freshman title in the Snyder Tournament, the Steers played tough man-to-man

defense and found themselves locked in a low scoring contest.

Both defenses played exceptional basketball, according to Coach Derean.

With under five minutes to play the Steers were able to pull away and return to Big Spring with 36-30 victory.

"We played exceptional team basketball throughout the tournament," coach Derean said after the freshman's tournament ended. "The championship game played on Saturday was a hard fought contest and the boys gave it everything they had to beat Cooper."

"I am very proud of this whole team and I really appreciate the effort they gave."

Derean added that he would not be court-side next Tuesday when the Steers play Brownfield, but that he expected the team to continue to play tough basketball.

"We have a great group of kids and they come to play every night," Derean stated — on Tuesday, "with players like Zachery Lopez, Xavian Parnell, Tavian Parnell, Pavel Plakhotny, Mikeal Hill, Isaac Garcia, Steven Islas, Martin Yanez and Thaddeus Strugther — this team is going to be fine."

FOOTBALL

Continued from 1B

balls marked with a "K" are delivered straight from the manufacturer, Wilson Sporting Goods, to the officials. Two hours before the game, a representative from each team can prepare the balls by rubbing them down and brushing them off. An official then checks the air pressure, puts the balls in a bag and subs them in on kicks.

A day after Romo's bobble, David Akers kicked a 38-yard field goal as time expired to give the Eagles a 23-20 victory over the New York Giants in the NFC's other wild-card game.

Though Romo didn't make any excuses for his gaffe, Akers and others around the league blamed the K-Ball.

"Kicking balls are very, very slick," Akers said. "They have a lot of wax on

them because they are brand new. You don't get to work them in very much, and you see a lot of that happening."

In Week 16, Cincinnati lost to Denver 24-23 on a snowy day when Brad St. Louis' snap on an extra point in the final minute sailed wide of holder Kyle Larson, preventing Shayne Graham from even attempting his 159th straight conversion.

"The K-Balls are not good balls for performing football duties — catching, holding, kicking, punting," New Orleans Saints kicker John Carney said. "Nobody really likes the K-Balls. The kickers somehow, the punters somehow, were punished when they came up with this K-Ball rule."

Akers said the league uses K-Balls to cut down on touchbacks and increase scoring. In 1998, Mitch Berger had a record 40 touchbacks on kickoffs for Minnesota. He had just 13 the next season using the K-Balls.

"They want to see returns," Akers said.

Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren was on the competition committee when it came up with the K-Balls. He doesn't see a reason for all the fuss.

"Teams would do all sorts of weird stuff with them," he said. "It was common knowledge it was bad. So the competition committee said, 'Let's clean that up.'"

"The kicking balls, it's like they're coming in a Brinks truck. It's the darndest thing you've ever seen. And they're guarded. Now the kickers complained, but statistically nothing changed too much. We evaluate that. At least we knew it wasn't going to be filled with helium."

It wasn't until this season that actual game balls were allowed to be used during practices so visiting teams can have an opportunity to prepare their share.

Eagles quarterback Koy Detmer,

signed last week specifically for his skill as a holder, would like those rules to apply to the K-Balls.

"They went to the extreme," he said. "That's not the answer because now you are playing with a ball that's slick and not a good ball to play with. I think there's a happy medium there somewhere."

Not everyone cares about the difference between the games balls and K-Balls.

"It is what it is," said Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri, one of the best clutch kickers in NFL history. "It really doesn't matter because everyone has to play with the same ball. The other balls, they get to work them in and the K-balls, you can't. Would it be nice to be able to work them in? Sure. But the officials keep them and that's just the way it is, so you have to deal with it."

HALL

Continued from 1B

A 19-time All-Star and two-time AL MVP, Ripken played in a major league-record 2,632 consecutive games to break Lou Gehrig's mark of 2,130. He also set a new standard for power-hitting shortstops with 431 home runs and 3,184 hits.

Gwynn, a 15-time All-Star, compiled 3,141 hits and a .338 batting average during his 20-year career with the San Diego Padres. He woke up at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, couldn't get back to sleep and was fidgety and nervous

before he received the call from Jack O'Connell, the BBWAA secretary-treasurer.

"I broke down right away," Gwynn said. "My wife came over and put an arm around me."

Gwynn hit only 135 homers — matching McGwire's total in 1998 and 1999 — and joked that he'd be the "Punch and Judy" spokesman for the next few months.

"For me, it's kind of validation because the type of player that I was doesn't get a whole lot of credit in today's game," he said. "I didn't win any championships. I didn't hit a whole lot of home runs. I didn't drive in a

whole lot of people."

Gossage finished third with 388 votes, falling 21 shy of the necessary 409. His percentage increased from 64.6 to 71.2, putting him in good position to reach the necessary 75

percent next year. The highest percentage for a player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

"It kind of feels weird to be that close," Gossage

said. "Hopefully, next year will be the year."

Rice was fourth with 346, his percentage dropping to 63.5 from 64.8 last year. He was followed by Andre Dawson (309), Bert Blyleven (260), Lee Smith

(217) and Jack Morris (202).

Pete Rose, the banned career all-time hits leader who has never appeared on the ballot, received four write-in votes.

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PART-TIME INFANT caregiver position. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

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NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

POLICE OFFICERS/ FIRE FIGHTERS
Are you the Best?
Can you make the grade?
Wanted only the top 10%.
If so come apply.
Firefighters
\$26,499.00 to \$35,162.00
DOEC

Deadline for Applications
5:00 p.m., Wednesday
January 24, 2007
Testing 8:00 a.m., Saturday
January 27, 2007
Police Officer Certified/ Non-Certified
\$14.40

Deadline for Applications
Friday December 29, 2006
Utility Service Worker
\$9.94

Contact:
Human Resources
City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
Fax: 432-264-2387
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING.
Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PF/FT. USWA Ref#P6901.

ROSE DRYWALL & Acoustical
Const. now hiring and taking applications for const. helpers, journeyman drywallers, and metal bldg installers. Must pass drug test and have transportation. Starting pay at \$10 to \$15 per hr. depending on experience. We are looking for men to run crews, pay negotiable. Call 432-570-1259 or come by #12 East Industrial Loop, Midland, Texas between 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS
Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

SUBWAY now hiring all shifts and all positions including Management. Apply in person only, 1000 South Gregg Street. No Phone Calls.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 2 1/2 years old. Starting pay \$9.50 per hour. Apply in person. Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WIS INTERNATIONAL is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager. All who are interested please call Natasha, (806)543-1778, (806)793-2598.

THE MARTIN County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

Help Wanted

TRIO FUELS
A UNITED FUEL & ENERGY COMPANY

EXPERIENCED DRIVER NEEDED!!
We have developed a new compensation structure and we are willing to pay for your experience. Our Drivers are important to us. In addition to competitive pay you will also receive an excellent benefit package. It's not just a job, it's your career.

Come join our TEAM today!
Apply in person at 3112 N. HWY 87, (432)267-9434.

TRUCK DRIVER
Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

TRUCK DRIVING instructor for Howard College. 3 years experience. Call 1-800-725-6465.

VACUUM TRUCK driver needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL & tanker endorsement. Please call JD's Services (325)575-0851.

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.WorkNowNotLater.com

WANTED: EXPERIENCED operators, mechanics and field personnel for natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or Fax to: 432-399-4290 or email to: mwccl@crcom.net

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
Full time position. Benefits: Paid vacation, retirement, health insurance. Must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record. Apply at The Paint And Safety Store, Inc., 201 S. Benton St.

Auction

SURPLUS AUCTION
10 A.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007
209 E. 57th - ODESSA, TEXAS
PICKUPS, DUMP TRUCK, TRAILER, GANG TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TOOLS & SUPPLIES, RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT FOR BROCHURE GO TO
www.hanwayauctioneers or call 432-561-9992
HANWAY AUCTIONEERS
LIC.#7753
P.O. BOX 14768
ODESSA, TEXAS

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord & \$150.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

KITCHEN-AID 36" black built-in gas cooktop \$150, sofa \$100, round coffee table & end table, antique armoire w/mirror. Call 432-264-0645.

Items for Sale

ONE ONLY! 12'x24' White Barn, \$99.00 a month. Will deliver. 432-563-3108.

SLIGHT DAMAGE - 14'x24' Barn/ Workshop. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

WANT TO buy paintings by deceased New Mexico and Western artists. Call 505-986-1095.

Jobs Wanted

NEED A Personal Nanny or Baby Sitter. Many years experience and references available. Call Amber at 432-663-9634 for more information.

Lost and Found

REWARD TO anyone providing information to the whereabouts of a 2002 Polaris 4 wheeler stolen from 101 Broken Bow in the early hours of December 24, 2006. ID #4XACB32A02B77481. Your name will be kept confidential. Call (432)263-1847 or 267-2851 after 4:00pm. Ask for Vergie.

Miscellaneous

2001 CAT D5M, 3 way blade on front, rippers on back. Air conditioned, new belts and pulley. Sell price \$75,000. Call (432) 267-3126.

ALL NEW Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.

BEAUTIFUL CHERRY solid wood sleigh bed with mattresses. Brand new from factory. \$379. 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. Sacrifice \$149.00. 432-349-4043.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

CIGARETTE MEMORABILIA collected since 1989 for sale. Call Yvonne at (432)264-0796 after 5 p.m.

DEMO HOT-TUB - 5 to 6 person, \$79.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

GUNS - 1903 REM - 30.06 bolt action, cleaning kit in stock & 1890 12g. D/B Shotgun. Excellent Condition. \$10,000.00 or trade for land. (432)935-4345.

KING PILLOWTOP Mattress Set Brand New still in Plastic Full Factory Warranty. Must Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

LARGE OAK Dining table, 6 chairs, hutch, buffet, New. Boxed! List \$2990, Sell \$999. 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS CLOSEOUT
Brand New
Still in Plastic
Twin Set \$99.00
Full Set \$119.00
Queen Set \$139.00
King Set \$239.00
432-416-0261

MICROFIBER SOFA, loveseat, Matching table set. \$499. ALL BRAND NEW. 806-549-3110.

MUST SELL King pillowtop mattress and box. \$210. Never used, warranty. 806-549-3110.

NASA MEMORY FOAM Mattress Set. Conforms to body. New in plastic. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$399.00. 432-349-4043.

QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC Mattress Set. New, still in plastic w/Warranty. \$129.00. 432-349-4043.

SACRIFICE COMPLETE all wood Bedroom set. Beautiful \$699. Still boxed. 806-549-3110.

SELLING QUEEN pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, warranty. \$125. 806-549-3110.

SPECIAL PURCHASE - 8'x12' Storage Buildings. \$39.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x12' Storage Buildings. \$49.00 a month. Delivery/ Financing. 432-563-3108.

Pets

AN ADORABLE female bulldog for sale. She is AKC Registered and has all shots up-to-date. She is in good health condition, vet check and ready for her new family home. Email me at mercy_jenson@yahoo.com for more info.

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• Most Utilities Paid
• Senior Citizens Discount
• 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished
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263-5555

1507 AUSTIN. 1 bedroom 1 bath. \$325, \$150 deposit. Call (432) 263-1792 or 816-9984.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

608 HOLBERT, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Required one year lease, application, references, first & last months rent, \$475.00 month. Contact information at location.

CLEAN 2 bedroom. CH/A, stove and refrigerator furnished. \$325 a month, \$150 deposit. Call (432) 267-1543.

FOR LEASE 207 North Gregg. 40x100 Building with offices. \$600.00 Month plus deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 40x120 Building with 2 offices, 4 over head doors on 2 acres, fenced land. 1514 Hwy. 30. \$750 Month + deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE: Large Building. Beautiful Location. Perfect for Home Health or Medical Supply Company/ Store. Call (432)263-4528 or 296-0277.

HOUSE FOR rent. 3-1-1, 1106 Mulberry. \$415 month, \$275 deposit. References and application required. Call (432) 413-8025.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN
One bedroom + upstairs studio. Near Church/ Grocery. Central air, refrigerator and stove. Smoking and pets prohibited. Credit and background check required. Call - McDonald 432-263-7615 or 263-4835.

Real Estate for Sale

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

2600 CARLETON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Central H/A, clean, new fence, & covered carport. Corner lot, quiet neighborhood, a must see. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688 for more info.

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Advertising Manager
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Big Spring, TX 79721
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Inquiries regarding the position for project expeditor may be directed to Bill Baker at (432) 697-2282 or by email at HYPERLINK "mailto:bill@midtex-ofmidland.com" bill@midtexofmidland.com. You may also send your resumes by email or by mail to 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas 79707.

Inquiries regarding positions for carpenters and general laborers may be directed to Billy Mays at (432) 697-2282. You may also pick up and/ or complete an application in our Midland office at 5206 West Wadley; Midland, Texas.

ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

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• Career Placement Assistance
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3/2 PLUS office and laundry room in Ackerly. 4 Acres, lrg workshop, livestock barn and corral, well water. By appt. only. Call 432-353-4731.

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bedroom, two bath, one acre, water well, remodeled. \$32,000. Call (432)213-4460.

FORSAN ISD, 3 Bdrm brick home. Excellent condition. CH/A, 2 sided fireplace and RV parking. Home Realtors. Call Linda Barnes (432) 270-0062.

LAND for Sale - 32.41 Beautiful acres near Country Club. Good water well. \$95,000.00 Call (432)816-3927.

NICE 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace with CH/A. Call (432)268-1375 for appointment.

OWNER FINANCE 2503 Central Drive, Big Spring. Newly Remodeled. \$3,950.00 Down, flexible terms. Must Sell. Call 866-999-8499.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A, 1224 sq. ft. Close to Goliad school. Nice covered patio and yard. \$46,500. Call (432)264-8983, (432)263-0118.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, large living room w/ fireplace, CH/A, corner lot. 811 Runnels. \$40,000. Will owner finance with \$5,000. down. Call (432)263-2361 or (432)816-5757.

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TOYOTA AVALON XLS 1995 premium Pkg., leather, moon roof, all power, 12CD changer, one owner, runs great, 258,000 miles. \$3,000. Call (432)264-0645.

Vehicles

1999 CHEVROLET Suburban 1500 LT, 4-wheel drive, 109,600 miles, leather, very nice! \$8,500. Call (432)264-0008.

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From

Huge Discounts!

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500 W. 4th 267-7424

Legals

Public Notice
Pursuant to Article 258.002(c) of the Texas Transportation Code, the Commissioners Court of Glasscock County, Texas provides this notice to the public of its intention to convene a public meeting to receive comment upon the adoption of a County Road Map including each road in which the County claims the continued existence of a public interest and a right of access and egress for maintenance of an existing County Road. The roads in which the County claims a public interest have been maintained for many years, beginning some time prior to 1981, have previously been listed in a notice included in the 2006-07 Ad Valorem Tax statement. A proposed County Road Map depicting each road in which the County claims a public interest is available for inspection by the public at the office of the County Judge in the County Courthouse, during business hours, commencing December 1, 2006. The Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing on

1/24/2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Glasscock County Courthouse. At this time, pursuant to Article 258.002(b), Texas Transportation Code, any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may appear before the Commissioners Court to object or protest the County's claim of its right to continue maintenance of the public roads depicted on the County Road Map. Any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may also file a written protest with the County Judge at any time before the time and date of the scheduled public hearing. By way of this notice, the County makes no claim affecting title, acreage, or ownership of the land, but seeks merely to establish and document the right of the County to continue maintenance of the existing county road in its present location and dimension.
Rebecca Balta
County Clerk
#5177 December 20 & 27, 2006 & January 3 & 10, 2007.

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

ANSWERS

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon in Libra isn't buying what the Capricorn sun is selling. The Capricorn sun says, "Be strong!"

The Libra moon says, "We come together in our vulnerability." There's a way for both to work in the same relationship. The tension creates luscious complications -- the kind that add richness to work and dynamism to play.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You were once appropriately devoted to childish proclivities, and a few of them have held on through the years. This is what makes you downright cute today. Only fellow devotees will "get" it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may be accident prone, so keep your mind on the task at hand. You're also vulnerable to happy mistakes -- the kind that land you in a much better position than the one you intended.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This is a turning point. You and your long-held wish, together at last. To be perfectly clear, it's not that you've quite made your wish a reality yet, but you've decided to wear it until it is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Where is your psychic energy? Oh, yes! It's stuck in a clutter pile in the corner of a room. Do some organizing and you'll liberate it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A change of scene and a wealth of dramatic events give this week the perfect climate for falling in love. It may

Encourage loved ones to help you out in this endeavor. It's not all your mess.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you didn't wake early enough to see the sunrise this morning -- that juicy phantasmagoria of promise that saturates the start of each new day -- resolve to do so soon. You could use the visual injection of hope.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're disciplined enough to go an entire day without uttering the word "I." Try this, and your selflessness will paradoxically promote any deliciously selfish interests you have quite well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Many mistakenly define themselves and others by the company they keep, which is a dangerous dynamic on which to base self-esteem. You know better. Nevertheless, the desire to team up is strong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Strong? You're a superpower! You have enough vim to tackle a week's worth of work in one afternoon. Do this, and you'll have time for the new interest that presents itself on Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your career is coming into sharper focus. Capricorn people realize your potential and help you get there. A financial award or windfall is right around the corner. Keep going.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A change of scene and a wealth of dramatic events give this week the perfect climate for falling in love. It may

also help that family members who were intolerant of your choices now change their tunes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your intuitive streak continues -- you have uncanny luck and accurate premonitions. The idealism of a loved one (especially a Libra) is more helpful than the pessimism of an expert.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you do while you're waiting around -- and you will be waiting around this morning -- is more important than what you do while you're doing. Life, like jazz, often happens in the spaces between the notes.

"CELEBRITY PROFILES: Gracing us with hits during every decade since the 1960s, Capricorn classic rocker Rod Stewart is chart-topping once again. "Still The Same O' Great Rock Classics of Our Time" debuted at No. 1 because, after 40 years, audiences still crave Stewart's smoky vocals and unique style. An athlete, father and fiance, I see Stewart adding two more babies to his brood with Penny Lancaster.

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. ©2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been dating a gentleman for the past two years. He is very effeminate, and people often ask me if he is gay. In fact, I knew from the start that he had had homosexual experiences in the past and basically lived a gay lifestyle, for over 20 years. He'd had only a few dating experiences with women. Before me, he had never been in a relationship (with a male or female) for more than six months.

After dating and being intimate with this man for two years, my instincts tell me he indeed may be gay. I have asked him point-blank whether he desires men, and he said he was never content with that lifestyle. However, I found sites on his computer for male porn. Do I trust my instincts and break it off? -- Confused in California

Dear Confused: Yes. Living as a gay man for 20 years is not a "lifestyle" to be changed on a whim. He could be bisexual, but if he is still looking at gay porn, he either hasn't come to terms with his sexuality, or he's using you as cover. It's time to say goodbye, and please get checked for STDs, just in case he's been yacking both sides of the fence.

Dear Annie: I am writing about my mother's persistent need to tell me all about the lives of her friends. I can't take it anymore.

During a recent shopping trip, Mom ran into three acquaintances, and



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

after talking to them, she proceeded to tell me about their medical problems, family problems and other information that's none of my business. After chatting with "Bob," she told me about his alcoholism and recent heart surgery.

I don't know any of these people, and I really don't need or want to know any of this stuff. When I told Mom, "Enough," she said I was rude and self-centered. I told her she was gossip-obsessed. She then said we obviously have nothing in common and very little to talk about, both of which are true.

Mom has never had any hobbies or interests, and she spends a lot of time on the phone yacking with her friends. Annie, was I wrong to ask her to please stop telling me about her friends' personal lives? -- Gossip-Free in Pennsylvania

Dear Gossip-Free: You were not wrong, but surely you must have known Mom would react poorly to such a request. You disapprove of her and it shows. There must be something you can discuss that is enjoyable for both of you -- a favorite book, movie or TV show. Instead of finding fault with her conversation, make an effort to find a substitute topic. She's your mother. Work on it. Dear Annie: A number

of years ago, my wife and I divorced after a long marriage. About a year later, I began dating "Marta," a good friend of hers. It was important to us that their friendship not be harmed, and we may have been too successful. Marta and I have been married for five years now, and while she has maintained a friendship with my ex, it has been for the most part without my participation.

Now we are planning a long car trip, and both women think it would be great for the three of us to travel together. The thought of long days confined with Marta and my ex, together in a car, sharing all of our meals, gives me the heebie-jeebies, and that's not including the lodging arrangements, which are too frightening even to contemplate.

They both insist I'm worrying about nothing, but I think I'd rather bow out and let them go alone than spend a nerve-wracking week together. What do you think? -- Getting Grayer in Georgia

Dear Getting Grayer: We think your instincts are good. This could work out fine, but there's no way to know in advance. If things go south in the middle of a long car trip, you could be in deep trouble. Tell your wife to have a good time and you'll see her when she gets back.

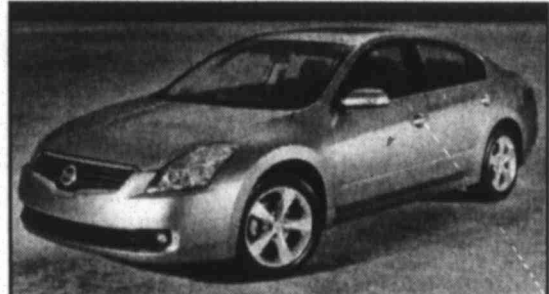
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. ©2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Horidas de Amor	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Curt Landry John Hagee	News-Lahr	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The Beach (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Phil of Future That's-Raven	College Basketball	College Basketball	Movie: Maximum Velocity (CC)
7 PM	Accord- Jim	Accord- Jim	La Fea Mas Bella	Bones (CC)	Armed & Famous (CC)	Marina	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Dr. Swallow	Science Investigators	Mega Builders (CC)	Movie: The Godfather	Without a Trace (CC)	American Gangster	Movie: Life is Ruf (CC)	Pittsburgh at DePaul (CC)	Duke at Georgia Tech	Movie: Falcon Down (CC)	
8 PM	Knights-Pros	Knights-Pros	Mundo de Fieras	Bones (CC)	Criminal Minds (CC)	Amor Mio Amores	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Light of the Southwest	China From the Inside	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The Godfather	Without a Trace (CC)	The Wire (CC)	College Basketball	NBA Basketball	Spurs at Nuggets	Movie: Falcon Down (CC)	
9 PM	Primetime (CC)	Primetime (CC)	Don Francisco Presenta	Becker (CC)	CSI: NY (CC)	Decisiones	Medium (CC)	Sex and-City	China From the Inside	China From the Inside	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Deliverance	Without a Trace (CC)	Cornicover	Life Derek Phil of Future	Zack & Cody Thats-Raven	Quile Frankly With Smith	Code Red: The Rubicon	
10 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show-Raymond	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	My Boys Movie: Old Men (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose	Futureweapons (CC)	Deliverance	Las Vegas (CC)	Alias (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	NFL's Greatest Game (CC)	SportsCenter	Conspiracy	
11 PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife-Kids Malcolm-Mid	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Apex	Movie: Update/Israel John Hagee	Update/Israel John Hagee	Sign Off	Mega Builders (CC)	45 Movie: Monturi (CC)	Star Trek: Voyager	Alias (CC)	The Wire (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	Wtr. X-Games	NFL Live NBA Fastbreak	
12 AM	News (CC)	Mercury Media																	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MOM SAID DINNER WILL BE LATE...SHE'S DOWNLOADIN' A RECIPE NOW."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Can we buy a mouse? Kitycat keeps stalking my shoelaces."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



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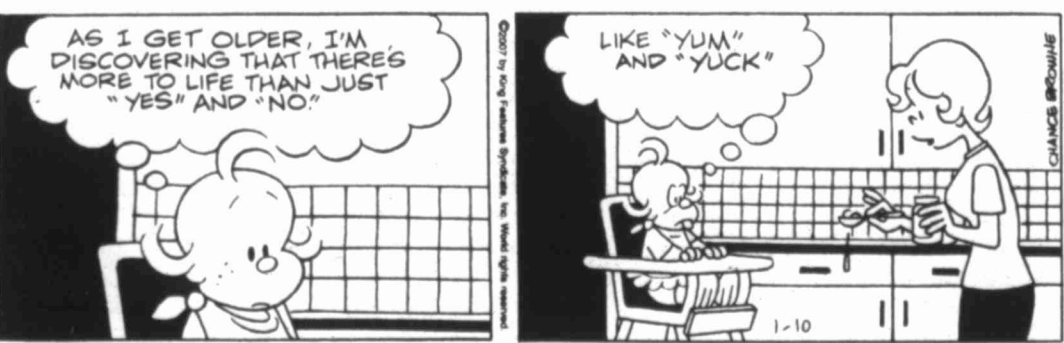
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2007. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense."

On this date: In 1861, Florida seceded from the Union.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles went into effect.

In 1946, the first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan

became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1967, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1967, National Educational Television (forerunner of the Public Broadcasting Service) operated as a true network for the first time as it carried President Johnson's State of the Union address.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Max Roach is 83. Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 72. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 72. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 72. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie McCovey is 69. Singer Scott McKenzie is 68. Movie director Walter Hill is 65. Singer Frank Sinatra Jr. is 63. Singer Rod Stewart is 62. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 59. Actor William

Sanderson is 59. Boxer George Foreman is 58. Singer Pat Benatar is 54. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 52. Singer Shawn Colvin is 51. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 48. Actor Evan Handler is 46. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 43. Actress Trini Alvarado is 40. Rock musician Matt Roberts (3 Doors Down) is 29. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 28.

Thought for Today: "They say that God is everywhere, and yet we always think of Him as somewhat of a recluse." — Emily Dickinson, American poet (1830-1886).

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Answer to previous puzzle

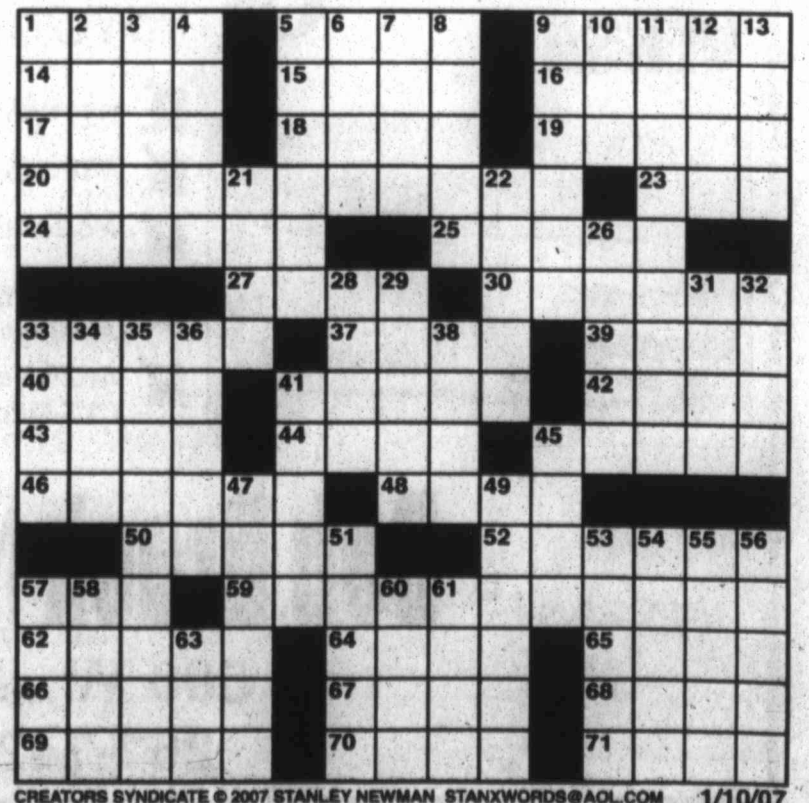
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Newsday Crossword

IN PURSUIT by Shirley Soloway

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 67 Bingo relative | 12 TV housewife | 41 Successful dieter |
| 1 Later than | 68 Roof overhang | Hatcher | 45 Unchanged |
| 5 Sea mass | 69 Not at all like a social butterfly | 13 Shade trees | 47 Earnings after deductions |
| 9 Sew loosely | 70 Crockpot dish | 21 Former heavyweight champ Spinks | 49 Hard to squeeze through |
| 14 Barbra's <i>Funny Girl</i> costar | 71 ___-in-the-wool | 22 ___ nous | 51 Bulletin-board fasteners |
| 15 Elliptical | | 26 Salary bump | 53 Appeared on stage |
| 16 Mrs. Mertz | | 28 Garbage barge | 54 "Forget it!" |
| 17 Scotch partner | | 29 Global-warming buzzword | 55 Steered, as a sedan |
| 18 Start of a "really big" word | | 31 Former Italian coins | 56 Made use of an abacus |
| 19 Frighten | | 32 Grounded planes | 57 Complain |
| 20 Jackie Robinson, for example | | 33 Is indebted to org. | 58 Pertaining to, at the office |
| 23 Have no respect for, slangily | | 34 Disaster-relief org. | 60 Newscaster Huntley |
| 24 Loveseat | | 35 Early arriver at the stadium parking lot | 61 Orson Welles role |
| 25 Año beginning | | 36 Mistake | 63 As well as |
| 27 Approximately | | 38 Admin. aide | |
| 30 Fishing nets | | | |
| 33 Frequently | | | |
| 37 Peter or Nicholas | | | |
| 39 Long-legged wader | | | |
| 40 Become threadbare | | | |
| 41 Like some lips | | | |
| 42 Categorize | | | |
| 43 Arab ruler | | | |
| 44 Possesses | | | |
| 45 Warring factions, sometimes | | | |
| 46 Drawing rooms | | | |
| 48 Sicilian peak | | | |
| 50 Present with a lei, maybe | | | |
| 52 Peet of <i>The Whole Nine Yards</i> | | | |
| 57 Actress Farrow | | | |
| 59 Performance history | | | |
| 62 Served from a keg | | | |
| 64 Scorch | | | |
| 65 Having height and width, for short | | | |
| 66 Sports venue | | | |



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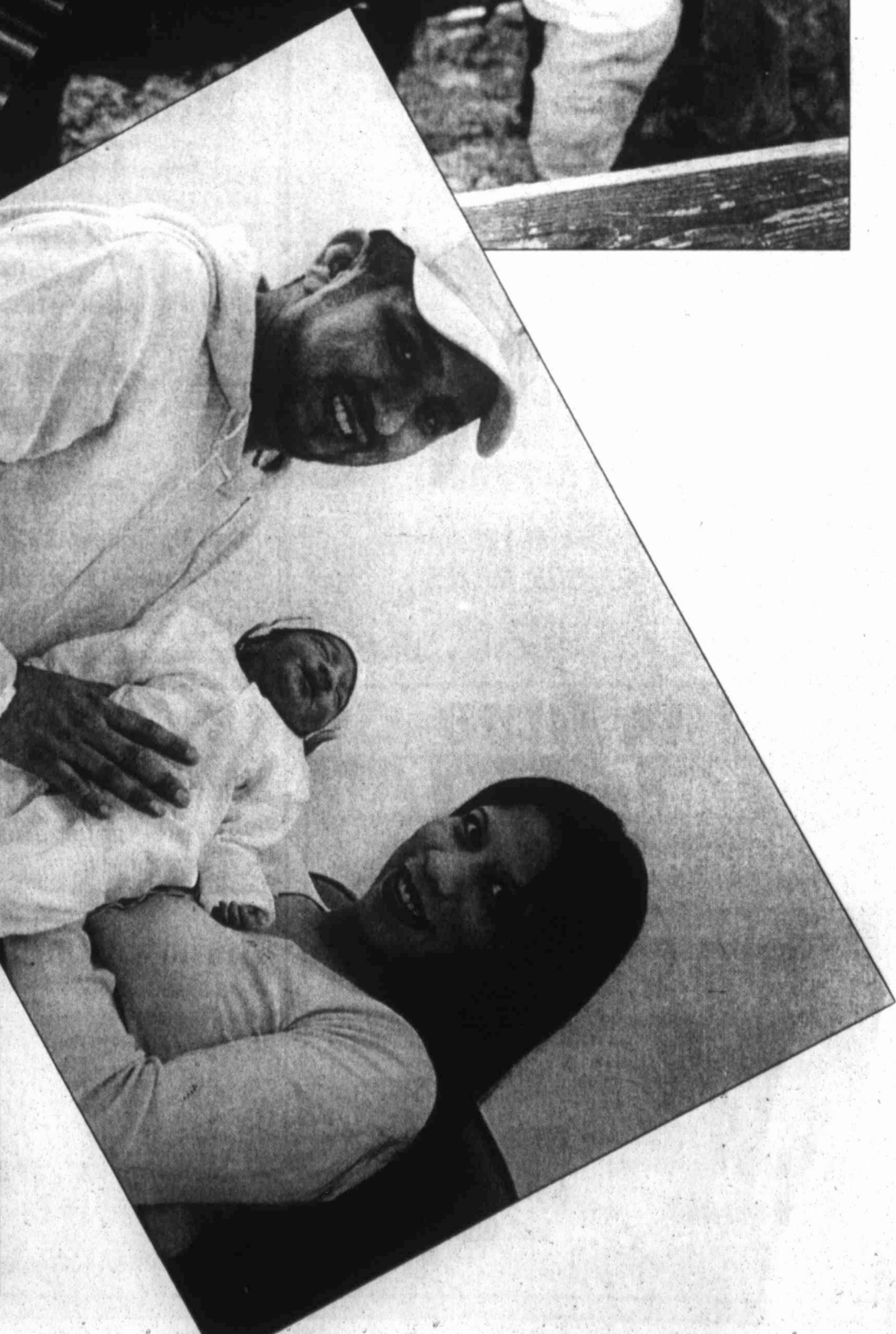
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Patron

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JANUARY 10, 2007



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Help Wanted

NEED SALES! Lot Help, 87 Auto Sales. Apply in person, 111 Gregg Street.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

Help Wanted

APPLY TODAY, WORK TOMORROW
WE ARE SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT LOCATED IN BIG SPRING
Forklift Drivers
Baggers
Shipping and Receiving
Must be able to pass drug test
Must be able to meet criteria to perform job duties
Clean criminal background
Call Kelly Services for more information at 432-689-9801.
Only serious candidates should apply.
Never an applicant fee.
An Equal Opportunity Employer

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:
* Crew Technician
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

Help Wanted

COME JOIN our friendly team at Kate's Fina Mart. Good benefits. Now hiring full & part time. Apply at 1100 N. Lamesa Hwy.

DAVE'S TUBING Testing & Hot Oil Service needs vacuum truck drivers, tubing testers and derrick hands. Requirements are Class A CDL w/tanker. Oil-field experience required. Paid insurance and vacation.

EXPERIENCED LEASE Operator needed for local company. Excellent pay and benefits. Send resume to P.O. Box 704, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Food Service - Great People - Real Opportunities SUPERVISORS

3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!
Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50, increasing to \$14.25 upon successful completion of 6 months probation. Outstanding benefits include paid Health, Dental & Vision insurance premiums and unlimited advancement. Must be 18yrs old, pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.

Opportunity is a call away!
Call Don Hood @ 432-263-2366
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

Help Wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING
Ultrasonic Thickness Technician. (will train). Also Level II PT MT UT thickness technician for in-plant inspection in area plant. Excellent benefits. ENGlobal Inspection Services 432-561-8324 Fax 432-570-5152 ken.overstreet@englobal.com

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez
Texas State Veterans Home
1809 N. Hwy. 87
Big Spring, Tx 79720
(432)268-8387
(432)268-1987 Fax
is currently seeking the following positions:

Licensed Vocational Nurses Certified Medication Aides Certified Nurses Aides (Full Time or Part Time) Dietary Cooks/Dishwashers
Experienced in an hospital/institutional setting preferred.
Wages Commensurate on Experience
to include an excellent benefits package.
Equal Opportunity Employer

LOOKING FOR dependable people to work in a local cotton delinting plant. Starting wage \$8.50, unless more qualified. Apply in person at Stoneville, 4701 N. Highway 87. Call 432-263-8338.

OFFICE HELP Needed - Computer & bookkeeping skills required. Bring resume to 87 Auto Sales @ 111 Gregg. No phone calls.

Help Wanted

LVNs NEW, HIGHER PAY SCALE!
Full time openings! Benefits available. Must have Texas state license. EOE/MFHV.
For information, call (325)573-6332, or apply to Debbie Collier, RN, DON, or Priscilla Barrera, LVN, ADON, at SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring Part-time Help for days. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE is accepting applications for the following opening: CNA's, 6-2 and 2-10 shift. Monday through Friday. Contact Joy at (432) 263-1271.



NEED AN experienced HVACR technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

Help Wanted

NIGHT OWLS - child care position 5:30 p.m.-midnight. Apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

NOW ACCEPTING applications for mental health aide at Wood Care Center. Apply in person at 2607 Chanute. Ask for Paula.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction.
Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required.
Mail resume to:
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
PO BOX 60708
MIDLAND, TX 79711

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a late night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. 16 hours part time. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th. Street.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a late night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. Full time. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th. Street.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT LIVING is seeking an evening front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am; weekends required (guaranteed 40 hours a week). Must be able to read, write, and understand written instructions, and follow directions. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

23rd Annual Baby Contest & Beauty Pageant
America's Cover Miss & Cover Boy, USA

Age Division
Girls: Birth-11mo, 12-23mo, 2-3yr, 4-6yr, 7-9yr, 10-12yr, 13-15yr, 16 up. Boys: 0-23 mos & 2-3 yrs
Over 2 MILLION \$\$\$ in cash and prizes awarded yearly! Qualify today to win a \$10,000.00 bond at 2007 finals.

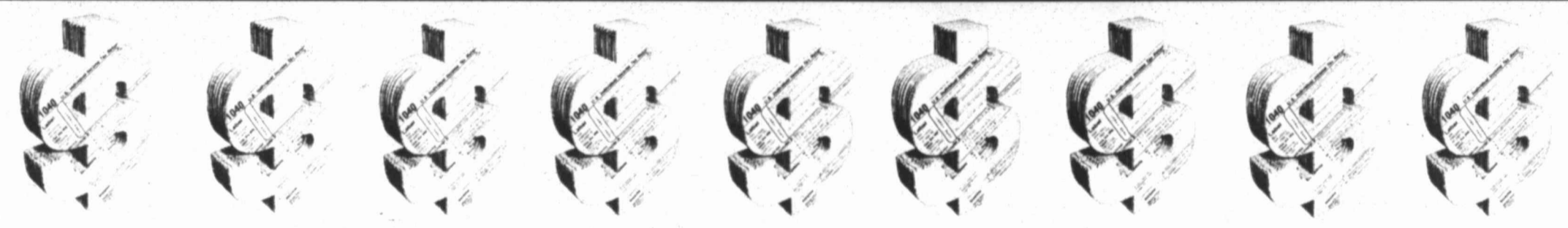
Brochures available at Mail Customer Service www.txcovermiss.com
or call 870-837-1075
Email: txcovermiss@yahoo.com

Event Location
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BIG SPRING MALL
2:00 PM

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Tax Guide 2007

Process Your Taxes Quick & Easy With The Help Of These Businesses



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Sat. 8:00-12:00
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Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Looking for reliable and caring CNA's to join our team. Apply at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Now hiring for Laundry position. Experience preferred but not necessary. Great working environment. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehab., 3200 Parkway Rd.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Now hiring for Charge Nurse 2-10 shift. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, TX 79720.

PART TIME clerical worker for busy office, 9:30 to 3:30 Monday through Friday. Phone, computer and customer service skills required. Send resume to P.O. Box 2157, Big Spring, TX 79721.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

ROSE DRYWALL & Acoustical Const. now hiring and taking applications for const. helpers, journeymen drywallers, and metal bldg installers. Must pass drug test and have transportation. Starting pay at \$10 to \$15 per hr. depending on experience. We are looking for men to run crews, pay negotiable. Call 432-570-1259 or come by #12 East Industrial Loop, Midland, Texas between 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS
Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

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Can you make the grade? Wanted only the top 10%. If so come apply.

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\$26,499.00 to \$35,162.00
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Deadline for Applications 5:00 p.m., Wednesday January 24, 2007
Testing 8:00 a.m., Saturday January 27, 2007
Police Officer Certified/Non-Certified
\$14.40
Deadline for Applications Friday December 29, 2006
Utility Service Worker
\$9.94
Contact:
Human Resources
City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
Fax: 432-264-2387
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

POLLARD CHEVROLET is taking applications for the parts department. Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred. Some heavy lifting. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply at 1501 East 4th St.

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SURPLUS AUCTION
10 A.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2007
209 E. 57th - ODESSA, TEXAS
PICKUPS, DUMP TRUCK, TRAILER, GANG TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TRUCKS, OIL FIELD TOOLS & SUPPLIES, RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT FOR BROCHURE GO TO
www.hanwayauctioneers
or call 432-561-9992
HANWAY AUCTIONEERS
LIC.#7753
P.O. BOX 14768
ODESSA, TEXAS

Help Wanted

VACUUM TRUCK driver needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL & tanker endorsement. Please call JD's Services (325)575-0851.

Help Wanted

THE MARTIN County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

TRUCK DRIVER
Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, TX 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT.
www.WorkNowNotLater.com

WANTED: EXPERIENCED operators, mechanics and field personnel for natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or Fax to: 432-399-4290 or email to: mwc@crcom.net

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Full time position. Benefits: Paid vacation, retirement, health insurance. Must be at least 21 years old and have a good driving record. Apply at The Paint And Safety Store, Inc., 201 S. Benton St.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Items for Sale

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-8297.

Miscellaneous

Hot Stone, Triggerpoint, Relaxation Massage
45/hr. - 3 hrs/100
Relaxation Station
1401 Oil Mill Rd.
Wilson Money RMT
TUES.-FRI. 8:30-11:30/2:00-5:00
Call for appointment
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ALL NEW Mattress Set, Full Size still in packaging. Sell for \$119. Call 432-349-4043.

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\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252 1-866-265-4104
Housing Assistance Accepted

Miscellaneous

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Still in Plastic
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432-416-0261

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SACRIFICE COMPLETE all wood Bedroom set. Beautiful \$699. Still boxed. 806-549-3110.

SELLING QUEEN pillowtop mattress set, in plastic, Warranty. \$125. 806-549-3110.

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\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ IMMEDIATE Cash for Structured Settlements, Annuities, Lawsuits, Inheritances, Mortgage Notes & Cash Flows. J.G. Wentworth #1 1-(800)794-7310.

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DRIVERS - A Few Good OTR Drivers. Class A CDL. Excellent Benefits & Equipment. Company 35¢ mile up to .40¢ mile. Owner Operators \$1 mile plus. Fink Transportation, Cherryvale KS. 866-525-5623.

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FREE DIRECTV 4 Room System! NO Credit Card Required! 250+ Channels! Starts \$29.99! FREE DVR or HD Receiver! Also, Dish Network \$19.99! FREE Movie Channels! 1-800-490-1814.

MAKE \$334 DAILY! Data entry positions available now! Internet access needed. Income is Guaranteed! No experience required. Apply today. www.dataforcash.com

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING! Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacations. PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Ref #P7701.

REDUCE-YOUR-CABLE-BILL! GET a 4-Room All-Digital Satellite system installed for FREE and programming starting under \$20. FREE Digital Video Recorders to new callers, SO CALL NOW. 1-800-795-6129.

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