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BIG SPRING

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INSIDE
Second half of Hawks' season gets under way tonight in Midland
Page 1B

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 64

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Bills filed to address residential electric prices

By **KELLEY SHANNON**
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — State regulators could set caps on residential electric prices, and utilities would be penalized for not marketing to customers outside their territories under legislation leading Republicans proposed Wednesday.
Legislation by Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, and

Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, would also require some utilities to sell off generation plants so they don't control too big a piece of any geographic market.
The steps are needed to prevent abuses and improve electric competition for residential customers, Fraser said.
"We have experienced success throughout the commercial and industrial market, but that success has not translated to the

residential side," Fraser said. "We're going to make the competitive market work."
Electric deregulation won approval in the Legislature in 1999, and the state has been phasing it in since then. Texans in deregulated zones were first allowed to choose their electric providers in 2002.
Since then, consumer advocates said, prices have risen for residential customers. They



Fraser

"I want someone to have a hammer — I don't want it to be a big hammer — but I want someone to have a hammer so if the market is not reacting that we can look at the market and make adjustments."

want the proposals from King and Fraser to go even further. "It's clear that legislators are hearing from their constituents back home, and after five years of higher and higher bills there See **BILLS**, Page 3A

Cuttin' across Texas

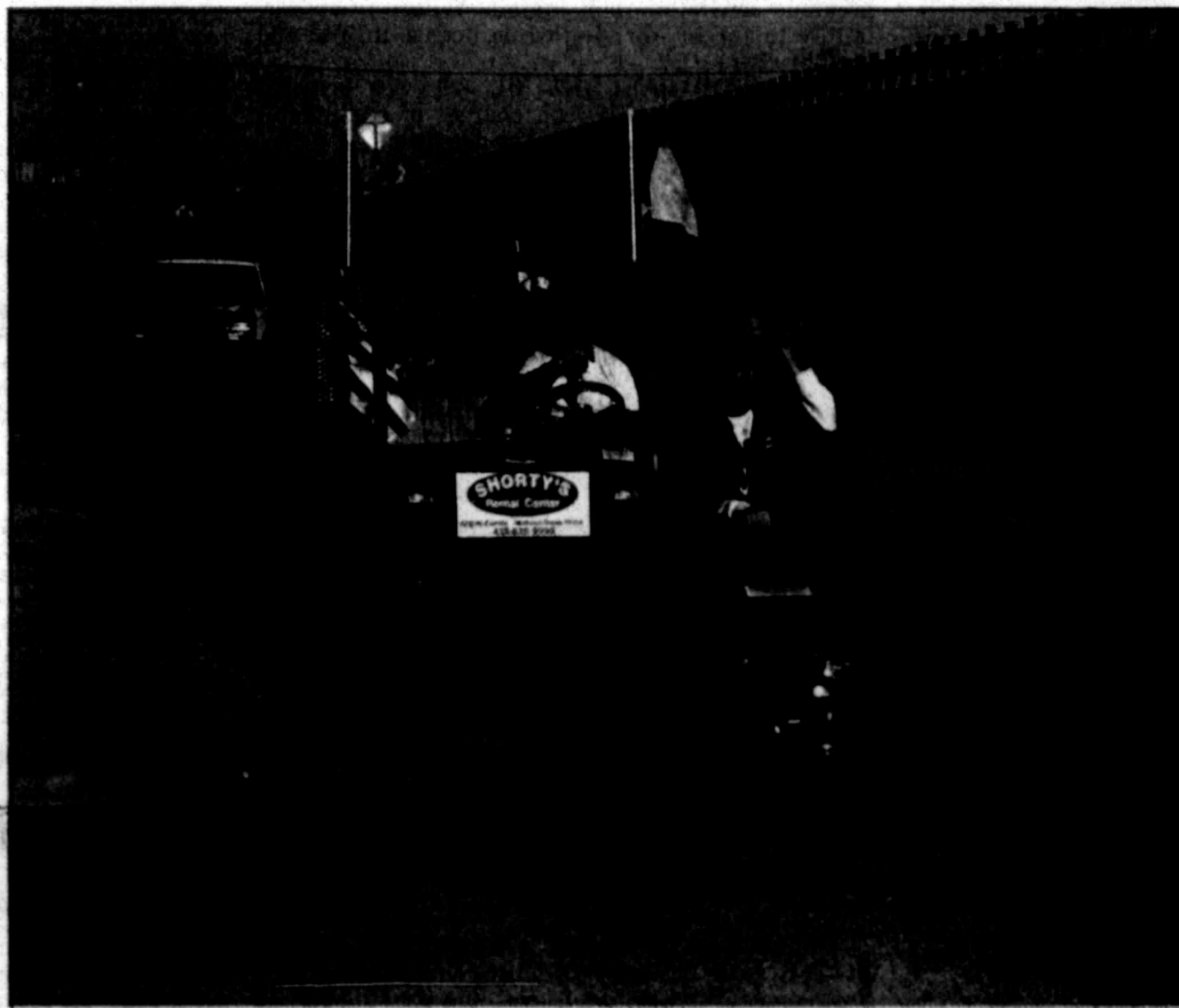
Duo raising funds for St. Jude's Ranch for Children

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — It seems like a simple idea at first: Drive an everyday, common lawn mower across the state of Texas.

However, first impressions can certainly be misleading. That's what J.D. Leach, 26, of Odessa, and Mark Hancock, 30, of Midland have learned since they left the Texas state line in Waskom a week ago, traveling on a Snapper lawn mower donated by Shorty's Rental Service of Midland and a tractor utility vehicle along the roads and highways of Texas in order to raise money for St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

"You look at the idea in the beginning, and it's so simple," said Leach, nursing a sunburn at the Dairy Queen in Coahoma. "Once you get out on the road, however, you realize there are so many things you didn't think of, like crossing railroad tracks, overpasses — even goats. I'm not kidding, we had a whole herd of goats following us at one point. It's just insane.



J.D. Leach of Odessa, right, and Mark Hancock, of Midland, leave the Dairy Queen in Coahoma, returning to their trek to drive across the Lone Star State on a lawn mower and a utility tractor. The duo took up the odd task to raise money for the St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

"The only thing we've heard of that comes close to this is some guy that was trying to get in the Guinness Book by driving a lawn mower. But we're not doing this for fame or for ourselves. We're doing it for the ranch, and that makes it worth it for us."

St. Jude's Ranch for Children is a nonprofit home for abandoned, abused and neglected children with facilities are in Bulverde, New Braunfels and Boulder City, Nev.

"We went out and got sponsors for the trip," said Hancock. "We wanted to do something for the ranch. It means a lot to both of

us." Through the rain, sleet, freezing winds and hot sun the duo has endured, they seem to have escaped with their sense of humor intact.

"You see this sunburn?" said Hancock, pointing to the sharp red lines running alongside his face. "This is his fault. I asked him for the sun block, and he looked but said it wasn't there. So I go all afternoon with no sun block, then when we stopped we looked, and there it was!"

"It's not my fault," Leach retorted. "I looked, but it was all the way on the bottom. You try

finding something like that while you're blazing along at six miles per hour. It's not as easy as you think. I'm sorry."

"Don't tell me you're sorry, tell my face," said Hancock with a wide grin.

"I'm sorry, Mark's face," said Leach, trying to keep a straight face.

Hancock said the most memorable leg of the trek came during some of the coldest conditions.

"J.D. pulled up along side of me," said Hancock. "He looked at me and said, 'I'm so cold, I

See **MOWER**, Page 3A

Forsan sweeps district debate

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — the Forsan High School debate team is in a quite delightful rut.

For the eighth year in a row, Forsan qualified a debate team for state competition, claiming the top two spots at the District 11-1A cross-examination debate tournament.

Juniors Clint Lockhart and Rachael Wheeler won the district title, while teammates Alex Newsom and Michael Leal, also juniors, placed second. Both teams qualify for the state debate tournament to be held in Austin March 12.

The team of Lockhart and Wheeler are old hands at this sort of success. The two placed second at district their freshman year, then won the top spot in 2006 before repeating that feat this year.

Newsom and Leal were competing as a team for the first year.

Debate Coach Jan Sims said this marks the third year in a row that FHS has swept the top two spots in district competition and the eighth straight year the school will be represented at the

See **FORSAN**, Page 3A

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Police: Bogus money still being passed

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials say the recent tide of funny money making its way through Big Spring merchants may have slowed down, but it certainly hasn't stopped.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, reports of counterfeit \$50 and \$100 bills have slowed down since first reported last week.

"We're not getting as many reports as we did initially, but we're still getting

calls from businesses here and there," said Everett. "They are getting spotted a lot quicker now that the word is out, but we're still getting scattered reports on them."

Everett said the bills have been passed at several local businesses, with no single target or pattern identified.

"We're warning all area businesses to be on the lookout for these counterfeits," said Everett. "If they don't already have a testing pen, they need to get one now. You can buy them at any office supply store and they are very simple to use."

Everett said he's hoping area business owners with a sharp eye will be able to provide investigators with a description of the suspect passing the counterfeit bills.

"If they can get a physical description of the suspect or a license number from a vehicle without putting themselves or anyone else in danger, it would certainly help our investigation," remarked Everett.

Anyone with information regarding the counterfeit bills is urged to contact the BSPD at 264-2550 or Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS.

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Obituaries

James P. 'Jim' Archer



James P. "Jim" Archer, 74, of Saad Springs, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, in Temple. Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Friday at the Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Jim Bennix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating. Military honors will be provided by Goodfellow Air Force Base. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Dec. 5, 1932, in Duluth, Minn., to Christina and Harold Archer. He married Virginia Correia Feb. 14, 1954, in Whitman, Mass. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. He came to Big Spring in 1969 to Webb Air Force Base and retired in 1972. He later worked for Republic Supply and Chemical Express until 1992. He was a Presbyterian.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Archer of Sand Springs; one son, James Archer II and his wife, Denise of Big Spring; one daughter, Karyn Henderson of San Antonio; two brothers, Jerry Archer and his wife, Patricia of Duluth, Minn., and John Archer and his wife, Linda of Havasu City, Ariz.; two grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Partly cloudy in the evening...Then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Lows in the mid 30s. East winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the lower 60s. East winds around 10 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Lows in the lower 40s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the morning. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Cooler. Highs in the mid 50s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Lows in the upper 30s.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-24-26-40-45-49. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$37 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 15-17-28-29-33. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$31,733. Winning ticket sold in: Grapevine. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-7-0

Support Groups

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

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

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

MONDAY
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

TUESDAY
• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:
• **ANDRES LEE JUAREZ**, 25, of 306 Denton, was arrested Wednesday on three local warrants.
• **ALLEN JOE DARDER**, 41, of 15010 N. County Road 41, was arrested Wednesday on 20 local warrants.
• **RICHARD E. HAMANN**, 53, of Amarillo, was arrested Wednesday on a Potter County warrant.
• **CYNTHIA GALE BULLARD**, 46, of 2908 Cherokee, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of robbery.
• **THEFT** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 4200 block of Birch.
• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:
Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 38 inmates at the time of this report.
• **KRIS GARNER TERRY**, 52, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
• **DIMUS JOE OLIVAS**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bond forfeiture - driving while license invalid with a previous conviction, bail jumping/failure to appear, failure to appear - driving while license invalid and theft by check.
• **ORLANDO SANCHEZ JR.**, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of credit/debit card abuse and evading arrest or detention.
• **RAE LYNN JENNINGS**, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of issuance of a bad check, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and driving while license suspended.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:
• **MEDICAL** was reported near the intersection of Second Street and Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 Block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of N. Tubb Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of March. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES** are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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Legacy of radiation illness stirs objection to Nevada bomb test

By **SONYA GEIS**

The Washington Post
ST. GEORGE, Utah — When the baby boomers of St. George were children, radioactive ash from nuclear test explosions in Nevada regularly drifted toward the red bluffs of their town and fell like snow. They played in it and wrote their names in it on car windows.

The federal government reassured the townspeople they were in no danger as it detonated 952 bombs in Nevada over four decades. But thousands of people who lived downwind of the test site got radiation-related cancer, and the town of 50,000 has its own cancer-treatment center today.

So when word got out recently that the government wants to test a huge conventional bomb in Nevada, sending a mush-

room cloud thousands of feet in the air, people in St. George felt an unwelcome blast from the past.

At a series of emotional meetings last month in Las Vegas, St. George, Salt Lake City and the Idaho capital of Boise, people who live downwind of the Nevada Test Site expressed fear that if the government goes ahead with its code-named Divine Strake test, radioactive dust from previous tests will blow their way.

"People here have been exposed to radiation already. We don't need any little extra push," St. George native Michelle Thomas said in her home last week.

Thomas, 54, has had cancer twice, in the breast and in a salivary gland, and had a pre-malignant ovary removed. She suffers from polymyositis, a mus-



BY NATHANIEL VAUGHN KESLO — THE WASHINGTON POST

cle-degenerating autoimmune disease. Ever since she became too sick to work as a teacher, she has spent her time on anti-nuclear activism.

"Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me," she said.

The Pentagon plans to test a 700-ton ammonium-nitrate-and-fuel-oil "bunker buster" weapon on the Nevada Test Site, a 1,375-square-mile chunk

of desert. Divine Strake will demonstrate the impact on deeply buried tunnels should a U.S. complex be attacked, or should the United States attack a bunker in another country. No date for the test has been set.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) planned to conduct Divine Strake last June, but a Reno lawyer got an injunction to stop it. Robert Hager filed suit in April in federal court on behalf of the Western Shoshone tribe and people living downwind of the test site. A status hearing on the suit is scheduled for March 2.

Prompted by the lawsuit and outcry by lawmakers in Nevada, Utah and Idaho, the DTRA held a series of meetings and released a new environmental assessment.

Its studies predict a mushroom cloud will rise

about 4,500 feet above the desert and then settle back in place. The amount of radiation that might be released at the boundaries of the test site will be equivalent to the amount released by a smoke detector, authorities said.

"The Nevada Test Site is one of the best-studied areas in terms of meteorology," said Darwin Morgan, a spokesman for the Nevada Site Office. "We know the volume of dust picked up from the explosion. We took the weather for the worst time period: January, with the highest winds. When you model to that, it stays on the test site."

"Now, will every single microscopic atom stay on the test site?" he continued.

"No, you can't do that. But the bulk of the dust will remain on the test site."

Defense officials have looked at moving the test to another site, but they say the alternatives would cost \$100 million and take three years of planning. Holding it in Nevada could be done this year for \$5 million.

"My personal feeling is, rather than have people completely discombobulated, like they're doing, it would be better to have it somewhere else," Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, said.

"If it costs \$100 million more, that's better than having people scared to death and worrying they're going to suffer the same afflictions their families did."

Besides citing health concerns, Hager's lawsuit also charges the test would be held improperly on tribal land, and that the government is really seeking to test the effects of a nuclear bomb.

FDA approves first nonprescription sale of diet pill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dieters got a new tool Wednesday to help them take off the extra pounds — the first government-approved nonprescription diet pill.

The Food and Drug Administration said the fat-blocking weight-loss pill orlistat, which has been available by prescription, can be sold in a reduced-strength version over the counter.

The new version will be sold as "alli" by GlaxoSmithKline PLC. Xenical, the prescription version, is made by Roche Holding AG.

The drug is intended for people 18 and older to use along with a reduced-calorie, low-fat diet and exercise.

Dr. Charles Ganley, FDA's director of nonprescription products, stressed that the drug is intended for use along with

diet and exercise programs. "Using this drug alone is unlikely to be beneficial," Ganley said at a telebriefing.

While some dietary supplements make weight-loss claims, Ganley said this is the first nonprescription drug approved by the agency for that purpose.

Ganley said in trials, for every five pounds people lost through diet and exercise, those using orlistat lost an additional

two to three pounds.

When taken with meals, orlistat blocks the absorption of about one-quarter of any fat consumed. That fat — about 150 to 200 calories worth — is passed out of the body in stools, which can be loose as a result. About half of patients in trials experienced gastrointestinal side effects.

The agency recommended users take a multivitamin when

using this drug.

The new drug would contain half the dose of Xenical prescription capsules. The price has not been set but is expected to run \$1 to \$2 a day, company officials said. The company estimated 5 million to 6 million Americans a year would buy the drug over the counter.

The most common side effect of the product is a change in bowel habits.

BILLS

Continued from Page 1A

seems to be momentum to get something done," said Tim Morstad, associate state director for advocacy for AARP in Texas.

AARP, with 2.2 million members ages 50 and older in the state, is making electricity price control a top goal of the legislative session. "Especially older Texans on fixed incomes, it's a real shock to the pocketbook," Morstad said.

TXU Corp., the state's largest power generation company and one that would be heavily affected by the measures, criticized some parts of the legislative proposal.

On Jan. 1, the state dropped its "price to

beat," allowing electricity giants such as TXU and Reliant Energy to adjust their basic rates up or down without getting state approval.

A provision in the lawmakers' proposals would allow the Public Utility Commission impose a cap on the retail price of electricity sold to residential customers if the commission determines that's appropriate.

Lisa Singleton, a TXU spokeswoman, said that amounts to "re-regulating the market" and is not the right approach.

"We believe that deregulation of the market, full competition in Texas, has been a success and that the market is working as it should," Singleton said.

Public Citizen of Texas, a consumer advocacy group, praised the

Republicans' proposals as a good starting point.

"We think this is a good first step in potentially lowering skyrocketing electric bills and breaking up the enormous market power that TXU has in Texas today," said Tom "Smitty" Smith, director of the Texas' office for Public Citizen.

Smith said the PUC cap provision is vague and needs to be strengthened. Otherwise, the commission would be reluctant to take action, he said.

Fraser said the cap would provide a tool once the Legislature is out of session in case the deregulated market isn't doing what it should.

"I want someone to have a hammer — I don't want it to be a big hammer — but I want someone to have a hammer so if the

market is not reacting that we can look at the market and make adjustments," Fraser said.

One wholesale provision in the package of bills would limit a power generation company to no more than 20 percent of generation within a particular boundary. If it owns more, it would have to sell at auction or divest.

Another provision would penalize retail electric companies that don't market to customers outside their home territory. Fraser said he urged electric providers in November to extend their competitive reach, which he believes would drive prices down.

"I don't think they heard my concerns," he said.

Another plank would

reinstate the System Benefit Fund to assist low-income customers and provide customer education and weatherization.

Several legislators have filed bills dealing with electric prices. The identical Senate and House proposals by Fraser and King, respectively, are most likely to win support because the two are part of the leadership teams in

their chambers. The electric bills are SB 482, SB 483, SB 484, SB 485, HB 1189, HB 1190, HB 1191 and HB 1192.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

James P. "Jim" Archer, 74, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at the Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



MOWER

Continued from Page 1A

think I'm going to puke. Oh my God, I laughed so hard. I'm pretty sure people think we're insane."

Leach said traveling by lawn mower has shown him a different side of the Lone Star State.

"Some people see what you're doing, and they

wave and give you a big thumbs up," said Leach.

"Others just look at you like you're a complete idiot. And the rest of them just race by and don't pay you any attention at all. We've gotten some pretty interesting support from the people trying to hitch hike, I can tell you that."

So, how long before the duo makes their goal? "Friday," said Leach

sternly. "We're going to finish this Friday."

"We're going to stop in Midland and look at the donations and decide whether to go any further," said Hancock. "At least that's the plan at this point."

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.cruisinforkids.net

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

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FORSAN

Continued from Page 1A

state level. That string of success has attracted top-flight students to the program, Sims said.

"It takes a special kind of student to dedicate themselves to debate," she said. "I think when you have that caliber of kids, who have a history of winning, people want to be part of that."

Sims said the major goal for the two squads is to reach at least the round of 16 at the state meet.

"If you make it that far, you qualify for scholarships through the University Interscholastic League," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at 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 Cupstid
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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Remember to join us Feb. 17 during symphony concert

The Big Spring Symphony will stage its next performance — a third stop on a musical trip around the world, so to speak — on Saturday, Feb. 17, with a concert featuring European music.

The orchestra's offering of European flavored music, the third subscription concert of its "Music Around the World" concert season, will begin at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium. Titled "The Music of Europe," the concert will present a variety of popular musical classics by European and Scandinavian composers.

Violinist Kirsten Yon, an assistant professor at Texas Tech University, will be the featured guest artist, and perform the "Third Violin Concerto in B Minor" by 19th century French composer Camille Saint-Saens.

Yon received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan and the Cleveland Institute of Music before pursuing her doctor of musical arts degree at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. The winner of multiple competitions, she has been a soloist, concertmaster and performer with numerous professional orchestras in the United States and South America, including the Ann Arbor Symphony and the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

However, Yon will not be the only musician giving the symphony a helping hand.

During performance of "Jupiter" from Holst's "The Planets," Symphony Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann will call on the assistance of Big Spring High School Band members, including flautist Crystal Ward, oboist Meagan Smith, bassoonist Simon Hilario, trumpeter Royce Perez and percussionist Eric Welch.

"Jupiter" requires a very large orchestra, with many more players than is normally required. We have called on the enormous talent of players from the Big Spring High School Concert Band to join us on this piece," Graumann explained. "I am grateful to (BSHS Band Director) Rocky Harris for coaching his students in preparation for this performance. It will be a wonderful experience for the students to 'sit in' with a professional orchestra. And, it will be very gratifying to the orchestra and me as well."

What's more, we believe the entire performance will be a real treat for the audience.

Other selections scheduled for performance during the evening include "Academic Festival Overture," by German composer Johannes Brahms; the "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1," by Norway's Edvard Grieg; "The Moldau," by Czech Bedrich Smetana; and "Finlandia," by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tickets, which cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students, are available at the Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelers, Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas and the Heritage Museum.

Tickets will also be available at the door, so make sure to make this concert a part of your Valentine's week activities.

We'll see you there.

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Your word, Lord, is our superstore of knowledge.

Amen

The politically uninspiring era

Democrats regained congressional control in November largely by being the only alternative to the unpopular party. Could a similar phenomenon operate in reverse in 2008 with the GOP recapturing Congress and retaining the presidency mostly by default?

Surely most political commentators would agree that Democrats didn't inspire voter enthusiasm in November. They didn't even really try to, because they were banking on the president's and his party's unpopularity. They also knew that if they were to offer something substantive on Iraq, it might drag them down, too. So they relied solely on trashing the president and his policies. But circumstances are working against them enjoying this luxury much longer.

In the first place, Democrats now control Congress, so even though Republicans still have the White House, it will be harder for Democrats to escape scrutiny. But more importantly, we're already in the season of presidential fever, and this is a dangerous season for Democrats with national aspirations.

For though the Iraq war is currently a noose around the neck of the GOP, America remains a center-right nation that will still be in the thick of the war on terror in 2008 and beyond, regardless of what happens in Iraq. Democratic presidential aspirants will have to answer in 2008 for the things they say now to ingratiate themselves to their implacable antiwar base.

But what we're seeing, so far, is that the Democrats' taste of power is emboldening them to greater heights of stridency against the war and the president's successful

economic policies. It is leading them to demand total adherence to their dogmatic views and catastrophic remedies for global warming when the science in support of their dogma is increasingly dubious. They are mistaking their default victory in November as affirmation of an agenda they never bothered to offer.

Their hubris aside, it's doubtful their presidential candidates could resist the demands of their increasingly liberal core constituencies. These groups control the money and the influence and will not be ignored.

For a while it seemed that Hillary could straddle the fence, puffing up her machismo by feigning non-dovish-extremism on Iraq without alienating a base that would trust that her heart still belonged to Saul Alinsky-type leftist radicals. But the base has obviously lost confidence that Hillary's appetite for power won't overcome her allegiance to the cause.

They've communicated this distrust to Hillary so consistently now that she's been forced to lurch back in their direction with the result that if anyone were to juxtapose her varying positions on Iraq, she'd be exposed as a sociopathic opportunist.

Unfortunately for Hillary, she has a couple of potentially formidable challengers who just might do the Republicans' work for them in highlighting her flagrant inconsistencies. How she handles this obstacle will be of critical importance for her viability in the general election.

Under different circumstances Hillary might be able to get away with mildly snubbing the base by maintaining a more centrist position on the war and preserving her wider appeal for 2008. But she's bound to be afraid of such a risky gambit, given the current unpopularity of the war with the general electorate. The ultimate irony might be unfolding: the very

unpopularity of the war that Democrats have been promoting could be the undoing of their most promising candidate.

Hillary is acutely aware of her dilemma and has apparently decided to pull out all the stops — for now — to regain favor with the base. In that spirit she has made some patently ridiculous statements of late, like her promise to end the war — presto chango — if it hasn't ended by her crowning in January 2008 and her threat to confiscate and redistribute oil company profits.

Similarly, contenders Obama and Edwards will continue to compete with Hillary for the distinction of being the most liberal in the primary without being unelectable in the general.

With all of this occurring Republicans just might be able to squeak back into congressional power and hold on the presidency despite their irrepressible inclination to alienate their own base and their failure — so far — to produce a presidential candidate without major electoral disabilities.

If Mitt Romney is unable to convince conservatives he's the real deal and if some other truly conservative dark horse doesn't surprise us and catch fire pretty soon, conservatives, in November 2008, will be faced with a choice between a dovish social liberal and a hawkish social liberal.

Or, if they're lucky, the choice will be between a dovish social liberal and a hawk who, while not socially conservative, will promise to honor the Constitution by appointing originalist judges.

Like it or not, it appears we're living in an era of the politically uninspiring.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Bush's 'Monica' is the war

The war is George Bush's Monica Lewinsky. It is his undoing — the public playing out of his fatal flaws, and the reason his second term will come to naught. It is the product of this president's arrogance and insecurity, as surely as an affair with an intern was the reflection of Bill Clinton's needs and denial. But unlike the last president's foolish affair, which he paid for dearly, we pay for this one. The difference between sex and war is the difference between a mistake even his wife can come to laugh about, and one that is an abiding national tragedy.

The most recent demonstration of this is the president's proposed federal budget. A budget is a statement of priorities, as well as a guide to allocating limited funds. The priority of the Bush budget is unmistakable. It is to fight George Bush's losing war. It is not just costing us our reputation and prestige in the world, not just costing us in terms of thousands of American lives, lost and maimed. It is costing us our shirts and undermining our goals.

According to the president's budget proposal, deep cuts are required in healthcare, education, transportation and support for basic human needs to finance the war in Iraq. "Our priority is to protect the American people,"

President Bush said after a Cabinet meeting this week devoted to the FY 2008 budget.

Not exactly. Our priority is not to protect the American people, but the Iraqi people. Otherwise, Bush wouldn't be looking to save \$100 billion from Medicare and Medicaid, and limit which children are eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program, in order to come up with the \$141 billion that is to be allocated for the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan next year — not to mention the total \$623 billion for defense for 12 months.

Tell the kids who won't get health insurance that your priority is protecting them.

Tell the seniors who depend on Medicare and will have to pay more for prescription drugs that your priority is protecting them.

Tell the 1 million poor families who will lose the assistance they're now getting to purchase home heating oil that your priority is protecting them.

Who does George Bush think he's kidding?

How dumb does he think we are? His priority is covering up his biggest mistake.

Bill Clinton lied about his mistake. But George Bush is doing something even worse. He's robbing every American to pay the price for his.

Wars are expensive. You want to fight a war and, of course, not raise taxes to pay for it, but the money has to come from somewhere. It's coming from you and me, and going to Iraq. So it's not

going to take care of sick kids and seniors, to educate young people, to fix the infrastructure of our own country. It's not going to fight the diseases that kill us. It's not going to local law enforcement, where the cut in federal support is estimated to be 75 percent even as crime is going up. It's going to try to stop the Sunnis and the Shiites from killing each other.

The Democrats will make a lot of noise about what's wrong with the budget and will probably succeed in resisting some of the cuts. But budgeting is a zero sum game. The end result will still be more debt and less money for services for the American people. The cost of continuing this travesty must be measured not only by what is happening there, but by what is not happening here.

The tragedy of the Clinton second term was not the Monica Lewinsky nonsense, but what the president might have accomplished had he and the Congress not been distracted and diverted by the mess of impeachment. But at least the country didn't get stuck with the tab.

Our politics got destroyed, for a time, but we didn't.

Government kept working. The budget was balanced, with a surplus. We didn't go into debt to pay his.

George Bush's folly is far more costly because it defines our lives and future, as well as his.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

CORVETTE JR.?

Mitsubishi's new Ralliart transforms normal sedan

By MARK GLOVER
McClatchy Newspapers

The sporty sedan is a motor vehicle segment drenched in Americana, and you have to chuckle at the way it is routinely marketed to the populace.

The sport-sedan premise supports the theory that Dad and Mom might have other plans for the family car after dropping the kids off at school ... say, seeing how quickly they can rip it from zero to 60 miles per hour on a deserted stretch of road outside of town.

Do normally sedate citizens do this type of thing? One can only imagine.

But supposing they do. What kind of car might they want to fulfill their road-warrior fantasies?

A 2007 Mitsubishi Galant Ralliart sedan would do the trick.

The Ralliart was added to the Galant lineup for the current model year. Keep in mind that a base Galant DE is a compara-

tively modest family sedan with a 160-horsepower, 2.4-liter, in-line 4 engine.

The new Ralliart, on the other hand, packs a 3.8-liter, 24-valve V-6 power plant with 258 horsepower. It's matched to a nicely engineered five-speed automatic gearbox that can also function as a clutchless manual shifter. The Ralliart's suspension is sport-tuned, with stiffer springs, dampers and a rear stabilizer bar.

Simply put, the Ralliart is a Galant capable of delivering a rush.

Spending a week in the Ralliart was a pleasure. It looked like a suburban transporter from the outside but felt like Corvette Junior on the open road.

The V-6 was instantly responsive, and the sport-tuned suspension was precisely tweaked to make the car nimble and road-hugging even during aggressive maneuvers.

The Ralliart more than held its own in dicey



The 2007 Mitsubishi Galant Ralliart

Northern California traffic that included a wide range of performance sports cars.

The kick of it was that the Ralliart's attractive, yet somewhat understated, exterior styling belied the car's ability to lay down some serious scoot

... sort of like Superman flying around in Clark Kent's suit.

While the exterior does not scream "road-burner," there are touches that are exclusive to the Ralliart version of the Galant. That includes a mesh grille, two-tone

color bumpers and 18-inch alloy wheels with Ralliart badges.

Inside, the Ralliart's sporty tendencies are reflected in the oversized, round gauges behind the steering wheel. The tachometer, speedometer and fuel/temperature gauges are arranged to resemble readouts you might find in a purpose-built racecar.

Otherwise, interior controls are laid out in traditional sedan fashion. They're easy to reach and use.

I was disappointed with bumping my knees against the front seat-backs while sitting in the back seats. Three adults will feel pinched back there; two or three kids should find it comfortable, however.

Fuel economy on the Ralliart comes in at a not-so-hot 18 miles per gallon in the city and 27 mpg on the highway — compared with 23/30 mpg ratings on the four-cylinder Galant — and the gas pump pain is further enhanced by Mitsubishi's requirement for premium unleaded in the Ralliart's tightly wound V-6.

Silver accents and leather seating surfaces are part of the standard Ralliart package, and the car is nicely equipped for its \$27,000 starting price.

Standard goodies include Sirius Satellite Radio (with a pre-paid six-month subscription) and a tooth-rattling, 360-watt Rockford Acoustic Design

sound system. The audio system includes AM/FM radio, a six-disc CD changer and MP3 playback capability.

Standard safety equipment includes side-curtain air bags, front air bags with occupant sensors and front seat-mounted, side-impact air bags.

Options include a 7-inch, touch-panel, DVD-based navigation system.

The Ralliart features larger rear disc brakes than the standard Galant, and electronic brake-force distribution is standard. The package is a good one; even after hitting high speeds, the Ralliart comes to stops quickly and with reassuring stability.

And for the record, the Ralliart's advertised zero-to-60-mph time of about 7 seconds flat is accurate.

Added bonus: The Ralliart comes with Mitsubishi's mega-generous warranties, including 10 years/100,000 miles on the powertrain.

Overall, the Ralliart is a tempting piece of hardware.

Your practical side might lean toward that Galant DE with the four-cylinder engine and a starting price of only \$19,899.

But if you want your Galant with a big helping of sauciness, the Ralliart is the ride of choice.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



2007 Mitsubishi Galant Ralliart

Vehicle type: Five-passenger, four-door, front-drive, sport sedan

Base price: \$26,999

Engine: 3.8-liter V-6 with 258 horsepower at 5,750 revolutions per minute and 258 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm

EPA fuel economy: 18 miles per gallon city; 27 mpg highway (premium unleaded required)

Transmission: Five-speed automatic with overdrive and clutchless manual-shifting feature

Steering: Power-assisted rack and pinion

Brakes: Power four-wheel discs (ventilated on front) with anti-lock

Suspension: Independent, MacPherson strut-type on front; independent, multi-link on rear (stabilizer bars front and rear)

Fuel tank: 17.7 gallons

Passenger volume: 100.2 cubic feet

Cargo volume: 13.3 cubic feet



Curb weight: 3,748 pounds

Height: 58.2 inches

Length: 191 inches

Wheelbase: 108.3 inches

Width: 72.4 inches

Track: 61.8 inches on front and rear

Ground clearance: 6.3 inches

Tires: P235/45R18 all-season radials

Final assembly point: Normal, Ill.

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Soup-er Bowl I raises food for Salvation Army

The employees at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Family Medical Center were able to collect 800 pounds of food in over 600 cans for the Salvation Army Pantry. As promised, SMMC will match the can drive and donate an additional 611 cans of food. Officials with SMMC said they are "amazed at the generosity and compassion the employees have" and thanked them for everything they did.

The SMMC Soup-er Bowl I Champions are the employees at Family Medical Center, raising 276 pounds of food. Second place went to the SMMC Business Office, which raised 188.1 pounds.

This was the first Soup-er Bowl SMMC has participated in but likely will not be the last.

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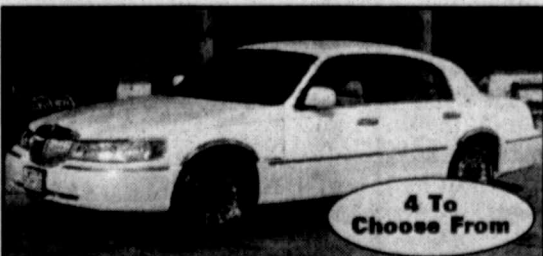


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► State briefs

Body found in Beaumont home more than year after Rita

BEAUMONT (AP) — Autopsy results were pending on a body found recently in a home damaged more than one year ago by Hurricane Rita, authorities said Wednesday.

The body of Larry Euglon, 51, was found in his home Jan. 27 when a potential homebuyer decided to check out the damaged house, which had faced demolition.

Neighbors said they thought Euglon had evacuated during the hurricane and never returned. The hurricane made landfall at nearby Sabine Pass on Sept. 24, 2005.

Justice of the Peace Vi McGinnis said Euglon apparently was a loner. She said foul play was not suspected. Police said his death was not thought to be hurricane-related. His daughter said he had been ill.

"I thought he evacuated with everyone else, and never came back," neighbor Osborne J. Johnson said.

The *Beaumont Enterprise* reported that the dining room table was set with placemats, china and wine glasses. Outside, a tree leaned on the roof and debris littered the yard.

McGinnis said authorities found Euglon's wallet on the dresser and used that and conversations with his daughter to help identify him.

"This is the most bizarre case I've ever handled," McGinnis, a justice of the peace for 20 years, told the newspaper.

McGinnis said Euglon's mother died in a nursing home in February 2006.

"His family was actually mad at him for not attending the funeral," she said. "But nobody bothered to check on him."

Perry's office says Legislature has final say on HPV vaccine

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry's office put the anticancer vaccine debate in lawmakers' hands on Wednesday, saying they have the power to trump the mandate he issued last week.

Lawmakers are welcome to try to pass legislation that would bar any inoculation requirement for schoolgirls, said Perry spokesman Robert Black.

The governor could then veto that measure, but lawmakers would have the final say if the Legislature were still in session and two-thirds of both the House and Senate voted to override it, Black said.

This is the first time that the governor's office has acknowledged that the Legislature has the power to supersede his mandate. It sets up a difficult vote for lawmakers who have said they support a vaccine requirement but oppose Perry's action.

Perry's order Friday required the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules requiring

the Merck & Co.'s new Gardasil vaccine for girls entering sixth grade as of September 2008. The vaccine protects girls against strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, that cause most cases of cervical cancer.

Conservatives have several problems with the mandate, saying it contradicts Texas' abstinence-only sex education policies and strays too far into families' lives. They also balk at the \$360 cost for the three-shot series and said Gardasil is too new to force on children as young as 11 or 12.

Proposal would join spending cap issue with elderly tax relief

AUSTIN (AP) — A key Senate committee approved a proposed constitutional amendment Wednesday that would tie a contentious spending measure to a separate plan to extend property tax relief to elderly homeowners.

The measure next goes to the full Senate for a vote. The package deal could pressure lawmakers into voting for a measure that would exempt billions earmarked for school property tax cuts from counting against state spending limits.

The Senate Finance Committee approved the measure with 10 in favor and two present but not voting.

Republican leaders want to change the constitutional requirement so they can avoid a politically risky vote to bust the spending cap. Fiscally conservative lawmakers fear primary election opponents might label them tax-and-spend liberals.

Police arrest suspect in male rapes

BAYTOWN (AP) — Police have arrested a 19-year-old Baytown man on charges he raped another man and investigators are examining evidence that could link the suspect to a series of male rapes.

Keith Chester Hill was being held Wednesday on \$60,000 bail on two charges of aggravated robbery and one charge of aggravated sexual assault.

Hill was arrested late Tuesday night at his parents' Baytown home after DNA testing connected him to a May attack, said Capt. Roger Clifford of the Baytown Police Department.

Police for months have been investigating five cases in which young white men were surprised at or near their homes by a black man with a gun demanding money.

"We're optimistic that additional charges will be filed on our four remaining cases," Clifford said. "We've got lots of evidence that we'll have to sift through — good, solid evidence."

The investigation was complicated because profilers don't have a basic standard for investigating rare male-on-male rapes, Clifford said.

"They had no standard to go on. Ours will be a precedent-setting case," he said.

Hill emerged as a suspect after one of the victims pointed him out to police shortly before Christmas. Hill voluntarily submitted to a DNA test, which matched a DNA specimen collected from the May attack, police said.

"There's only one in a quadrillion chance that this DNA from the attack could come from someone else," Clifford said.

Parolee put to death for strangling stepdaughters

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned killer James Jackson was convinced his execution would allow him to be reunited with his stepdaughters and wife murdered in the same strangling spree 10 years ago.

Jackson, 47, insisted he didn't kill Sonceria "Sonnie" Mayes, 19, and her sister Ericka, 18, at the Harris County apartment they shared with Jackson and his wife, Sharon, 39. Sharon Jackson, the girls' mother, also was strangled.

A Harris County jury didn't believe him, convicted him of capital murder and sentenced him to death for his stepdaughters' strangulations.

On Wednesday evening, he received lethal injection, making him the fourth Texas inmate put to death this year.

Man sentenced to death in killing of teen, unborn child

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A jury gave the death penalty Wednesday to a man convicted of murdering a teenage girl and their unborn child in what prosecutors and an anti-death penalty group believe is the first time someone in the nation's most active capital punishment state has been sentenced to death for killing an unborn child.

Jurors spent just about three hours deliberating in the case of Adrian Estrada, 23, who showed no emotion when his punishment was read.

Bexar County District Attorney Susan Reed had said she believed it was first time the death penalty has been given to someone convicted of killing an unborn child.

Estrada was convicted on Friday of capital murder in the deaths of Stephanie Sanchez and her unborn child. Sanchez, 17, was three months pregnant on Dec. 12, 2005, when she was found in her family's home.

► World, nation at a glance

N. Korea prepared to discuss disarmament

BEIJING (AP) — North Korea expressed readiness Thursday to discuss initial steps of its nuclear disarmament, raising hopes for the first tangible progress at international talks on Pyongyang's atomic weapons program since they began more than three years ago.

"We are prepared to discuss first-stage measures," the North's nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan said on arriving in Beijing for the six-nation negotiations, which began later Thursday when head delegates gathered at a Chinese state guesthouse.

American experts who visited Kim in Pyongyang last week said the North would propose a freeze of its main nuclear reactor and allowing international inspectors in exchange for energy aid and normalizing relations with the U.S.

Kim said Thursday that any moves by North Korea would be determined by the United States' attitude.

"We are going to make a judgment based on whether the United States will give up its hostile policy and come out toward peaceful coexistence," he said, adding that Washington was "well-aware" of what it had to do.

Forces detain deputy health minister

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi forces on Thursday detained a senior Health Ministry official accused of being a central figure in alleged corruption and

the infiltration of the ministry by Shiite militiamen blamed for much of the recent sectarian violence in the capital, the U.S. military said.

A ministry spokesman said U.S. and Iraqi forces had seized deputy Health Minister Hakim al-Zamili, a supporter of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, from his first-floor office in northern Baghdad.

The raid comes a day after Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the chief military spokesman in Iraq said a security plan to stop the rampant attacks in the capital was under way.

The detainee was implicated in the deaths of several ministry officials, including the director-general in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad, the military said.

Officers, contractor indicted for roles in Iraq contracting scam

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three U.S. Army Reserve officers were indicted Wednesday, accused of taking part in a bid-rigging scam that steered millions of dollars for

Iraq reconstruction projects to a contractor in exchange for cash, luxury cars and jewelry.

An American businessman in Romania was charged as the go-between for the military officers and the contractor. The husband of one of the reservists was accused of helping smuggle tens of thousands of dollars into the United States that the couple used to pay for a deck and a hot tub at their New Jersey house.

Together, the five used the \$26 billion Iraqi rebuilding fund "as their own personal ATM machines," Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty said in announcing the charges.

"These defendants actually took bricks of stolen cash ... and smuggled them out of Iraq and back to the United States for their own personal use," McNulty said.

Arrested astronaut was under stress

HOUSTON (AP) — Anyone who's read Tom Wolfe's "The Right Stuff" or seen the movie based on it knows about the mental and emotional stresses astronauts face as they train for space

travel.

But those trying to explain the apparent breakdown of Lisa Nowak say the pressure can be even higher for female astronauts, who not only face the same work stresses as their male counterparts but often face high expectations at home.

"They made more sacrifices than the 'Right Stuff' guys," said Dr. Jon Clark, a former NASA flight surgeon who lost his wife, astronaut Laurel Clark, in the 2003 Columbia disaster. "They have to balance two careers — to be a mom and wife and an astronaut. ... You don't come home at night, like most of the male astronauts, and have everything ready for you."

Clark said Nowak, charged with attempted murder and attempted kidnapping in what police depict as a love triangle involving a fellow astronaut, provided invaluable support to his family after his wife's death.

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IN BRIEF

Gators sign No. 1 recruiting class

Florida won the recruiting crown in nearly as dominating fashion as the national championship.

The Gators capitalized on last month's national title win over Ohio State and down years from Sunshine State rivals Florida State and Miami to bring in the top recruiting class in the country.

The Gators also were picked as the top class by SuperPrep, Rivals.com and National Blue Chips, beating out Southern California, SEC rivals Tennessee and LSU, and Texas.

Lady Raiders fall old SWC foe

Baylor adjusted to Texas Tech's early success inside and the No. 15 Lady Bears beat the Lady Raiders 80-67 Wednesday night.

Midway through the first half, Baylor abandoned its man-to-man defense as Tech was starting to build a big lead.

"I thought the zone made them think a little more and be more patient," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said. "They were blowing by us."

Jhasmin Player scored a career-high 22 points to lead Baylor. Player has gotten career highs in two of Baylor's last three games. She scored 21 points in Baylor's 70-71 win over Missouri a week ago.

Oklahoma State women down Texas

Andrea Riley scored 21 points and Danielle Green added 14 points and six rebounds to help lead Oklahoma State to a 77-58 Big 12 Conference victory over Texas Wednesday night.

Riley finished 6-of-11 and hit all seven of her free throws for the Cowgirls (16-7, 4-6 Big 12), who also got 13 points from Taylor Hardeman.

Carla Cortijo paced the Longhorns (16-8, 5-5) with 16 points, five rebounds and four assists and Tiffany Jackson chipped in 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Wizards continue to lose across Texas

Tony Parker and Tim Duncan scored 20 points apiece, and the San Antonio Spurs pulled even on their rodeo road trip Wednesday night with a 110-83 victory over the Washington Wizards.

Washington was defeated by Houston on Tuesday night.

Mavericks defeat Grizzlies by 16

Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 of his 39 points in a flawless first quarter, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the Memphis Grizzlies 113-97 Wednesday night to match a franchise record with their 16th consecutive home victory.

Nowitzki made all seven of his field goals in the opening quarter, including a long with 4 rebounds and 2 steals.

Hawks start second half of season in Midland

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

In the first half of the Howard Hawks' basketball season the team struggled to successfully close games and in each loss allowed double-digit leads to evaporate. Starting tonight at the Chaparral Center at 8 p.m. the Hawks are looking to change all of that.

On Jan. 13, the Midland Chaparrals walked into Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and according to Howard head coach Mark Adams, outplayed the Hawks.

At the time, it marked back-to-back losses for Howard and started a losing streak that reached four games. Ever since the loss to Midland, the Hawks have struggled to finish games.

Tonight, the Hawks (17-5, 5-3 in conference) expect all of that to change.

"Out of all of our losses this season the one to Midland was most deserved," Adams said after Wednesday's practice. "We have a tremendous amount of respect for Midland and over the years this has been a very good rivalry. They are well coached and they always play us tough. Hopefully we can go over there and play more aggressive and more physical this time around."

In the previous 71-70 loss, the Hawks had turnovers, traveling calls and missed free throws to almost give an apparent victory away.

"I feel personally responsible for the loss to Midland,"



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
Hawks shooting guard Terrence Hill is looking for bigger and better things in the second half the season. The Hawks head into Midland tonight to play arch rival Midland College. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Chaparral Center.

explained Terrence Hill, who led the team with 16 points and is the Hawks' leading scorer with 13.2 points per game. "I missed my free throw late in the game and that's unacceptable. I know

we got the loose ball and had two chances to inbound it and get a shot off, but I will accept the challenge and take the blame for that loss. It should have never come to that.

"Right now we're all just trying to figure out how to win games again. We don't care who we're playing, we just have to learn to

See HAWKS, page 2B

Leach says bowl game helped recruiting

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech's 31-point comeback win in the Insight Bowl gave coaches some history to tout to recruits.

"I think it drew a lot of people's attention, just the way the game went," Tech coach Mike Leach said. "The momentum came from that it was memorable, and it's the greatest comeback in bowl history."

The 44-41 overtime win against Minnesota included the biggest comeback in Division I-A bowl history and helped coaches nab what Leach said were strong offensive players and receivers.

The latter will be the next generation in Leach's pass-heavy offense, which lost top receivers Joel Filani, Jarrett Hicks and Robert Johnson this year.

"I think it has a chance to be better than our outgoing class," Leach said. "What I see in this class is a lot of guys like Joel Filani, that are good players now that have tremendous upside."

Jacob Amie from Tyler Lee is one of those. At 6-4, 228 pounds, he can play

tight end and wide receiver. He caught 22 passes for 416 yards and three touchdowns in a run-oriented offense his senior year.

Leach also was high on Lyle Leong, a freshman from Abilene who weighs more and is faster than a year ago, when he originally signed with Tech.

"We're real excited about Lyle and what he's going to do this year," Leach said.

The offensive linemen bring a lot of heft. Three of them, Dominique Delpeche, Mickey Okafor and Lonnie Edwards, each weigh more than 300 pounds.

"This group is by far the biggest group we've signed," Leach said.

Edwards, from Brownsboro, has a great work ethic, especially in the weight room, Leach said.

"He's a loyal, dedicated guy that's really going to do well here, and has a maturity about him as far as the position," he said. "I think he's got the flexibility to do a lot of things."

Tech, which signed players from nine states, got 15 from Texas. Three came

See TECH, page 2B



MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star
Mike Leach, Texas Tech's head football coach, used the 31-point bowl win in December to help the Red Raiders land a solid recruiting class.

Lady Hawks face Lady Chapparals

By Eric Rodewald

Special to the Herald

The Howard College women's basketball team travels to face conference rival Midland College tonight for a 5:50 p.m. tip-off at the Chaparral Center in Midland.

In the conference opener for both teams, the Hawks lost 52-44 Jan. 13, after trailing 22-21 at the half in Big Spring. Freshman post player Heissy Robledo scored all 12 of her points in the second half to lead the Chaparrals and help Midland pull off the victory. In addition, Howard shot 46.2 percent from the free-throw line (6-for-13) and 32.1 percent from the field to help contribute to the eight-point loss.

Last month, the Hawks played well away from the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, as evidenced by winning the last two road games; a 67-57 triumph at New Mexico Junior College and a 73-61 victory at Clarendon College. Although Howard failed to win at home last Thursday, the Hawks took the No. 1 team in the nation, South Plains College, to the wire after a 22-all tie at halftime, before falling 50-46.

Tonight's game is an important one in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings because third place Midland (16-7, 5-2) is battling to reserve a playoff spot, while the Howard women (12-11, 2-5) are

See WOMEN, page 2B

Texas impresses analysts with '07 class

Longhorns sign top 5 class to football team

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — For one day at least, that old "Coach February" crack can really be a compliment.

Texas coach Mack Brown signed 25 high school players to national letters of intent Wednesday, another bumper crop of recruits that experts rank — again — among the best in the country.

As usual, Brown did it by grabbing most of his new talent from the fertile playing fields of Texas. Of the new class of recruits, only tight end Blaine Irby of Camarillo, Calif., is not from the Lone Star State.

"We can win all the games with players from Texas. We've proven that," Brown said.

"It's the single most dominating performance in Texas I've seen," said Bobby Burton, editor-in-chief of Rivals.com. "They mopped up."

Rivals and other recruiting analysts ranked the Texas group as fifth-best in the country or higher. Once labeled "Coach February" as a coach who did a better job signing talent than coaching it until he won the 2005 national championship, Brown says he treats recruiting as another season that must be won.

"We need to win 10 games every year. We can't afford to

have less than a really, really good class every year," Brown said. "The true evaluation of this group will be how they do over four to five years and how they compete against other college programs."

The players signed Wednesday include four defensive backs, where the Longhorns may need immediate help next season, five wide receivers and four offensive linemen, including Parade and USA Today All-American Tray Allen, a 6-foot-5, 310-pounder from South Grand Prairie.

A fifth offensive lineman, Matt Nader of Austin Westlake, signed a scholar

See TEXAS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Sharon Steinman
Texas coach Mack Brown landed another top 5 recruiting class Wednesday.

Phillips appears set to replace Parcels in Dallas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Wade Phillips appeared set to become the coach of the Dallas Cowboys, according to several reports.

Despite a Cowboys spokesman saying Thursday the job hadn't been filled, there were several reports that Phillips was to be named to replace Bill Parcels, who retired Jan. 22.

"The job hasn't been offered to anyone," said Rich Dalrymple, the Cowboys director of public relations.

Dalrymple also said there were no plans yet for any announcement concerning the coaching vacancy.

When Phillips' agent, Gary O'Hagan, was reached on

his cell phone Thursday morning, he told The Associated Press, "I'm tied up right now, I can't talk" and abruptly hung up.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones arrived at Valley Ranch around 9 a.m. Thursday. While getting out of his car at a back entrance to the complex, he told KTVT-TV of Dallas that he hadn't offered the job to anyone.

But the Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported on their web sites, as did ESPN.com and NFL.com, that Phillips had been selected as the next coach for the Cowboys.

All cited unnamed sources.

Jones interviewed 10 candidates to become the Cowboys' seventh coach, the sixth he will hire since

buying the team in 1989.

Before Jones took charge, coach Tom Landry was the only coach in Cowboys history.

In five full seasons as a head coach for Buffalo and Denver, Phillips' teams made the playoffs three times. And his specialty — defense — is the Cowboys' biggest weakness.

Phillips spent the last three years as defensive coordinator of the San Diego Chargers. He's been in the league 30 of the last 31 years, including season-ending stints as interim head coach at New Orleans and Atlanta.

Anti-doping agency postpones decision on Landis

By JEROME PUGMIRE
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — The French anti-doping agency postponed a decision Thursday on whether to suspend Tour de France winner Floyd Landis because of a positive doping test after he agreed not to race in the country this year.

The AFLD had been expected to rule, but agreed to an appeal by Landis to postpone their decision until after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency rules in May, AFLD president Pierre Bordry said. The AFLD will resume its discussion of the case in late June.

The decision came after Landis pledged not to race in France in 2007, Bordry said in a statement he read to reporters in Paris.

"He understood perfectly that if he didn't act today, we would start the procedure immediately," Bordry said. "We will let Landis defend himself as he wishes before the USADA."

Landis had hip-replacement surgery 4 1/2 months ago, so it was unlikely that he would have competed in this year's Tour.

"He understood perfectly that if he didn't act today, we would start the procedure immediately."

The American, who has denied wrongdoing, did not appear at Thursday's meeting of the AFLD's nine-member panel, but sent a lawyer who read his request for a delay.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, Landis said the parallel cases in France and the United States were complicating matters, and asked the French agency to hold off until after the U.S. agency rules. The USADA will hold its hearings May 14.

"In this case, and in order to avoid any misunderstanding, I agree to voluntarily not participate in any professional or amateur cycling event in France until December 31, 2007, and in particular the Tour de France 2007," Landis said in the letter.

Bordry said Landis deserves to be heard by the USADA as he requests. However, Bordry echoed Tour de France president Christian Prudhomme's sentiment that the American agency was dragging out its process.

Landis' urine sample after a stage win in last year's Tour de France was found to contain elevated testosterone to epitestosterone levels. He risks being the first rider in the 104-year history of the race to be stripped of his title. Prudhomme has said the Tour no longer considers him the winner.

Under French law, the AFLD has the right to suspend Landis for up to two years from racing on French soil.

Landis argues that the Chatenay-Malabry laboratory which carried out the tests is unreliable, a view shared by seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong.

Landis insisted again on his innocence at a fundraising rally in New York on Wednesday night. He vowed to fight the "lack of leadership at the top of cycling and at the top of the anti-doping agencies."

HAWKS

Continued from 1B

finish teams off and get the win."

Tyronne Appelton led the Chaparrals in the first win by scoring a game-high 24 points and Nemanja Calasan pulled down 7 rebounds to along with 14 points of his own.

Once the Hawks board the bus to Midland, according to Hill, the team will go over the game plan and talk specif-

ically about what they will try to do offensively and defensively.

"You can expect to see some man-to-man defense from us," Hill stated. "The difference this time around will be that we're going to play a much more aggressive, up in your face style of man coverage. The coaches have also talked to us about rebounding and being more aggressive on the court. All of that starts tonight."

This game will be the first of the second half of the season for both schools.

Howard is currently sitting in fifth place while Midland College is in second and only one game behind conference leader South Plains (7-1).

"We're looking for the new and improved Hawks basketball team for this half of the season," Adams explained in a phone conversation. "We're going to do what

we can to make the tournament and the only we can do that is to become a more aggressive and more physical team. That is what we have stressing this week in practice."

Before the conference opening loss to the Chaparrals, the Hawks held a four game winning streak against Midland. Tonight when the ball goes into the air, the Hawks will be looking to start a new winning streak.

WOMEN

Continued from 1B

tied for fifth place with New Mexico Junior College. Both Howard and NMJC are only two games back of fourth place Frank Phillips College (13-7, 4-3) for the fourth and final playoff spot and a berth into the NJCAA Region V Tournament in Belton to be held March 8-11.

2006-2007 WJCAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Place	Team	Conference		Overall	
		W	L	W	L
1.	South Plains College	7	0	23	0
2.	Odessa College	6	1	18	2
3.	Midland College	5	2	16	7
4.	Frank Phillips College	4	3	13	7
T5.	Howard College	2	5	12	11
T5.	New Mexico JC	2	5	12	11
7.	Western Texas College	1	6	13	10
8.	Clarendon College	1	6	12	11

TEXAS

Continued from 1B

ship but will not play. Nader nearly died after collapsing during a game last season and doctors discovered a heart problem that will prevent him from playing again. He will act as a student coach, Brown said.

Texas loses three starters in the secondary, including Thorpe Award-winning safety Aaron Ross, from a unit that figured to be among the best in the country last season but ended up as one of the worst.

The new players include Christian Scott of Dallas

Skyline and Curtis Brown of Gilmer High School. Both played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

"We feel all those guys have a chance to be very good," Brown said.

The Longhorns also signed two quarterbacks, John Chiles of Mansfield Summit who also played wide receiver, and Gilmer's G.J. Kinne Jr., who passed for 11,695 yards and 130 touchdowns in high school.

Kinne had verbally committed to Baylor, where his father, Gary Joe Kinne, is an assistant coach. The elder Kinne was the head coach at Canton when an irate par-

ent shot and nearly killed him in 2005.

Six of the new recruits are already enrolled in school and will participate in spring practice, which starts later this month.

There wasn't much drama leading up to signing day as most of the players had committed to Texas months ago after the Longhorns won the national championship.

Brown did lose a couple of players who had committed early to other schools, notably quarterback John Brantley of Florida, who decided to sign with the reigning national champs, the

Florida Gators.

But of the 28 players who made official on-campus visits, 25 signed with the Longhorns.



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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Long-Range Preparatory Moves

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 8 7 5
 ♥ 8 6 5 2
 ♦ A 9 8 7 3 2
 ♣ —

WEST
 ♠ —
 ♥ K 10 9 7 4 3
 ♦ Q 10 4
 ♣ J 10 9 5

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q J 10 9 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ K J 6
 ♣ A K Q

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

He next draws three rounds of trumps to create this position:

North
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A 9 8

West
 ♠ K
 ♥ Q 10 4

East
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 8 7 6

Declarer now plays his last trump, and West is squeezed. If he discards the king of hearts, dummy's eight becomes a trick, and if he discards a diamond, declarer's diamonds all become good. Either way, South wins the remaining tricks.

At first blush, it does seem overly dramatic for South to trump the A-K-Q of clubs in dummy, but if he doesn't do this, he goes down.

The purpose of these plays is to try to exhaust one defender of all his hearts and thus place the burden of guarding against dummy's eight of hearts on the other defender. Nothing can be lost by this effort, even though it might turn out to be a waste of time if the hearts are divided 5-4.

If that proves to be the case, declarer can always fall back on a favorable diamond division and will not be any worse off for having given himself an extra chance to make the contract.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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TECH

Continued from 1B

from junior colleges, two below Leach's limit.

"Never ignore it a resource but don't get more than five," he said.

Tech has been to seven straight bowls and won four of the last five, including the rally

against Minnesota. Leach mused about the game in which Tech scored only one touchdown until midway through the third quarter.

"I'd like to duplicate the second half the whole time," he said. "That'd be a heck of deal but probably wouldn't be as memorable."

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Help Wanted



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
SERVERS * COOKS
* DISHWASHERS NEEDED.
All shifts available
Apply at:
1710 East Third Street
E.O.E.

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center is looking for a Full-time billing/collection specialist. Successful applicant will have a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections. Compensation is commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street or Fax to 267-3809.

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center has an opening for the position of **Office Manager**. A successful applicant will have experience in general accounting procedures including payroll, general ledger & accounts payable. Experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections is also required. Applicants should be technically competent, extremely dependable & very caring towards the public. Position requires proficiency in Word and Excel. Salary: commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Fax to 432-267-3809.

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

NOW HIRING Customer Service Reps for TravelCenters of America (TA). Full-time and part-time. All shifts available. Starting wage \$7.25 and up DOE with merit increases at 90 days, 180 days and 1 year. Benefits include medical/dental/vision insurance, holiday pay, vacation pay, 401k w/company match and employee discounts. Must pass pre-employment drug test and have demonstrated history of reliability/dependability. Serious inquiries apply in person at I-20 and Highway 87.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED
Find out why our Average Length of Driver Employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a Family Owned Company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring Professional Drivers in West Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by Check or Direct Deposit. Benefits include Family Health & Dental Insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Life insurance and Long Term Disability is available thru Group Coverage. 10 Days Vacation starting First Year plus 10 Paid Holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

EVENING DISHWASHER supervisor. Apply in person 2401 S. Gregg. Good pay to the right person.

EZELL-KEY FEED and Grain hiring for store manager. Great pay, benefits, insurance and retirement available. Please contact Bob Traylor in Snyder, Texas at (800)299-4496.

GRINDING TECHNICIAN
WE WILL TRAIN YOU - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!
Manufacturing plant located in Big Spring, Texas has positions available **immediately** for Grinding Technicians. Shift work with differential pay rates. \$10.00 per hour along with excellent company benefits. Negative drug screen required. Apply in person to:
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Help Wanted

HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operators needed. Overnight travel required. Competitive pay. Call (432)213-6802 or 264-1959.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for Roadabout 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.

LVNS: \$1000 sign-on bonus
FULL TIME on 10PM TO 6AM SHIFT, requires TEXAS state license. EOE. For information, call Kirby James at (806)872-2141, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St, Lamesa, TX.

MOUNTAIN VIEW Lodge is seeking professional and dependable employees for the following positions: Housekeeping, 8:00-4:00 shift, P.R.N. L.V.N.'s, 2:00-10:00, Charge Nurse and a D.O.N. If interested in any of the positions please contact Joy at (432)263-1271.

NEED BOB Tail/ Transport Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent starting pay with benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels, Big Spring.

NEED EXTRA money? Work 6:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. at Jack Jill Child Care. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

NEED MANAGERS and Assistant Managers for Restaurant. Apply in person with resume at 1510 Gregg Street. No Phone Calls.

NEED TWO Breakfast Host Mon-Fri and Weekends Only. Must be Friendly, have a good nature or out-going. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylford

NEED TWO Laundry Persons. And also need housekeepers. Pickup application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylestford Street.

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

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation now hiring for C.N.A. positions. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

Help Wanted

NEW CHRISTIAN FM radio station needs full time community representative. Starts immediately. E-mail resume to 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.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
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PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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Immed PART TIME openings for individuals as:
DIETARY AIDE/COOK
Various duties in kitchen & dining room. Experience preferred.

HOUSEKEEPERS
Must be reliable & dependable. No exper necessary. EOE/MFHV. For information, call (325)573-6332, or apply in person at SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder.

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

ROOFING HELPER needed. Call (432)213-3198.

Help Wanted

POLLARD CHEVROLET is seeking a Finance & Insurance Sales person. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins.. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

SEEKING SUPERVISORY/ Management experienced in the limestone industry. Must have working knowledge of mfg and machinery also heavy equipment. Benefit package includes medical insurance, paid vacation and holidays. 800-749-8373 Ref Job Posting #4687939.

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.

WANTED - 2 Mature individuals for Full-time & Part-time position working with developmentally disabled individuals. Applicants must possess Valid Texas drivers license, high school diploma/GED and reliable transportation. Must be willing to work week-ends. Call 432-263-1408 for more info. Closing Date 02/26/07.

WANTED EXPERIENCED electrician, must have a valid drivers license and be able to pass drug test. Must be willing to relocate to small West Texas town. Offering top pay and benefits. Send resumes c/o P.O. Box 1431/157, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

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.

WESTSIDE DAY Care needs a FT worker. Call (432)263-7841 for more information. Must be 18 yrs, GED/Diploma, 1 year DC experience, Child Development a plus.

Help Wanted

WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank is now hiring for branch manger, retail banker/teller positions at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com. EOE m/f/v/d

Items for Sale

A NEW QUEEN Pillow top mattress set. \$129.00 Midland. Call 432-349-4043.

DISH SATELLITE Equipment - HD DVR 921, new or re-conditioned. MUCH CHEAPER THAN DISH PRICE OR LEASE. Call (432)267-8514.

Lost and Found

\$1000.00 REWARD for the return of a Weatherby Athena 28 gauge over and under shotgun. Disappeared while hunting the Muleshoe Ranch on 2/5/07. No questions asked. Call (432)553-5997.

FOUND RAT Terrier mixed on Gail Hwy. Call 263-4133 to identify.

LOST IN North 87 area, Toy Fox Terrier, black and white male, answers to "Frog". Wearing brown collar. Call 432-264-0056.

LOST JACK Russell Terrier (Brown & White), has collar with tags. Last seen Saturday 2/3/07 at 6th and Mulberry. Please call 432-517-0869.

Miscellaneous

A BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. Sacrifice \$175.00. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. 432-349-4043.

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

A NASA MEMORY FOAM Mattress Set. List \$1399.00 Sacrifice \$350.00. Conforms to body. New in plastic. 432-349-4043.

A NEW CHERRY Sleigh bed \$259.00. Midland. Call 432-349-4043.

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

DEMO: 5 to 6 person Hot-Tub \$79.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

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Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Date: _____

CLASSIFIED AD

Write one word on each line:

Up to 25 words: ___ Sunday Only \$19.50 ___ One weekday only \$12.25 ___ Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 ___ Three Consecutive days \$20.25 ___ Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 ___ Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 ___ Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 ___ Two weeks \$51.00 ___ Three Weeks \$64.50 ___ Four weeks \$75.00 ___ Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75
Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

Enhancements Price per word for entire run: ___ Bolding \$1.00 ___ Centering \$1.00 ___ Italics \$1.00
Price for entire run: ___ Blind Box \$10 ___ Photo \$4.00 ___ Graphics \$1.00 ___ Logos \$1.00

Prices Include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date _____ Classification: _____

DEADLINES:
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

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Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash ___ Money Order ___ Check

Credit Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____

Are you a subscriber: ___ Yes ___ No



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Part-time Mail Room

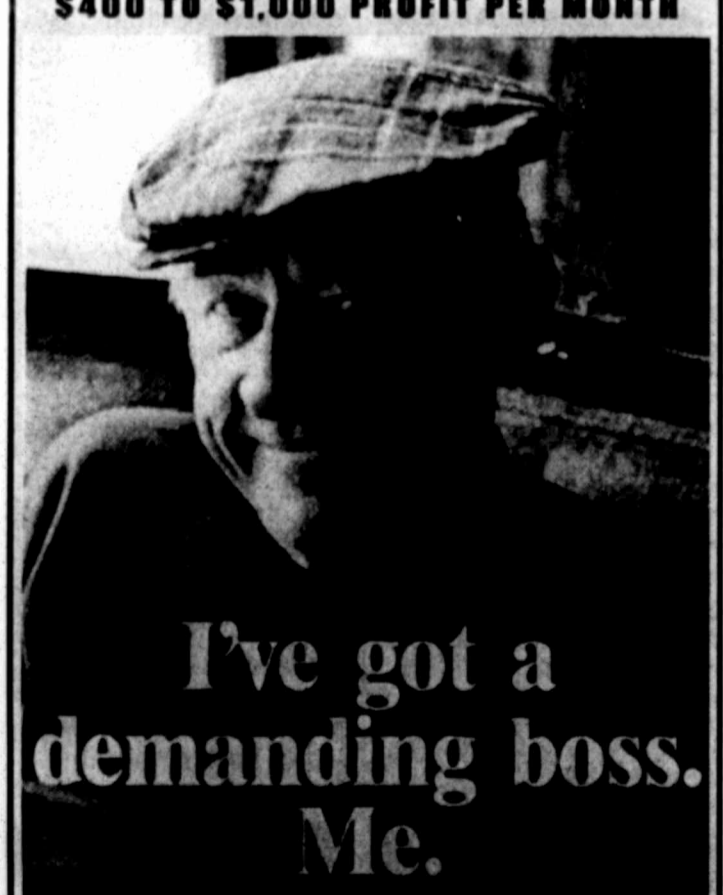
Position demands standing in one pace for long periods of time and fast hand/eye coordination.

Must be able to work Saturday afternoons

Apply in person at 710 scurry

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\$400 TO \$1,000 PROFIT PER MONTH



I've got a demanding boss. Me.

But the rewards are great! I work for myself and make a good living. I take responsibility for my performance - it's all up to me. A lot of people depend on me, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Contracts are available now for motor route carriers. For information, call 432-263-7331.

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THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the Classified ads. Before investing money in a pet ad with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

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

YORKIE FOR Sale: Health guaranteed, shipping is available, delivery. Contact for more information: petsbreed01@yahoo.com

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(432) 714-4840

1608 SUNSET. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard. Newly Remodeled. \$410.00 Month, \$295.00 deposit. Call 432-263-8005 or 816-1330.

407 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

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

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

Real Estate for Rent

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

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, CH/A. 3704 Calvin. \$550. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

YESTERDAYS ELEGANCE, today's modern. 1 bedroom plus upstairs studio. Near post office. \$285. Nonsmoking, no pets. Credit qualification. McDonald (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

Real Estate for Sale

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

2007 SPECIAL 3 bedroom, 2 bath, family room with a fireplace, and a work shop, stone front yard, 2 covered car ports in the back. Must sell for Health Reasons. Special Price \$15000.00 CASH. No Owner Financing. Call (432)940-2519, in the afternoons to see.

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.

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

HOUSE for RENT/SALE- 1501 Hilltop. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$600 month plus deposit. Water included. Call (432)264-3976.

HOUSE TO be moved. 3 bedroom 1 bath, brick. Call (432) 393-5517.

MOBILE HOME, 2 year old doublewide, great area, carport, storage buildings, hot-tub. Excellent condition! Owner transferring, priced for quick sale! Serious inquires only! (432)213-3235, (432)213-0917.

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

OWNER FINANCE. Newly remodeled two bedroom, one bath, corner lot. 1400 Mesa, Big Spring. Low down, low monthly. (432)556-7829. Se Habla Espanol.

Real Estate for Sale

OWNER FINANCING- Homes from \$49,900. Down payments of only 5%. Open for Inspection- Every Sunday in February, 12 P.M.-5 P.M. tough credit OK. We know bad things can happen to good people. Get your credit back on track. Stop renting and enjoy full home ownership. For a listing of homes available. Call 432-687-2696, ext. 4 or pick up a list at 1611 W. Texas Ave., Midland.

REDUCED \$41,000. Nice 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace with CH/A. Call (432)268-1375 for appointment.

Services Offered

HOW WOULD you like to decorate our home with high quality accessories for FREE!?! Call today and book your Home & Garden Party and I'll show you how! Host a party before 16th February and receive ANY item in the catalogue for only \$19.50! This is an opportunity you don't want to miss. Call Victoria at 432-264-6588 for more information.

RON'S HANDYMAN Roof Repair, don't replace it, fix it. 17 years exp. Please leave message if no answer (432)935-6274 or email: edwaw8@aol.com

Vehicles

Several New 2006 Models To Choose From
Huge Discounts!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7421

2002 MERCURY Villager Estate mini van. All power, one owner, garaged, leather, six disc CD, rear entertainment system. 49,000 miles. \$11,900. Call (432)270-2463 or 267-2463.

2002 Z71 Chevrolet Suburban, white with tan leather, 4x4 in great condition. Call 432-213-4647.

WANTED USED Gooseneck trailer. 20,000 GVW. Call Gary 209-606-3094.

We Can Save You Money By Advertising Your Business In Our Professional Service Directory!
Call **263-7331** for more information.
HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS, The Scorpio moon highlights the subtleties of human behavior and motivation. Unravel a problem using your powers of observation. Inwardly ask astute questions. (Asking out loud may cause people to be defensive and try



HOLIDAY MATHIS

to cover up the truth.) Scorpio energy helps your subconscious mind root out the answer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your concern about an upcoming engagement isn't an isolated case. Your stars favor you when you look for psychological trends. By recognizing your own patterns, you can break the ones that no longer serve you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You shouldn't have to pay for another's mistake — but have compassion. The one who disregards your feelings is more wounded than you know. Tonight offers two possibilities. Honor the first one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The stars dare you, and you'll be promptly rewarded for acts of courage. Someone else must benefit from the risk you take, though. A Libra person thinks you're hot stuff no matter what you do!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Plenty of compliments drift your way. Most have to do with your fabulous cooking, handiwork or thoughtfulness. Don't worry about returning compliments the minute they're given. Soak it up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Growing your business is the task at hand. Costly supplies might not be necessary — rethink what you need. Internet or other wholesale resources are a smart way to go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). Research your vision. This is how you bring it to life, if only in your own mind. Adding dimension to your goal by painting a vivid mental picture of it awakens your desire. Without desire, motivation is lost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A choice has been looming in your future, and you're now ready to make it. You have no idea what you'll encounter if you open a door. The only way to find out is to turn the handle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The support for your project is there — speak up and say what you need. A silent partner or someone pulling for you behind the scenes emerges. It's good to know you're not alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The temporal nature of this life is profound in your mind. As the Five for Fighting song goes, "I'm 35 for a moment ... " or 16 0 or 99 ... Have the courage to embody your moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A scattershot approach to scheduling knocks down a few obstacles, but in order to make real progress, you'll have to get focused! Take an hour to plan things out. It's actually time efficient!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Getting started is half the battle now. If all you do is tackle the first task of a new project, you've won. Establish communication with someone you've admired from a distance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're the happy cruise director, pointing your people to the social hot spots, laying out the next fun activity and making sure a good time is had by all. You're quite successful to this end.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a confused female Virgo; born Aug. 25, 1983. I'm dating a male Gemini, born June 3, 1981. He's always going from one idea to the other and keeps me on my toes.

I really love him and want to marry him one day, and he tells me the same. Is this for real, or just another idea that he'll abandon for another?"

Keep in mind that your Gemini guy is living in a different time zone from yours. He's living in "Gemini Time." Moments of Gemini time fall into one of two categories: NOW and SOMEDAY. There is no "setting dates," like June of next year or March 12. What's nice about this is that NOW is wonderful, vivid and engaging. And SOMEDAY can be anything or nothing, and is never to be counted on. This is extremely trying for a Virgo, who is a planner by nature. That's not to say you won't get married, but are you sure you're ready? I have an inkling that you chose this fascinating man for this period of your life precisely because you're not ready to settle in. There's something you'd like to learn and accomplish before you'll feel terrific about getting married.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aquarius is the sign of popularity. Being of the people. Accessibility. And country music superstar Garth Brooks is all of those things, with 115 million albums sold — and yet Brooks' spirit is as pure as when he debuted in 1989. I predict that an album of duets with wife and soul mate Trisha Yearwood will put Brooks back on the top of the charts before the end of 2008.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am 34, and my wife is 24. We've been married for two years, and I am the happiest man alive. She is everything you could ask for in a wife and lover, except for one thing. My wife is a nudist. We



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

promiscuous, but how can she treat her body so trivially? She has an advanced degree, a wonderful job and is very religious. Am I just an old fogey? — Bradenton, Fla.

Dear Bradenton: Not at all. Your wife may be a nudist, but she is also an exhibitionist. She enjoys going without clothes and likes others to see her that way. Insist, as a sign of respect for you, that she cover up when non-relatives are present, especially when she answers the door, for heaven's sake. She could get into serious trouble doing that, no matter how old the deliveryman is.

Dear Annie: My sister's best friend died last spring. My sister has known the best friend's live-in boyfriend for 15 years. In September, they took a trip together, and by October, they were engaged. They married in Hawaii two weeks ago, but don't plan to live together for nearly a year, because they each have their own home and it will take time to consolidate living quarters. Once that's done, they will have a reception for family and friends.

This is her second marriage and his first. Both of them are in their 50s. What is the protocol as to gifts? — Perplexed Sister

Dear Perplexed: The same as for any other newlyweds, regardless of their living circumstances — you wish them well and send a gift.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar.

Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM. Thursday, February 22, for the purchase of **Replacement Pipe for Inventory.** At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. This project consist of supply and delivery of 18 to 42-inch diameter Bar-Wrapped Concrete Cylinder Pipe or Cement-Mortar Lined and Coated Steel Pipe. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721 during normal business hours. Inquiries may be directed to **Cole Walker, P.E., Engineering Services Coordinator,** telephone (432)267-6341. #5218 January 25 and February 1 & 8, 2007

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocoom
ANSWERS

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

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Truck Time Savings.....\$4,465

Truck Time Price +TTL \$29,995*

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THURSDAY

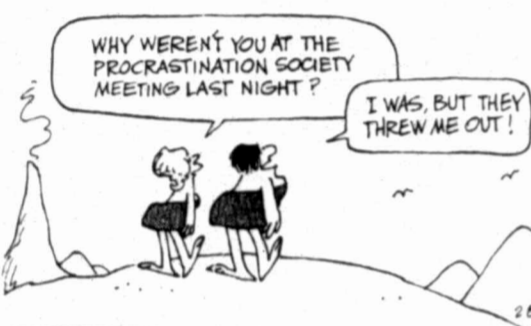
Table with 28 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Y'KNOW, JOEY... EVEN IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED, GHOSTS CAN OOZE IN UNDER IT."

BC



WIZARD OF ID



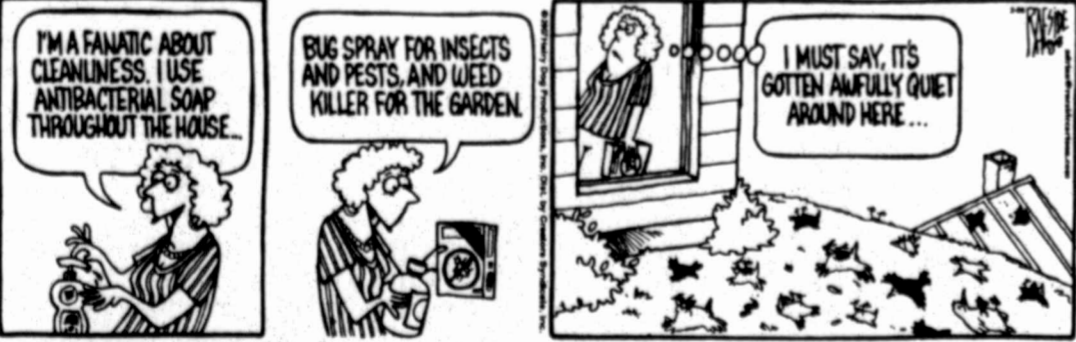
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm better at playing 'throw' than I am at playing 'catch'."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2007. There are 326 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 8, 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. On this date: In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. In 1837, the Senate selected the vice president of the United States, choosing Richard Mentor Johnson after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes. In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict over control of Manchuria and Korea, began as Japanese forces attacked Port Arthur. In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated. In 1915, D.W. Griffith's

groundbreaking and controversial silent movie epic about the Civil War, "The Birth of a Nation," premiered in Los Angeles. In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as Gee Jon, a Chinese immigrant convicted of murder, was put to death. In 1968, three college students were killed in a confrontation with highway patrolmen in Orangeburg, S.C., during a civil rights protest against a whites-only bowling alley. In 1974, the last three-man crew of the Skylab space station returned to Earth after spending 84 days in space. In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores. In 1992, the 16th Olympic Winter Games opened in Albertville, France. Today's Birthdays: Composer-conductor John Williams is 75. Actor Jack Larson is 74. Former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel is

67. Actor Nick Nolte is 66. Comedian Robert Klein is 65. Country singer Dan Seals is 59. Actress Brooke Adams is 58. Actress Mary Steenburgen is 54. Author John Grisham is 52. Rock singer Vince Neil (Motley Crue) is 46. Rock singer-musician Sammy Llanas (The BoDeans) is 46. Actor Gary Coleman is 39. Actor Seth Green is 33. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 30. Actor Ryan Pinkston is 19. Actress Karle Warren ("Judging Amy") is 15. Thought for Today: "Consistency is a paste jewel that only cheap men cherish." - William Allen White, American journalist (1868-1944).

2007 The Associated Press. Answer to previous puzzle: PALO ENACT DEMI L'NAIR ROLLO AVIS UNDERGROUND FILM STYLE ENTITILE BUMS KON TUBESOCKS GORME RNA EWAN SERIAL AILS ABASH ENDS STEAMY VEIL GAI HEDGE METRODOME CMI SEGA MISCAST ISAAC SUBWAYFRANCHISE ELIA EIEIO EDEN WEST STERN SEAT

Newsday Crossword

OH, BOTHER by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Bluegrass singer Krauss, 7 Greek liqueur, 11 Bug catcher, 14 Term of service, 15 Condo division, 16 Dinghy blade, 17 Wisconsin's nickname, with "the", 19 Uncle Tom's Cabin girl, 20 3 Down's locale, 21 Liked, like a beatnik, 22 "Yeah, right!", 24 Amadeus choreographer, 26 Eventful time, 28 Majors of Hollywood, 29 Sit up front, 34 Comeback, 38 Links phenom Michelle, 39 Sammy the slugger, 40 Spot for jots, 42 Fitness professional, 44 Shooting star, to some, 45 Big jerk, 47 Crotchety, 48 Type of embroidery, 51 Actress Lucy, 52 Go no further, 53 South African statesman, 58 Field (old Brooklyn ballpark), 61 "Toddling Town" trains, 63 Specialty, 64 Every bit, 65 M*A*S*H actor, 68 Sigma successor, 69 Potent prefix, 70 Playing shuffleboard, perhaps, 71 "Steady as goes", 72 True-to-life, 73 Kimono-clad entertainer, 7 Got too big for, 8 Article in Acapulco, 9 Trattoria choice, 10 Verdi opera, 11 Despondent, 12 Gutter locale, 13 Unruly tyke, 18 Sought damages from, 23 Admits, 25 Get ready, briefly, 27 "Be that ___ may...", 30 Steaming, 31 Everglades wader, 32 Patron, 33 Not, quaintly, 34 Poetic adverb, 35 Alaskan port, 36 Shade near cerulean, 37 Actress Malick, 41 Fall guy, 43 Cultural pursuits, 46 Sister of Cordelia, 49 Superman nemesis, 50 Without much thought, 54 A day in Paris, 55 Presses, 56 Show how, 57 Folger's rival, 58 Feasts on, 59 Far from exciting, 60 Equivalent, 62 Hazy layer, 66 Cellular material, 67 List opener

