



## City officials ask residents to curtail water use

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Problems at the city water treatment plant have officials asking local residents to curtail nonessential water use for the immediate future.

City of Big Spring Public Works Director Todd Darden said the

treatment center's backwash pump, which helps clean water filters and insure that the water supply remains in compliance with state regulation, broke down late Friday.

Without the backwash pump, the amount of dirt and other particles could

quickly exceed state regulations, Darden said.

"We lost one of our treatment techniques which help us maintain state-compliant quality of finished water," Darden said Saturday morning.

"Because of that, we've had to declare a temporary emergency condi-

tion."

The pump was removed and sent to Lamesa for repairs. Darden and city officials are hopeful to have it back up and running by Wednesday or Thursday.

Until then, however,

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**"We lost one of our treatment techniques which help us maintain state-compliant quality of finished water. Because of that, we've had to declare a temporary emergency condition."**



—Todd Darden, director of public works

## Volunteers set for Valentine's Day fund-raiser

Delivery drivers needed Feb. 14

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers will take on a one-day role as the Patron Saint of Love — St. Valentine — as they create, assemble and deliver Valentine's Day packages next month.

The gifts are as varied as the recipients on your list: sweet chocolate, soft plush animals, or the lovely strains of a romantic ballad in the form of Singing Telegrams.

"This fund-raiser is ever-evolving and we are offering more items than ever before," co-chair Dorothy Sheppard said. "We listen to our customers. We felt as if it was important for us to

offer items that are appropriate for everyone on your list: teachers, neighbors, coworkers, shut-ins or your sweetheart, at an affordable price."

"Valentine's Day is such a fun holiday and we know people enjoy receiving gifts, especially when they are dropped off by a delivery person," co-chair Shirley Bodin said. "Delivering the gifts is the most fun that we have all year long."

Volunteers need delivery drivers on Feb. 14, Bodin said.

"Being a delivery person is just the most fun," Bodin said. "Everyone is glad to see you, and you feel as if you've done something nice. It may be cold outside on Valentine's Day, but my heart will be warm as I

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Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council volunteers Shirley Bodin and Carolyn Brooks sort stuffed animals for the Valentine's Day fund-raiser.

## County hopes to settle on architect

Officials remain at odds over necessity of starting over

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to decide which architectural firm to pursue when they meet Monday morning, moving the group one step closer to the development of a new or renovated jail.

Commissioners met with representatives from several firms Jan. 17, including Burns and Gills Architects and Southwest Architects Inc., both out of Fort Worth, and San Antonio based BRG Architects.

County Judge Mark Barr said once the court narrows the field to just one firm, they will be able to move forward with the next level of negotiations — cost.

"That should give each of the commissioners time to do some research and thinking on the subject," said Barr. "Once we've narrowed it down to one architect, we can begin negotiations with them."

"They won't even touch the subject of cost right now. Because of state law, they are not allowed to enter into what would be considered a bidding war. We will have to choose one architect, and then we'll be able to begin negotiating fees."

Those fees have been a sore point with Commissioner Bill

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## You can help make a difference

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

If you've made a positive difference in someone's life, you deserve a blue ribbon.

That's an idea several local organizations want everyone to take seriously over the next few weeks as they've launched the Who I Am Makes A Difference campaign.

The idea behind the campaign is simple, Dale Pittman said — find someone who has made a difference in your life, give them a blue ribbon and a few extras to pass on to others and the next thing you

know, Big Spring will be awash in blue ribbons.

"In 2006, I felt like there were too many negative things going on in Big Spring," said Pittman. I wanted to start off 2007 with something more positive."

Pittman got the idea from the book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul," by Jack Cranfield and Victor Hansen, which recounted a similar campaign in New York.

There, a high school teacher told each of her students how they made a difference in her life and she gave each a blue ribbon with the words, "Who I Am Makes a Difference"

printed in white.

Later, as a project, she gave each of the students three ribbons and instructed them to spread the positive acknowledgment.

The project proved to be quite popular and has since spread to other locations across the country. Pittman decided it was high time to try it locally.

"All it takes is the simple fact of people taking time to realize who makes a difference in their lives," he said. "We all make a difference in people's lives. The question is what kind of difference we make."

People wishing to acknowledge these difference-makers can pick up

blue ribbons at the fire marshal's office at the central fire station, the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the Big Spring Herald and radio station KBST.

"We're hoping that within two weeks or so, you won't be able to walk around Big Spring without seeing someone with a blue ribbon," Pittman said.

For more information, contact Pittman at 267-9555 or 816-4844.

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

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### 'STOP THE TRAIN, I ...'

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A drunken man who tried to climb over a freight train that was stopped at a downtown crossing ended up going for a ride when the train took off.

The 23-year-old man called 911 from his cell phone early Friday when the train reached the Casselton area west of Fargo because he was cold and wanted off, said Cass County Deputy Sheriff Shawn Getz.

Dispatchers called BNSF Railway, which alerted the train conductor. Authorities said the man did not require any medical treatment, and the railroad did not press charges. The man was taken to a detox center, Getz said.

### DONUTS WITH A BITE

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — How about caffeine in your donut as well as your coffee?

Dr. Robert Bohannon, a molecular scientist, says he has developed a way to add caffeine to baked goods, without the bitter taste. Each piece of pastry is the equivalent of about two cups of coffee.



You can't buy the amped up donuts yet, but Bohannon says he's been approached some heavyweight companies, including Krispy Kreme, Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks about carrying it.

### B.B. 'READY TO GO'

HOUSTON (AP) — B.B. King felt "fabulous and ready to go" Saturday morning while waiting to be discharged from a Galveston hospital, a spokeswoman for his management agency said.

The 81-year-old bluesman was being treated for a low-grade fever following a bout with the flu. He was hospitalized Thursday, shortly before he was scheduled to perform at the Grand Opera House in Galveston.

The acclaimed musician was scheduled to be released Saturday afternoon from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. King plans to perform Tuesday in Fort Worth.

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# Bush chides Democrats for being reflexively partisan

**By JENNIFER LOVEN**  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON — There's hardly a topic these days on which President Bush isn't asking the Democratic-controlled Congress to avoid "a reflexive partisan response."

That's certainly the case with Iraq, but it also applies to the domestic priorities of health and energy that he set in his State of the Union address.

"I have asked Congress to take several vital steps to address these issues," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "Some members gave a reflexive partisan response."

He praised the few

Democrats who had "welcomed this opportunity to reach across the aisle."

"This is a good start," he said.

In the Democrats' Saturday radio address, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called on Bush to work with Democrats and "turn talk into action."

"In Iraq and here at home, it's time for a new direction," the mayor said. "We must stop talking about challenges like energy and work together to solve them."

The president's opening strategy toward Capitol Hill's Democratic majority, as displayed most prominently in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, is to present himself as a leader

taking the initiative to work across party lines. The hope is that Democrats will feel pressured to join him — or face public disapproval if they don't.

But bipartisanship aside, Bush has also been showing a willingness to talk tough.

On a collision course with Congress over Iraq, Bush had strong words Friday for the lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who are lining up to support resolutions opposing his decision to send 21,500 additional troops to Iraq. Asked how he could go ahead with his plan without congressional support, he said bluntly, "I'm the decision-maker."

On Thursday, Bush visited Lee's Summit, Mo., to

give a boost to a proposal that would overhaul the way the tax code treats health insurance as a way to help some of those without coverage buy it on their own. Democrats have greeted the idea coldly, saying it does nothing to help the majority of the uninsured who are too poor to pay taxes and unnecessarily undermines a health insurance system built around the workplace, where more than half of Americans get their coverage.

"They're just dismissing things because of pure politics," Bush said.

On energy, ramping up production of alternative fuels such as cellulosic ethanol is one way Bush says the nation can get to the goal of cutting con-

sumption of gasoline by up to 20 percent over 10 years.

The other key element of Bush's energy plan is changing the way fuel-economy standards are set for passenger cars. The president wants Congress to give his administration the power to set the standards for cars, using a system it says cut emissions while preserving choices and safety for costumers. Bush opposes any legislation simply setting a number for higher fuel-economy standards, an approach Democrats like better.

The energy ideas were not dismissed as readily as the health care ones. Still, Bush has asked for the fuel-economy authori-

ty before, without success.

"We've set important goals, and now Republicans and Democrats must work together to make them a reality," Bush said on the radio.

Villaraigosa said Bush must work with both parties and "turn talk into action ... to free America from its dangerous dependence on oil." He called for an approach that would put "flexibility ahead of partisanship."

Democrats and Republicans "may not always agree on the solutions to these problems," the mayor said. "But I hope we can agree it's time for all of us to join together and move America forward."

## BSSH

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see the smiles on young and old faces when they see that they've been remembered on Valentine's Day."

Some of the Valentine's volunteers enjoy the day so much that they use one of their valuable vacation days to assist with deliveries, Community Relations Director Billie Christie-Morgan said.

"Without the help of delivery veterans Ike and Ouida Watznauer, the day would not run smoothly," said Christie-Morgan. "They know the location

of every street in town." Delivery is free. Items available for pre-order are:

- \$40 — Basket or Tub filled with goodies
- \$25 — Musical animal with heart-shaped box of candy
- \$20 — Telegram with heart-shaped box of candy
- \$17 — Wire Basket with candy, note pad and a pen
- \$17 — M&M Truck dispenses M & M's and supplies with M&M's
- \$15 — Popcorn Bucket with truffles, soft drinks, popcorn, movie rental, peanuts
- \$15 — Green Plant
- \$12 — Cardboard Heart Box-stuff animal and M&M's

\$10 — Beverage mug with snacks

Items are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, Sheppard said.

Cash and carry items are available at Howard College, First Bank of West Texas — Big Spring and Coahoma — and Citizens Federal Credit Union.

JoBeth Corwin is chairing the group of singing telegram volunteers and has recruited six teams of four or five singers. These volunteers will serenade people in their homes, restaurants and places of employment for a \$20 donation.

"It's really rewarding to sing at the nursing homes

and to shut-ins," singer Stacy Barr said.

Each person who receives a singing telegram is serenaded with a song and given a heart-shaped box of candies. Song selections range from serious to romantic to humorous. A limited number of slots are available for the singing telegrams, Christie-Morgan said.

Proceeds benefit patients and families of Big Spring State Hospital. A few projects funded by the Volunteer Services Council are The Fashion Shop, Operation Cookie, Operation Reading, toiletry items, "We Care Bags," Pillow Pals,

Parties, Christmas Project, Family Lodge, Birthday Cards, Bingo, Greeting Cards, Internet Café, trams, greenhouse, Chapel and the indoor swimming pool.

Items may be viewed and picked up at the Community Relations Office. For more information, call (432) 268-7536, 268-7271, or 268-7533.

Big Spring State Hospital is a 200-bed hos-

pital for people with mental illness in 58 counties in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

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Pedro "Pete" Rodriguez, 77, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Monday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Rosie Lee Gamage, 90, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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## COUNTY

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Crooker, who said efforts to save county taxpayers money by changing architects — commissioners recently voted 3-2 to terminate the county's contract with local architect Phil Furqueron — has been a fool's errand from the beginning.

"The contract these three architectural firms are offering is the same contract we had with Furqueron," said Crooker. "It's a standard architectural contract. There are no free deals here. I have yet to hear anything from any of them that they won't charge the county until a bond is passed. The closest I've heard so far is one architect is willing to spread the payments out instead of hitting us with

a huge bill all at once, but that's it.

"We're just going back down the same path we've already been. The idea of retrofitting the existing jail is just silly, and I really feel like that's what the architects will tell us. We're just going to pay these guys to tell us what we already know. If you ask me, we're just repeating history with all of this."

Also among Monday's agenda items, County Auditor Jackie Olson will present the commissioners with invoices and purchase requests. Olson is also expected to present commissioners with the annual audit.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is expected to present commissioners with personnel considerations and a resolution to amend authorized representatives for the

county's Texpool holdings.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson will present the court with pipeline crossings and a report on county road maintenance.

County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom is to meet with commissioners concerning office space, while County Constable Bill Holden is to discuss constable duties with the court.

Extension Agents Tommy Yeater and Amanda Toerck are also scheduled to meet with commissioners to discuss extension activity and a travel report, while Gregory Wortham is to request the county consider joining the West Texas Wind Energy Consortium.

The court will also consider approval of an offer

to purchase tax trustee property made by Tammy Ledbetter.

Monday's meeting is to begin at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

**Elvia Nunez**  
1927-2006

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## WATER

Continued from Page 1A

Darden is asking water customers to voluntarily curtail non-essential water use until further notice.

"We have six filters on hand," Darden said. "The more people conserve water, the fewer filters we will have to use."

Darden said examples of non-essential water use include washing of cars and other vehicles and any outside or recreational use.

"This is in effect until

further notice," he said.

Fortunately, the 50 or so water line breaks caused by recent cold temperatures have been repaired, although further breaks would severely tax the system, Darden said.

For more information, contact the water department at 264-2392.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

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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 Cupettd  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Let parents decide what to block out

Armed with the latest studies documenting a rise in televised mayhem, some activists are pushing Congress to extend the federal nanny state's purview to TV violence. The networks' growing fascination with maiming, killing and vivisection may be lamentable, but regulations to limit violence on over-the-air television would be even less rational and enforceable than the government's shifting standards for indecency and profanity.

A bill by Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W. Va., which was offered in 2005 and is expected to be reintroduced this year, would allow the Federal Communications Commission to regulate "gratuitous and excessively violent" shows on local broadcast stations and on basic cable networks. (The FCC limits when indecent material can be broadcast by local stations but has no authority to regulate violent programming.) If the FCC found industry efforts at self-regulation ineffective, it could bar violent broadcasts during the hours children are likely to be watching.

There's an obvious First Amendment problem with any effort by government to regulate speech. Beyond that, though, there are at least two difficulties with proposals such as Rockefeller's.

First, it's difficult to define what constitutes violence, let alone what is gratuitous or excessive. Does mental torture qualify? How about a documentary with graphic scenes of deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers? Should news footage be included? Cartoons?

Second, it's hard to see how a crackdown on broadcasters would do much to protect kids when over-the-air stations represent only one source of violent programming — and the tamest one at that. This is one of the fundamental problems with the FCC's approach to regulating indecency too.

The public's taste for graphic programming is clear, as evidenced by the success of such shows as CBS' "CSI" franchise, which at last count included three separate programs, one of which is on almost every night of the week. If regulators try to push those shows from prime time to premium networks or to late-night TV, what difference does that make in homes with HBO or TiVo, which makes it simple to shift a late-night program to an earlier hour the next day? And how can they stop programs from spreading to other outlets that are easy for kids to find, including online stores, the networks' Web sites and mobile-phone services?

The best way to protect kids from inappropriate fare on TV is for parents to monitor what they watch. Better parental controls for filtering TV are emerging, as is more useful information about content. Instead of trying to make decisions for Mom and Dad, the government should be pushing the industry to provide more effective ways for them to control what their kids are watching.

—The Los Angeles Times

## LETTER POLICIES

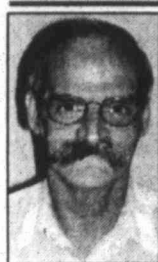
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- Sign your letter.
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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## How not to make a public statement

Random thoughts while enjoying the sunshine:

Today, we'll discuss clothing — or the lack thereof — courtesy of the Associated Press. As usual, these are real stories about real people. Real stupid people. Our news item comes from Saratoga, Calif.



STEVE REAGAN

SARATOGA, Calif. (AP) — Who was that undressed man?

That's the question startled hikers, bikers and horseback riders are asking about a jogger seen streaking through an open space preserve wearing nothing but sneakers, glasses and a black tam hat.

"He passed me and said 'Good evening,'" said Sue Bowdoin, who spotted the naked man — middle-aged and sporting a pale paunch — while riding her horse on a trail in Fremont Older Open Space Preserve last summer. "I thought: Ugh!"

Although numerous park users have reported seeing the exhibitionist over the last year and a half, rangers have been unable to identify and arrest him for exposing himself, said Gordon Baillie of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

By most accounts, the man is polite and does nothing other than run in the buff.

A woman who saw him said he looked scared and backed away after she cornered him with her

horse and told him he was offending people.

People who use the park regularly have not reported recent sightings in the cold weather, theorizing he may be unrecognizable because he is clothed. With dark hair, sweaty red skin and lack of body hair, he wouldn't be hard to spot, Bowdoin said.

"He's frumpy. Plain. Not in good physical shape," Bowdoin told the San Jose Mercury News in Thursday editions. "It's not a pretty sight."

The only thing sadder than the thought of a naked male jogger is the thought of a naked, out of shape male jogger.

Really, the mere thought is disgusting. And to think I just ate.

One of the saddest things about turning ... over 30 ... is the realization that gravity will not be denied. You can jog, walk, lift weights and aerobicise yourself into a coma and your body will still start to sag in places too disgusting to mention.

Maybe when you're ... under 30 ... you can walk around in skin-tight and/or revealing outfits. Once you pass that magic mark, however, you might want to think of adding baggier clothing to your wardrobe.

By the way, this advice is not to spare you any sad self-realizations. This is to spare the rest of us the sight of you walking around in Spandex.

Like the lady in the above report said: "It's not a pretty sight." She was being diplomatic, trust me.

One of the most frightening things I ever saw, short of my bank balance, happened about 20

years ago. A woman who appeared to be in her mid-30s and weighing around 300 pounds was walking around in public wearing nothing more than a halter top and miniskirt.

Hopefully, she was also wearing underwear, but I didn't bother to check. I was too busy trying to overcome my temporary blindness.

The point is not to make fun of this poor woman's fashion choices. It is to say that, for some people, the more clothes the merrier. People my age could once get away with wearing next to nothing in public. I, for one, once applauded such actions (most of the time, anyway).

Those days, sadly, are gone. Finito. Kaput.

And then there's this matter of nude jogging.

No. Just no.

There are many things I can stomach, but the sight of middle-aged and/or out of shape naked joggers is not on the list.

Seriously, what would move anyone to run around naked in public? In winter, no less? Are these people mad? Did they come of age in the 1970s and long for the thrill of streaking?

I'm sure, if pressed for an answer, the jogger in question would say something to the effect that he was making a statement.

This would be the truth. He would be making a statement — "Aren't I stupid?"

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

## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Judge (Mark) Barr for doing his job, presiding over the county commissioners and doing what he was elected to do, represent the majority of the people. After all, the majority of the people elected him for this job. Stand behind him and give him a chance! After all he is trying to save a little money.

He's not trying to take away rights of the people like the city leaders are trying to do, taking away the rights of our local business owners.

This is not over 350 words because you won't print that much unless it is from one of the chosen few.

KENNETH CARSON  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR,

As an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Navy I think the USA is not doing what they said they would do for the veterans and that is to take care of their needs. As a veteran in need of financial assistance I see where people who don't have a disability would not. So if I say I would be open to help from a con-

cerned person you would not print this letter. But I am in need of help from some where. The Veteran's Administration will not help. My social security check of \$628 doesn't pay everything. I know that I am not the only one with that problem. But the USA needs to do what they promised. To help the veterans. Maybe some one would help by giving a person a job where he doesn't have to stand on his feet or legs. Diabetes have my legs so I can't stand on them.

So please help a disabled veteran.

Thank you,

JIMMY LEE HUFF  
LORAIN

TO THE EDITOR:

An Italian participant called World Healing Day "Our Super Bowl." And so it is. We pray, we sing, we dance, we meditate, we laugh, we cry and we commit ourselves to bringing forth a world where greater peace and harmony prevail.

I would like to thank the Herald, Sudden Link, KBYG, Internet Word Spreaders, KBST, churches, spiritual centers and

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## Homework's supermodel role model

I never thought I'd say this but, on behalf of all women: God bless you, Christie Brinkley.

Sure, you've made us feel fat and unsmiley by comparison for, oh, a generation. Or two. And you've made us hate our non-bouncy hair. And you've made a lot of extremely ordinary, even SUB-ordinary men think that they should keep shopping around for a beaming busty blonde who never ages, frowns or is seen schlepping a Kohl's bag. But! All is forgiven, thanks to the demand you made in divorce court on Monday.

In order to agree to a temporary child support agreement, according to the New York Post, you insisted that your louse of a spouse promise to help the kids, 8 and 11, with their homework.

This is the shot heard round the dinner table! Married or divorced, a husband who is LEGALLY bound to sit down with those damn marble notebooks is what every woman dreams of. Forget the pool boy. Give us homework helpers!

"That's a great punishment," crowed Dina Perez, a 31-year-old mother of three, neatly nailing the issue. Homework IS punishment — if not for the kids, then certainly for the parents.

"It's horrible," says my friend Melissa. She's got girls in 4th and 7th grade and the main problem for her is plain old frustration: "If

my fourth grader doesn't understand something I'm explaining in what I think is THE most perfect way, and she STILL has no idea, I'm just lost. Frustrated. Mad! How can you NOT understand the concept of 100 pennies?" Like earlier parents who threatened to send their kids to reform school, Melissa seethes, "You wanna go to the Sylvan Learning Center?"

And then she feels bad.

Bad is just the feeling that homework breeds. Parents feel bad about helping too much, and about letting things slide, and, if they're me, they feel bad about not having cleaned the kitchen table well enough, so there's always a little translucent spot on the worksheet. But most of all, parents feel bad about having to be involved at all.

"Any good mood I have when I walked in the door goes away," says one New Jersey pal.

"Anything that would keep me out of the house from 4 to 8 would be great," agrees Marla Muni, a mother of two in Suffern.

Homework is like an awful second job — with a boss who's incredibly immature.

"My biggest problem is if the kids miss a class and I have to explain them something, you have to overcome the obstacle that you aren't as smart as the teacher," says my brilliant friend, Gigi. "My fifth grader missed a class where they had to do long division and she was going, 'You can't show me!' Even though I have an applied math degree from Harvard, she doesn't think I know how to do long division."

On the other hand, when Gigi's husband volunteers to pitch in, "They say, 'No, Daddy. It's OK.

We'll have Mommy do this."

So in truth, maybe the problem isn't always that dads aren't willing to chip in. It's that mothers are usually expected to solve children's problems, including the ones that begin, "If a train is traveling at 65 miles an hour..."

And then there are the times when even both parents can't solve the problem, because that's how onerous homework has become.

"We had a science fair last year," says a Manhattan mother who shall remain nameless. "My son came up with this great idea to build a tsunami tank. Well, not only could he not build it himself, we couldn't build it." Being urbanites, however, they did come up with a solution. They had the super build it.

"It was a huge hit at the science fair," recalls the mom. But this year, she came up with a better solution: "Do it yourself."

Maybe that's what Peter Cook will say when it's time for him to help the kids with their homework. Maybe Christie will say the same. And maybe if they'd said it a couple years earlier, they would have been so happy, with so much time to enjoy each other's company, they wouldn't be in divorce court now.

Lenore Skenazy is a contributing editor at the New York Sun. To find out more about Lenore Skenazy (lenore@lenoretown.com), and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

everyone who helped get the word out for 2006.

Already, anticipation runs high for the 2007 World Healing Day. This is the year when light, love, peace and understanding prevail. We move forward in faith, being instruments of peace, to the 2007 Spiritual Super Bowl.

Letting every day be a world healing day, we anticipate the power surge of good energy our world will experience as we join hearts and hands around the world in a team effort at noon Greenwich time on Dec. 31, 2007.

Thank you.

NANCY L. PATRICK  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR

Several local organizations would like to begin 2007 with a positive note. You may have all read the story found in one of the very first editions of the book "Chicken Soup for the Soul." The story "Who I Am Makes A Difference" was found and this organization wishes to begin this positive attitude Big Spring campaign as we begin 2007.

You will be able to pick up the story and also two blue ribbons which read "Who I Am Makes A Difference" at the Big Spring Herald, Central Fire Station Fire Marshal's office, Howard County Sheriff's Office and additional places listed on the brochure.

We encourage you to please stop by and pick up a couple of the brochures, find someone who has made a difference in your life and present them with a blue ribbon. It is our hope, prayer and desire that in the very near future, you will not be able to walk anywhere in Big Spring or Howard County without seeing someone with a Blue Ribbon pinned on them.

Let's begin 2007 striving forth with a new and positive attitude and let's prove that Big Spring is truly the Crossroads of West Texas. Let's prove that Big Spring and Howard County truly do have the friendliest and caring folks.

To each of you, we wish you, the citizens of Big Spring and Howard County a Blessed 2007.

DALE PITTMAN  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR,

Can someone help me understand? How we can justify sending \$1.2 billion to African countries to help with their malaria problems, while we still have 45 million U.S. citizens who have no basic health care coverage?

Can someone help me understand? Why we are, apparently, the only industrialized nation in the world that does not provide basic health care for all of its citizens?

Can someone help me understand? Why we as a nation feel we can afford billions of dollars each month to better the lives of people in foreign nations, yet Congress feels it necessary to raise the Medicare co-payments, further burdening those on fixed incomes who can least afford the increase? Many elderly need regular medical follow up. These increases will likely serve to deter the elderly from following up with their doctors until they are in bad shape. If you have to ask, so what? Compare the cost of being seen in the office as compared to being seen in the emergency room and the intensive care unit. The latter

two are where we start paying the big bucks.

Can someone help me understand? How best to explain to men and women who lived all their lives in this country, who have worked 30 to 40 years and paid their share of taxes, who in recent years find themselves in the frightening position of not being able to afford healthcare due to skyrocketing costs, who are still several years from being able to get the Medicare benefits which they have long paid into, that they now have a life-threatening disease and they will have to make a choice? Lose what little security and savings they may have and take on considerable debt (if they can get loans) which of course only adds more stress to an already frightening situation, or they can choose to die. How do we explain to them that there is no money to help them but there are billions of dollars being 'ear marked' for peoples in foreign countries around the world?

Does all this sound too melodramatic? Take a look around. It's happening every day to people in our own communities, here in West Texas.

Can someone help me understand why?

SINCERELY,  
SUSAN ROBERTS

TO THE EDITOR,

In a recent article it was noted how much the Big Spring State Hospital (BSSH) had changed since its days of housing the "criminally insane." Indeed BSSH has changed but it is still a long way from being some flagship example of mental patient care. (I recently had the misfortune of spending 15 days there as a patient.) And I feel the situation at BSSH is a classic example of how the State of Texas still misunderstands what is most important in dealing with mental health issues.

A mental patient is dealing with a trauma of the mind - some incident does not "compute" in the

mind and the person involved becomes somehow dysfunctional trying to deal with it. Comfort becomes of the essence so the patient has time to run the various explanations through the mind. It also helps if the patient can focus on the problem so the mind can search possible solutions and decide if a life course correction might help.

BSSH is "meatball surgery" as it was termed in MASH. They "patch them up" and send them home. Unfortunately, the current environment a BSSH does more harm than good because little time is spent on the symptomatic dysfunction which seems to clear up because the mind is further induced by more trauma. I was physically threatened three times by one patient who, for some reason, didn't like me. Violence erupts often in the environment that exists in BSSH. The patient is discharged in a condition that is more critical but deemed successful because the patient was bludgeoned into becoming functional at all costs to escape the onslaught being perpetrated on him. To BSSH's credit, it is a corollary to the "kill or cure method." Heaven help us if all the State Hospitals operate in this manner.

Facilities that are funded by the State have been "cut to the bone and the marrow is oozing out." Mental Health and Mental Retardation represents a collection of dedicated professionals who do what they can even with their hands tied. Some legislator who feels the injustice being perpetrated with regard to the mentally ill, would be well served to talk to the professionals about how to remove the hurdles standing in the way of compassionate care.

For the record BSSH was my fifth hospitalization over my 19 year bipolar dysfunction. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania they at least understood the necessity of providing

comfort to the degree possible in mental hospitalization cases. In my case I was dealing with death - all forms of death - and it stemmed from having to witness the embalming of a 9 month old baby girl when I was 7 years old. Put that in the BSSH environment and tell me how hard it was to come to terms with death given I wasn't willing to commit suicide. We do what we can. I think in Texas, it is time to do more not less in recognition of the traumas to the mind.

Could it be that George Bush was also chasing weapons of mass destruction while he was governor?

CARLTON SANDERSON  
MIDLAND

TO THE EDITOR,

The headline in the Big Spring Herald, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007, "Moore Board Ices Request From College" was unbelievable to me. If you did not have the opportunity to read this article, the Board voted unanimously to table consideration of a \$300,550 request from Howard College to fund the creation of a welding program. Quoting from that article, "It's a good program, don't get me wrong," said Frank Parker, Moore Board member, "however, this Board is charged with creating development in Howard County, and I'm just not sure that's what this program would do. I'm also not sure if this would be allowed under 4A (economic development) law. Sure we've done several programs similar to it in the past but this is a lot more money." As a former Moore Board member, I would like to assure Mr. Parker that this expenditure is legal. If he would consult Section 2(11)(A) of the development Corporation Act of 1979, "Primary job training facilities for use by institutions of higher education. The term 'institution of higher education' is defined under Section 61.003 of the Texas

ADDRESSES

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.  
MARK BARR,  
COUNTY JUDGE —  
Home and Office: (432)  
517-0707.

EMMA BROWN —  
Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE —  
263-0724; Work  
(Jerry's Barbers): 267-  
5471.

BILL CROOKER —  
Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home:  
263-0260.

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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MAYOR — Home: 263-  
0907; Work (Russ  
McEwen Insurance):  
267-1413.

GREG BIDDISON —  
Home: 267-6009; Work  
(Greg's Grill): 267-  
7121.

MANUEL RAMIREZ JR.  
—Home: 268-9692;  
Work (VAMC): 263-  
7361.

STEPHANIE HORTON —  
Home: 264-0306; Work  
(VA Medical Center):  
263-7361..

JOANN STAULCUP —  
Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD —  
Home: 263-4835.

JOANN KNOX —  
Home: 816-9083; Work  
(BSISD): 264-3635.

Education Code to include any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, or other agency of higher education as defined under Section 61.003. The Development Corporation Act of 1979 allows the funding for primary job training facilities for use by institutions of higher education." Since its inception, the Moore Board has worked with Howard College. Dr. Jamie Peterson, Dean of Workforce Development, Howard College, researched this program which would turn out welders to enter a market paying between \$35 and \$85 an hour. What an opportunity for the young people of our community. What an attraction for businesses to locate here. This program could be offered as early as August 2007. The Moore Board "tabled" the \$300,550 request from Howard College - a legal 4A project - but on Nov. 30, 2006, readily approved a motion that will begin the process to grant the Dallas-based Settles Hotel Development Company a \$3 million grant. This motion was made without Board members having the city of Big Spring produce a copy of the bill of sale or the \$75,000 check supposedly given by Britt

Ryan for the purchase of the Settles Hotel. The citizens of Big Spring have not been made aware of the terms and contract for the renovations. It is my understanding that one of the surrounding property owners, the beloved Boys Club, has been informed they may have to vacate and sell their bequeathed property. As I have stated before, this is an illegal expenditure by the Moore Board, a 4A Corporation. If the Moore Board plans to spend \$3 million on a 4B project such as the Settles Hotel, Texas State law requires them to conduct public hearings and inform the Big Spring residents of the estimated cost and impact of the project. If you, as a resident of Big Spring, agree with the city that this money should be spent this way then you must vote on this issue at the next posted election. Perhaps the City Council should consider starting the public hearings now, and putting the Settles Hotel on the election ballot in May. Do you want this money spent on the Settles? If not, speak up - make the city represent you. Personally I would prefer my sales tax dollars be spent on training at Howard College.

JOYCE CROOKER  
BIG SPRING

su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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	8	5			3
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# Craddick rewards his supporters with plum committee assignments

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick rewarded his supporters Friday with plum committee assignments, but the lawmaker who tried to oust him earlier this month is crying foul.

Republican Rep. Jim Pitts, the former chairman of the budget-writing House Appropriations committee, said the assignments are an example why Craddick should be ousted as the cham-



Craddick

ber's presiding officer.

Pitts challenged Craddick but failed in a heated speaker's race on the opening day of the legislative session more than two weeks ago.

Craddick did not put Pitts back on the budget committee, but assigned him to be vice chairman of the House Government Reform Committee. He'll also serve on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Meanwhile, Democrats who broke with their party to support Craddick were rewarded

with positions of power.

"In spite of his repeated assurances to members of the House and the public that there would be no retribution, it appears that the speaker has chosen retaliation over reconciliation," Pitts said. "Like many other members of the House, I am very disappointed in his choice."

Craddick said the committees are one of the most important components of the legislative process.

"I made these appointments after weeks of discussions with

legislators and I believe this leadership team strikes a balance between experience and the diverse interests of this state," Craddick said in a written statement released Friday evening.

Edinburg Democratic Rep. Aaron Pena, who remained loyal to Craddick throughout the race despite intense pressure from House Democrats, was rewarded with the role of chairman of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

Rep. Ryan Guillen, a Rio

Grande City Democrat in his third term, was named vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Some observers were surprised that the powerful post went to such relatively new member.

Conservative Republican Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa will lead the Appropriations Committee.

Now that committees have been formed, testimony can be heard on bills and the real work of the House can begin. The Senate has had its committees in place for two weeks.

## News in brief

### Toddler, grandmother killed in propane explosion, fire

RENO (AP) — A toddler and her grandmother were killed when a leaking propane tank ignited and set their mobile home on fire.

The blaze that killed the 2-year-old girl and 44-year-old woman started Friday evening.

It burned so intensely that within minutes of the first call, more than half of the structure was being consumed by flames. Several propane tanks near the home exploded after the fire started, said Parker County fire marshal Shawn Scott.

Firefighters think the toddler's grandfather was trying to fix a problem with a 300-gallon propane tank when he noticed the pop-off valve was leaking gas into the home. The grandfather, who was not injured in the fire, tried to slow the leak but the gas ignited. Investigators don't know what sparked the blaze, Scott said.

### Our Lady of the Lake offering Hispanic marketing major

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Our Lady of the Lake University will soon become one of a handful of schools nationwide training students to market specifically to Hispanics.

The Catholic university plans to start offering a bachelor's degree in Hispanic marketing in the fall, officials announced Friday.

Hispanics are the nation's youngest and fastest-growing ethnic group with an estimated population of more than 40 million. They have more spending money than any other minority group, according to the Census Bureau.

But around the country, just a few uni-

versities have a strict focus on marketing to Latinos in the United States. DePaul University in Chicago recently announced a major. Southern Methodist University in Dallas offers training on marketing to Hispanics. Florida State University in Tallahassee has an undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate program in Hispanic marketing communication.

Our Lady of the Lake has an advantage since it's located in San Antonio, one of Texas' most Hispanic cities and home to some of the country's best-known Latino marketing firms. Members of SAVision, the Hispanic marketing division of the American Marketing Association, worked with the university on the Hispanic marketing degree.

"OLLU will be the pioneer and work out the bugs so it can be emulated by other universities," said Diane Huth, chairwoman of SAVision. "The whole focus is to professionalize this multibillion-dollar market."

Professors have established seven courses for the major. University officials expect 15 students to enroll at first.

### Abilene police arrest three men in child's shooting death

ABILENE (AP) — Police arrested three men in a drive-by shooting that left a sleeping 4-year-old girl dead in her bed.

Janie Lynn Delapaz was killed as she slept at her house, which was hit with more than 20 bullets during the drive-by shooting about 2 a.m. Sunday. No one else was injured.

"I'm sorry," one of the suspects told KTXS-TV Thursday night, before their identities had been released. "We were just trying to scare them. We didn't

think nobody was home."

Abilene Police Sgt. John Reid said the men arrested Thursday and arraigned Friday were charged with murder. Islam Gonzales, 17; Matthew Gonzalez, 19; and Javier A. Meza, 20, all of Abilene, are being held at Taylor County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bond each.

Islam Gonzales waived his constitutional rights and issued a written confession revealing that the three had gone to the home "with intent to cause


serious bodily injury." The men fired 23 shots into the home with weapons of three different calibers, according to the affidavit.

Patrick Martinez, Janie's uncle, said Thursday evening he felt relieved that suspects had been arrested. Janie's funeral was Friday.

"I am so happy because now I can go up to my niece and I am going to tell her that she can rest now, because we caught the guys who killed her," Martinez said.

26319

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



**CORRECTED NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT RENEWALS**

PERMIT NUMBER WDW 329, 330, 331

**APPLICATION.** Alon USA, LP, P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79721-1311, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of three Class I non-commercial, hazardous waste underground injection waste permits. The permit renewal would authorize continued authorization of the injection of hazardous waste in underground injection. The facility is located at IH-20 & Refinery Road, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. The TCEQ received this application on December 23, 2006. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at the Howard County Library, 500 Main Street, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE** TECQ=s Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director=s decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director=s decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for the contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group=s representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member=s location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group=s purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request period, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration or at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission=s decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director=s decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TECQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** All written public comments and requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about TCEQ can be found at our web site at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us). Further information may also be obtained from Alon USA, LP, at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jimmy Miller at (432) 263-9234.

Issued: January 12, 2007



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## Prince Charles, Camilla begin weekend U.S. trip

By KATHY MATHESON  
Associated Press Writer  
PHILADELPHIA

Prince Charles arrived for a two-day trip in the U.S. and his first visit to Philadelphia, the city where American colonists declared their independence from British rule more than two centuries ago.

The Prince of Wales and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, arrived Friday, a day before official appearances were scheduled to begin at Independence Hall, where they are expected to be warmly welcomed by the mayor, governor and other officials in the first of about a half dozen scheduled public appearances.

The trip focuses on youth development, urban renewal and environmental stewardship.

Charles and Camilla flew in on British Airways, in line with the prince's recent announcement that he would forgo private jets to reduce his impact on the environment.

After Independence Hall, the couple are scheduled to meet with students at the Liberty Bell and receive a replica of the national icon. They will then attend a reception with community leaders at the National Constitution Center.

Next on the itinerary are stops in West Philadelphia, where the heir to the British throne will focus on youth development and urban revitalization. The area is home to some of the city's poorer and more violent neighborhoods.

The couple will visit a mural titled "Reading: A Journey," one of 2,700 cre-

ated by the city's Mural Arts Program. They will then meet community members and mural artists at a reception at a nearby church.

James Helman, an activist in the city's Grays Ferry section, said he looks forward to speaking with Prince Charles about the mural called "Peace Wall" that was created in his neighborhood.

"I think the prince is very much interested in restoring blighted neighborhoods in his own country," said Helman, 61. "Mural arts is one of the options."

The couple then plan to stop at International House, a nonprofit organization housing nearly 400 students, scholars and interns from more than 65 nations. The duchess is to meet students while the prince attends a roundtable discussion of urban renewal efforts in foreign countries.

A visit to the Academy of Music's 150th anniversary concert is scheduled for Saturday night.

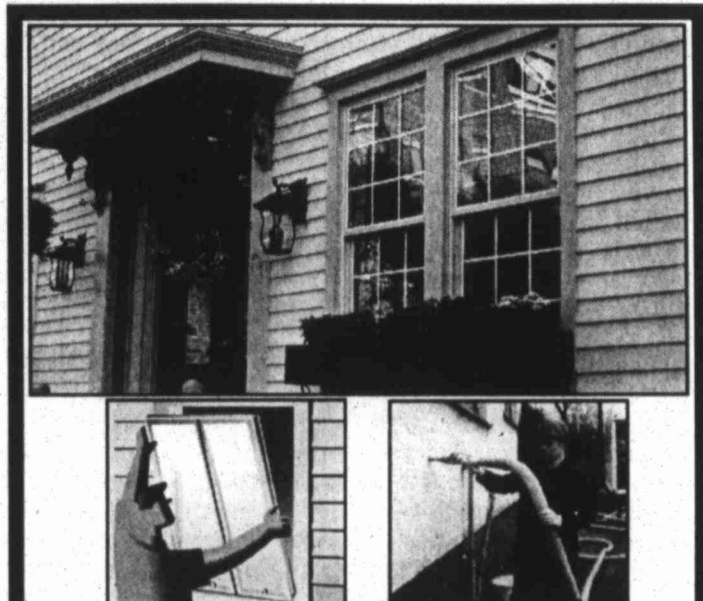
On Sunday, the prince and duchess plan to attend services at Arch Street Presbyterian Church, spiritual home of the Welsh community in Philadelphia.

The couple are then scheduled to take a private train about 90 miles to New York, where they plan to visit a social services agency in Harlem and Prince Charles is to receive an award from Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment.

The prince and duchess last came to the United States in November 2005, when they visited the site of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York.



Philadelphia Inquirer, MCT photo/Michael Perez  
Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, arrives at Philadelphia's Four Season Hotel Friday in Philadelphia. Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, are making a whirlwind trip to the city this weekend to get a big slice of Philadelphia culture.



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## Contract Bridge

### Looks Wrong, But It's Right

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♦ K Q 10 4  
♥ 4 3 2  
♦ 8 5 2  
♠ A 9 4

WEST  
♦ 9 7 5 2  
♥ 9  
♦ A 7 6 3  
♠ Q J 10 7

EAST  
♦ 8 3  
♥ Q J 8  
♦ Q J 10  
♠ K 8 5 3 2

SOUTH  
♦ A J 6  
♥ A K 10 7 6 5  
♦ K 9 4  
♠ 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 1♦ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Let's say you're in four hearts and West leads a club. You win with the ace and play the A-K of trumps, hoping for a 2-2 split. When East turns up with three trumps, you shift your attention to spades by playing the A-J and another spade. Unfortunately, East ruffs the third spade and returns the queen of diamonds, and down you go.

You could certainly claim to have

been very unlucky, since you would have made the contract had the trumps divided 2-2, or if West had the three trumps, or if East had the ace of diamonds, or if East had three or more spades.

Even so, the fact remains that the contract can be made with more careful play. After East follows low on the first trump lead from dummy, the correct line of play — by far — is to finesse the ten! In the actual deal, the ten wins and you finish with 11 tricks. But that in itself doesn't prove that the ten is the right play.

Finessing the ten is best because it has the great virtue of practically guaranteeing the contract, and not because you luckily find East with the Q-J-x. Indeed, you don't really mind losing a trump trick to West, because you're certain to score at least 10 tricks — five hearts, four spades and a club — if you do.

The primary concern is that East might have three trumps and later gain the lead to return a diamond through your king. The first-round trump finesse guards against this possibility. It is true that the deep finesse will sometimes cost a trick unnecessarily, but that is a tiny premium to pay for ensuring the contract.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.  
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## World news briefs

**U.S. confirms that 4 soldiers were abducted, killed during bold, sophisticated attack in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — In perhaps the boldest and most sophisticated attack in four years of warfare, gunmen speaking English, wearing U.S. military uniforms and carrying American weapons abducted four U.S. soldiers last week at the provincial headquarters in the Shiite holy city of Karbala and then shot them to death.

The U.S. military confirmed a report earlier Friday by The Associated Press that three of the soldiers were dead and one was mortally wounded with a gunshot to the head when they were found in a neighboring province, about 25 miles from the compound where they were captured. A fifth soldier was killed in the initial attack on the compound.

The new account contradicted a U.S. military statement on Jan. 20, the day of the raid on an Iraqi governor's office, that five soldiers were killed "repelling" the attack.

The security breakdown and the dramatic kidnapping and murder of four soldiers leaked out just as President Bush faces stiffening congressional opposition over his plan to flood Baghdad and surrounding regions with 21,500 more American troops. Two of Congress's most vocal war critics, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. John Murtha, were in the Iraqi capital as the news broke.

In a statement issued late Friday, the military said two of the soldiers were handcuffed together in the back seat of an SUV near the southern Iraqi town of Mahawil. A third dead soldier was on the ground nearby. The fourth soldier died on the way to the hospital.

**Navy searches for 3 missing crew from copter that crashed during training off Calif. coast**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Navy vessels about 50 miles off the California coast searched Saturday for three crew members of a Navy helicopter that crashed during a training operation.

The Friday crash killed one crew member and left the remaining three missing as darkness fell over the Pacific.

The sailor died after being pulled alive from the water, said Navy spokesman Cmdr. Jack Hanzlik.

"It's a sad time whenever we lose shipmates like this, so our hearts and prayers go out to the families," Hanzlik said.

The helicopter, based at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, was on a training mission when it crashed at about 5:30 p.m. EST. The MH-60S, commonly known as a Seahawk, was on a mission off the USS Bonhomme Richard, near San Clemente Island, directly west of the Camp Pendleton Marine base.

**Defense Secretary Gates says congressional lawmakers' Iraq resolution 'emboldens enemy'**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional rebuke of President Bush's troop buildup in Iraq would undercut American commanders in a way that "emboldens the enemy," Defense Secretary Robert Gates says.

At his first Pentagon news conference since taking

office Dec. 18, Gates was asked whether a congressional resolution criticizing Bush's plan would offer the insurgents new hope.

"It's pretty clear that a resolution that in effect says that the general going out to take command of the arena shouldn't have the resources he thinks he needs to be successful certainly emboldens the enemy and our adversaries," Gates said Friday.

"I think it's hard to measure that with any precision, but it seems pretty straightforward that any indication of flagging will in the United States gives encouragement to those folks," Gates said, referring to the anti-government forces in Baghdad. He added that he was certain this was not the intent of those who support the congressional resolution, "but that's the effect."

The Pentagon is studying whether it could accelerate the deployment of the five additional Army brigades that are to be dispatched to Baghdad by late May to bolster security in the capital, Gates said.

**Russian reported to be a suspect in ex-spy poisoning case denies any role**

MOSCOW (AP) — The man reported by British media to be a suspect in the murder of a former Russian agent in London hit out Saturday at "lies, provocation and government propaganda," denying any role in the radiation poisoning death of Alexander Litvinenko.

Andrei Lugovoi told The Associated Press that he viewed the reports in Britain's Guardian newspaper and Sky News that he is a suspect in the murder as an attempt by the British authorities to make up for the lack of evidence against him.

"This is all lies, provocation and government propaganda by the United Kingdom," he said. "They are trying to make up for their poor hand."

Sky News reported Friday that British prosecutors believe they have enough evidence to charge Lugovoi.

Investigators have identified the teapot believed to have contained the radioactive tea, which eventually killed Litvinenko in November, Sky News said, citing unnamed Scotland Yard officials.

**Feds to remove wolves in Rockies from endangered list; Great Lakes wolves to follow**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Wolves in the northern Rockies will be removed from the endangered species list within the next year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Friday, a move that would open the population up to trophy hunting.

Federal officials are expected to announce the plan Monday, said Sharon Rose, a spokeswoman for the service. The agency also will finalize removal from the list of a separate population of wolves in the Great Lakes region.

Federal officials for months have been readying a proposal calling for Montana, Idaho and Wyoming to assume management of the 1,200-plus wolves in their states. The plan would go into effect following a year-long comment and review period, Rose said.

If the proposal for the Rocky Mountain gray wolf skirts expected legal challenges and becomes law, it would open wolves there to trophy hunting for the first time since an intensive restoration effort began in the

late 1980s. The Great Lakes wolves would be protected from public hunting for at least five years.

**Policy holders must wait after federal judge rejects State Farm's multi-million Katrina deal**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Thousands of Mississippi policyholders whose homes were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina must wait a bit longer before reaping their share of a proposed settlement with State Farm Fire & Casualty Co., a judge ruled.

U.S. District Judge L.T. Senter Jr. of Mississippi on Friday refused to endorse part of a proposal for the insurance company to pay at least \$50 million to policyholders whose claims were denied but did not sue the company.

The Bloomington, Ill.-based insurer also had agreed to pay about \$80 million to more than 600 policyholders who sued the company for refusing to cover damage from the Aug. 29, 2005, storm. Senter has not been asked to sign off on that part of the deal.

Senter said in his ruling that he does not have enough information to determine how many policyholders would benefit from the deal or how much each can be paid.

"In the absence of substantially more information than I now have before me, I am unable to say, even preliminarily, that the proposed settlement establishes a procedure that is fair, just, balanced or reasonable," he wrote.

**Violence in Milwaukee schools leads to ban on cell phones starting Monday, authorities say**

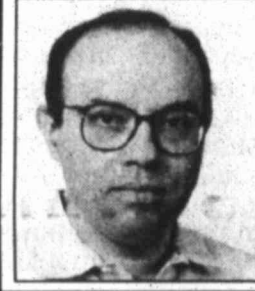
MILWAUKEE (AP) — School brawls have gone high tech, with students using cell phones to call in reinforcements — in one case requiring police and pepper spray to break up a fight that swelled to about 20 family members on school grounds.

The fracas earlier this month, in which six students and three adults were arrested, was the latest in a surge of cell phone-related fights and prompted Wisconsin's largest school district to ban cell phones in its 217 schools beginning Monday.

"We consider (cell phones) almost as weapons because when they call, we're the ones out in front and we don't know these people are coming," said Mike Heese, safety security assistant at Bradley Tech High School, where the fight happened.

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# Protesters demand withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters energized by fresh congressional skepticism about the Iraq war demanded a withdrawal of U.S. troops in a demonstration Saturday that drew tens of thousands and brought Jane Fonda back to the streets.

A sampling of celebrities, a half dozen members of Congress and busloads of demonstrators from distant states joined in a spirited rally under a sunny sky, seeing opportunity to press their cause in a country that has turned against the war.

Standing on her toes to reach the microphone, 12-year-old Moriah Arnold told the crowd: "Now we know our leaders either lied to us or hid the truth. Because of our actions, the rest of the world sees us as

a bully and a liar." The sixth-grader from Harvard, Mass., the youngest speaker on the National Mall stage, organized a petition drive at her school against the war.

The House Judiciary Committee chairman, Rep. John Conyers, threatened to use congressional spending power to try to stop the war. "George Bush has a habit of firing military leaders who tell him the Iraq war is failing," he said, looking out at the masses. "He can't fire you." Referring to Congress, the Michigan Democrat added: "He can't fire us."

"The founders of our country gave our Congress the power of the purse because they envisioned a scenario exactly like we find ourselves in today. Not

only is it in our power, it is our obligation to stop Bush."

On the stage rested a coffin covered with a U.S. flag and a pair of military boots, symbolizing American war dead. On the Mall stood a large bin filled with tags bearing the names of Iraqis who have died.

"When I served in war, I thought I was serving honorably," Gareth Reppenhagen, a veteran who fought in Iraq as an Army sniper, told the crowd. "I was sent to war ... for causes that have proved fraudulent."

Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said Bush "tricked" the country into an immoral war. "He did not tell the truth," she said. "I will not vote one dime for this war."

In the crowd, signs recalled the November elections that defeated the Republican con-

gressional majority in part because of Bush's Iraq policy.

"I voted for peace," one said. "We see many things that we feel helpless about," said Barbara Struna, 59, who came from Brewster, Mass., to march. "But this is like a united force. This is something I can do."

Struna, a mother of five who runs an art gallery, made a two-day bus trip with her 17-year-old daughter, Anna, to the nation's capital to represent what she said was middle America's opposition to President Bush's war policy.

Her daughter, a high school senior, said she has as many as 20 friends who have been to Iraq. "My generation is the one that is going to have to pay for this," she said.

Showcased speakers in addi-

tion to Fonda included actors Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Danny Glover.

Fonda was a lightning rod in the Vietnam era for her outspoken opposition to that war, earning the derisive nickname "Hanoi Jane" from conservatives for traveling to North Vietnam during the height of that conflict 35 years ago. She had avoided anti-Iraq war appearances until now.

About 40 people staged a counter-protest, including military family members and Army Cpl. Joshua Sparling, 25, who lost his leg to a bomb in Iraq in 2005. He said the anti-war protesters, especially those who are veterans or who are on active duty, "need to remember the sacrifice we have made and what our fallen comrades would say if they are alive."

# U.N. officials say Iran plans to start installing thousands of centrifuges

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Iran plans to begin work next month on an underground uranium enrichment facility, as part of a plan to create a network of tens of thousands of machines turning out material that could be used to make nuclear arms, U.N. officials said Friday.

The officials' comments were the first concrete confirmation that work on the facility would begin in February. A senior U.S. State Department official warned the move would be a "major miscalculation" by Iran.

"If Iran takes this step, it is going to confront universal international oppo-

sition," said Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns. "If they think they can get away with 3,000 centrifuges without another Security Council resolution and additional international pressure, then they are very badly mistaken."

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, meanwhile, accused the U.S. of acting like a bully, with the ultimate aim of forcing Iran to "abandon nuclear energy." In a sermon in Tehran, he said a U.S. military buildup in the Gulf and the announcement that U.S. forces would seek to capture or kill Iranian agents in Iraq were aimed Iranian

nuclear programs. "Today our enemies have come with several issues against us while having supporters in the world communities," Rafsanjani told worshippers Friday. "This is bullying."

Also Friday, the Iranian government said it would bar all U.N. inspectors from countries that voted in favor of a U.N. Security Council resolution last month that imposed sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program. Iran said it had rejected 38 names from a list of inspectors from the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iranian officials have said repeatedly that work

would start soon on the uranium enrichment facility at its Natanz underground plant. There had been speculation the leadership might launch the project next month to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that brought the clerical leadership to power.

But the timing of the work may in part be a gesture of defiance. The Security Council's 60-day deadline for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment runs out next month, paving the way for further sanctions.

"I understand that they are going to announce that they are going to build up their 3,000 cen-

trifuge facility ... sometime next month," IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei told reporters at the World Economic Forum.

U.N. officials, who demanded anonymity because the information was confidential, emphasized that Iran had not officially announced plans to embark on the

assembly of what will initially be 3,000 centrifuges at Natanz. But they said senior officials have informally told the IAEA that the work would begin next month.

Iran ultimately plans to expand its program to 54,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

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# Officials tracking prisoner's trek say he's living a song

By BETH RUCKER  
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It has all the makings of a country song: an escaped prisoner, his terminally ill mother, a Wal-Mart truck, NASCAR and a Nashville singer's tour bus.

Since Christopher Daniel Gay, 32, escaped from a prisoner transport van Sunday in South Carolina, police say, he has evaded a five-state manhunt by stealing a pickup, a big rig and the bus that belongs to singer Crystal Gayle.

No one has been reported injured, and the search for him continued Friday.

Initially, police say, his motive for fleeing was simple. "I take it he was just trying to see his mom," said Michael Douglas, the police chief in Pleasant View, Tenn., near the home where Gay's mother is dying of cancer.

Gay, who has a history of theft involving trucks and other heavy equipment, escaped during a bathroom break in Hardeeville, S.C., as he was being taken from Georgetown, Texas, to face felony theft charges in Alabama. The van was taking a route allowing it to pick up prisoners in other states.

He stole a pickup truck in South Carolina and made his way more than 300 miles northwest to Manchester, Tenn., where he stole a Wal-Mart tractor-trailer filled with \$300,000 worth of merchandise, police said.

On Tuesday, Gay got to within 50 yards of his mother's house, about 25 miles northwest of Nashville, but abandoned the Wal-Mart truck and fled into some woods, authorities said.

"What he done was wrong, but he knows his

mama don't have long," his mother, Anna Shull, told The Tennessean this week. Efforts to contact Gay's family were unsuccessful Friday.

Authorities don't think Gay got to see his mother.

Since then, authorities believe he stole the bus belonging to Gayle — the younger sister of Loretta Lynn, known for her long hair and hits such as "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue."

A man believed to be Gay arrived Thursday night at USA International Speedway in Lakeland, Fla., telling the track's manager he was there with NASCAR racer Tony Stewart and asking him for help getting a new generator for the tour bus he was driving, officials said.

The Speedfest 2007 event is being held there this week, but there are no plans for Stewart to appear.

"His story just started having a lot of inconsistencies, so we asked him for some identification," said Speedway President Bill Martino in a phone interview Friday.

The man, who Martino said was clean-cut and dressed nicely, refused and fled.

Track officials, suspicious of the man's story, provided authorities with the license plate number of the tour bus.

Gayle didn't know the bus was missing from the Nashville garage where it was parked until speedway officials called Thursday night, police said.

Her husband and manager, Bill Gatzimos, couldn't immediately be reached for comment Friday, but he told WSMV-TV, "There's got to be a country song in having your bus stolen and taken for a joyride by a fugitive."

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# Move over, Vista: Apple will debut its new Leopard, too

By Troy Wolverton

San Jose Mercury News  
SAN JOSE, Calif. — Microsoft's Windows Vista may be getting all the buzz, but it's not the only operating system update that will hit store shelves this year.

This spring, Apple plans to release Leopard, the fifth revision of its rival Mac OS X software. As with previous updates, Leopard will add a number of new features to the operating system, most notably a new backup program called Time Machine, which puts a 3-D interface on the process of searching through archived files.

The new features could prove important for Apple. In recent years, the company has made much of the differences between the Mac OS and Windows. Macs are more stable, more secure and easier to use, the company has repeatedly told potential customers.

Consumers appear to be lis-

tening. In recent quarters, Apple has repeatedly gained share in the PC market with its growth rates outpacing that of the broader industry. Meanwhile, more than half of all Macintosh computers sold in the United States are being bought by consumers who are new to the platform, either because they've switched from Windows or have never owned a computer before, CEO Steve Jobs said at Macworld.

But Microsoft has attempted to address many of Windows' shortcomings with Vista, and some analysts think the company has narrowed the gap with the Mac OS. With the new update, the company has emphasized stability and security. And Microsoft has added a snazzy new interface and features such as a built-in desktop search button that Apple had already incorporated into Mac OS.

For Windows users who might have been considering

switching to the Mac OS, Vista may be an excuse not to, some analysts say.

"Some people may say Vista is close enough (to the Mac OS), and that'll be good enough for me," said Bob O'Donnell, an analyst who covers the PC industry for research firm IDC.

Apple has said little about Leopard since Jobs previewed the operating system update at the company's developer conference in San Francisco last August. And even then, Apple gave little away about the new software. In fact, Jobs at the time said he was withholding some key new features of the operating system for fear Microsoft might try to put them into Vista before it launched.

Still, some of the features he did show could help set it apart from Vista. In addition to Time Machine, Leopard will include advanced 3-D animation that can be used within programs and as screensavers and an updated version of the compa-

ny's Spotlight desktop search feature that will allow users to search other computers connected on a home network. Leopard will also include a revised e-mail client that will allow users to convert e-mail messages easily into to-do items or memo notes.

The analysts and developers who have played around with Leopard have been impressed by its new features, many of which represent a significant advance over what's in Vista, said Tim Bajarin, an analyst with Creative Strategies. The problem right now is that consumers don't know about Leopard or what it will offer, he said.

"The marketing burden is on Apple's shoulders," Bajarin said. "Apple needs to seize the moment and start drawing attention to OS X Leopard."

That said, some analysts aren't convinced Vista will have much of an effect on Apple's computer sales no mat-

ter how hyped it is or how close it may come to Apple's current Mac OS.

Many consumers have been drawn to the Mac OS by their positive experiences with Apple's iPod music players, analysts say. Others have been attracted by the promise that because Apple controls both the hardware and the software, its Macintoshes are more reliable than Windows based PCs.

"I don't think Vista will play that much into factors that are driving people toward Macs," said Martin Kariithi, an analyst at Technology Business Research.

Indeed, some analysts even think Vista's launch could even be an opportunity for Apple. To run the full version of Vista, many consumers will need to buy new, more powerful computers. Since they're already in the market for a computer, such consumers may be easier to convince to look at what Apple has to offer.

## Here are 11 reasons to give Microsoft's Vista a chance

By Dean Takahashi

San Jose Mercury News  
Little things matter.

Vista, the new computer operating system from Microsoft, is a collection of little improvements that will save you a lot of time and grief in your daily computing.

Microsoft is billing Vista as making it "easier, safer and more fun" to use your PC. Nobody can be sure that Vista delivers on this until it's battle-tested in the real world, but early tests by millions of guinea pigs so far suggests Vista meets its goals. It's the first real makeover of Microsoft's Windows operating system for computers since Windows XP debuted in 2001.

Consumer versions of Vista debut Jan. 30: Home Basic for \$199 and Home Premium for \$239. Ultimate, for \$399, is for power users or small businesses. I've played around with Vista on four different machines and know enough to say what I like about it.

It hasn't crashed on me. On reliability, compatibility or security, it should be better than previous versions of Windows, says Joel Durham, author of "Windows Vista Ultimate Bible," (Wiley, 2007) an upcoming book on the most expensive version of Vista. We'll find out for sure once hardware and software companies finish shipping thousands of "drivers," or programs that ensure Vista works with the computer's hardware.

When I asked Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates how he felt about developing Windows Vista over five years, he said, "Best \$6 billion I ever spent." Is it worth your money? Well, lucky for Bill, it is.

Here are 11 reasons why:

1. When you move your mouse over the borders, you'll find they're a little thicker so it isn't as hard to grab them and expand the size of a window. On the side of the screen, you can find useful options on the Windows Sidebar, where you can view the icons for "gadgets" - mini-programs connected to the Internet. The icons for the gadgets are always visible on the right side of your screen; they deliver live information such as

news headlines, the time in certain cities or local traffic.

2. Maneuvering with 3-D effects on the screen is a novelty in the Windows world, even if it isn't new to Apple Macintosh users. If you hold the Tab and Windows keys down (as long as you're not using the low-end Basic version), Vista takes all of your open Web pages and presents a sideways 3-D view of them.

This feature is called Flip 3D and is part of the so-called Aero Glass 3-D effects that aren't present in the Windows Vista Home Basic edition. The pages run by as if you were rotating a Rolodex. The edges of open pages are also translucent, so you can more easily see what page is nested behind another one.

3. With the "preview pane," you have the ability to preview files and Web pages before you open them. If you put the mouse arrow over a Web page tab at the bottom of the screen, it will present a "live thumbnail" mini-view of the page so you can tell quickly if you really want to open it. The same goes for files in the My Documents folder.

4. Search ability is integrated throughout the operating system so you can search for something inside any folder or dialog box. There is always a search field to use wherever you are in the system, and Vista remembers your most recent or frequent searches.

Thanks to the U.S. Justice Department, you can easily change your default search engine from Microsoft's search tool to Google's or a host of others.

5. Vista has a built-in version of the Windows Media Center user interface, which was once a separate version of Windows XP. The Media Center interface has large print viewable from 10

feet away and has a menu system that you can navigate via a TV remote control. It allows you to navigate through movies or music stored on your PC and view them on a TV screen.

Microsoft has deals to allow you to download movies to your computer or get unique sports information from providers such as Fox Sports. The interface does things like automatically downloads album art to go with your music files. It's easy to hook up devices such as Microsoft's Xbox 360 video game console so you can retrieve a video stored on your PC and play it on a TV connected to the Xbox 360.

6. I like the built-in parental controls that you once had to install on your own. With Vista, you can create a series of users for each member of the family and limit what your children can do.

You can limit permission so that your child can't play Mature-rated games on the computer. You can prevent a child from Web browsing, chatting with strangers or downloading a file without your permission. And you can even set the times when it is OK for your child to be using the computer.

7. Vista comes with DirectX 10, graphics software that enables game developers to pack more action into 3-D animated games. With the Game Explorer, which is a kind of folder just for games, you no longer have to look through a bunch of menus to start a game.

8. If you have the bad habit of not backing up your PC, there are fewer excuses with Vista. The Backup and Restore Center lets you do that with a click on one button.

9. One of the big improvements in Vista is the Windows photo gallery. You can easily

take the "red eye" out of photos by clicking on someone's eyes and dragging a box around them with the mouse. You can even merge two photos into one with the basic tools that are built into Vista.

10. The best-looking feature of Windows Vista is Dream Scene, a cute visual detail that Microsoft kept secret until Bill Gates' keynote Jan. 14 at the Consumer Electronics Show. With Windows Vista Ultimate, the high-

end \$399 version of the operating system, you can set any video as the background wallpaper of your computer.

If you have video of a waterfall, for example, you can always see it running in the background as you do any task, even when your screen saver isn't running. This is known as an "extra" for Windows Vista Ultimate, meaning it is available as a separate download after Jan. 30.

11. One feature guaran-

teed to save a few years from your life is that you can change the default on how to either put the computer to sleep or to shut it down with a single mouse click. No more questions like, "Turn off computer?" when you click to shut down.

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Weekend Edition, January 27-28, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### High school area basketball scores

#### GIRLS

Snyder 53  
Lamesa 45

Snyder — Stansell 12,  
20, Crenweigh 12,  
Ragland 11.  
Lamesa — Southall 15,  
Pierce 14.

Merkel 69  
Stamford 42

Merkel — Carter 16,  
Hood 12, Arnold 12,  
Shubart 10.  
Stamford — Hoadley 18,  
Atchinson 9, Baze 9.

Stanton 51  
Anson 26

Stanton — Dyck 22,  
Luna 7, Bittand 6, Carr 5.

Anson — Rodriguez 11,  
Guernsey 6, Beneral 4.

Forsan 34  
Rotan 31

Forsan — Stanley 15,  
Longorio 8, Belew 7.  
Rotan — Thornton 12,  
Price 10, Ethridge 9.

#### BOYS

Anson 43  
Stanton 40

Anson — Ramos 13,  
Reding 9, Rosson 8,  
Brown 5, Galvan 5.  
Stanton — Fulton 15,  
Pinkerton 7, Carmona 6.

Forsan 60  
Rotan 48

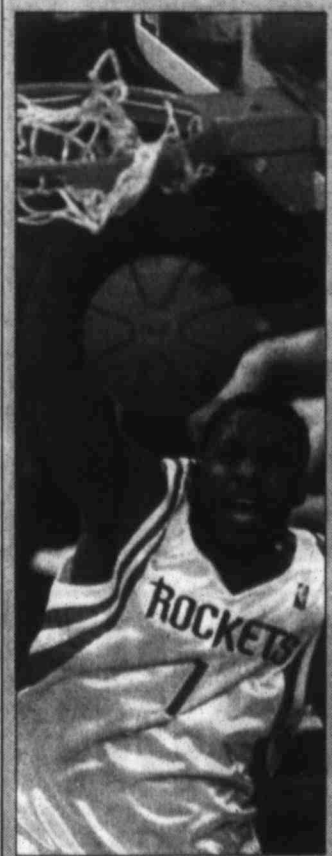
Forsan — Bailey 15,  
Johnson 12, Parker 10,  
Robbins 8.

Rotan — D Reese 23,  
Daniel 9, J Reese 6,  
Whitefield 4.

Haskell 64  
Colorado City 32

Haskell — McCullough 26,  
Adams 11, English 9,  
Bitner 8.  
Colorado City —  
Espinoza 9, Free 6,  
Wilson 6

### NBA action : Rockets and Spurs



See Page 4 B

## Coahoma moves into first place tie with Stanton

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor  
COAHOMA — With the District 5-2A lead on the line, the Coahoma Bulldogs slapped the Hawley Bearkats around in a 60-38 win and moved into a tie for first place Friday.

In what was expected to be a tough fight for second place, Coahoma outscored Hawley 27-18 in the first half behind the outside shooting of Jason Gonzales and Cody Sheppard. The duo combined for over half of the Bulldogs' offense and Gonzales led all scorers with 20 points.

Sheppard ended the game with 15 points and the fans at Elementary Gym were rocking with each Bulldog basket.

The first quarter went back and forth, but Coahoma managed a 10-6 lead before the start of the second.

Coahoma's 6-foot-8 Colter Morgan came up with 10 points and 9 rebounds. The total for blocked shots would be tallied after the coaching staff reviewed the game tape, but his defensive presence was obvious.

At one point the Bulldogs enjoyed a 15-point first-half lead.

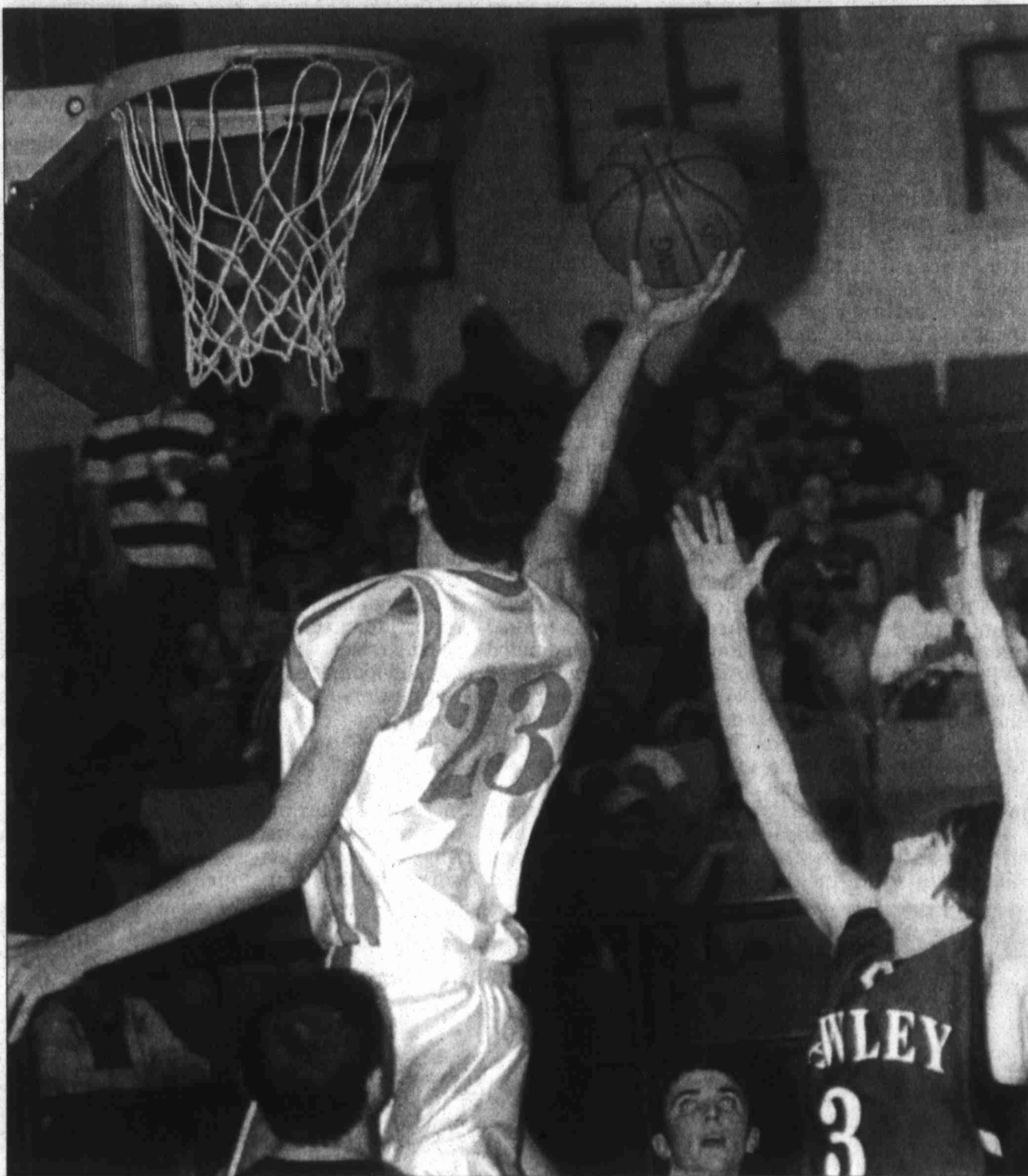
However, with under 2 minutes to play before the teams headed for the locker rooms, the Bearkats used a 6-0 run to close the gap to 27-18.

"Our kids were really disappointed and even embarrassed about the way we played on Tuesday night," Coahoma head coach Kim Nichols said, referring to the Bulldogs' loss at Merkel. "Obviously that is all behind us now and the kids played hard and aggressive for four quarters. We didn't look like the same team that lost three nights ago, that's for sure."

As the third quarter began, the two teams traded buckets. Both offenses raced up and down the hardwood for the first 6 minutes.

With just under a minute to play in the quarter, the Bulldogs went on a 7-0 run of their own.

After Morgan blocked a shot, the Bulldogs were able to find Sheppard on a fastbreak and



Colter Morgan (23) goes high for a rebound and tip-in basket to help the Coahoma Bulldogs blowout the Hawley Bearkats 60-38 Friday night at Coahoma's Elementary Gym. Morgan ended the game with 10 points.

over the final 4 minutes of the third quarter the Bulldogs were able to make a run and stretch the lead to 10 points.

Before the horn sounded, Coahoma stole an inbounds pass

and Gonzales threw up a prayer — it was answered — and the Bulldogs' lead grew to 44-25.

After the game Gonzales admitted to never seeing the basket — he just threw up the desperation

3-pointer because he said he knew the clock was ticking down.

Over the final 8 minutes of the

See BOYS, Page 2B

## Lady Bulldogs stomp visiting Lady Bearkats

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor  
COAHOMA — Janice Gonzales scored 14 of her 21 points in the first half and Laci Sterling scored 16 more to help the Coahoma Lady Bulldogs (20-9, 8-3 district) knock off the Hawley Lady Bearkats, 60-44 Friday night.

Led by the sharp-shooting Gonzales, who averages 8 points an outing, Coahoma opened the game by scoring the first 11 points and ran away from Hawley (12-16, 3-8) by outscoring them 20-7 in the first quarter.

"Janice really got off to great start tonight, I think she hit her first two 3-pointers and that really helped. She also had some steals and easy baskets to start the game and that also helped," Coahoma coach Chris Sumrall said after the home win.

Christie Rich added 12 points for the Lady Bulldogs and Berkeley Iden came off the bench to lead the team with 5 rebounds.

By halftime the Lady Bulldogs lead was a com-

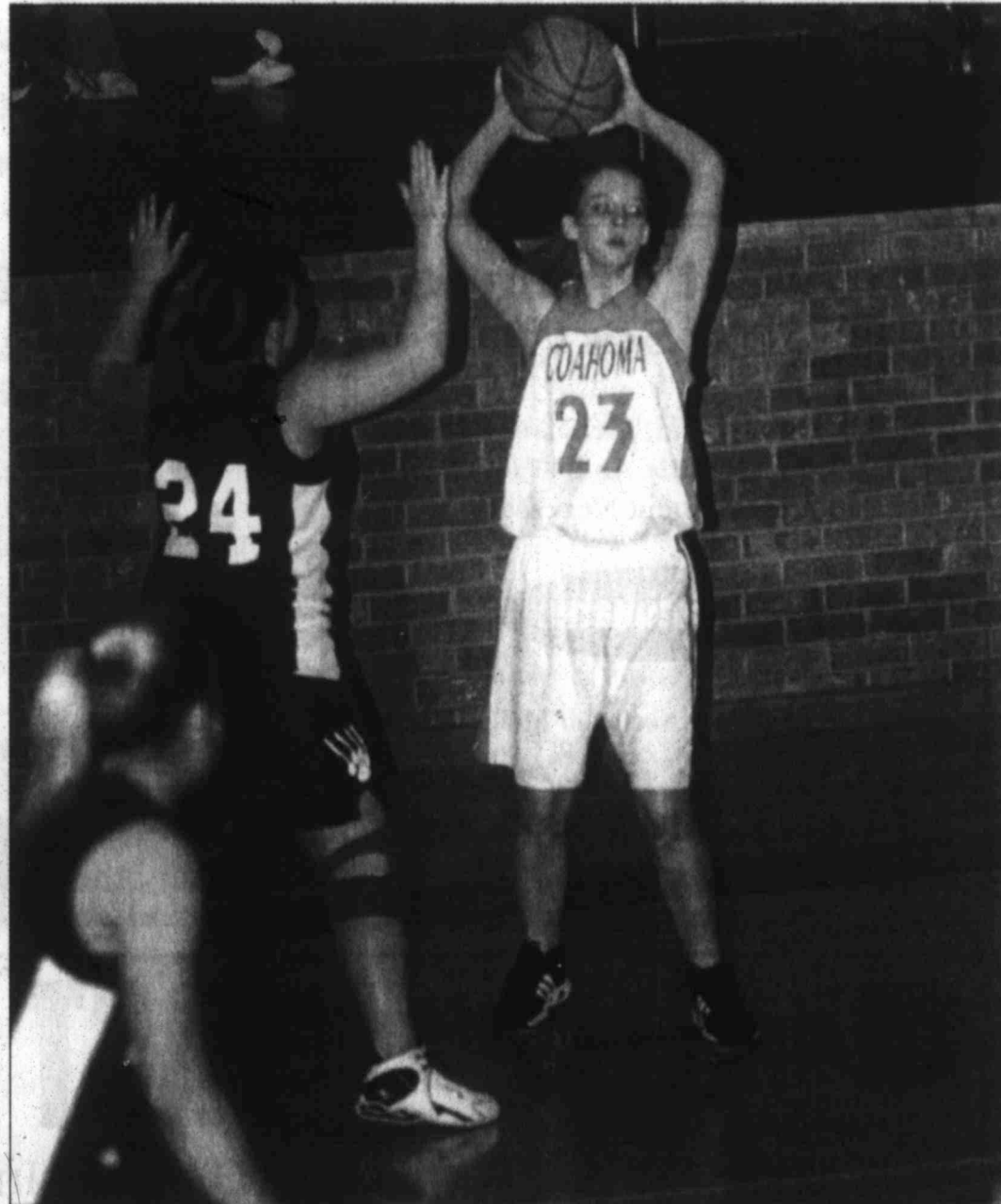
fortable 27 points, 34-17.

"I was extremely surprised with the rebounding we got from Berkley tonight," Sumrall said from his office. "For the number of minutes she played — grabbing 5 rebounds is an excellent job. I was really pleased with the team's effort tonight and if we can continue to play like that then it should bode well, not just for the rest of the season, but the playoffs as well."

In the second half, the Coahoma girls had some trouble finding the basket, but the lead was never threatened despite a span of more than 7 minutes without a Lady Bulldog point being scored. The closest the Lady 'Kats could get was 44-29, but over the final 6 minutes of the game Coahoma outscored Hawley 16-15 to hold on to its 16-point victory.

"During that scoreless stretch we just rushed things offensively," explained Gonzales, the Lady Bulldogs leading scorer. "We spent too much time dribbling the

See GIRLS, Page 3B



Lady Bulldog Hilary White looks to pass the ball late in the game against Hawley Friday night. Coahoma defeated Hawley 60-44 to improve its record to 20-9 overall and 8-3 in district.

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# Williams routs Sharapova, wins eighth Grand Slam

By PAUL ALEXANDER  
Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Don't ever tell Serena Williams she can't do something. Her response will be devastating for her opponents.

Just ask top-ranked Maria Sharapova.

Sharp and intensely focused from the start, Williams simply overwhelmed Sharapova 6-1, 6-2 Saturday to win the Australian Open and her eighth Grand Slam title.

"It was an awesome win, because I had so many critics. So many people ... saying negative things," Williams said. "Saying I wasn't fit, when I felt that I was really fit, and I could last three sets."

"It's always like, tell me no and I'll show you that I can do it. I get the greatest satisfaction just holding up the Grand Slam trophy and proving everyone wrong."

Williams was eager for the French Open to start, even though it's four months away.

"I'm ready to start training on the clay already," she said. "I saw some things here I want to work on. I'm ready to do that now, ready to take my game to a new level."

Only the second unseeded woman to win the Australian title in the

Open era, Williams came into the tournament ranked No. 81 after playing in only four tournaments last year due to a bad knee. She will jump to No. 14 when the new rankings come out next week.

It was the 25-year-old American's first title in 15 tournaments since winning the 2005 Australian Open, and the most dominating win in a completed championship match at Melbourne Park since Steffi Graf beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-0, 6-2 in 1994.

"She came out today and she really played flawless tennis," said a downcast Sharapova, the reigning U.S. Open champion who had a 13-match Grand Slam winning streak snapped. "It was my mom's birthday today and I couldn't win for her."

Williams put together the third consecutive singles rout in Rod Laver Arena, after top-ranked Roger Federer pounded Andy Roddick and No. 10 Fernando Gonzalez was nearly flawless in beating Tommy Haas in the semifinals. They will play for the men's title Sunday.

"I was really inspired," Williams said of the performances by Federer and Gonzalez. "I thought if

they could do it, so could I."

With occasional showers and a strong wind outside, the roof was closed on packed Rod Laver Arena. Williams saw it as an omen: She won her other two titles here, in 2003 and 2005, with the roof closed.

Williams, who had started slow in her earlier matches, was clearly into it from the start this time. She was pouncing on Sharapova's second serves, standing inside the baseline to send them back faster than they came over.

"She started doing that from the beginning of the match," said Sharapova, who won only a quarter of her second serves. "She was aggressive from all her shots. She was going for it, making most of it."

As the match wore on, Sharapova's shoulders drooped when she missed a first serve, clearly dreading another zinging return, then staring back in frustration when it left her flat-footed. After one, she muttered: "Yeah, too good."

Sharapova sets the pace against most opponents, but Williams' power cut the rallies short and had the crowd gasping. The American had nine winners in the first four

games alone, a stretch in which she won 12 straight points after Sharapova held a game point while serving at 0-1.

Sharapova finally got on the board, holding serve while trailing 0-5. During the game, Williams glared at the 19-year-old Russian and had several words for her after getting hit by an overhead.

At the changeover following the 26-minute first set, Sharapova leaned over in her chair, talking to herself as she rocked back and forth, but she didn't get any better.

After taking the match in just 1 hour and 3 minutes, Williams tossed her racket in the air and dropped on her back. Then she hopped around on the court in jubilation before slapping hands with her mother, Oracene, and some of the fans in the first row of seats, and dancing a little jig.

"I'd like to thank my mom. I was a bad student this fortnight," Williams said. "I yelled at her, said some things under my breath. But she just kept coming. I really appreciate it."

"My plan was just to play my game. I finally played it for the first time

See SERENA Page 3B

# Federer remains perfect against upstart Gonzalez

TENNIS By DENNIS PASSA  
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer has beaten Fernando Gonzalez on clay in Monte Carlo, Hamburg and at the French Open; on grass at Wimbledon and carpet in Basel; and four times on hard courts.

It adds up to nine for nine as Federer goes into Sunday's Australian Open final a heavy favorite for his 10th win in a row over Gonzalez.

That also makes him a favorite to secure his 10th career Grand Slam singles title, moving him within four of Pete Sampras' leading total.

Federer said Saturday he's wary of Gonzalez, who beat former No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, No. 5 James Blake and No. 2 Rafael Nadal en route to the final. And the Chilean player's semifinal win over Tommy Haas was so overpowering that Haas admitted all he could do was watch.

"I think it's going to be a tough match," Federer said. "Usually when you play against Fernando, you always know it's going to be dangerous because he's got the ability to suddenly steamroll. He's been very consistent, very impressive."

Gonzalez, who had never advanced beyond the quarterfinals in 23 previous Grand Slams, is hoping he has improved enough to push the dazzling Federer, who hasn't lost a set in the tournament so far. Gonzalez had only three unforced errors in his win over Haas.

"I'm playing much better than the last time we played," he said. "I've never beaten him, I don't have an advantage with Roger. But in tennis, you always have a new opportunity."

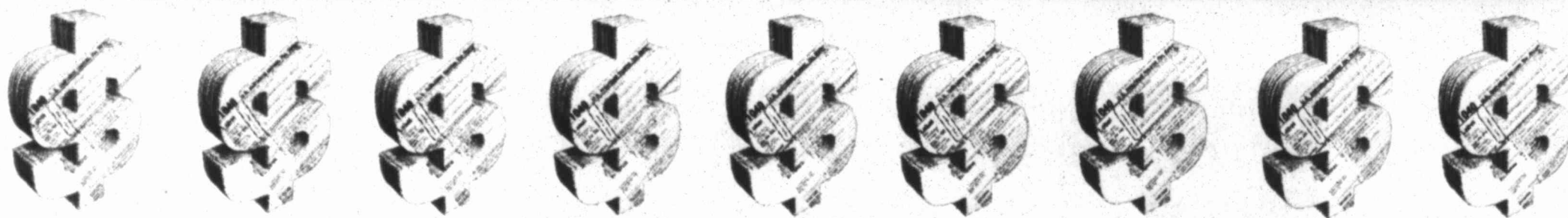
Federer will be playing in his seventh consecutive Grand Slam final, tying a record set by Jack Crawford in 1934, and his 11th total. The Swiss star also has come up against an unexpected finalist before — last year here against Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus.

"I'm surprised to see Fernando in the finals, not anything against him, but I thought that like a (Nikolay) Davydenko or Nadal would have come through in the end,"

See TENNIS, Page 3B

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# Funk not ready to leave PGA Tour

**By JAYMES SONG**  
AP Sports Writer

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Fred Funk feels he still has a few more years to compete on the PGA Tour, so he's not quite ready to move full-time to the Champions Tour.

"I'm going to stay out there until my game's telling me it's time to move," he said. "I've worked my whole life to be on the regular tour and I don't want to give that up until I have to."

That may be good news for the players on the senior tour.

Funk handled the

tradewinds and tricky greens with ease Friday, shooting a bogey-free 7-under 65 to take the first-round lead in the Turtle Bay Championship.

Tom Kite, coming off a second-place tie in the MasterCard Championship, was two strokes back along with David Eger, John Harris, Kiyoshi Murota and Tom McKnight in the Champions Tour's first full-field event of the year.

Funk joined the 50-and-over circuit in June and made three starts, going wire-to-wire to win the

AT&T Championship and tying for 11th in the U.S. Senior Open.

The former University of Maryland coach has seven PGA Tour victories, including the 2005 Players Championship, which granted him a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

This year, Funk plans to play in five events on the Champions Tour and 27 on the regular tour.

"In a way, it would be good for the Champions Tour if I could go out there and play well and come out here and play well," he said.

# TENNIS

Continued from 2B

Federer said.

"I thought Marcos was never going to make the final, and I ended up playing against a player that I'm a huge favorite. This time around maybe I'm not that big a favorite ... (but) I'm used to all situations."

Gonzalez has improved in the past year under new coach Larry Stefanki, who previously coached John McEnroe, Marcelo Rios and Yevgeny Kafelnikov. His already strong forehand has become more potent,

his backhand is no longer exploited by his opponents, and he has become more patient with his shotmaking.

"I've worked a lot on my net game," the 10th-seeded Gonzalez said. "I can go in, I can slice. I can do all the things that I never did before."

Federer, who is on an impressive 30-match winning streak on hard courts, has noticed.

"I could already see it coming last year, his game was starting to get better and better," he said.

"More patient from the baseline ... a bit more smart, whereas in the beginning he was just

coming out and swinging on everything."

Haas thinks the final will be competitive.

"If he (Gonzalez) can maintain the level he showed in the last couple of matches, the stats speak for themselves," Haas said after his loss.

"He's the No. 1 player in the world by far," the 26-year-old Chilean confirmed. "It's only one match. I'm going to give everything that I have."

# BOYS

Continued from 1B

game, despite being pressed from baseline to baseline, the Bulldogs kept their cool and coasted to the 22-point victory.

"I'm already starting to think about the game at Stanton," Gonzales said from court-side. "We definitely need a win to get back in the district race."

Little did the Bulldogs

know that Stanton was locked in a tussle with Anson and ended up losing by 3 points to drop into a tie with Coahoma for first place.

"We beat Stanton here, but we know they are a great team," Gonzales added. "We know them and they know us — it's going to be a battle and it should make for an exciting game."

Josh Briston led Hawley with 17 points in the

game, but the 'Kats were never able to turn this game into the barn burner the fans expected.

"Cody Sheppard did a great job off the bench for us tonight," Nichols said. "He and Colter took care of the middle and everyone else took care of the outside shooters."

"Get ready, Tuesday at Stanton is going to be a big one."

# SERENA

Continued from 2B

this whole tournament. When I'm playing well, it's difficult for anyone to beat me. Tennis is what I think I was born to do."

Williams dedicated the title to her half-sister, Yetunde Price, who was shot to death in 2003.

"I just love her so much," she said, her voice cracking. "I'll try

not to get teary-eyed but I said a couple of days ago, if I win this it's going to be for her. So thanks Tunde."

"Every match I wrote notes. Usually I write, 'Look at the ball,' 'Move forward,' 'Do this, do that.' Today my note was just 'Yetunde.' Every changeover I looked at it."

Chris O'Neill, who was ranked No. 111 when she won the 1978 title, was the

only other unseeded woman to win an Australian Open.

Sharapova, who will assume the No. 1 ranking from Justine Henin, suffered her worst loss in a Grand Slam tournament.

"I don't like losing," she said. "You go back in the locker room, like, 'Damn it, I just lost. Someone is celebrating over there. They're going to be opening a bottle of champagne.'"

# GIRLS

Continued from 1B

basketball and we got caught up in trying to run-and-gun in the second half. I think that caused us to lose some of our focus tonight, but I like the way we continued to play defense. If we can continue to move the ball and find the open shots we'll be OK. Our transition game needs a little work, but I really like our chances heading down the stretch."

The Lady Bulldogs are currently in second place in the District 5-2A race.

"We haven't clinched a playoff spot yet, but we're expecting to be there when it's all said and done," added coach Sumrall.

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"Get ready, Tuesday at Stanton is going to be a big one."

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2006 Mercury Grand Marquis - Arizona Beige w/Camel Leather, All Power, 13,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$19,995</b>	2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$13,995</b> <b>NOW \$12,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$17,995</b> <b>NOW \$16,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
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2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2.3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$19,995</b>	2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$17,995</b> <b>NOW \$16,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	1999 Pontiac Grand Prix SE - Green w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned. <b>WAS \$6,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
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2006 Ford Taurus SE - White w/Flint Cloth, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. <b>WAS \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$13,995</b>	2005 Ford Escape XLT - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/19,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2005 Ford Escape XLT - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/19,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport Pkg., 21,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$19,995</b>	2005 Mercury Mountaineer - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/18,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$22,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2005 Mercury Mountaineer - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/18,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$22,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
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2006 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Black w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/4,300 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$19,995</b>	2004 Ford Explorer XLS - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$15,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2004 Ford Explorer XLS - Silver w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$15,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
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2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$24,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Pueblo Gold, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/34,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$18,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2004 Ford Expedition XLT - Pueblo Gold, Cloth, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, Local One Owner w/34,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$18,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
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2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Satin White, Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/45,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$24,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	2003 GMC Envoy XL SLT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/67,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2003 GMC Envoy XL SLT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/67,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Dk. Blue Metallic, Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/30,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$24,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	2003 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2003 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, 3rd Seat, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Dk. Blue Metallic, Leather, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner w/30,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$24,995</b> <b>NOW \$21,995</b>	2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$13,995</b>	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b>	2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$13,995</b>	1999 Oldsmobile Silhouette - Beige, Cloth, All Power, 86,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b>	2002 Chevrolet Blazer LS - White/Cloth, All Power, 56,000 Miles. <b>WAS \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$9,995</b>

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# McGrady's big third quarter fuels Rockets past Portland

By CHRIS DUNCAN  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Tracy McGrady used the third quarter against Portland on Friday night to show why he'll be a starter in the All-Star Game for the sixth time in his career.

McGrady scored 17 of his 28 points in the decisive quarter and the Houston Rockets beat the misfiring Trail Blazers 99-69.

McGrady, named to his seventh All-Star Game on Thursday, had 11 points at halftime, then hit 7 of 10 shots after the break to help the Rockets pull away for their second straight victory after three consecutive losses.

"I had it rolling," McGrady said, "and there was nothing they could do about that."

Zach Randolph scored 13 points and was the lone double-figure scorer for the Blazers, who shot a season low 36 percent (26-of-72) from the field and were outrebounded 47-32. Portland has lost four straight road games and six of its last seven.

## Tim Duncan dominates as Spurs fly by Memphis

By ELIZABETH WHITE  
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan had his second outstanding game this week. This time, his team managed to win.

Duncan had 26 points, 13 rebounds and a career-best nine blocked shots as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Memphis Grizzlies 112-96 on Friday night.

"He's just playing great basketball," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Hopefully the rest of us will follow."

Duncan scored a season-high 37 points against Houston on Wednesday, but the Spurs lost 90-85. On Friday, they blew a big lead in the third quarter but were able to recover in the fourth to improve to 31-14.

"We had a great fourth quarter," said Duncan, selected to his ninth All-Star team on Thursday. "I thought we moved the ball really well. ... Guys got open shots and knocked them down and we took care of the ball."

Tony Parker added 18 points and Manu Ginobili 17 for the Spurs, who won for the eighth time in 11 games. Michael Finley had 15 points and Brent Barry 13.

Hakim Warrick scored 27 points to pace the Grizzlies, who played without center Pau Gasol (strained left hamstring) and dropped to 11-33 — the worst record in the NBA. Eddie Jones had 17 points, Mike Miller 13 and Chucky Atkins 11.

San Antonio squandered a 15-point halftime lead and fell behind early in the fourth quarter before going on a game-clinching 19-3 run to win their last home game before a three-week, eight-game road trip.

"It's always good to get a win before you go out on the road," Popovich said. "So we'll get out there and see if we can continue to improve ourselves."

"I am coming away from this one with nothing but positives," Grizzlies coach Tony Barone said. "We battled one of the best teams in the league. ... To beat a team like this we still have to grow as a team."

The Blazers mustered only 14 points in the third quarter.

"McGrady did what All-Stars seem to do," said Portland coach Nate

McMillan. "We were in his face, but he still kept hitting them. That really just took the wind out of us."

Shane Battier added 15

and Dikembe Mutombo grabbed 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who improved to 12-0 when they hold an opponent under 80 points. Houston is 4-0 this season when it holds an opponent under 70.

"When we rebound and play that type of defense, that's when we're at our best," McGrady said. "I

put us in the class with the best teams in this league."

The Rockets gave up 100 points in four consecutive games last week and dipped to second in the league in scoring defense, behind San Antonio. They beat the Spurs 90-85 on Wednesday before shutting down the Blazers on Friday.

"It's good to get back to playing that kind of defense," said Battier, who had two steals. "We feel that, when we're in the flow defensively, we can get stops when necessary."

Former Blazer Bonzi Wells scored 14 and grabbed seven rebounds, and Chuck Hayes had 12 rebounds for Houston.



MCT photo/Harry E. Walker  
Houston Rockets Tracy McGrady scored 17 of his 28 points in the third quarter as the Rockets crushed Portland on Friday, 99-69.

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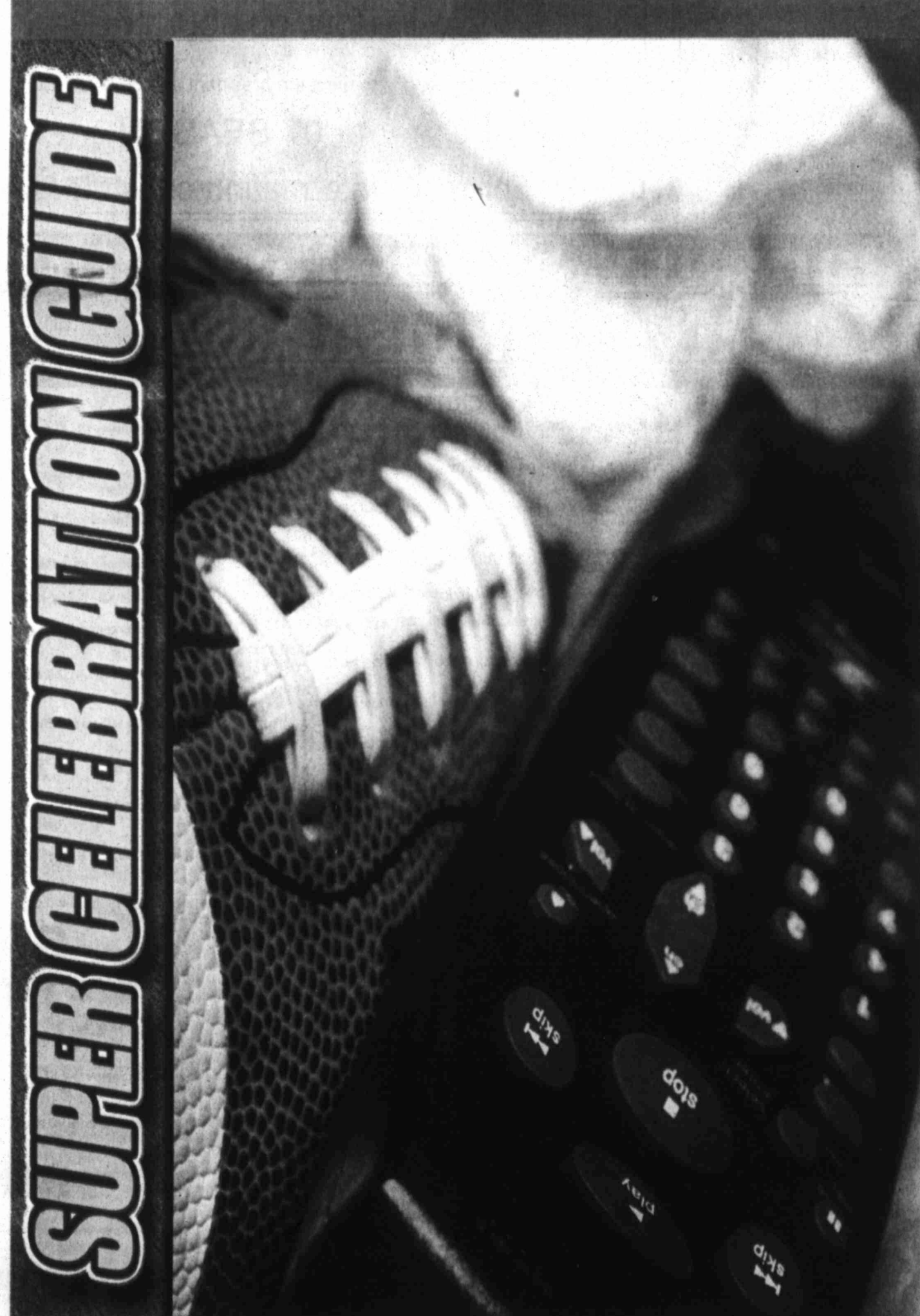
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# Oh-So Festive Floribbean Fare for Super Sunday

Winter sweet onions add zesty crunch to this game-day menu

FAMILY FEATURES  
By Aliza Green

In honor of this year's big game in Miami, kick up your Super Bowl festivities with colorful Floribbean fare, a cooking style combining the best of Florida's traditions with Caribbean and Cuban flavors.

These recipes feature Oso Sweet onions, the winter sweet onion from Chile that's in season January through March. Oso Sweets are grown at the foot of Chile's Andes Mountains where growing conditions produce large, juicy onions with record-high sugar content, crisp texture and mild flavor.

Never had an orange salad before? Try this surprising, tart-sweet orange and onion salad. Find out why empanadas, the Spanish hand-held meal-in-a-pocket (here made with chicken and corn), are snapped up from Buenos Aires to Miami.

### Florida Flounder Sandwich With Lime and Sweet Onion Tartar Sauce

A pan-fried fish sandwich is a beach shack favorite in Florida, often made with native grouper. In other parts of the country, flounder fillet works just fine. The crunchy crust made from Japanese panko breadcrumbs holds in moisture so the fish is juicy inside. For those who love lime, increase the amount to the juice of two limes and don't forget the sweet onions, which add their own sweet, mild crunch to the sauce.

Serves: 6

#### Tartar Sauce

- 2 tablespoons each chopped parsley, green olives and pickle relish
- 2 hard-cooked eggs, peeled and chopped
- Juice and grated zest of 1 lime
- 1/2 cup finely diced Oso Sweet onion
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (optional)
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste

#### Fish

- 2 1/2 pounds lean, firm white fish fillet, such as flounder, fluke, halibut, grouper or cod, cut into (2- to 3-ounce) pieces
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups Japanese panko breadcrumbs or other breadcrumbs
- 1 cup vegetable oil (for frying)
- 2 long French baguettes or Italian breads, split open with some of soft insides removed
- 1 Oso Sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- Green leaf lettuce, separated into individual leaves, washed and dried

For tartar sauce, stir all ingredients together and refrigerate.

Season fish with salt and pepper. Lightly beat together eggs and milk. Set up three bowls: flour, egg mixture and half the panko. Dip each piece of fish into flour, shaking off excess. Next, dip into egg mixture, allowing excess liquid to drip off. Finally, dip in crumbs, coating well on all sides. (Add second half of panko to bowl as needed, so crumbs stay dry.) Arrange fish on a waxed paper-lined baking tray and chill for at least 30 minutes or overnight.

In large, heavy skillet, heat half the oil until shimmering. Lay fish pieces in oil without crowding, turning pieces as they brown. Fry until firm and well-browned, about 6 minutes; repeat with remaining fish. Drain and keep warm in 200°F oven. Spread baguettes with tartar sauce on both sides. Arrange fish in single layer on each bread, top with onion, tomato and lettuce; close, cut in portions and serve.

### Cuban Picadillo

Picadillo is a tasty mixture of ground or finely chopped meat, often beef, simmered with aromatics like sweet onion and garlic and seasoned with the bold flavors of cumin and sherry vinegar from Spain that are a big hit throughout Latin America. Picadillo comes from the Spanish "picar," which means "to cut into small pieces."

Serves: 6 to 8

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- 1 cup diced Oso Sweet onions
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
- 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chopped pimento-stuffed green olives
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

In large skillet, brown beef in 2 tablespoons olive oil over high heat; drain and reserve. In same skillet, lightly brown onion, pepper and garlic in remaining oil. Add sauce, cumin and oregano; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer

Tired of the same old ground beef dishes? This chunky Cuban beef picadillo fragrant with oregano and cumin is so good, you may want to make a double batch.

Can't get to the beach this winter? Our Florida fish sandwich with its tangy fresh lime and Oso Sweet onion tartar sauce will bring back memories of sand and surf. Best of all, Oso Sweet onions contain so little pyruvic acid —

the substance that causes tearing, harshness, and indigestion — that they are gentle enough for people of all ages. The whole family can kick back and enjoy this make-ahead fresh and spicy — but not fiery — menu.

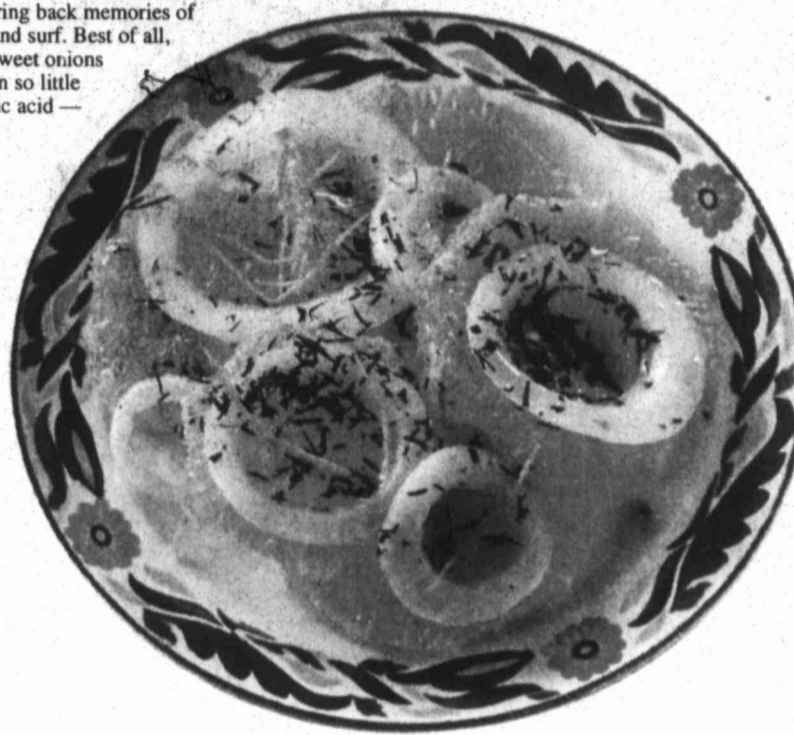
### Florida Orange and Oso Sweet Onion Salad

Serve this cheery, bright-colored salad on dull, dreary mid-winter days. You won't believe how sweet, mild and deliciously crunchy the raw sweet onions marinated in lemon and olive oil can be.

Serves: 6

- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, divided
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 thinly sliced Oso Sweet onion
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 6 large navel oranges
- 2 tablespoons chopped dill

Combine 2 tablespoons olive oil with lemon juice, salt and pepper; pour marinade over onion and marinate 20 minutes. Whisk together remaining oil, vinegar, orange zest, salt and pepper for dressing. Remove rind and white membrane from oranges and cut into thin slices. Arrange orange slices on serving platter, drizzle with dressing, top with onions, sprinkle with dill and serve.



### Chicken and Corn Empanadas

Empanadas, which come from the Spanish word for "bread," are baked or fried turnovers made from bread, pastry, phyllo or even pizza dough. Here we prepare these make-ahead Latino favorites with flaky, defrosted frozen crescent rolls, but feel free to substitute your own favorite savory dough.

Makes: 8 large empanadas

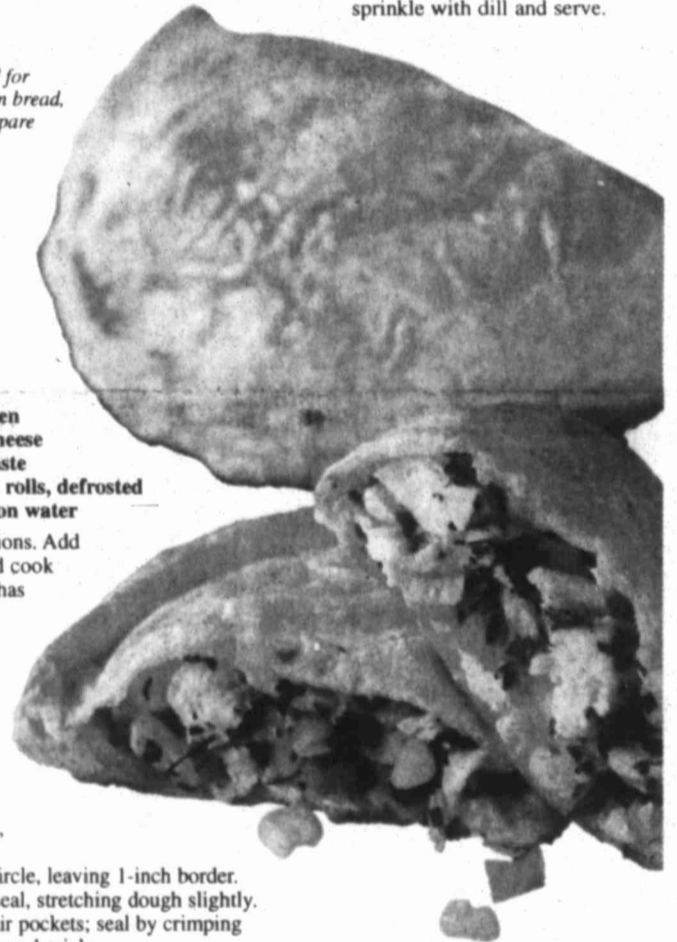
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup diced Oso Sweet onions
- 1 diced red bell pepper
- 1 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn kernels
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 3 cups (1 pound) diced cooked chicken
- 6 ounces shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
- 2 14-ounce packages frozen crescent rolls, defrosted
- 1 egg, lightly beaten with 1 tablespoon water

In large skillet, heat oil and lightly brown onions. Add pepper, pepper flakes, corn and oregano and cook 5 minutes over moderate heat or until liquid has mostly cooked away. Remove from heat; stir in chicken and cheese, season to taste and chill.

Unroll crescent dough into two perforated squares; Place one square over second. Roll out with a little flour to form a single, large rectangular sheet. Cut out four circles about 5 inches in diameter; repeat with remaining package of rolls. Refrigerate circles on waxed paper until firm, about 30 minutes.

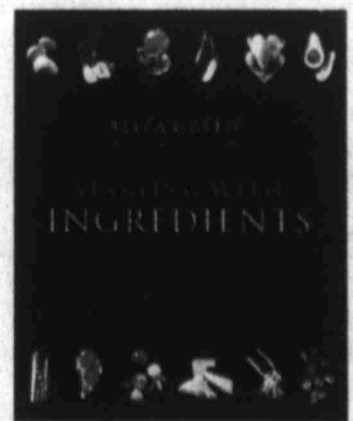
Spoon 1/4 cup filling into center of each circle, leaving 1-inch border. Brush edges with egg mixture. Fold over to seal, stretching dough slightly. Press edges together while pushing out any air pockets; seal by crimping with tines of a fork. Brush top with egg wash and prick with fork. Arrange empanadas on buttered and floured baking pan. Refrigerate until ready to bake, up to two days ahead of time. Preheat oven to 400°F. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until puffy and brown and filling is bubbling hot.

Tip: Use rotisserie-roasted chicken.



### Starting With Onions

Most savory recipes around the world start with onions. They provide a welcome edge of sweet-sharp flavor when raw and an underlying rounded, sweet-savory flavor when cooked. Sweet onions are the most versatile of all — mild enough to eat raw, in salads, sandwiches



or salads yet versatile enough to cook by any method from caramelizing, sautéing, grilling and frying to baking, steaming, roasting or even barbecuing. For more information about Oso Sweets and other seasonal sweet onions, go to sweetonionsource.com.

For more about onions and 99 other essential ingredients, pick up a copy of this season's hot new cookbook "Starting With Ingredients," which includes more than 550 outstanding recipes by award-winning chef and author Aliza Green.



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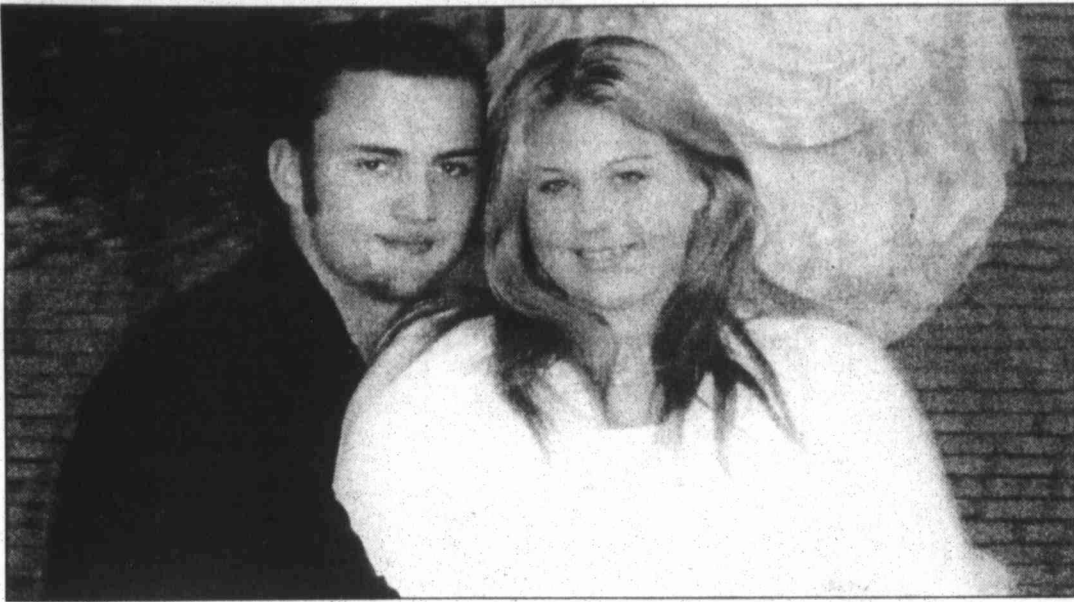
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Flentge and Elliot

Justin Lee Flentge and Tina Marie Elliot, both of Big Spring, announce their intention to marry at 6 p.m. Feb. 14, 2007, at Christ Community Fellowship in Big Spring. The bride-elect is the daughter of John Mark and Patricia Kay Elliott of

Big Spring. Her grandparents are Curtis and Imagene Kittrell and the late Jimmy Grissam and John Elliott and Juevelene Buce. The future groom is the son of Vernon and Tina White of Big Spring.

His grandparents are the late Roland and Elizabeth White and the late Lester and Paula Holmes. Justin is a senior at Big Spring High School and is employed by Wal-Mart. Tina is a senior at Forsan High School.

Births

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Avery Paul Simer

Avery Paul Simer, a boy, was born at 6:19 p.m. Dec. 14, 2006, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. He is the son of Gary and Julie Simer of Abilene. His grandparents are Michael and Leatrice Adams of Stanton and Donna and Paul Miller of Big Spring. His great-grandparents are Fern Adams and Van and Lucy Glaze of Stanton and Eddie and Ellen Simer of Big Spring.

Menus

Senior Center  
Monday — Chicken Strips, French Fries, Cream Gravy, Texas Toast, Tossed Salad, Low Fat Milk  
Tuesday — Meatloaf, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pudding, Rolls, Low Fat Milk  
Wednesday — Open-face Turkey Sandwich, Buttered Potatoes, Carribbean Vegetables, Peach Crisp, Rolls, Low Fat Milk  
Thursday — Beef tips & rice, Mixed vegetables, Fruited gelatin' Whole wheat rolls, Low fat milk  
Friday — Smothered steak, Macaroni & tomatoes, Broccoli Normandy, Lemon bars. Bread, Low fat milk

cot fruit fluff, milk.  
Friday — Breakfast, cereal and graham cracker, juice, milk; Lunch, pizza, tossed salad, fresh fruit, chocolate cake, milk.  
Big Spring ISD  
Monday — Breakfast, cereal, cheese bites, orange juice, milk; Lunch, chicken nuggets, mashed potato wit grav, glazed carrots, grapes, roll, milk (high school choice, steak sandwich).  
Tuesday — Breakfast, peanut butter treat, apple-sauce cup, milk; Lunch, taco salad, pinto beans, mixed fruit, milk (high school choice, tuna salad).  
Wednesday — Breakfast, pancake on a stick, pineapple juice, milk; Lunch, crispy chicken sandwich, pickle spear, fresh veggie medley, cookie n cream cup, milk (high school choice, burrito).  
Thursday — Breakfast, cinnamon roll, cheese bite, apple juice, milk; Lunch, spaghetti with sauce, garden salad, broccoli with cheese, Jello, garlic roll, milk (high school choice, pizza pocket).  
Friday — Breakfast, cereal, sausage patty, orange smiles, milk; Lunch, cheeseburger, pickle slices, salad, oven fries, lemon pie, milk (high school choice, green enchiladas).

Forsan ISD  
Monday — Breakfast, cereal, yogurt, juice, milk; Lunch, stuffed crust pizza, tossed salad, corn, ice cream, milk.  
Tuesday — Breakfast, eggs, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, lasagna, tossed salad, corn, garlic bread, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday — Breakfast, biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken patty sandwich, lettuce/tomato/pickle, chips, mixed fruit, milk.  
Thursday — Breakfast, muffins, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas, rolls, apples, milk.  
Friday — Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, beef stew, corn, cornbread, pears, milk.



Micah Jacoby Jones

Micah Jacoby Jones, a boy, was born at 10:42 a.m., Dec. 7, 2006, weighing 5 pounds, 3 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. His parents are Jacoby and Chelsey Jones of Coahoma. His maternal grandparents are Roger and Destry Johnson of Sonora. His paternal grandparents are Jack Jr. and Kenda Jones of Big Spring. His great-grandparents are Donna Pruitt of Denver City and Mary Jones of Big Spring.

New Hope Christian School  
Monday — Bologna and cheese sandwich, carrots and celery sticks, apple-sauce, milk.  
Tuesday — Steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, bread, milk.  
Wednesday — Cheeseburger, tater tots, orange halves, milk.  
Thursday — Ravioli, green beans, peaches, milk.  
Friday — Hot dog, veggie sticks with ranch, pork and beans, milk.

Sands ISD  
Monday — Breakfast, Hot Pockets, juice, milk; Lunch, Hamburger, lettuce, tomato and pickles, tater tots, bby carrots with ranch, chocolate pudding cup, milk.  
Tuesday — Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, oven fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, chilled pears, cornbread, milk.  
Wednesday — Breakfast, breakfast on a stick, juice, milk; Lunch, steakfingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, hot roll, frozen-cherry bar, milk.  
Thursday — Breakfast, Pop Tarts, GoGurt, juice, milk; Lunch, fajita chicken over rice, broccoli and cheese, seasoned corn, French bread stick, apri-

Coahoma ISD  
Monday — Breakfast, French toast, ham, apple juice, milk; Lunch, fried chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans, roll, milk (Hot Pockets).  
Tuesday — Breakfast, pancake sausage on a stick, grape juice, syrup, milk; Lunch, tostada, pinto beans, salad, chocolate cake, milk (McRib and bread).  
Wednesday — Breakfast, oatmeal, ham, grape juice, milk; Lunch, lasagna, salad, bread, mixed fruit, milk (burritos).

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Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

# Stock Market: Hackers learn to pump and dump

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Aleksey Kamardin reaped \$13,158 in just 104 minutes buying and selling penny stocks.

The 21-year-old bought 43,000 shares in a small Wisconsin equipment company that makes, among other things, potato harvesters. He sold the shares less than two hours later at nearly double the invest-

ment.

But Kamardin's is no success story. Instead, federal authorities say, his methods place him at the front of a wave of technocriminals who meld computer hacking with identity theft to create nightmares for legitimate investors.

Kamardin and his accomplices allegedly hacked into four online trading accounts of unsuspecting investors, selling off their holdings in higher-val-

ued companies to purchase shares in Thomas Equipment, a firm whose stock that day soared from 26 cents to 80 cents a share, authorities said. The trading volume of Thomas increased tenfold.

Kamardin, allegedly part of an East European ring, repeated this scheme on 13 other occasions in July and August, defrauding investors of \$82,960, according to a civil complaint filed Thursday by the

Securities and Exchange Commission.

The complaint is one of the first the SEC has brought in response to an emerging trend of the digital era: a modern version of the old pump-and-dump stock scam.

"You wake up in the morning and all your blue chips are gone, and instead you own a microcap stock that is virtually worthless," said John Reed Stark, chief of the SEC's Office

of Internet Enforcement. Stark added that he expected more complaints in the coming weeks, saying, "This is an area where we've become increasingly concerned."

The FBI is also investigating the case, which involved at least 27 accounts and 14 companies at brokers E-Trade Securities, Scottrade, TD Ameritrade, J.P. Morgan Chase

See HACKERS, Page 5C



Entrepreneur Isaac Daniel, 38, at his office in Miami, Fla. Daniel has invented sneakers that enable the wearer to be tracked anywhere in a real time basis using GPS. He wears a pair of the shoes with the device visible in the bottom of the shoe.

## These shoes were made for trackin'

And that's just what they'll do

By BRIDGET CAREY

McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — A growing number of companies are developing Global Positioning System technology to track friends and family, using devices like watches and cell phones. But Miami entrepreneur Sayo Isaac Daniel says those systems are flawed.

You can forget to carry your phone, and you can forget to wear a watch, but you can't leave the house and forget to put on your shoes.

Daniel has developed shoes embedded with GPS technology that can locate the wearer anywhere in the world. His design allows wearers to press a button hidden near the shoe's lace to send a distress signal.

The shoes are called Quantum Satellite Technology by his company, Isaac Daniel, and are planned to hit stores in March at a price of \$325 to \$350. Daniel said he is in talks with a large department store chain, but he would not reveal details until the deal is finalized. A limited number of shoes are available at isaacdaniel.com and will be delivered in February.

The trend of using GPS technology to track people is in its infancy, but analysts say it is growing fast.

It's especially true for cell phone applications, since laws already require cell phones to have GPS-location technology for 911 services.

"The parameters are in place for it to really take off in 2007," said Allan Keiter, CEO and founder of MyRatePlan.com, a company that tracks and compares cell phone plans. He's one of many in the industry who have noticed a surge of consumer interest in using GPS as a safety feature for children. But he hasn't heard of the technology being used in shoes before.

Daniel, chairman and chief executive of the company that bears his name, has been making shoes since

See GPS, Page 5C

## Estate planning seminars scheduled across Texas

COLLEGE STATION — Producers and landowners with tax decisions on their minds might want to add estate planning to the mix this year. A series of four Farm and Ranch Estate Planning Seminars slated across Texas in February and March can help, said a Texas Cooperative Extension economist.

"These seminars are designed as a guide to making difficult estate planning decisions," said Dr. Wayne Hayenga, Extension economist and attorney.

"We will provide a thorough analysis of relevant income and estate tax rules that affect families

and agricultural businesses."

The seminars are slated Feb. 21-22 in Denton at the Denton County Government Center (306 N. Loop 288); March 6-7 in San Angelo at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center (7887 U.S. Highway 87 North); March 13-14 in Houston at the Extension office in Harris County (3033 Bear Creek Drive); and March 27-28 in Weslaco at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center (2415 East Highway 83).

Each runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is

limited: the fee of \$125 per person covers all materials, refreshments and lunches.

"We will discuss estate administration and tax reporting requirements so that either person in a marriage can plan ahead for the surviving spouse," Hayenga said. "This information is also useful for potential estate executors or trustees. We will also discuss several estate planning devices for individuals and agricultural businesses."

For more information or to register, contact Sharon Wehring at 979-845-2226 or by email at swehring@tamu.edu

## Cold can burn landscape plants

Ice and cold have gripped much of the state for several days, leaving many Texans to wonder about what's to become of their frozen landscapes.

John Begnaud, Texas Cooperative Extension horticulturist in San

Angelo, said in addition to low temperatures, the duration of the cold also is a significant plant-damaging factor.

"We're in USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) plant hardiness Zone 7B, so we can historically expect an average annual minimum temperature of between 5 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit," Begnaud said. "Duration of cold, especially temperatures below freezing, can allow plant tissues to be more deeply penetrated by low temperatures. This can harm marginal plants to our area such as oleander, some palms and even perennials such as lantana and plumbago."

The extent of the damage may not become apparent until bud-break in March or early April, he said. Some injury may not appear until the plants are stressed by summer's heat and dry weather.

Oaks, pecans, nandina, hollies and others will show no damage because they are well suited to the extremes of Zone 7B, Begnaud said.

"Deciduous trees and shrubs are likely to see little or no damage from ice," he said. "Evergreen plants such as ligustrum, boxwood, Indian hawthorn and especially pittosporum may show

browning of leaves with irregular discolored patches. Some evergreens respond with tarnished or bronzed foliage. This will be particularly noticeable on the youngest or newest leaves. This damage may remain on the plant throughout 2007 unless removed by pruning after new spring growth appears."

Begnaud recommends removing ice from plants only when it may cause limb breakage. Thumping or bumping is the method he recommends. He said a rapid thaw, such as that caused by pouring hot water over a plant, may cause ice crystals to pierce plant tissue and actually increase the damage.

Current conditions demonstrate the need for proper planting of evergreens, Begnaud said.

"Shadows cast by evergreens such as live oak trees slow the thawing process during cold spells," he said. "Trees that shadow streets and homes don't allow the sun to warm and melt accumulated ice for another day or two, thus promoting the chance of damage from a prolonged cold snap. That's why we always recommend planting evergreen trees on the north or east side of a home and deciduous trees on the south and west sides. This has a definite affect of allowing the sun to warm your home in winter, which not only will help your plants, but your heating bill as well."

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



TOMMY YEATER



Big Spring Independent School District Director of Technology Corey Wood, left, and High School Principal Mike Ritchey, right, flank Wal-Mart employees Tito Drummond, Mathew Ischar and Becky Thomas while accepting a \$600 donation from the store to purchase a computer for the school's life skills application program.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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**Public Records**

**Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:**  
Javier Alcantar, 1513 Scurry, Big Spring  
Lisa Aleman, 306 W. First St., Big Spring  
Lorie Avina, 603 Steakley Dr., Big Spring  
Stephanie Renee Beaty, 2718 E. SH 176, Andrews  
Samantha Ann Borrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater  
Kerrie Lea Bhuiyan, 538 Westover, Big Spring  
Chad Wayne Brown, 3901 Ave. D, Snyder  
Douglas (Doug) Brown, 205 W. 14th St., Monahans  
Kendra Jade Brownfield, 207 Providence Rd., Big Spring  
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington  
Quinton Dale Burton, 419 Westover Road, Big Spring  
Paul D. Calhoun, P.O. Box 842, Plains  
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth  
Maria Campos, 751 Agua Pesada, El Paso  
David Canales Jr., 501 E. 17th, Big Spring  
Wayne V. Carpenter, 3766 Patriot Dr., Abilene  
Rebecca Carrillo, 261 County Road 625, Sinton  
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos  
Scott S. Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring  
Andrea Coxey, P.O. Box 1042, Sterling City  
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City  
James V. Ditto, 501 W. 17th, Big Spring  
Prillia Domino, 2832 Waco, San Angelo  
Johnnie Lou Dry, RR11, Box 156, Longview  
Kathi Duke, 337 Greenbow, Summerville, Ga.  
Fermin Lopez Flores Jr., 600 N.W. Seventh St., Big Spring  
Shannon Fonda, 910 N. Runnels, Coahoma  
Hilda Fuentes, 503 S. Seventh Street, Lamesa  
Matt Fuentes, 3843 Penbrook No. 107, Odessa  
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa  
Kenneth Galindo, 6830 El Paso Dr., El Paso  
Concepcion Garcia, PO Box 16156, Lubbock  
Claudete Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo  
Jennifer Garza, County Road B3300, Lenorah  
Eugene Gentry, 203 N. 18th Street,

Lamesa  
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Christopher George, 215 E. Third, Laramie, Wyo.  
Frank Gibbs, 1102 Hwy. 176, Big Spring  
Katherine A. Gladhill, 7670 M. Traller/2718 Rear, Lubbock  
Michael Glidewell, P.O. Box 204, Fort Davis  
Rebecca Ann Morales Gomez, 1606 E. Fifth Street, Big Spring  
Naomi Gonzales, 1209 Runnels, Big Spring  
Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt, Fort Worth  
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring  
Martha Graham, 2135 Mossy Creek Dr., San Antonio  
Jeffrey M. Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown  
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa  
Timothy Edward Hansen, 1310 Park Ave., Big Spring  
Jeremy Royce Harman, 6713 E. Robinson Rd., Big Spring  
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Emily Howard, PO Box 2224, Big Spring  
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Lucas Shane Hughes, No. 1 Courtney Place, Big Spring  
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy 71, La Grange  
Sharon Annette James, 1311 W. Second, Big Spring  
Jonathan Jarrell, 2804 Williams Road, Big Spring  
Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa  
Lynn Jennings, 1904 E. 25th St., Big Spring  
Robert Landrum, 310 E. Palace Ave., Hobbs, N.M.  
Johnathan Lee Lanham, 3708 28th St., Lubbock  
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Christopher Luellen, 599 Truehart, Pain Rock  
Diana Luna, 715 Shinnery Lane, Brownfield

Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa  
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Daniel Eugene Mata, 101 N.E. Ninth Street, Big Spring  
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Brian L. Mendez, 583 56th Street, Lubbock  
Christopher Jay Mendoza, 1419 E. 11th, Big Spring  
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon  
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City  
Ernest Meza, 1902 N. Midland Dr., Midland  
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring  
Linda Molina, 1545 Locust, Colorado City  
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa  
Esiquio Moreno, 508 S.E. First, Andrews  
Brigido M. Moreno, 2908 Wiscasset Dr., Arlington  
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland  
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland  
Ramona Olivarez, 538 Westover Road Apt. 232, Big Spring  
Arthur Ortega, 607 Bristlewood Cove, Cedar Park  
Dandra Ortega, 2300 Camp Dr., Midland  
Erica Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring  
Melissa Pena, 208 N. Nolan, Big Spring  
Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood Drive, Abilene  
Esther Perez, 412 No. Ave. O, Lamesa  
Katherine Hardin Perez, 412 N. Ave. O, Lamesa  
Frank Perez, 602 Circle Dr., Big Spring  
Elva Perkins, 2414 N. Anderson Rd., Big Spring  
Lori Ann Pichon, 65159 Sylve St., Lacombe, La.  
Nina Powell, Highway 103 East, Lufkin  
Karia Quimby, 1005 W. Debaca, Hobbs, N.M.  
Richard Wayne Rains, 4601 Parkway, Big Spring  
Margarita Olivarez Ramirez, 538 Westover, Apt. 223, Big Spring  
Sierra Ramos, 200 M. Estes Ave., Midland  
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 1810 Owens, Big Spring  
Gustavo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring  
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo  
Mercie Robles, 1404 N. First St.,

Lamesa  
Robert Rogers, 4815 S.C. Rd. 1192, Midland  
Sofia Romero, 489 N. Avenue Q, Lamesa  
Robert Christopher Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring  
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth Street Apt. 10, Big Spring  
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Jennifer Roth, 2630 Dow, Big Spring  
Emily K. Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder  
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Cory Smith, 2109 E. Ninth Street, Odessa  
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Karen Stearns, 613 Glenn, San Angelo  
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene  
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Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview  
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Tracy Jacqueline Trevino, 3306 Auburn, Big Spring  
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Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater  
Bernest Eugene Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo  
Richard M. Wren, 3303 91st Street, Lubbock  
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth  
Anthony Yates, 5001 Dawson, Big Spring  
Shuang Cheng Zhang, 1201 Gregg St., Big Spring

false information, \$500 fine, \$274 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
Judgment and Sentence: Priscilla Irene Hernandez, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, 90 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Priscilla Hernandez, driving while license suspended, 90 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Richard James White, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$2,500 fine, \$389 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
Judgment and Sentence: Jose Trinidad Cantu, interfering with an emergency phone call, 90 days in jail, \$324 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Jose Trinidad Cantu, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, 90 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Jose Trinidad Cantu, violation of a protective order, 90 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Jose Trinidad Cantu, driving while license suspended, \$100 fine, \$274 court costs, 90 days in jail.  
Probated Judgment: Anastacio S. Esparza, resisting arrest, \$1,500 fine, \$274 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Probated Judgment: Stacey M. Richardson, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$1,500 fine, \$274 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Probated Judgment: Martin Castaneda, driving while license suspended, \$500 fine, \$274 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Judgment and Sentence: Frank Lee Jackson, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, 25 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Probated Judgment: Luis Miguel Lopez, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone, \$1,500 fine, \$274 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).  
Judgment and Sentence: Frank Lee Jackson, criminal trespass of a habitation, 25 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Frank Lee Jackson, criminal mischief - more than \$500 less than \$1,500, 25 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
Judgment and Sentence: Frank Lee Jackson, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, 25 days in jail, \$274 court costs.  
District Court Filings:  
Lynda Kay Woodruff vs. Randal C. Woodruff, divorce.  
Estelle Sanchez vs. Kayla Brownfield, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.  
Ernest Boyd vs. Paulcor Inc. dba Express Care of Big Spring, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.  
Resurgence Financial vs. Donny

Booth and Connie Booth, accounts, notes and contracts.  
**Marriage Licenses:**  
Steven Duane Strickland, 30, and Mendi Kay Boner, 35, both of Big Spring.  
George Forrest Grace III, 29, and Amanda Marie Robert, 23, both of Big Spring.  
**Warranty Deeds:**  
Grantor: Cloud Land and Cattle Ltd. Grantee: Margaret Matthews Property: A 2.12 acre tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 10, 2007  
Grantor: Cloud Land and Cattle Ltd. Grantee: Ruth Kroll Property: A 21.2 acre tract out of section 46 and 47, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 10, 2007  
Grantor: Meenakshi Patel Grantee: Suman V. Patel and Dilipkumar K. Patel Property: A 1.5 acre tract out of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 10, 2007  
Grantor: Bluford Allen Jones and Arthena Jones Grantee: Brian Ellison Property: Lots 5 and 6, Block 18, Fairview Heights Date: Jan. 10, 2007  
Grantor: Juan Ruiz and Sandra Ruiz Grantee: Ronald N. Parks Property: A 4.3 acre tract out of Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 11, 2007  
Grantor: Betty L. Pace Grantee: Carolyn Mills Property: A 3 acre tract out of Section 12, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 12, 2007  
Grantor: Eugene Fred Schmidt and Linda Schmidt Grantee: Machele Williams Property: Lot 17, Block 7, Stanford Park Date: Jan. 18, 2007  
Grantor: H.E. Tubb Grantee: Solitaire Holdings Property: A 10 acre tract out of Section 105, Block 29, W&N RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 19, 2007  
Grantor: Stanley K. Smith Grantee: Clayton Dean Smith Property: A tract out of Section 23, Block 33, T-3-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Jan. 22, 2007

**GPS**

Continued from Page 4C  
2000. He didn't get involved with GPS technology until 2002, when he got a chilling call from an Atlanta school that his 8-year-old son was missing.  
Working in New York at the time, Daniel immediately flew to Atlanta. By

the time he arrived, his son had been found. But the lingering fear led to Daniel's epiphany — he could use his shoes to locate people.  
He focused his company's resources to develop a device that could use GPS technology and be hidden and protected inside the bottom of a shoe.  
The challenge for engi-

neers was to contain the GPS technology in a 2-by-3-inch computer that can survive in a shoe. They came up with a device that is weatherproof, shockproof and can withstand the weight of a 300-pound person.  
With all the focus on perfecting the technology, Daniel said the company has just started working on marketing and com-

mercials, which are expected to air nationally in late January. And it's not just sneakers he is marketing — the company has put the technology in other footwear and Daniel has plans to market to the military and emergency services. He says he's already talked about that with entities from other countries, including Ecuador and

Saudi Arabia.  
His first line of shoes, which did not have GPS technology; sold best overseas where consumers were more open to buying sneakers without well-known brand names.  
"People from Japan bought it, from Israel bought it," Daniel said. "Germany was my No. 1 supplier at the time. In

America, we only buy shoes that we see on TV."  
To lure younger buyers who may not care about the benefits of being found in an emergency, Daniel is developing ways to use the technology in the shoe for games. He is also designing ways to include cell phone technology. He said he expects the company to become profitable in two years.

**HACKERS**

Continued from Page 4C  
and Charles Schwab. All the investors have been reimbursed by the brokers, which have been stepping up security and identity authentication measures, SEC officials said.  
Kamardin, a U.S. citizen with a liquid net worth of \$15,000, according to his E-Trade account application, is believed to have fled to Russia, the SEC said. He has no attorney, authorities said.  
On Aug. 21 last year, Kamardin booted up his computer in his apartment in Tampa and logged into his E-Trade account, according to the SEC complaint, which forms the basis for the following account.  
At 2:10 p.m. he bought 43,000 shares of Thomas Equipment.  
Between 1:29 p.m. and 3:41 p.m., an intruder — either Kamardin or an accomplice — hacked into two TD Ameritrade accounts, using those investors' stocks to buy 60,900 Thomas Equipment shares.  
At 3:28 p.m., an intruder hit a Charles Schwab account, buying 20,000 shares.  
At 3:32 p.m., an E-Trade account was hacked, boosting that investor's portfolio by 68,000 Thomas Equipment shares.  
At 3:35 p.m., Kamardin began to sell the Thomas shares.  
One minute later, Schwab, evidently onto the fraud, canceled an order to buy 50,000 Thomas shares in a second hacked account.  
By 3:53, Kamardin had unloaded all his Thomas shares, netting \$13,158.

The SEC is not saying how Kamardin's ring obtained the user names and passwords on the investors' accounts. Typically, authorities said, hackers use key-stroke monitoring software placed on a public computer, or they purchase personal data, such as stolen Social Security and credit card numbers, from criminal enterprises.  
The fraud affects not only the investors, but the market and companies whose stocks are pumped then dumped.  
Hugo Cancio was stunned when trading on his company's stock increased from fewer than 1,000 shares a day to 1.1 million shares last Aug. 24.  
"For no reason whatsoever," he said, the share price for Fuego Entertainment, a Miami-based entertainment firm targeting the burgeoning Latino media market, zoomed from 88 cents to \$1.28.  
"My phone rang off the hook," he said. "We couldn't figure out what was going on."  
Allegedly, between 11:51 a.m. and 3:05 p.m. that day, Kamardin had bought and sold 55,000 Fuego shares, raking in \$9,164.  
In the interim, 10 accounts with Fuego holdings were hacked into at TD Ameritrade, Scottrade, E-Trade and Schwab.  
"Wow, wow," Cancio said, upon hearing the allegations. "That's unbelievable."  
The following day, Cancio said, his company's share price had plummeted to 13 cents, where it has been ever since. TD Ameritrade, the third-largest online bro-

ker by volume, has restricted online trade on the company's stock.  
Cancio said that on Aug. 24 he was negotiating a deal to buy 14 television stations, and when he saw the price surge, he began to suspect the stations' owner of insider trading.  
The owner denied it, but the deal soured, and with the share price down, Cancio said, the deal is on the rocks. "We were knocking on the door of a multibillion market," he said. "We haven't seen any progress. It's all due to that particular day."  
On Aug. 28 and Aug. 29, Kamardin wired proceeds from his E-Trade account to a Wachovia bank account and then transferred the funds to an account owned by his Russian-born roommate. The roommate wired the money to a bank account

in Riga, Latvia, the SEC alleges.  
E-Trade, which regularly monitors unusual activity, at some point

became concerned and alerted the SEC and the FBI of possible fraudulent activities, said sources familiar with the matter.

Kamardin is charged with securities fraud. The SEC is seeking return of the money and payment of civil penalties.

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(Req #72504)

Contact: Robin McCullough, R.N. @ 432-335-3560  
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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES  
CENTER is accepting applications for the following  
position at the Ector County Detention Center.  
Successful candidate will be required to pass a secu-  
rity clearance.

**Licensed Vocational Nurse**  
(Req #72804)  
3-11 Shift

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**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 of repairable credit record.  
**Opportunity is a call away!**  
Call Don Hood @ 432-263-2366  
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

**GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC.** Project Head Start has the following position available:  
**Bus Driver:** Must be 21 years or older, have a CDL and a good driving record and a High School Diploma or GED. This position is 6 hrs per day M-F and includes a full benefit package.  
All applicants must: Be 18 or older. Pass a pre-employment drug screen. Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency. Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Will begin taking applications January 23, 2007. Position will be opened until filled. Applications available on line [www.gopb.org](http://www.gopb.org). All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

Pollard Chevrolet is seeking an **ACCOUNTING CLERK.** Accounting experience required. Pay based on experience and ability. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

**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.

Help Wanted

**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS** for Roustabout Helpers, Pushers & Filled Drivers with CDL License. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of 1-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

**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.

**LUDLUM MEASUREMENTS, Inc.** now accepting applications/resumes for Environmental Test Lab Technician. Essential duties record/graph data for electronic equipment on computer. Computer skills and the ability to read and follow written procedures. High School Diploma or GED.  
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AA/EEO

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**NEW CHRISTIAN FM** radio station needs full time community representative. Starts immediately. E-mail resume to [tdwork@gmail.com](mailto:tdwork@gmail.com). For interview the week of January 29th, please call Mike (260)463-5655

**NOW HIRING** Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

**OTR TRUCK** Drivers needed. Must have a CDL Class A with 12 months experience. Company offers excellent pay and benefits. Guaranteed weekly minimum. For more information call 1-800-624-5919 ext. [www.taylorexpressinc.com](http://www.taylorexpressinc.com)

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

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**SPRING CREEK** Fellowship is looking for part-time child care worker, at least 6 hours per week. Must pass background check, be responsible. If interested (432)714-4584.

**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.

Help Wanted

**TAKING APPLICATIONS** for Bartender. Must be 21 yrs. old. Apply at Paul's Place, 1800 N. Birdwell Lane after 6:00 p.m. or call (432)263-6292.

**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

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

**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.

**WHITTEN INN** at 700 West I-20. Needs Laundry Aid & housekeepers. Please apply in person between 10:00am-3:00pm.

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

**BRAND NEW** double/full size mattress set. \$119. TWIN mattress set. \$99. Both new with warranty. 806-549-3110.

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Miscellaneous

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

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**ADORABLE AND** Tiny Cassie is a little doll with her gorgeous babydoll face Yorkie!! She is an excellent display of her breed!! She had a great little personality and will mature to around 4 to 4.5#s! Current on all vaccines and dewormings and fully guaranteed. [walter\\_walker101@yahoo.com](mailto:walter_walker101@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto:mercy_jenson@yahoo.com) for more info.

**YORKIE FOR Sale:** Health guaranteed, shipping is available, delivery. Contact for more information: [petsbreed01@yahoo.com](mailto:petsbreed01@yahoo.com)

Pets

I CURRENTLY have Two Beautiful AKA Male and Female English Bulldog puppies available for adoption, Champion bloodlines and come with health certificate, wormed, updated shots, small baggie of puppies food and full AKC Registration and 1 year health guarantee. The puppies available now is for \$550 only. Viewable pictures available. Puppy available now for more information please contact Anita Smith Email: [anitabulldogfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:anitabulldogfarm@yahoo.com)

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**712 GOLIAD.** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$550. month, +deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

**DOWNTOWN OFFICE** for rent-421 Main, approx. 2500 sq. ft. of executive offices, reception area and storage. Call (432)263-7676.

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**SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN**  
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**WANTED: ELDERLY** man seeks studio, small trailer, etc. Call (214)234-5666.

Real Estate for Sale

**1500 MAIN,** 3 bedroom 2 bath, CH/A, apartment under carport. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

**2 COMMERCIAL** Property at 1701 & 1703 Gregg Street. Great location on a busy street. 3 Offices, 4 storage rooms. Both Building \$140,000.00. Call Becky Gonzales Agent for RE/MAX Realtor Services 432-557-6278.

**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.

**COAHOMA ISD,** Brick 2 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath. CH/A, den, dining room, carport, fenced yard, 2 storage buildings on 1/2 acre. \$48,000.00. Call (432)393-5966.

**FORECLOSURE!** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, only \$41,200! Spacious Must See! For listing Call 800-544-6258 ext F906.

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**OWNER FINANCE,** \$4000 down. Four to choose from. Call (432) 264-9907.

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**SMALL PARTIAL** land for sale. 5 miles south of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance or Texas Veterans. (432)263-8785.

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**Several New 2006 Models To Choose From**  
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**Bob Brock Ford**  
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**1984 CADILLAC** Fleetwood Brougham, 34090 actual miles. Color Wonderland Haze, brown leather interior, one owner, runs good, excellent condition. Call 432-393-5866 after 7:00pm, make offer.

**2000 SR5** Toyota 4 Runner SUV. \$10K. Black with gray leather. One Owner, 67,000 miles. Very Nice Condition. Call (432)213-1842.

**97 PONTIAC** Sunfire, 4 door, teal color, 67,000 mi. Real clean, runs good, garage kept. Call (432)263-8016.

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**ARE YOU PREGNANT?** Considering Adoption? We are a married couple seeking to adopt. Full-time mom/devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Jean & Richard (ask for Erin/Adam). 1-800-841-0804.  
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SECURITY DEP.

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Legals

The Big Spring State Hospital Govern- ing Body will convene a public session at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 8 in the Big Spring State Hospital Professional Library Conference Room, 1901 N. Highway 87. Any citizen wishing to address the Governing Body must schedule an appointment through the Big Spring State Hospital Quality Management Department, by calling (432)268-7386. Appointments must be scheduled no later than Feb. 5. Public comments are limited to three to five minutes. If you require special accommodations, please advise the Quality Management Department when scheduling your appointment. Written comments also may be submitted to Cindy Sturdivant, Director of Quality Management, Big Spring State Hospital, 1901 N. Highway 87, Big Spring, TX, 79720, or e-mailed to Ms. Sturdivant at HYPERLINK cindy.sturdivant@dshs.state.tx.us. BSSH complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Titles VI and VII; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. #5223 January 28, 2007

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007 On Tuesday the 13th day of February 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of the City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Texas, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing giving all interested parties the right to appear and be heard on the proposed annexation by the City of Big Spring of the following described property, to-wit: BEING a 4.82 acre tract of land out of the S/2 of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T & P RR. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas described by metes and bounds as follows: BEGINNING at a 1/2" square bar found in the intersection of the North right-of-way of NW 9th Street (50' right-of-way) and the West right-of-way of Pine Street (50' right-of-way) out of the S/2 of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T & P RR. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas, the NW corner of Banks Addition, to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, for the NE corner of this tract. THENCE S. 15° 25' E. along the West right-of-way line of Pine Street and the West line of said Banks Addition, 750.0' to a 5/8" I.R. found in the North line of a 52.54 acre tract, the SW corner of said Banks Addition and the SE corner of the tract. THENCE S. 74° 35' W. along the North line of said 52.54 acre tract 280.0' to a 1/2" I.P. found for the SW corner of this tract. THENCE N. 15° 25' W. along the West line of a 49.535 acre tract 750.0' to a 1" I.P. found for the NW corner of this tract. THENCE N 74° 35' E. 280.0' to the PLACE OF BEGINNING containing 210,000 Square Feet or .482 Acres of Land. #5228, January 28, 2007

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus is even lovelier and more ethereal than usual as she pirouettes through the first degrees of Pisces. And as she blends her essence with the Gemini moon it seems perfectly acceptable for humans to wax poetic about the spirit of love without having to prove it in any tangible way. For now the feeling is proof enough.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your concentration is extraordinary now. Caution: Spending too much on any one task, especially at a computer, is dangerous to your physical alignment. Take stretching breaks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's an unusual day. It seems that your recklessness and risk-taking are being rewarded. That's because you make the poetic choice to be reckless with your creativity and take risks with your heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Why use your free time for tried and true activities

you've already perfected when you can use it to get utterly flustered and frustrated with new endeavors? The real fun is in exploring exuberant imperfections.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You discover where you're weak, which gives you the opportunity to attract the perfect teammate who is strong in that area. Together you can make miracles happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you can never know the secret heart of your loved one, but at least you can accept that he or she has a right to it. You're honored and adored for giving others enough space in which to honor and adore you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're popular, compassionate and constantly in motion. You really rise to the level of the people you surround yourself with, so make sure they're worthy of your admiration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Aries sun-sign people aren't the only warriors of the zodiac. Every sign, even peace-loving Libra, has the warrior energy somewhere in their natal chart. You fight well today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Can you love the dark, brooding, self-indulgent side of your partner, as well as the cheery, supportive side? If you can, you're blessed with the soul-satisfying power of unconditional love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll find many opportunities to perform a magic conversion. Leftover food becomes a delicious casserole. Barren ground transforms into a place to play. Unhelpful feelings become seeds of compassion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you had to live without your distress, you just wouldn't feel like yourself. That's the point of today's activities — to draw you into a different version of yourself, one that believes life

was meant to be easy. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Business continues, if only in your head. You use downtime to strategize. Easy gains are possible, but you lead with your integrity, putting that before any hope of short-term profit. Positive results are assured.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're right for a job. Others may be more qualified, but that doesn't make them more right. Believe the position is yours. By going forward, you learn that the only credential required is fearless action.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The Aquarian solar transit moves us into the future with what feels like increasing speed each year. But for all its love of gadgetry and fascination with theory, the giving spirit is really what Aquarian energy is all about. The technological implications of the sign will hopefully forward philanthropic causes. Aquarian goodwill is

well-illustrated wherever technology meets humanity — like when Microsoft mogul Bill Gates not only donates billions of dollars to end some of the world's suffering, but convinces other billionaires like Warren Buffet to do the same. This week can be powerfully spent executing your own humanitarian gesture. Of course, it doesn't have to be anything on a grand scale. Small and selfless acts invoke the essence of Aquarian healing. But the best part is, no matter how much you give, somehow you'll have more than you started with by the end of the week. Thursday, a full Leo moon highlights the muse or muses in your life. If your muse hasn't shown up for the job lately, or is doing less than his or her share, then Thursday is an ideal time to trade up!

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Legals

LEGAL NOTICE: These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 2, 2007. You have until August 29, 2007, to redeem any tickets for these games: #621 BREAK THE BANK (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.94, #659 WORLD POKER TOUR® \$100,000 TEXAS HOLD'EM™ (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 3.03, #661 DEAL OR NO DEAL® (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.18, #686 TRIPLE WIN (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.73, #722 JOKER'S WILD BINGO (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.21. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. #5225 January 28, 2007

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS & COUNTY OF HOWARD & By virtue of an ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 9th day of January, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 6th day of February, 2007, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, to-wit: CAUSE NO. T-4710 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. William H. Stoll, et ux PROPERTY DESCRIPTION A 22.510 acre tract out of and part of the SW/4 of Section 27, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas

CAUSE NO. T-4710 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. William H. Stoll, et ux PROPERTY DESCRIPTION A 820 acre tract out of and part of the SW/4 of Section 27, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4755 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, Sr. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Pt. of the SE/4 of Section 23, Blk 33, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4823 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Lester M. Miller, et ux PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 10, Blk 22, Cole & Strayhorn Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4964 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Sheri L. Hart PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 6, Blk 1, Highland Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4974 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Floyd Howell PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 11, Blk 61, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4979

Legals

Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, Sr. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 5, Blk 2, Avion Village, an addition to the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4755 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, Sr. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 14, Blk 1, Avion Village, an addition to the City of Big Spring, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4755 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, Sr. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Pt. of the W/2 of Section 1, Blk 34, T-1-S, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4755 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Bobby W. Gaskins, Sr. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Pt. of the SE/4 of Section 23, Blk 33, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4823 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Lester M. Miller, et ux PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 10, Blk 22, Cole & Strayhorn Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4964 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Sheri L. Hart PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 6, Blk 1, Highland Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4974 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Floyd Howell PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 11, Blk 61, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4979

Legals

STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Jack I. McMillan aka Jack Irvin McMillan PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Being a 0.70 acre tract of land out of the SW part of Lot 31, Silver Heels Addition, in Section 18, Blk 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4980 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Amy Gilbert PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 4, Blk F, Earles Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4980 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Amy Gilbert PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 5, Blk F, Earles Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-4980 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Amy Gilbert PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 6, Blk F, Earles Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-5016 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Margarita Olga Pena PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 7, Blk B, Earles Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-5020 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Cynthia Ann Hale PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 10-14, Blk 52, Original Town of Forsan, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-5021 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Jerry Hankins PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 6, Blk 4, Mountain View Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas

Legals

CAUSE NO. T-5085 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. James Craig Richardson PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 1, Blk 1, Hayden Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-5166 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. H. Clay Read Estate, Earl A. Read, Gladys Whipple and Ethel Church PROPERTY DESCRIPTION 8 acres out of the SE/4 of Section 41, Blk 32, T-1-N, Howard County, Texas CAUSE NO. T-5192 STYLE Howard County, et al vs. Ozzie Calvin Miller PROPERTY DESCRIPTION All of Lot 16, Blk 2, Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs. Witness my hand this 9 day of January, 2007 DALE L. WALKER SHERIFF OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS BY DEAN RESTELLI, Deputy #5212 January 14, 21 & 28, 2007

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Clearance Sale Price \$24,695

06 Ford Crown Victoria LX 4-DR. - Flex™ Fuel Engine - Leather Seats - LX Premier Pkg. - CD - Much More. #784  
Full Size Luxury  
MSRP.....\$31,505  
Brock Discount...\$5,510  
Clearance Sale Price \$25,995

06 Ford F150 Supercrew 4X4 XLT Chrome Pkg. - Satellite Radio - 6 Disc CD - Trailer Tow - All Power - Skid Plates - Much More. (2 At This Price)  
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TBD.....\$38,960  
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Brock Discount.....\$4,465  
Clearance Sale Price \$29,995

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1 More like a mass  
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16 Windbreaker cousin  
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43 Not clean  
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# Senior Living 2007

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald, Jan. 28, 2007



# RSVP: A winner for seniors and the community

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Area senior citizens wanting to make a difference in their community won't have to look far, as the city-sponsored Big Spring Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is just a phone call away.

RSVP, which is a part of the National Senior Service Corps, sets its sights each year to involve local seniors — age 55 and over — in volunteer services to the community, according to Project Director Nancy Jones.

"The community benefits greatly from the program because it's able to use its most valuable resource we have, our senior citizens," said Jones. "They have the time and energy to give back and share their experience. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved."

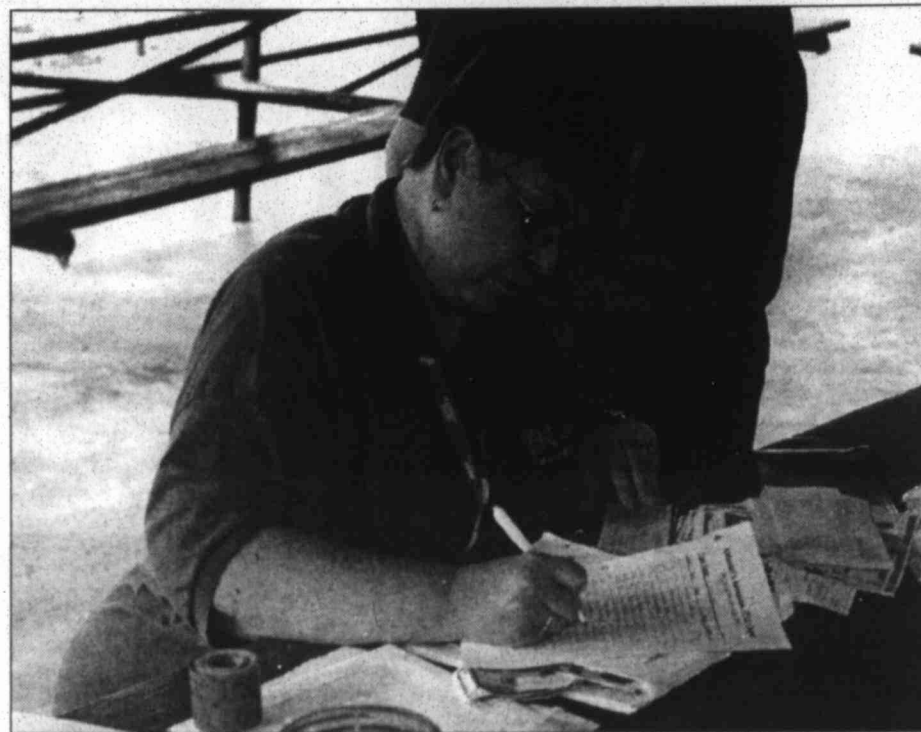
Created in 1978 with Joy Decker as the first director, the program has grown to approximately 350 senior volunteers serving in 45 locations throughout Big Spring and Howard County, including hospitals, schools, libraries, government offices and non-profit organizations.

Duties include tutoring, Mobile Meals delivery, patient services, clerical help, computer data entry and work with the Big Spring Police Department.

## Front Cover

A crowd gathers to play Bingo at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center, located at 1901 Simier. Pictured from left are Joyce Harris, Harvey Harris, Jimmy Honea, and Idabell Bankston. At right are Dorothy Taylor, Mary Fowler, Ruby Honea and Ann Britz.

HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Nancy Jones, project director for the Big Spring Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), helps check in teams during the Alzheimer's Associations annual Memory Walk, one of many events local RSVP participants help organize.

Volunteers find an area of interest and RSVP locates opportunities that offer fulfillment for the volunteer and much-needed service in the community, according to Jones.

Project Coordinator Becky Letz said the program currently has approximately 301 volunteers, down considerably from years past.

"We've seen a decline in the number of people volunteering with the program," said Letz. "I feel like it's a result of our core group getting older. Some of the volunteers have passed away or are unable to continue volunteering, so we've seen a drop in our numbers."

"We're currently working on recruiting, but it's really hard to find volunteers around the 55-year age group because so many are still working full-time. We're offering rewards to our members for recruiting however, and there is a big push coming up soon."

In 2006, RSVP volunteers contributed 81,697 hours of support and service valued at more than \$420,700 (estimate based on recorded hours of service calculated at current federal minimum wage rates).

However, the rewards of the program — both to the community and the volunteers — isn't something that can be measured in dollars and cents, according to Letz.

"It's such a rewarding program," said Letz. "For example, if you volunteer with the mobile meals program, you may be the only one that person is going to see that day. And to see a smile on their face when you deliver their meal, it's priceless."

"Volunteering with RSVP is a chance to not only help with the community, but also to help yourself. When you see some of the adversity other people in the community face on a day to day basis, it can really help put your own problems into perspective. And I just can't describe how good it makes you feel when you see someone smiling because of something you've done. It really is a wonderful feeling."

Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua said the program is not only an asset to the area citizens it helps, but is also a learning experience for the community as a whole.

"It's a very valuable program to us," said Fuqua. "This allows us to share our experience of our seniors. I can't remember a single volunteer program of any type from a ceremony to a celebration like our Pop's in the Park program that we didn't have an RSVP volunteer working."

"The volunteers often don't receive the publicity," Fuqua added. "They are often behind the scenes doing work and making a difference. They are generally wanting to help the community."

For more information about the program, call Jones or Letz at 264-2397 or visit the office at the Polly Mays Annex, 501 Runnels.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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# Information is just a mouse click away

## Herald Staff Report

Computer savvy?

If not, you should be. You don't have to own a computer to take advantage of what the Internet offers. They are available at the Howard County Library for your use anytime during normal business hours. And while it takes a short while to catch on, don't be intimidated. The basics of getting on a computer and "surfing the net" or checking e-mail take just a few keystrokes.

Why get on the Internet? Because there is a whole world at your fingertips. Information about anything and everything, whether it be stamp collecting or Medicare. Have you always thought it would be fun to have an aquarium but weren't sure if it would be worth the trouble? On the Internet you'll find sites that can tell you how to get started, how to determine the size aquarium to fit your needs, what to outfit it with, what fish are compatible, how to clean it and how much it will cost — everything you need to know to get started or say "I think I'll look at quilting instead."

Aside from hobbies and other interests, the Internet contains a tremendous amount of information for senior citizens. And that's really the purpose of this article, to let you know about just three sites — there are hundreds out there — designed for Baby Boomers and beyond.

Do you have questions about health, prescriptions, grandparenting, available services and the like? You can find answers on the internet. And if it's one-on-one contact you want, you'll find Web sites that will direct you to the closest available source of information to

fit your needs.

With that in mind, here are a few sites that have a lot to offer.

[www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)

This is the National Council on Aging.

One of the programs it offers is the BenefitsCheckUp, to see if you are eligible for federal, state, local and private programs that help pay for prescription drugs, utility bills, meals, health care and other needs. In most cases, you are asked to fill out a confidential form online which takes about 15 minutes to a half-hour or so depending on what you are applying for. Based on that information, a printable report will advise you of possible programs to apply for, application instructions and phone numbers.

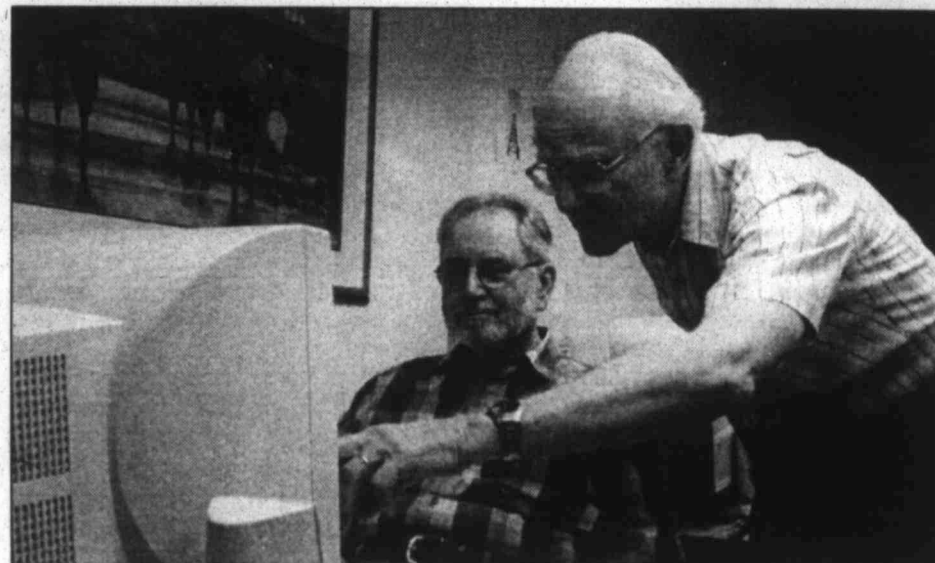
The National Council on Aging claims to have helped 2 million people find benefits that have saved them money.

NCOA offers a number of programs designed to help senior citizens, from Medicare to employment. Some of them are:

- Access to Benefits Coalition — Ensures that Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes know about and can make the best use of all available resources for accessing prescription drugs and reducing their costs.

- BenefitsCheckUp — Helps seniors with limited income and resources find benefits programs that help with prescription drug costs, rent, energy bills, food, and more.

- Center for Healthy Aging — Is a national resource center for professionals interested in developing and implementing healthy aging programs such as health promotion, falls prevention, disease pre-



Philadelphia Inquirer photo/John Slavin

vention, and chronic disease self-management.

- Health Education Program — Promotes healthy aging through consumer education campaigns on medical conditions affecting older persons.

- My Medicare Matters — Is a community-based education program that is helping thousands of people with Medicare learn about and enroll in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D).

- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) — Provides training and employment opportunities to low-income Americans over age 55.

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

AARP is a non-profit organization but does rely on paid membership dues. It is dedicated to addressing the need of adults 50 and older.

Membership is nominal at \$12.50 a year, and seniors can save by enrolling for multiple years. For

instance, enrolment for five years is \$39.95.

An AARP membership can provide some discounted services. Though not an insurance company, the organization makes available insurance plans (personal, supplemental, dental, long-term care) and discounts on prescriptions, eyewear and health equipment. Visit the Web site to learn more.

AARP was formed in 1958 as the American Association of Retired Persons. The name was changed simply to AARP in 1999 because 44 percent of its members work part-time or full-time.

[www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/FederalState.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors/FederalState.shtml)

Another good online source for seniors is the U.S. government. At USA.gov, visitors can find help on consumer protection, elder rights, end-of-life issues, healthcare, travel and recreation, retirement, investing, housing — the topics are almost endless.



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# Spring City Senior Center has a lot to offer

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**

Special to the Herald

Retired and don't know what to do with yourself? The Spring City Senior Citizens Center is a hub of activity for the senior set.

The center has something for everyone from dominoes to dancing. Lunch is provided, to boot. Bingo is held every Tuesday and Thursday, line dances every Wednesday and a Western dance is held every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

"We have dominoes — and Mexican train dominoes — every day," said Leslie Grantham, center coordinator.

Pool tables, dart boards, a ping pong table and a small library are also available. Lunch is provided Monday through Friday and delivery is available for the homebound who meet the criteria of the Area Agency on Aging, according to Grantham.

With tax season approaching, an AARP tax aid is provided free of charge.

"That will be every Monday beginning Feb. 5," said Grantham. "And it's for everybody, not just seniors."

Currently, recipes are being collected for a cookbook to be published sometime this year.

"We don't have a deadline right now," said Grantham. "And anybody can submit recipes."

There is only one requirement for recipe submissions. "They need to make sure and include their name so they will get credit," said Grantham. Submissions can be turned in to Grantham at the center.

Although running the center can be daunting, Grantham, a Big Spring native, finds the job a rewarding one.



HERALD Photo/Andra Medlin

The Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers a place for area seniors to gather and enjoy a variety of activities ranging from dominoes to dancing. The center is located at 1901 Simler Ave. For more information, contact center director Leslie Grantham at 267-1628.

"I really enjoy being out here, interacting with the seniors and hearing their stories," said

Grantham. "I like it a lot better than my previous job."

For 18 years, Grantham was a caseworker for Health and Human Services. See SENIOR CENTER, Page 5

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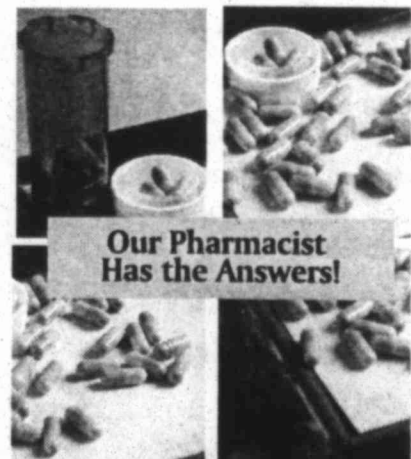
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HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin  
Manning the desk at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center is Dixie Bannister. The center offers a variety of activities throughout the week including a Western dance every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

## SENIOR CENTER

Continued from Page 4

Services, determining eligibility for foodstamps, Medicaid and Temporary Aid to Needy Families.

Although it can be lonely at the top, Grantham makes it clear that she doesn't work alone.

"We couldn't do without our volunteers," Grantham explained. "They do everything, they coordinate the entertainment, deliver meals, cook, provide activities, call Bingo, wrap silverware, answer phones. Everything."

The center's schedule is hardly static and Grantham is always on the lookout for new perspectives.

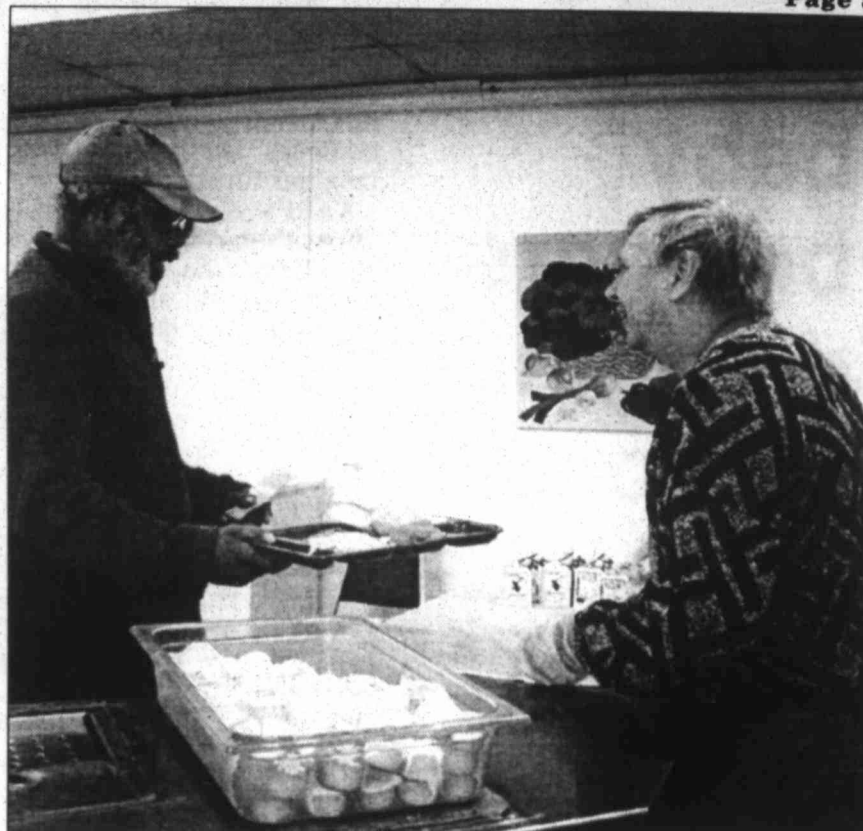
"We are always looking for volunteers and new ideas," Grantham explained.

The center is currently in need of exercise equipment for planned future activities.

"We would welcome donations," said Grantham. "But it needs to be in good condition."

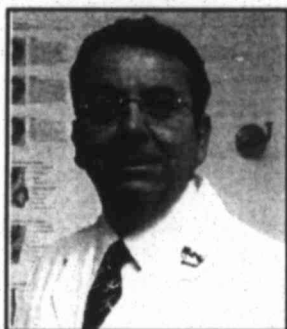
Housed in the old Webb Air Force Base officer's quarters, the Spring City Senior Center is located at 1901 Simler Ave.

For more information about the center or its activities, contact Grantham at 267-1628.



HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin  
Got milk? Spring City Senior Center volunteer Ruel Metcalf gives Edward Myers the finishing touch to his meal. Lunch is provided at the center Monday through Friday and delivery is available to the homebound who meet the criteria of the Area Agency on Aging. The center hosts many activities throughout the week for the area's senior citizens.

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# Are the baby boomers dragging us down?

By **BOB MOOS**

Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — As chief executive of AARP, Bill Novelli knows there's strength in numbers. But at the moment, his mind isn't on only his organization's 36 million members. It's also on the 78 million baby boomers who are changing the look of aging in America.

Novelli has written a book, "50+: Igniting a Revolution to Reinvent America," challenging the conventional wisdom that an older population presents an enormous problem for this country. He views it as an enormous opportunity.

"Clearly, our society needs to make some changes, and we need to begin now," Novelli writes. "But I see that as a positive development, not a negative one, with boomers leading the way to a brighter future for all of us."

AARP's chief executive expects boomers to rewrite the rules of old age. They'll be fitter. They'll be savvier about technology. And they'll be more engaged in social issues. This is, after all, the generation that grew up in the '60s, he points out.

Novelli believes the aging population will offer opportunities for improving health care, redesigning retirement, changing the workplace, building elder-friendly communities and leaving a meaningful legacy.

Novelli talked about this newest revolution and other topics during a recent interview with *The Dallas Morning News*.

Q: You're optimistic about the age boom. Why?

A: "People ask how our society will afford health care as we get older. They wonder how we'll pay for long-term care as more of us enter nursing homes. They warn that Social Security will break the bank.



Dallas Morning News, MCT photo/Kye R. Lee  
**Bill Novelli, ceo of AARP, has written "50+: Igniting a Revolution to Reinvent America," a book on aging boomers.**

"None of that has to happen. This is a wealthy and innovative country.

"One of our greatest resources are people over 50. They're healthier and better-educated than earlier generations. So my book is a call to arms. We have these opportunities. We just need to seize

the moment."

Q: Let's take health care as an example. How do we reform it to accommodate an older population?

A: "We must do better at managing chronic diseases. If we had a national strategy for preventing such illnesses, it would make a huge difference. Yet we spend too little on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"If we could control Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease, we would improve our quality of life and save money. Yet we underfund the National Institutes of Health. We have to invest in order to save."

Q: What will it take for that to occur?

A: "Our political leaders are smart people. They realize the problems. What's missing are the political will and bipartisanship.

"Also, businesses won't tolerate rising health care costs much

longer.

"It's only a matter of time before they tell lawmakers, 'We can't compete. We can't continue to pass these costs on to our employees, and we can't bear any more costs ourselves.' That should carry a lot of weight."

Q: Are you happy with how the Medicare drug benefit has worked?

A: "Eighty percent of those who are enrolled in a drug plan are satisfied. But 3 million low-income people have yet to sign up for coverage, and many of them are eligible for extra help with out-of-pocket costs. We have to reach out to them.

"On the legislative side, two things must be done. The first is to fix the asset test for getting that extra help. People who save \$20,000 for retirement shouldn't be denied the low-income subsidy.

"The other is to give the secretary of health and human services the authority to negotiate prices with the pharmaceutical companies if it becomes necessary. That could put some downward pressure on drug costs."

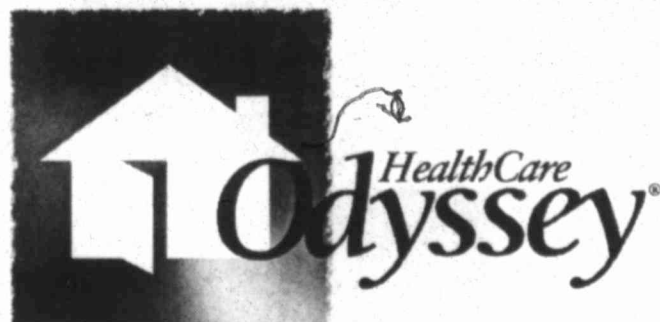
Q: You write that Social Security doesn't need an overhaul, just adjustments. What do you have in mind?

A: "Social Security is neither broke nor broken, but we must look at ways to strengthen it and keep it solvent. We have to figure out how to raise more revenue, and we need to look at how to adjust the benefits.

"To get more revenue, we could collect Social Security payroll taxes on higher incomes. We could also make Social Security universal so that all workers pay into it. And we could invest the money better.

"In Canada, the government takes its retirement money and actually puts it into a trust fund that money managers oversee. The

See **SENIORS**, Page 8



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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
More than 400 people take to the streets during the Alzheimer's Associations annual Memory Walk, just one of many local events volunteers with RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) help with each year.

## SENIORS

Continued from Page 6

managers are then paid according to how well that trust fund does.

"On the benefits side, it's important to remember that Americans are living longer. Since many people plan to work longer, we could raise the retirement age further. It's already scheduled to rise to 67."

**Q:** Many people retire at 62 and collect reduced Social Security benefits. Should that early retirement age be raised, too?

**A:** "It does make sense, but we need to figure out some way to accommodate people who work with their hands and backs. I come from a family of steelworkers. When those guys were 62, they were worn out."

**Q:** How soon will traditional pensions become extinct, and will workers adjust by putting more in 401(k) plans?

**A:** "The children of current Social Security beneficiaries may have a lower quality of life than their parents. If nothing changes, it could happen. People are squeezed between taking care of their kids and their parents."

January 28, 2007

"That doesn't need to happen. As defined-benefit pensions go the way of 45-rpm records, we've got to persuade people to take full advantage of 401(k) plans and individual retirement accounts."

"Many Americans aren't financially literate, so we'll also need to help them understand the importance of basic investment principles like diversifying your holdings and regularly rebalancing your portfolio."

**Q:** You predict that many boomers will work into their late 60s and early 70s. Will businesses value those older workers?

**A:** "Some companies are pushing older employers out the door. But a number of industries — health care, retail and technology, for example — are already facing worker shortages and trying to hold onto people."

"American business isn't going to act on the basis of altruism. We can be sure of that. But I think companies will find that older workers are good for their business and the overall economy."

"More and more businesses will want to hire and keep older workers, especially when they realize the boomers are healthy and have qualities such as institutional memory, loyalty and maturity."



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## Senior Circle has local, and yes, national benefits

Staying healthy and active is the best preventative medicine and with that in mind, Scenic Mountain Medical Center

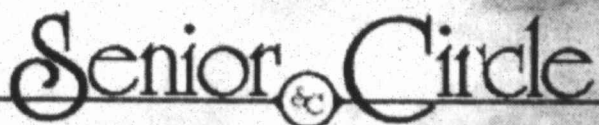
encourages people 50 and older to join Senior Circle.

A national organization with benefits at the local level, Senior Circle encourages healthy lifestyles by providing social activities, education, information and volunteer opportunities.

An annual membership is \$15 and entitles the card holder to local and national benefits.

Locally, members receive a subscription to the bi-monthly chapter newsletter, free monthly activities and exercise classes, discounts at area shops, free copying and faxing of important papers and free Notary Public.

Senior Circle members also receive a complimentary private



room upgrade during a hospital stay, as staffing and availability permit.

On a national level, members receive a pharmacy discount card, an emergency response discount with ADT, long term care insurance discount as well as discounts on hotels and car rentals.

These are only some of the benefits to joining Senior Circle.

To learn more about Senior Circle, visit the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Web site at <http://www.smmccares.com> or call Anita Cline, Senior Circle director/advisor at (432) 268-4721 or 263-1211 or visit Senior Circle's national Web site at <http://senior-circle.com>

## Diet, regular exam key to prostate cancer prevention, detection

The second most common cancer in American men, prostate cancer often develops without obvious symptoms. The American Cancer Society reports one in six men will get the disease during their lifetime, and 1 in 34 will die from it.

Diet and early detection are critical in reducing the risk of prostate cancer and improving treatment options for those diagnosed with the disease, said K. Scott Coffield, M.D., professor of surgery in the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine. Symptoms include a weak urine flow, frequent or painful urination, blood in the urine or semen, and pain in the lower back, pelvis or upper thighs.

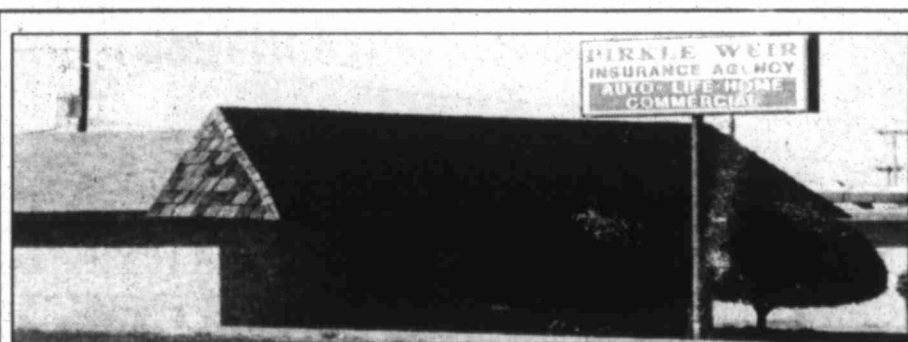
"Diets and early detection are the two responses men can make to help prevent prostate cancer at its earliest stage and permit curative therapy," said Dr. Coffield, urologist-oncologist at the Scott &

Men should begin having an annual prostate exam and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test at age 50.

White Clinic in Temple, Texas, and prostate cancer expert.

A diet low in animal fat with ample vegetables, particularly those that mature with a red or orange color, can reduce the risk for prostate cancer, Dr. Coffield said. A multiple vitamin supplement is recommended for men over age 50.

Men should begin having an annual prostate exam and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test at age 50. Those with a strong family history of prostate cancer and black men should start these tests at age 45, Dr. Coffield said, as the disease is more common in blacks than whites in this country.



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# Vaccines effective against certain forms of pneumonia

Shaking and chills. Severe chest pain. Sweats. Labored breathing and quickened pulse. Those who've had pneumonia before know these and other painful symptoms firsthand.

Pneumonia is a lung inflammation caused by an infection with bacteria, viruses and other organisms. Combined with the flu, it is the seventh leading cause of U.S. deaths, reports the National Center for Health Statistics, with pneumonia consistently accounting for the overwhelming majority.

People especially at risk for pneumonia include the elderly, the very young and those with underlying health problems like diabetes and heart disease.

The community-acquired pneumonia in adults is most often caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Pneumococcal pneumonia accounts for 20,000 U.S. deaths each year and is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death, said Mary Chavez, Pharm.D., chair and professor of pharmacy practice with the Texas A&M Health

Science Center Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy.

Pneumococcal pneumonia can occur anytime during the year, but two types of vaccines can reduce the risk by 60 to 70 percent. The vaccines are especially recommended for those 65 and older and those 2 or older with chronic illnesses, including pulmonary or cardiovascular disease; weakened immune system; cochlear implants; and metabolic disorders, cerebral spinal leaks, renal dysfunction and hemoglobinopathies like sickle-cell disease.

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is also routinely administered to infants at 2, 4 and 6 months, followed by a booster dose at 12-15 months, to prevent seven types of penicillin-resistant strains causing invasive pneumococcal disease. Initiated in 2000, this vaccination policy has made a substantial impact in reducing pneumococcal sepsis and meningitis in children and adults, said Manjusha Gaglani, M.B.B.S., associate professor of pediatrics at the HSC-College of Medicine and a physician at Scott & White



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel photo/William Meyer

Hospital in Temple.

"The vaccines are the best way to prevent the disease," Dr. Chavez said. "One study estimated that if all currently unvaccinated elderly people in the United States were vaccinated with the pneumococcal vaccine, 78,000 years in healthy life would be gained, and \$194 million in health care would be saved."

Because pneumonia often occurs as a complication of influenza, people should get an annual flu vaccine, Dr. Gaglani said. This is especially true for those at high risk for influenza-related compli-

cations (i.e., those who are elderly, diabetic, pregnant, chronic care facilities residents or have chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and kidney failure).

"Children ranging in age from six months to 59 months should get the flu vaccine, as well as household contacts and caregivers of anyone under 59 months old or of anyone with a high-risk condition," Dr. Gaglani said. "This is because the flu is often associated with pneumonia or followed by bacterial pneumonia, including that caused by MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) for which we have no vaccine."

*The Texas A&M Health Science Center provides the state with health education, outreach, and research. Its six components located in communities throughout Texas are Baylor College of Dentistry, the College of Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the Institute of Biosciences and Technology, the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, and the School of Rural Public Health.*



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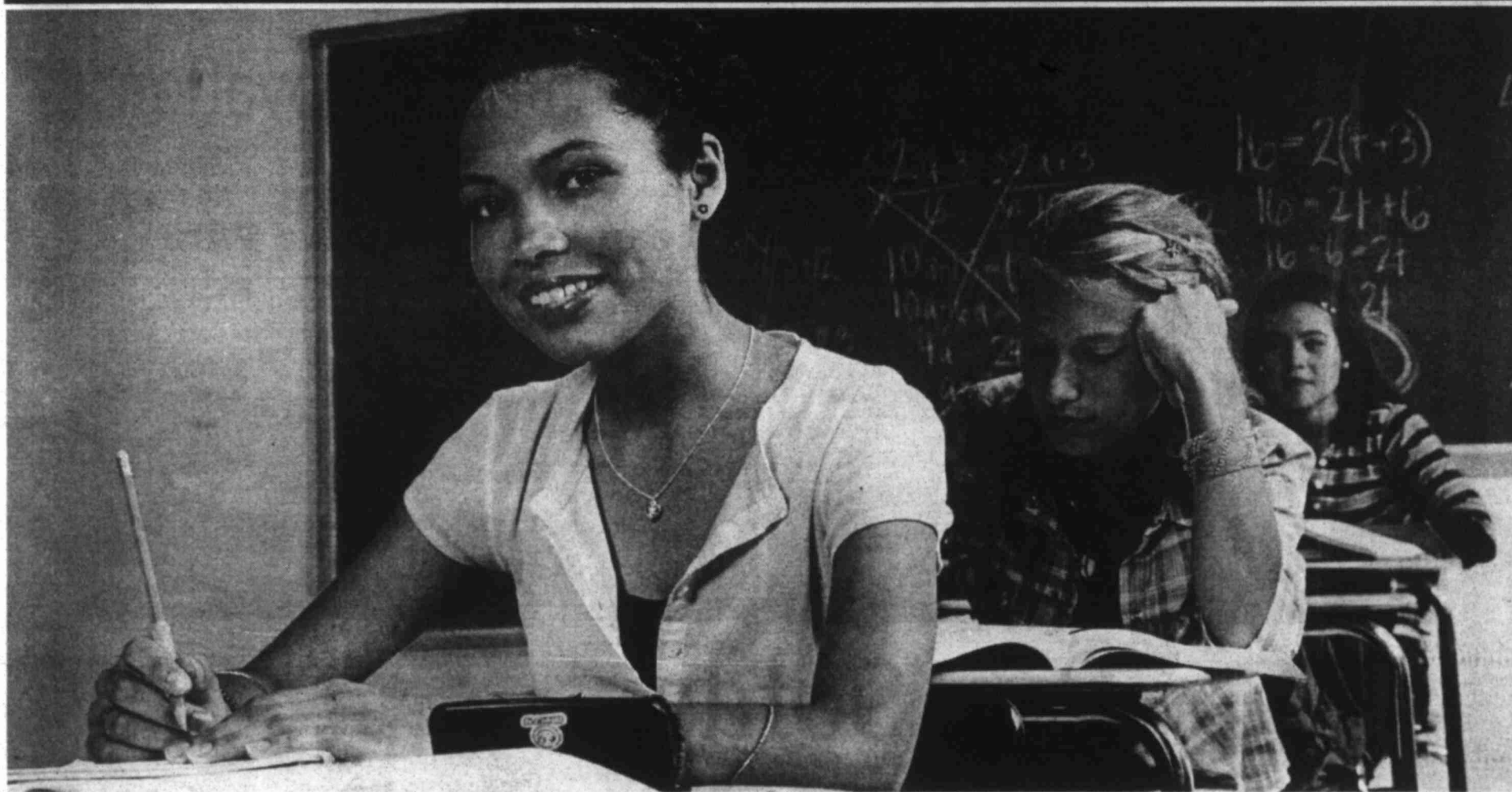
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