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**Steers lose heartbreaker to Andrews**  
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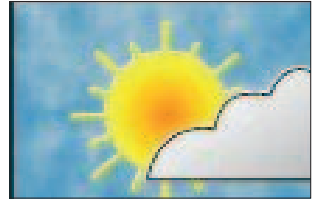
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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 7, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 268

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES HOMECOMING



HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins and Bruce Schooler  
 In the photo above, Ale Garcia and Jono Smith were named Big Spring High School homecoming queen and king, respectively, at halftime of the Steers' game with Andrews Friday night; participants in Friday's Homecoming Parade wave to the crowd in the middle photos; Big Spring's Monte Anderson (3) runs for yardage against Andrews in the photo at top right; youth football players toss candy to the parade crowd in the bottom right photo.

# Living in hell: An abused wife's story

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is the story of one Big Spring woman's experience as a victim of spousal abuse and the changes she made in her life with the help of volunteers and staff from Victim Services of Big Spring. We granted the writer anonymity in hopes that her message can help others. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

### Special to the Herald

My name is "Jane Doe" and I am going to tell you a horrific story of my life as an abused woman. In the 1970s my hell began

when I was 19 years old and my husband "John" was 31 years of age.

I was moved away from my family and friends and things began to fall apart, because he turned into someone I didn't know.

While we were close to my family, he was nice and charming. But as soon as we left, he became a monster. I lived this hell for 18 years of my life and at times I wished I had died.

In the beginning he began by pushing me in to walls, doors, coffee tables or anything handy. Then it continued to be more physical — fighting

*"The few things that I have mentioned that he did to me, please understand that this happened to me every day for 18 years — either hitting, verbal insults, tearing or breaking things in the house, but most of all breaking me and my spirit."*

me, name calling, running me down, punching my arm and legs and throwing things at me. It seemed never ending.

I was petrified to do anything about it, so I never said anything to anyone. What's more, he made sure to isolate me to

where I would have no one ... I mean no one.

The fighting escalated to the point of me being beaten in the head, ears and back. I would be covered in bruises all over, but I always kept to myself.

I remember one particu-

lar beating when his mother came to visit and two days before she arrived he elbowed me between my eyes which broke my glasses and blacked my eyes. That was the first and the last time he ever hit me to the face.

I always wore clothing to cover the bruises; he also broke my left toes with a baseball bat and hit my cat across the back with the bat simply because it was my cat.

It just never seemed to stop; he destroyed things that were mine. The fighting got worse and worse and there were times he would pick a fight to have

**Victim Services is in need of volunteers. See story, Page 5A.**

a reason to leave. But I knew what was going to happen when he came back home. I knew he was doing drugs.

The emotional, physical and the sexual abuse were too much. The years passed in slow motion and with each blow to my body, I felt I was gradually dying.

The physical abuse escalated to the point I didn't

See **VICTIM**, Page 5A

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## Nelson case inching toward retrial

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer



Nelson

Howard County's district attorney is nearing a decision whether to reseek the death penalty for the county's only death row inmate.

Billy Ray Nelson, sentenced to death for the February 1991 fatal stabbing of Charla Wheat, had his sentence

overturned by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in December 2006. At that time, the court ordered a new pun-

ishment phase trial for Nelson, who has been on death row for almost 16 years.

The circuit court decision pertains only to retrying Nelson on punishment and has no bearing on his established guilt, officials said.

The State of Texas appealed the circuit court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, but

that body refused to review the lower court's decision, allowing it to stand.

With the issue back in the hands of the 118th District Court in Big Spring, officials there have begun preparing for a new punishment trial. On Sept. 28, District Judge Robert H. Moore III appoint-

See **NELSON**, Page 3A



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# Sports

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B  
Sunday, October 7, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### Area high school sports calendar

Here's a look at the area high school varsity sports' calendar:

#### TUESDAY

Big Spring tennis vs. Snyder, 4 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Big Spring football vs. Plainview, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan football at Miles, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City football vs. Sands, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma football at Hawley, 7:30 p.m.

Stanton football at Colorado City, 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Big Spring cross country at Georgetown

Big Spring volleyball vs. Frenship, 2:30 p.m.

Big Spring tennis vs. Frenship, 10 a.m.

### Quarterback Club meeting Monday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club is meeting Monday at 7 p.m. in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Big Spring football players from junior high to varsity are encouraged to attend and help support the Steers' football program.

### How the Texas AP Top 10 fared

Results for teams ranked in The Associated Press' high school football poll (games Oct. 4-6).

#### CLASS 5A

1. Katy (4-0) at Katy Taylor, 7 p.m. Saturday

2. Southlake Carroll (4-1) def. Colleyville Heritage, 42-14

3. Allen (5-0) def. Richardson Berkner, 56-49

4. Lufkin (4-1) lost to Longview, 31-24

5. SA Madison (5-0) vs. SA Reagan, 7 p.m. Saturday

6. Galena Park North Shore (5-0) def. La Porte, 35-0

7. Odessa Permian (5-0) is idle

8. Abilene (5-0) is idle

9. Smithson Valley (5-1) def. Converse Wagner, 49-9

10. Arlington Bowie (5-0) def. Arlington Lamar, 35-14

#### CLASS 4A

1. Copperas Cove (5-0) is idle

2. Stephenville (5-0) def. Alvarado, 42-10

3. La Marque (6-0) def. Angleton, 32-14

4. Dallas Highland Park (5-0) def. Mesquite Poteet, 42-21

5. CC Calallen (5-0) is idle

6. Waco (4-1) is idle

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2B



Coahoma Bulldogs running back P.J. Daylong scoots past several Anson defenders in Coahoma's 35-13 win Friday night at Bulldog Stadium.

## Coahoma claims season's first win

### Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — Offense receives the glory in football. However, it's defense and special teams that can often swing the momentum of a game.

Such was the case for Coahoma's Bulldogs as they picked up a crucial 35-13 win over district rival Anson Friday night at Bulldog Stadium.

"It's a big win," said Bulldogs' Assistant Coach and Athletic Director Kim Nichols. "We needed this one badly."

With the game tied at seven midway through the third quarter, the Bulldogs' Damian Bailey

intercepted Anson quarterback Garrett Brown, setting up a 3-yard touchdown run by P.J. Daylong. The score gave Coahoma a 13-7 lead with not even two minutes gone from the third stanza.

Six minutes later, the Bulldogs (1-1, 1-4) were benefactors of a big special teams play as 6-7 Colter Morgan blocked a punt that Jason Martinez picked up and returned for a 27-yard touchdown.

Things snowballed on Anson from there and the Bulldogs cruised to their first victory of

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 3B

## Area Roundup: Grady rolls, 45-0

### By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

LENORAH — The Grady Wildcats finally saw second half action ... for 14 seconds and one defensive play, anyway.

Up 43-0 at halftime, the Wildcats chased down Hermleigh Cardinals quarterback Blake Thompson in the end zone on the first play of the third quarter, forcing a safety and 45-0 homecoming victory.

The Wildcats (6-0) have the reputation of being one of, if not the stingiest six-man defenses in the state. Led by their five seniors, the Wildcats did nothing but enhance that aura against the Cardinals as the Wildcats simply dominated in every facet of the game.

Grady showed why it is ranked in the top 10 of every state poll, scoring twice in its first four plays to put the Cardinals (4-2) in a 14-0 hole with less than three minutes gone in the first quarter.

Senior Roy Rodriguez did the honors as he scampered around the left end on a third and six for a 26-yard touchdown on the first possession of the game. Then after the Wildcats defense forced Hermleigh into a three and out, Rodriguez took a pitch from fellow senior Tommylee Rivas around the right corner, going untouched for 51 yards.

The only question that remained after that was if the game was going to last long enough for the halftime festivities to take place.

"We executed our game plan real well," said Head coach Joe Helms. "We were very intense from the beginning and simply went after them."

See **AREA**, Page 3B



Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson (center with ball) tries to wiggle away from an Andrews defender as teammate Pavel Plakhotny (79) looks to pick up a block. The Steers lost to Andrews in the final two minutes of the game, 33-29.

## Steers drop heartbreaker to Andrews, 33-29

### By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Typically in high school football, when a winless team meets an undefeated team, there's little doubt about who will win the game.

Unless, of course, those two teams share a rivalry like the one the Andrews Mustangs and Big Spring Steers share. Throw in the spirit of homecoming for winless Big Spring and a potential upset can be brewing.

The undefeated Mustangs rarely held a lead for better than 46 minutes of the 48-minute game. However, the

Mustangs scored two touchdowns in the last four minutes of the contest, giving them at 33-29 victory over their rival and spoiling Big Spring's homecoming.

"We had a couple opportunities to put the game away, but we couldn't capitalize," said Steers' Head Coach Mike Ritchey. "We gave up some big plays late and that was the difference in the game."

Trailing 29-19 after Big Spring's Matt Casteneda kicked a 21-yard field goal with 3:59 left to play, the Mustangs' Mark Reid broke six tackles and returned the ensuing kickoff to

the Steers' 37. Eight plays later, Andrews' quarterback Eric Kelton snuck in for a 1-yard touchdown — his fourth rushing touchdown on the night — cutting Big Spring's lead to 29-26.

The Mustangs (6-0) got the ball back immediately when an onside kick by Corey Lee bounced off of Sidney Parker's hands and ended up the grasp of a Mustang at the Steers' 49 with 1:57 left on the clock. On the second play of the drive, Reid took the ball off the left side untouched for a 49-yard touch

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



Forsan Buffaloes running back Jeremy Freitag fights off a Sterling City tackler in Forsan's 53-7 romp Friday night at Sterling City.

## Forsan stampedes past struggling Sterling City

### By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

STERLING CITY — Maybe it's the weather or maybe just a mere switch in energy drinks. Whatever it is, the Forsan Buffaloes have made an about face.

Jeremy Freitag rushed for 188 yards and 4 touchdowns and Jace Sandridge added a touchdown on 142-yards rushing as Forsan steamrolled the Sterling City Eagles Friday night, 53-7.

The Buffs (2-3, 2-0), who engineered a spectacular comeback last week, took

control from the onset of this one and never looked back.

On the very first snap, Sandridge took the ball and raced 43-yards to the Eagle one, putting Sterling City on notice they were in for a long night.

From there, Freitag scored his first touchdown and with the extra point took a 7-0 lead with barely over a minute gone.

Head Coach Tommy Thompson knows how valuable it is to set the tone by scoring early and

then to stay on top of your opponent throughout.

"It was huge for us to finally come out and establish ourselves early," said Thompson. "Too many times before, we were always starting off at a disadvantage, beating ourselves. Putting together four complete quarters was a big plus for our team and something we have been looking for from our guys for a long time."

The Buffs showed they had every intention of putting this one out of

See **FORSAN**, Page 3B

## Friday Night Recap

Andrews 33  
Big Spring 29

Coahoma 35  
Anson 13

Forsan 53  
Sterling City 7

Grady 45  
Hermleigh 0

Garden City 72  
EP Immanuel 0

Sands 46  
Dawson 22

Stanton 14  
Hawley 8

# Serving the Lord

## First Christian Church set to celebrate its 125 years as an active congregation

The year was 1882, and the little town of Big Springs (as it was then known) had just begun to appear, nestled among its mesas at the foot of a wide open prairie in West Texas.

The Texas and Pacific Railroad had pushed through from the east only the year before and the tent city earlier located five miles south by the spring had moved down around the tracks.

The main street, then called Parker, was hardly two blocks long and lined mostly with saloons and stores catering to cowboys and ranchers. Depending on the weather, it was either a dusty trail or a sticky quagmire.

Sometime around Thanksgiving that year, seven of the local citizens of the Disciples of Christ persuasion decided to meet together for the "purpose of communion and worship." They were the first group in Big Springs to formally meet together for a Sunday service — originally in the homes of members, later in the courthouse and finally, in 1884, in their own building at 305 Gregg St.

On Jan. 6, 1884, they formally organized themselves as the First Christian Church of Big Springs, Texas, but by then they'd lost the distinction of being the first officially recognized church in the community to the Methodists, who began their congregation on July 16, 1883.

But next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13-14, 2007, members of the First Christian Church of Big Spring will be celebrating their congregation's 125th anniversary.

The church's pastor, the Rev. Dr.

Kenneth McIntosh, and congregation invite the public to attend the observance's activities.

Saturday's schedule calls for a picnic set for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the church grounds with musical entertainment provided by Bob and Marla Rainwater and The Kingsmen.

Sunday morning at 10:30, a special worship service will feature the Rev. Dr. Newell Williams, moderator of the Christian Church and president of the Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University.

A number of the church's former pastors will also participate in the service, including the Rev. Clyde Nichols, who served from 1952 to 1959; the Rev. William Smythe, who served from 1974 to 1980; the Rev. Gary Groves, who served from 1995 to 2000; and two Timothys currently serving other congregations, the Rev. Robin Hoover from Tucson, Ariz., and the Rev. David Holmes, who's serving in Missouri.

Throughout its existence in Big Spring, the First Christian Church has been a service oriented ecumenical congregation. As a church and individually, the church has contributed considerable time and money to many worthwhile causes — one of the most recent being the formation of Isaiah 58 along with the congregations of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church.

Since 1997, the Isaiah 58 mission has distributed tons of food, thousands of clothing items and hundreds of dollars in money for rent, utilities and medicines for the needy and less fortunate residents of the community.



Courtesy photos  
Clockwise from top: The First Christian Church today; members of the church's youth group pose for a picture; the church's third building; the church's choir members pose for an anniversary portrait; the first meeting place of the First Christian Church of Big Spring where seven members congregated in November 1882 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. I.D. Eddins; and current pastor, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth McIntosh.







## ► Anniversary



Ray and Jane Baker

### Mr. and Mrs. Ray Baker

Mr and Mrs. Ray Baker of Hennessey observed their 55th wedding anniversary Oct. 3.

Ray Baker and Jane Hansel were married Oct. 3, 1952, in Big Spring and honeymooned in New Orleans.

They were introduced by Ray's youngest brother, Loren, and were married 10 months later.

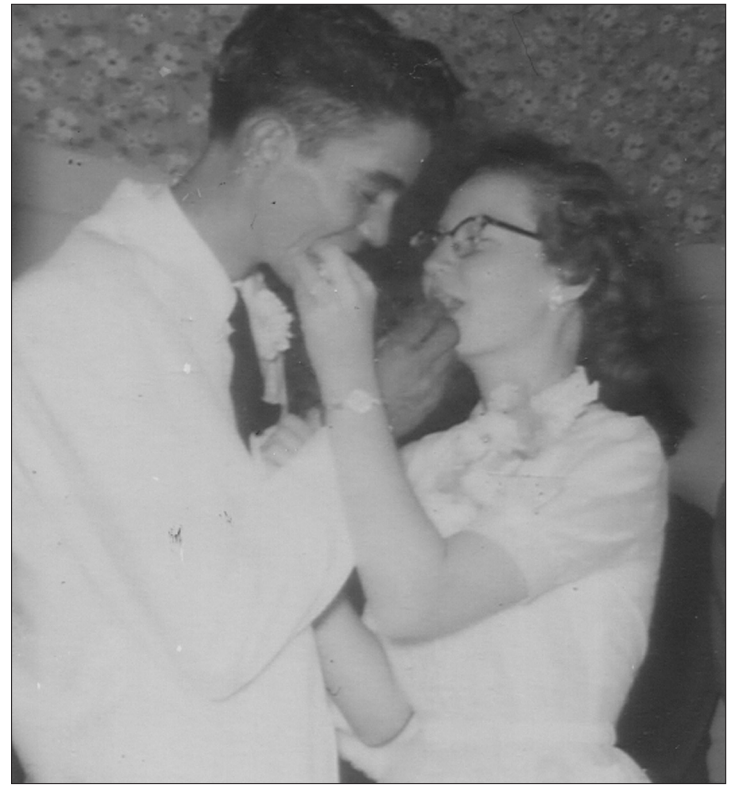
According to Ray, he and Jane were sitting in a car on Scenic Drive in Big Spring one afternoon when a big dog jumped up to the open car window and scared him into saying, "Will you marry me?"

The Bakers have two daughters, Becky and her husband David Lippert of Edmond and their two children, Derrick and Duncan, and Bonye and Jim Newcomb of Fort Gibson and their three children, Tyler, Tobin and Taylor.

Ray served in the Navy for two years. He has worked as a contract pumper for 43 years in Hennessey.

Jane helped build B-25 Mitchell bombers during World War II.

Later she was employed by Cities Service Oil Co. and Phillips Petroleum Co. and has been a homemaker since moving to Hennessey in 1962.



## ► Menus

### Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, NutriGrain bars, juice, milk; Lunch, submarine sandwiches, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, baked chips, baby carrots w/ranch, chocolate pudding cups, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, sausage-on-stick, juice, milk; Lunch, barbecue hot-dogs, sliced bread, pinto beans, tater tots, pineapple-orange salad, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast, oatmeal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, meat and bean chalupas, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomatoes, Rosie applesauce, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot rolls, fruit, milk.

Friday: Breakfast, muffins, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles, brownies, milk.

### Big Spring ISD

Monday: Lunch, pepperoni pizza, baby carrots, applesauce, milk.

Tuesday: Lunch, chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit, wheat rolls, milk.

Wednesday: Lunch, chicken spaghetti, garden salad, pears, garlic rolls, milk.

Thursday: Lunch, tacos, refried beans w/cheese,

corn, strawberry-banana bar, milk.

Friday: Lunch, cheeseburger, salad, pickle spears, oven fries, sliced peaches, milk.

### Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, oatmeal, ham, grape juice, milk; Lunch, Frito pie, baked beans, cherry turnovers, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, biscuits, gravy, sausage, orange juice, jelly, milk; Lunch, smothered steak, creamed potatoes, pears, bread, milk, Sloppy Joes.

Wednesday: Breakfast, pancakes, sausage-on-a-stick, applesauce cups, syrup, milk; Lunch, chalupas, salad, nacho chips, pineapples, milk, burritos.

Thursday: Breakfast, sweetened rice, sausages, grape juice, milk; Lunch, lasagna, salad, rolls, apple turnovers, milk, corn-dogs.

Friday: Breakfast, donuts, sausage, grape juice, milk; Lunch, hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, chips, apples, milk.

### Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast, pancakes w/sausage, juice, & milk; Lunch, chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles, pudding cups, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, cinnamon rolls, juice & milk; Lunch, barbecue rib sandwiches, pinto beans,

baked chips, pineapple orange salad, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast pizza, juice & milk; Lunch, chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot rolls, strawberry shortcake, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast, donuts, juice & milk; Lunch, meat & bean chalupas, Spanish rice, lettuce & tomatoes, Rosie applesauce, milk.

Friday: Breakfast, cereal & graham crackers, juice, milk; Lunch, submarine sandwiches, lettuce, tomatoes & pickles, tater tots, baby carrots w/ranch, brownies, milk.

### Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast, waffles, syrup, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch; cheeseburgers, hamburgers, French fries, hamburger salad, fruit cocktail, milk, mustard.

Tuesday: Breakfast, oatmeal, cinnamon toast, cereal, buttered toast, orange juice, milk; Lunch, baked fish, corn dog, baked potato wedges, mixed vegetables, apples, cheese bread sticks, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast, biscuits, sausage, cream gravy, cereal, buttered toast, orange juice, milk; Lunch, pepperoni pizza, chef salad/crackers, green beans, garden salad, pears, milk, ranch dressing.

Thursday: Breakfast, cinnamon French toast, cereal, buttered toast,

juice, milk; Lunch, beef/bean chalupas, soft burritos, Spanish rice, buttered corn, lettuce & tomato salad, pineapple, milk.

Friday: Breakfast, burritos, cereal, buttered toast, orange juice, milk; ham/cheese sandwiches, chicken patties, bun, potato chips, vegetarian beans, sandwich salad, peaches, milk.

### Spring City Senior Citizen's Center

Monday: Closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Tuesday: Lunch, smothered steak, mixed vegetables, parsleyed noodles, cherry pink cloud and whole wheat rolls.

Wednesday: Lunch, chicken spaghetti, tuscan vegetables, garlic toast, green salad and cake.

Thursday: Lunch, roast beef/brown gravy, toast, broccoli and cheese, macaroni salad calico and carrot cake.

Friday: Lunch, catfish, coleslaw, fries, beans, applesauce bars and cornbread.



Lanelle and Hilton Witt

### Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Witt

Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Witt celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today, Oct. 7, 2007.

Hilton Oliver Witt and Dorothy Lanelle Fikes were married Oct. 7, 1957, in Houston.

Hilton and Lanelle are the parents of Daryl Witt of Fairfield, Donna Williamson of Big Spring, David Witt of Palmer and Dennis Witt of Big Spring.

They have 12 grandchildren

During their married lives they have lived in

Houston, Temple, Cameron, Monahans, Snyder, Ackerly, Coahoma and the last 22 years in Big Spring.

Hilton is employed by Westex Auto Parts and Lanelle is employed by First Bank of West Texas.

They enjoy spending time with thier family, traveling and sports. Hilton and Lanelle celebrated their anniversary with an Alaskan cruise.

A reception will be hosted by family and friends at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

## ► Military



George W. Williams

Senior Airman Geoge W. Williams II, won the Commander Technician Award for his squadron, the 81st Surgical Operational Squadron, and Airman of the Year for Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

A graduate of Big Spring

High School, he attended Austin College before enlisting in the Air Force as an Emergency Medical Technician.

He is the son of George and Susan Williams and grandson of Walter and Jean Gleason, all of Big Spring.

## Dr. Ward's Healthy Smiles Club



Dr. David Ward presents a prize to **Kaycee Reagan** whose name was drawn from kids who had dental appointments in September

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# Voter registration deadline is Tuesday, local clerk advises

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The clock is ticking for Howard County residents who have yet to register to vote in the November election, as Tuesday's deadline quickly approaches. "The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the election day," said Howard County Election Administrator Saura Bloom. "This year the deadline actually falls on a weekend — and Monday is a holiday — so the deadline is extended to the following working day, which is Tuesday, to get voter registration cards in." Bloom said voters who currently hold a yellow voter registration card will

be able to use them in the November election since they are good until the end of December. "If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office," said Bloom. "They can fill out the voter registration card and their card should be mailed to them in time for the November election. "For those who can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process." Area voters will have more than a dozen state constitutional amendments to vote on, but Howard County residents are likely to con-

centrate on this election season's hottest issue, the \$11.57 million bond election to finance the design and construction of a new jail. November will be the second time in approximately two years the court has taken the multi-million-dollar issue to the voters, having asked for approval of a bond for slightly more than \$10 million to finance a 144-bed jail in 2006. The bond issue was voted down by more than 60 percent. For more information on voter registration, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

# Depression screenings to be offered Thursday

Special to the Herald

Free, confidential depression screenings will be offered Thursday to adults and children in the Howard County community. The screenings will be in the first floor classroom of Scenic Mountain Medical Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Screenings will be provided by professionals from West Texas Centers for MHMR and Big Spring State Hospital. The two mental health agencies and Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Reflections Gero-Psych programs are sponsors for this year's screenings. Screening tools are available for young children, teen-agers, young adults, adults and the elderly population. A Spanish version also is available.

Participants are provided with a written questionnaire in which they fill out before reviewing their answers with a licensed professional mental health worker. As the two dialogue in a private atmosphere, participants are provided with additional information in response to their answers. The depression screenings are a good service to the community because it saves people time who may not sure their feelings of sadness warrant a trip to the doctor's office. Screeners emphasize that the appointment is not a substitute for a doctor's evaluation. A list of physicians and service agencies are provided at the conclusion of the screening along with materials on depression and other mood disorders.

# NELSON

Continued from Page 1A

ed Midland attorney J.K. "Rusty" Wall to represent Nelson. No trial date has been set.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson, meanwhile, is weighing his options on how to proceed with the 16-year-old case.

"We have been collecting new information on Nelson, such as his behavior in prison and other pertinent documents and records," Wilkerson said. "We've also had several meetings with surviving members of Ms. Wheat's family in an attempt to determine the best course of action to take."

Wilkerson said the state has basically three options at this stage — to once again seek the death penalty; do nothing, which would result in Nelson being sentenced to life in prison; or negotiate some kind of settlement.

A sticking point to not seeking the death penalty, which would result in an automatic life sentence, is that under 1991 sentencing guidelines — which would govern the new trial — Nelson would only have to serve 15 years

before becoming eligible for parole, making him eligible the moment the new sentence was pronounced.

"That is unacceptable," Wilkerson flatly declared. Seeking the death penalty, however, is not without drawbacks of its own, Wilkerson conceded. "First, you have to decide whether you can get the death penalty under the current law," he said. "Secondly, you have to ask whether you can make it stick through the appellate process. Then, you have to consider the wishes of the victim's family."

"Plus, you have to balance all that against the cost of a capital trial, which has increased dramatically since 1991," Wilkerson added. "I hate to say it, but given the current economic situation of the county, the cost of a capital murder trial cannot be ignored."

The third option, some sort of plea agreement between the state and Nelson, will be explored when Wilkerson has a chance to further visit with Wall.

In seeking the death penalty, the state would have to prove three "special issues" — that Wheat's death was the cause of deliberate action

on Nelson's part; that there is a probability Nelson would constitute a future threat to society; and there are no over-riding mitigating factors which caused Nelson's actions.

Nelson, who was 22 at the time of the murder, was convicted of sexually assaulting and stabbing Wheat to death in her home in the 2500 block of Hunter early on the morning of Feb. 23, 1991. Her roommate, Carol Maynard, also was sexually assaulted and stabbed, but survived to testify

against Nelson in his trial.

In a pair of confessions he made to police at the time, Nelson said he was drunk and "schized" on cocaine when he killed Wheat.

Nelson became the third man in history to be sentenced to death by a Howard County jury. The men previously sentenced

to die, in 1934 and 1948, were electrocuted in Huntsville within 15 months of their convictions. Nelson has been on death row for more than 15 years.

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

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**AREA**

Continued from Page 1B

To say that is a bit of an understatement as the Grady defense shut down, what had been to this point, a greatly improved Hermleigh team. Defensively the Wildcats held the Cardinals to just 45 yards in total offense while the Grady offense amassed 288 total yards with 222 coming on the ground. Rodriguez led the way with 145 yards and three touchdowns on six carries. Rivas added another 41-yard touchdown on the ground while junior Casey Shands added 31 yards on two carries.

"We just came out and took it to them. We just never let up. We were under a little pressure to not score at the end of the half," Helms joked after the game. "We needed to make sure we could crown the homecoming queen."

The Wildcats scored just enough for the queen to be named and then made sure that the dance could start early with the game ending safety occurring on the first play of the third quarter.

This is the third shut out of the season for Grady, which has allowed just 20 points in six games.

Grady will be on a bye week before starting district play that includes four of the top 15 teams in the state of Texas football ranks.

**Stanton 14, Hawley 8**

STANTON — It's better

**FORSAN**

Continued from Page 1B

reach in the first quarter alone, scoring twice more in the quarter to make it 21-0 heading into the second.

With 8:29 left before the half, Frietag burst loose for a 73-yard touchdown jaunt for his third score of the first half.

However, the Buffs were not finished as Thompson was determined not to let happen to his team what it did to Irion County last week.

"We knew we had things going our way, and we intended to keep it that way," Thompson said. "Sure, we had a 28-point lead, but I reminded my guys of the let down Irion County had where we took advantage and they couldn't recover in time. I was not going to let that happen to us."

Thompson used all of his timeouts in the last drive before the half, as

to be in the driver's seat at any point of a football season rather than to be at the back of the bus, trying to work your way to the front.

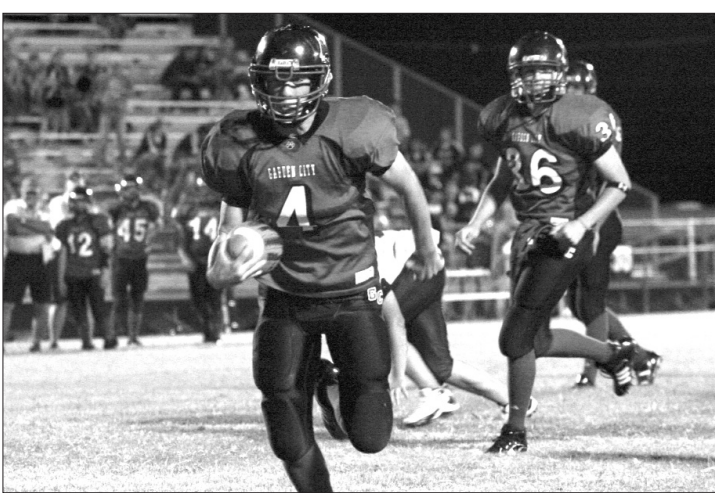
Stanton's Buffaloes have the good fortune to be in the driver's seat after defeating last season's runner-up to the District 5-2A title, the Hawley Bearcats, 14-8.

"It's always nice to be in control of the district, but it is early. Early is really the key word here," said Buffs' Head Coach Lee McCown. "We can't let up on what's been working for us and we have to keep getting better at what needs improvement. It's a long district season and there are several teams that could knock us off."

Thanks to Stanton's narrow victory and Merkel and Colorado City losing Friday night, the Buffs (2-0, 4-1) find themselves alone at the top of the 5-2A mountain.

The Buffs took a 14-0 lead into halftime courtesy of a 1-yard scoring plunge by quarterback Garrett Fulton in the first quarter and an 8-yard touchdown run by running back Robbie Noland in the second stanza. However, Stanton found it difficult to keep any consistency going offensively in the entire second half.

"I don't know what happened to us in the second half, but we just weren't moving the ball the same," McCown said. "It might've been that Hawley was a little fresher than we were because they have more depth. All I know is we didn't move the ball like we did in the



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz

**Garden City's Bo Eggemeyer rushes for one of his five touchdowns in the Bearcats 72-0 victory Friday night over El Paso Immanuel Christian.**

first half."

Hawley (1-1, 2-3) rallied in the fourth quarter with Seth Manly cutting the Buffs' lead to 14-6, thanks for a 25-yard scoring run. The Bearcats' defense held Stanton to three and out on its ensuing possession and Zane Masavage blocked a Buffs' punt out of the end zone for a safety.

Trailing 14-8, Hawley's Josh Harris returned the ensuing free kick 54 yards to the Stanton 15-yard line. However, the Buffs' defense rose to the occasion, holding Hawley to minus-2 yards on the drive.

McCown credited defensive end Adam Evans and middle linebacker Mark Garcia with leading a solid defensive effort against a Wing-T attack.

"Anytime you can shut down a Wing-T offense, then you've gotten a good performance from your entire defense," McCown said. "Our guys kept their assignments and stopped a lot of screens and reverses that could've turned into big plays."

Thompson, refused to ever let the Eagles get a foothold.

The Buffs' offense rolled up 428 total yards of offense and their biggest scoring output of the year.

And after barely managing 26 points in their first three games, the Buffs have scored 88 in the last two.

"I think it has to make other teams in the district notice us," said Thompson. "We are clearly showing what we are capable of when we execute properly and that we can be dangerous. I'd like to say we have turned the corner and I think we have, but we have not accomplished anything yet. We still have five tough weeks ahead and need to continue to show we are legit."

Noland led the Buffs with 82-yards rushing on 18 carries and Fulton added 51-yards rushing and 59-yards passing. Jonathan Pastrana had two catches for 34 yards.

Defensively, Fulton had an interception as the Buffs allowed Hawley 219 yards of total offense.

The Buffs travel to face a much improved Colorado City Wolves squad (1-1, 3-2) Friday.

**Sands 46, Dawson 22**

ACKERLEY — The Sands Mustangs took an 8-0 lead with 4:34 left in the first quarter and never looked back. Sophomore quarterback Johnny Rogers accounted for five touchdowns — four passing, one rushing — and 414 total yards — 328 passing, 76 rushing — to lead the Mustangs past the Dawson Dragons.

Rogers has 15 touchdowns in the past three games and Mustangs' Head Coach Wayne Henderson believes the

**BULLDOGS**

Continued from Page 1B

the season.

Junior quarterback Donnie Garcia, playing in just his second game since returning from a foot injury, completed 10 of 17 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns. Garcia added another touchdown on the ground.

His first touchdown pass opened the game's scoring as he hooked up with Josh Paniagua for a 40-yard bomb with 2:44 left in the second quarter. Anson, however, tied the game with no time left in the half, courtesy of a 22-yard touchdown reception by Chad Collins from Brown.

Coahoma's defense and special teams took over in the third. Already leading 21-7, Garcia added a 2-

sky is the limit for the young quarterback.

"He's got a ton of potential," Henderson said. "I knew he could be an impact player at the start of the season, but he's shown that he has a great understanding for the age. I expect him to pass and run for over 1,000 yards every season he plays."

Jesus Gomez had three catches — all for touchdowns — for 83 yards. Thomas Pena had two receptions — both for scores — for 74 yards. Ronnie Peacock picked up 66 yards on four receptions.

As a team, the Mustangs racked up 443 yards of total offense — 117 rushing, 326 passing — while holding the Dragons to 276 total yards. Quarterback Drew Hunt threw two touchdowns for Dawson.

Sands starts its district schedule Friday when the team travels to Garden City to take on the Bearcats for their homecoming. Last season, the Mustangs lost every game in District I, Division I by at least 45 points. Henderson hopes that his team can compete a little more this season.

"We're just hoping that a team will overlook us and we can mess the district standings up a little," he said. "We just want to compete and not be humiliated like last season. We're young and need the experience."

**Garden City 72, EP Immanuel Christian 0**

GARDEN CITY — Since

losing the No. 3 Calvert to start the season, Garden City's Bearcats have hung at least 70 points on every opponent.

El Paso Immanuel Christian's Warriors never stood a chance as Garden City (4-1) scored five touchdowns for 36 points in both the first and second quarter.

Bo Eggemeyer touched the ball six times, rushed for 80 yards and scored on five of those six touches. He had scoring runs of 13, 11, 3, 26 and 19 yards. Eggemeyer scored Garden City's first three and last two touchdowns.

Jake Schwartz found the end zone three times in three different ways. He returned a punt 45 yards to give Garden City a 30-0 lead with 3:35 left in the first quarter.

Then he picked off a pass and returned it 30 yards for a score, giving the Bearcats a 44-0 lead 15 seconds in the second quarter.

Finally, Schwartz added a 30-yard scoring run with 7:52 left in the half, pushing the Bearcats' lead to 50-0.

Cole Schwartz (2-yard run) and Troy Barnes (18-yard run) scored Garden City's other touchdowns.

The defense held the Warriors to minus-11 yards of total offense and allowed no first downs. They also forced six turnovers.

The Bearcats begin district play by playing their homecoming game against the Sands Mustangs Friday. Last year, the Bearcats ended the game by halftime.

against the Anson front 7. Daylong led all runners with 12 carries for 17 yards and a touchdown.

Coahoma had 213 total yards with 190 of them coming through the air. Defensively, the Bulldogs gave up 201 rushing yards to Anson, but allowed only three completions of 21 passes.

The Tigers also forced four turnovers — two fumbles, two interceptions. Meanwhile, Coahoma was guilty of just one turnover.

The Bulldogs travel to take on Hawley's Bearcats (1-1, 2-3) Friday. The Bearcats — the 2006 District 5-2A runners up — lost to Stanton Friday night, 14-8.

**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

**Contract Bridge**  
By Steve Becker  
*Testing an Assumption*

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 6 4 3  
♥ A Q 5 4 3 2  
♦ 6  
♣ 6 5

**WEST**  
♠ 2  
♥ J 10 8  
♦ A K Q 5  
♣ K 10 9 4 2

**EAST**  
♠ Q 8 5  
♥ 6  
♦ 9 8 7 3 2  
♣ A Q 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K J 10 7  
♥ K 9 7  
♦ J 10 4  
♣ J 8

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1♦ Pass 2♦ 2♠  
3♠ 3♣ 5♦ Pass  
Pass 5♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**This hand occurred** in a duplicate pairs tournament, but the principle it demonstrates would be equally applicable in rubber bridge.

**North elected** to sacrifice against five diamonds, hoping South would go down only one for minus 200 points and thus prevent East-West from scoring 400 points for making five diamonds. The idea was good, and should have been rewarded, but South misguessed the trump situation and wound up down two — 500 points — for a poor score.

**West led a diamond** and shifted to a low club. East took the ace and returned a club, the jack losing to the king. West then exited with the jack of hearts.

**Declarer had lost three tricks** and now had to make the rest to avoid a deadly score of minus 500. He won the heart with the king, cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a diamond in dummy, then led a spade on which East followed low. The question now was whether to finesse or play for the queen to fall. After considerable thought, South played the king and went down two.

**It is true, mathematically,** that declarer is better off in the long run to play for the queen to drop rather than finesse when he is missing Q-x-x-x of a suit. However, this was a special case where declarer should have finessed.

**South's assumption,** at the critical point, that West started with Q-x, is not valid because it means that West could not have made five diamonds, since he would have had to lose two spades and a heart. This in turn meant that a score of minus 200 would yield a poor result.

**Declarer must therefore assume** that the spades are divided 3-1 in order to justify the sacrifice bid. He is bound to do badly if he plays for the drop, and can get a good score only if the finesse wins because West started with a singleton spade.

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# FIVE GENERATIONS



The Gaskins family recently got together took the time to snap a five-generation photo. Pictured are Claudine Gaskins, Ronnie Gaskins, Rhonda Gaskins, Mica Pearson and Lacy Pearson.

## Births



Wilson Connell Edwards II

Wilson Connell Edwards III, "Trey", was born at 12:02 p.m. Sept. 5, 2007, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

He is the son of Tex and Hillary Edwards of Big Spring. His maternal grandparents are Gary

and Vicki McNew of Fairfield. His paternal grandparents are Connie and Brenda Edwards of Garden City and Sandy Jones of Dallas.

Emily Isabella Carreon, a girl, was born at 10:36 p.m. weighing 6 pounds,

14 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Ray and Juanita Carreon. Her grandparents are Vicerte and Anita Rodriguez and Freddie and Lorenza Sanchez.

...  
Evan Joshua Seguado, a boy, was born at 9:14 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

He is the son of Joshua and Chelsy Segundo of Big Spring. His maternal grandparents are Santos Jr. and Elsie Ybarra from Ackerly.

His paternal grandparents are Sammy Sr. Segundo of San Antonio and Enoelia Segundo of Michigan.

Evan was welcomed home by big sister Madison.

### Silver Wings Ball set Nov. 3

The Silver Wings Ball, an annual fund-raiser for Hangar 25 Air Museum, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Big Spring Country Club.

Activities will include a silent auction, appetizers, desserts, dancing and live music featuring Millennium Jazz.

Tickets are \$25 per person; reserved tables for eight are \$200.

RSVP by Oct. 29 by calling (432) 264-1999 or e-

mailing hangar25-@crom.com.net

### Haunted House

Scenic Mountain Medical Center Relay for Life Haunted House will be held Friday, Oct. 26; Saturday, Oct. 27; Tuesday, Oct. 30; and Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Malone & Hogan Clinic. Admission is \$5.

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## In This Season Of Hope

### 22nd annual BIG SPRING HERALD Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1

Parade theme:

**"Peace On Earth"**

Entry deadline — Noon, Friday, Nov. 16

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

- \$100 Herald's Best of Show Award:** for best interpretation of theme.
- \$75 Mayor's Trophy:** for best use of lighting.
- \$50 Grand Marshall's Award:** for best costuming.

- First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:
1. Individual or family
  2. Civic group, school or church
  3. Commercial
  4. Industrial
- In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories. Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

#### PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. **No other Santa Claus will be permitted in the parade.**
2. Floats should not exceed 65 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

#### 2007 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.



- Individual/Family
- Civic/church/school
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mounted

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# BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 4C  
Sunday, October 7, 2007

# Growing fast

## Fiberod becoming an industry wide name

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The international business community is sitting up and taking notice of a local company.

Fiberod, founded by Russ Rutledge earlier this decade, holds exclusive rights to producing fiberglass sucker rods, which are lighter, more energy efficient and help pump more oil out of the ground than traditional steel rods, officials say.

That technological edge is the driving force behind Fiberod recently being named one of the 500 fastest growing privately owned companies in the world by *Inc. Magazine*.

"It's quite an accomplishment, and we're very proud to make that list," Rutledge said. "It was a very pleasant surprise."

Rutledge, along with his brother, Tom, and John Freeman, founded Fiberflex, the current company's predecessor, in 1978. Russ Rutledge later left that firm and subsequently started Fiberod in 2003.

Rutledge said there were simple reasons behind the company's success.

"First, we have the best product in the oil industry," he said. "And, more importantly, is the group of people we've put together. We've hired people from all corners of the oil industry, and they've come together and made a team that I



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Fiberod, a local company founded by Russ Rutledge in 2003, was recently named to *Inc. Magazine's* list of the 500 fastest-growing privately owned companies in the world. The company manufactures fiberglass sucker rods for use in oil wells.

think is second to none."

The company currently employs more than 200 people with locations in Big Spring, Midland, San Antonio, Oklahoma and Mexico, Rutledge said.

And more growth is planned, he added.

"We hope to make (the magazine's) list again," he said. "We've just exposed the tip of the iceberg. The majority of the market is still out there. Today, we've only captured between 3 percent and 5 percent of the

world market in sucker rods."

The company also received a sort of helping hand courtesy of the Texas Legislature, which recently passed a bill giving owners of so-called "marginal" oil wells (those that produce 10 barrels or less of oil a day) a 10 percent severance tax credit if they install fiberglass sucker rods in those wells.

With Fiberod holding the patent to fiberglass sucker rods, the bill gives the com-

pany a distinct advantage, concedes Tammy Wooten, public relations manager for Fiberod.

"But I don't think the advantage comes because of the patent — it's because of the product," Wooten said. "If you can produce more oil with fiberglass rods, why would you go with steel?"

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



## All-or-nothing not a factor for CCRP land

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers that focuses on using certain conservation practices to safeguard environmentally sensitive lands.



LAWRENCE CHASE GARCIA

Unlike its parent program CRP, the CCRP does not require an "all-or-nothing" choice for enrollment. Borders or strips of eligible land practices can be implemented, allowing the producer the remaining land for crop production. The program already protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion while providing for the protection of wildlife habitat. The CCRP allows enrollment of eligible land for 10- or 15-year contracts in the CRP at any time without having to submit a competitive offer. The FSA administers the program while the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical support.

Conservation buffers help prevent soil erosion while improving water quality by removing sediment, fertilizers and pesticides, and other pollutants from runoff. Buffers are used to enhance wildlife habitat, help with flood control, and even beautify the landscape. They provide a simple way for agricultural producers to stay profitable while increasing the sustainability of their land. The U.S. Department of Agriculture promotes the use of buffers on rangeland, cropland and pasture by providing certain economic incentives.

The incentives offered by the program make it economically attractive. If accepted into the program, participants will receive:

- Annual rental payments from the Commodity Credit Corporation for the life of the contract.
- A 20 percent rental rate incentive for riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways and field windbreaks.
- Additional per acre maintenance rate of up to \$5.
- Cost-share assistance up to 50 percent of the eligible cost for establishment of the CCRP practice.
- An upfront signing incentive payment of \$100 to \$150 per acre (depending on contract length) for high priority practices.
- A practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible practice installation cost. This is in addition to the up-to-50 percent cost-share paid by CCC.

To be eligible for CCRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer (check with local FSA office for exceptions). Cropland planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years and marginal pasture suitable for use as a riparian buffer or

See CCRP, Page 5C

## STATE BAR PRESIDENT WELCOMED



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Harper Estes, incoming president of the State Bar Association, dined with members of the Howard County Bar Association during their monthly meeting Thursday. Pictured from right to left are Ben Bancroft, Robert H. Moore III, Drew Mouton, Glynna Mouton, Estes, Linda Sjogren, Tim Yeats, Don Richard, Gwen Dunson, Walter Shipman, John Ferguson and Mike Thomas.

## Consumer confidence rebounds lifted by Fed rate cut

By JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Confidence in the economy revived as the Federal Reserve's bold interest-rate cut and less turmoil on Wall Street made people feel better about the country's prospects of surviving a painful credit crunch and housing slump.

The RBC Cash Index showed consumer confidence rose to 80.6 in early October. That was an improvement from September's reading of 71.1, the lowest in nearly 1 1/2 years. The index is based on the results of the international polling firm Ipsos.

"Consumers are cautiously more optimistic than a month ago," said Peter Morici, an economist and business professor at the University of Maryland. "There is a growing sense that the credit crisis is resolving. It is not wholly resolved but it is resolving."

To help stem the crisis and stave off a recession, the Fed lowered a key interest rate for the first time in four years. It sliced the rate by one-half of percentage point to 4.75 percent. The Fed hopes this will induce individuals and companies to spend and invest more, developments that would energize overall economic activity.

The Fed's rate cut, ordered on Sept. 18, was credited with helping to boost consumers' spirits in early October. The rate reduction came after information was collected for September's confidence reading.

"People are breathing a sigh of relief that the Fed lowered rates," said Brian Bethune, economist at Global Insight.

The rebound in consumer confidence, however, did not help President Bush.

A record-low 34 percent approve of his handling of the economy in October, according to a separate AP-Ipsos poll. The president's overall job-approval

rating fell to 31 percent, the lowest ever.

Even with the Fed's aggressive action, the financial climate remains delicate. Fears persist that the sour housing market and credit problems could throw the economy into a recession. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has said the odds of a recession have grown since the spring.

"Consumers are more positive after the Fed rate cut and calming of financial markets but the lack of a complete rebound in the (Ipsos) consumer confidence index illustrates a wariness about the financial situa-

tion," said T.J. Marta, fixed income strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

People's feelings about current economic conditions jumped to 101.1 in October, from 90.5 in September.

The Fed's rate cut did provide relief for homeowners with adjustable-rate mortgages who faced a reset on Oct. 1. Their rates went up, but the jolt was not as severe as it could have been.

Stabilizing gasoline prices also helped lift confidence, economists said. Gasoline is now selling for \$2.79 a gallon, down from \$2.81 a gallon in late September.

# Local agency seeks volunteers to help victims of violence

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

Victim Services of Big Spring, like the Marines, is looking for a few good people.

That's because Victim Services is always in need of people wanting to have a tremendously positive impact on their community and at the same time are willing to do it in a way that provides virtually no spotlight.

Victim Services, which provides support for victims of domestic abuse and other violent crimes, will be conducting its annual volunteer training

during two sessions this month.

Those training sessions will be held Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 22-24 and the agency is now looking for those interested in serving as volunteers in Howard, Borden, Glasscock, Martin and Mitchell counties.

It is not a coincidence that Victim Services has put out a call for volunteers in October, which marks the 20th anniversary of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Linda Perez, Victim Services' volunteer coordinator, said the volun-

teers — or "victim advocates," as she calls them — are the backbone of the organization.

"They are the reason we're able to be here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," she explained. "We call our volunteers the heart of our organization. Only through them are we able to offer our services around the clock."

The training for both sessions will be conducted between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday at the Victim Services building just off Airbase Road.

Victim advocates must

be 18 years or older and must be able to pass the interview process and background check, Perez said.

After completing training, volunteers will work 12-hour shifts, manning the organization's crisis intervention hotline and, once they are fully trained, providing immediate help to crime victims.

"We are there to help alleviate problems ... and provide immediate crisis intervention, so the police can concentrate on the crime scene," Perez said. "We want someone who is caring ... and who wants

to make a difference in someone's life."

Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program that serves victims of all violent crime including, but not limited to assault, sexual assault and domestic violence, Perez said.

"Our staff and advocates are available 24 hours a day to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed," Perez continued. "Victim Services also provides follow-up services with victims and refers them for

any additional necessary services. It's a big job and we definitely need the help of well-trained volunteers."

If you are interested in serving as a Victim Services volunteer, contact Perez by calling 263-3312.

Victim Services is one of 15 local agencies which receives funding from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

## VICTIM

Continued from Page 1A

think I could take it anymore.

Some more years passed and we moved back to Big Spring. God answered my prayer that I had prayed so very long. I needed to get back home so I could get some help and get out of this life, before he ended up killing me.

The fighting still continued and he would always tell me, "If you leave, I will hunt you down and kill you, and if I can't find you, I will kill your family one by one until you come back or I find you!"

I never said anything to my family because I felt paralyzed by the fear of him carrying out his threats. No one knows that fear until you live it or walk in the same shoes that I did. I was scared of him all the time, but I did eventually start fighting back.

I got tired of being beaten, so I would hit him back no matter what, because he was going to hurt me anyway.

I would scream at him

"hit me (expletive deleted), hit me," because I knew it was coming.

One night he got mad and picked up the dining room chair and hit the glass table top. Shattered glass went flying everywhere. During another fight he knocked all the shelves off the wall, breaking everything and creating a huge mess all over the place.

On another occasion he tried to chop off my fingers with a knife because I would not sign some papers.

Both of my wrists have been sprained because he twisted them.

One time he picked up a heater sitting on the floor and he threw it at me. It ripped a hole in the wall and he told me it should have been my head!

There are so many bad things that happened. One time we got into a fight and he bound my hands and feet with duct tape and dragged me down the hallway and put me in the closet. He told me that he would kill me in front of the kids and then kill them.

Because he said he had

killed before but never said who, the only person that I could think of was his first wife. They'd found her in the bathroom with her skull fractured. I always wanted to know if she had been abused but was always too scared to inquire about her or her family. It has been on my mind for many, many years. I always wanted someone to come and talk to me about her.

The few things that I have mentioned that he did to me, please understand that this happened to me every day for 18 years — either hitting, verbal insults, tearing or breaking things in the house, but most of all breaking me and my spirit.

I believed in my heart that he would kill me someday. He has pulled guns and knives on me many, many times before, saying he would kill me. My safe place was my house and I didn't leave much. When he was at work is when I felt the safest.

After a fight I was always too scared to do

anything, such as call the police. That kind of help never crossed my mind.

One summer night we had been fighting and he grabbed me and forced me in the car and started driving to Moss Lake. He was speeding and going up and down the hills with the car lights turned

off and on. I was so scared, I was screaming and crying but he was laughing. He loved to see fear in my eyes. He was crazy and I was scared of him and the things that he might do.

He told me that he was going to kill us both driving like that.

Not only was the abuse physical, verbal and emotional during this time but also sexual.

This is absolutely the hardest thing to talk about because the things he did to me were so vile and deplorable. It is very

See VICTIM, Page 6A

You deserve a factual look at . . .

## Myths About Israel and the Middle East (I)

Do the media feed us fiction, instead of fact?

We all know that, by dint of constant repetition, white can be made to appear black, good can get transformed into evil, and myth may take the place of reality. Israel, with roughly one-thousandth of the world's population and with a similar fraction of the territory of this planet, seems to engage a totally disproportionate attention of the print and broadcast media of the world. Unfortunately, much of what the media tell us — in reporting, editorializing in columns, and in analysis — are endlessly repeated myths.

### What are the facts?

**Myth:** The "Palestinians" are a nation and therefore deserving of a homeland.

**Reality:** The concept of Palestinian nationhood is a new one and had not been heard of until after the Six-Day War (1967), when Israel, by its victory, came into the administration of the territories of Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and the Gaza Strip. The so-called "Palestinians" are no more

different from the Arabs living in the neighboring countries of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, than Wisconsinites are from Iowans.

**Myth:** Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and the Gaza Strip are "occupied Arab territory."

**Reality:** All of "Palestine" — east and west of the Jordan River — was part of the League of Nations mandate. Under the Balfour Declaration, all of it was to be the "national home for the Jewish people." In violation of this mandate, Great Britain severed the entire area east of the Jordan River — about 75% of Palestine — and gave it to the Arabs, who created on it the kingdom of Transjordan. When Israel declared its independence in 1948, five Arab armies invaded the new country in order to destroy it at its very birth. They were defeated by the Israelis. The Transjordanians, however, remained in occupation of Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and East Jerusalem. They proceeded to drive all Jews from those territories and to systematically destroy all Jewish houses of worship and other institutions. The Transjordanians (now renamed "Jordanians") were the occupiers for nineteen years. Israel regained these territories following its victory in the Six-Day War. Israel has returned the entire Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. The final status of

the "West Bank" will be decided if and when the Palestinians will finally be able to sit down and seriously talk peace with Israel.

**Myth:** Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") are the "greatest obstacle to peace."

**Reality:** This is simply not correct, although it has been repeated so often that many have come to believe it. The greatest obstacle to peace is the intransigence and the irreconcilable hostility of the Arabs. Not more than 150,000 Jews are settled in these territories, living among about 1.4 million Arabs. How can Jews

living there be an obstacle to peace? Why shouldn't they live there? About 1.2 million Arabs live in Israel proper. They are not an obstacle to peace. Neither the Israelis nor they themselves consider them as such.

**Myth:** Israel is unwilling to yield "land for peace."

**Reality:** The concept that to the loser, rather than to the victor, belong the spoils is a radically new one, never before thought of in world history. Israel has emerged victorious in the five wars imposed on it by the Arabs. In order to make peace, it has returned over 90% of the territory occupied by it, specifically the vast Sinai Peninsula, to Egypt. That territory contained some of the most advanced military installations in the world, prosperous cities and settlements, and oil fields developed entirely by Israel that made it independent of petroleum imports. In the Camp David Accords, Israel agreed to autonomy for Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") with the permanent status to be determined after three years. But no responsible Palestinian representation has been available to negotiate with Israel about this.

All these myths (and others we shall talk about) have poisoned the atmosphere for decades. The root cause of the never-ending conflict is the unwillingness of the Arabs (and not just the Palestinians) to accept the reality of Israel. What a pity that those of the Palestinians who are not Israeli citizens have lived and continue to live in poverty, misery and ignorance. They could have chosen to accept the proposed partition of the country in 1947, would now have had their state alongside Israel for almost sixty years and could have lived in peace and prosperity. They could have kept hundreds of thousands of refugees in their homes and could have saved tens of thousands of lives. Peace will only come when the Arabs finally accept the reality of Israel. And that is not a myth — that is a fact!

This message has been published and paid for by



Facts and Logic About the Middle East  
P.O. Box 590359 n San Francisco, CA 94159  
Gerardo Joffe, President

FLAME is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational 501 (c)(3) organization. Its purpose is the research and publication of the facts regarding developments in the Middle East and exposing false propaganda that might harm the interests of the United States and its allies in that area of the world. Your tax-deductible contributions are welcome. They enable us to pursue these goals and to publish these messages in national newspapers and magazines. We have virtually no overhead. Almost all of our revenue pays for our educational work, for these clarifying messages, and for related direct mail.

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**Reeves County Detention Center**  
is accepting applications for Correctional Officer positions. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or GED certificate. Salary is \$31,179.20 per year plus over time at \$22.49 an hour.  
Applicants may submit applications to the following:  
**Reeves County Detention Center Human Resource Department**  
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# Food manager certification training course set

Statistics indicate that foodborne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, 1 in 4 Americans will become sick, 1 in 1,000 will become hospitalized, and 5,000 will die due to a foodborne illness.

During the past legislative session, a statute was amended that allowed the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to require each food establishment to have one certified food manager.



KANDY  
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Health Services regarding this. Under these new rules, each food establishment permitted by the Texas Department of State Health Services

er. Recently, the Texas Board of Health adopted rules to implement this statute. Many of you have already received a letter from the Texas Department of State

must have one certified food manager. New food manager certificates will be valid for 6 years.

Texas Cooperative Extension, Howard County, is offering a food manager certification training course. This program will be offered Oct. 10 and 11 at Howard County Library, 500 South Main St. The \$89 fee includes training, materials, and the state food manager certification examination.

This program is designed to not only prepare foodservice managers to pass the certifi-

cation examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home.

Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance, and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent foodborne illness is essential. The

benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction
- Improved relationships with health officials
- Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to foodborne illness
- By attending the course, foodservice managers will learn about:
  - identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling
  - preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food
  - teaching and encour-

aging personal hygiene for employees

- complying with government regulations
  - maintaining clean utensils, equipment and surroundings
  - controlling pests
- Foodborne illnesses can be prevented by following simple food safety practices.

For more information about the Food Manager Certification Training course of Texas Cooperative Extension, called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," call Kandy K. McWhorter at (432) 264-2237.

# NRCS accepts applications for EQIP funding

## Herald Staff Report

Howard County landowners interested in participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by Nov. 16 if they have not already done so to be eligible for the next round of funding, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"Although EQIP is a continuous sign-up program, some producers may not have signed up yet," said Eddy Spurgin, district conservationist for Howard County.

"We will rank all eligible applications received by the end of the ranking period on Nov. 16 for 2008 funding. There is a strong possibility that EQIP funds will become available in October," Spurgin

added.

EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation.

Financial assistance is on a cost-shared basis with the producer. The

technical assistance is provided at 100 percent of the cost by NRCS.

According to Spurgin, there are a few changes in EQIP for 2008. New features include a process to streamline payments. Instead of the traditional percentage-of-cost rates, NRCS will offer flat-rate payments based on a schedule for each conservation practice.

"Landowners will know

up front what the payment in dollars will be," Spurgin said.

"One important component of EQIP that remains the same is the input needed from the local level to make EQIP address the most pressing resource concerns in the county," Spurgin said.

"Our local office will be holding program development group and local working group meetings

very soon to gather that input," he added.

NRCS and the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District will have more information about local meetings.

To sign up for EQIP or to get more information, contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center located at 302 W. Interstate 20, Suite 101 or call (432) 267-1871, ext. 3

# Topps closes business 6 days after the second-largest U.S. beef recall

## By JEFFREY GOLD

AP Business Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Topps Meat Co. on Friday said it was closing its business, six days after it was forced to issue the second-largest beef recall in U.S. history and 67 years after it first opened its doors.

The decision will cost 87 people their jobs, Topps said.

On Sept. 25 Topps began recalling frozen hamburger patties that may have been contaminated with the potentially fatal E. coli bacteria strain O157:H7. The recall eventually ballooned to 21.7 million pounds of ground beef.

Thirty people in eight states had E. coli infections matching the strain found in the Topps patties, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. None have died.

"This is tragic for all concerned," said Topps

chief operating officer Anthony D'Urso, a member of the family that founded the company in 1940.

The Topps recall raised questions about whether the U.S. Agriculture Department should have acted quicker to encourage a recall. On Thursday, top USDA officials said they would speed warnings in the future.

Topps conceded that much of the recalled meat had already been eaten, and on Friday expressed regret that its product had been linked to illnesses. "We hope and pray for the full recovery of those individuals," D'Urso said in a statement.

Topps, which halted production Sept. 26, is not the first meat company shuttered by a recall. Hudson Foods Co. closed its plant in Columbus, Neb., after it agreed in 1997 to destroy 25 million pounds of hamburger in the largest U.S. meat

recall after E. coli was found in the ground beef. The plant later reopened with new owners.

Topps faces at least two lawsuits filed since the recall, one from the family of an upstate New York girl who became ill, and one seeking class-action status on behalf of all people who bought or ate the hamburgers. The family of a Florida girl who suffered kidney failure sued Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which is among chains that sold Topps patties.

The Elizabeth-based company had initially recalled 331,582 pounds of its frozen hamburgers on Sept. 25, acting only after the New York State Department of Health issued an alert linking its patties to illnesses.

Privately held Topps, which claimed to be the leading U.S. maker of frozen hamburger patties, said it sells its products to supermarkets and institutions such as schools, hos-

pitals, restaurants and hotels.

The CDC reported the

number of linked cases in these states: Connecticut,

2; Florida, 1; Indiana, 1;

Maine, 1; New Jersey, 7; New York, 9; Ohio, 1; and Pennsylvania, 8.



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