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# HRALD

**MONDAY** 

**DECEMBER 31, 2007** 

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**VOLUME 103, NUMBER 25** 

### Word to wise: Don't drink and drive

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By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials want area drivers to have a safe — and sober — New Year's Eve celebration tonight.

But those officials added that those who might be tempted to celebrate a bit too much tonight should reconsider.

and state troopers will be out in force tonight, and they will not be looking kindly on those who are drinking and driving.

The Department of Public Safety has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward drunk drivers as part of their annual holiday oversight operation, which

Area police, sheriff deputies has been in effect since the agency's zero-tolerance stance officials said the agency will Christmas holiday season began earlier this month.

DPS troopers will be looking for unsafe drivers in general, and three offenses in particular: speeding, driving without seat belts and driving while intoxicated.

Officials emphasize that the

extends toward both DWIs and driving without seatbelts. Absolutely no warnings will be written for either, because troopers anticipate traffic will be very heavy this season, leaving no room for these type of

mistakes. Big Spring Police Department reporter@bigspringherald.com

not have additional officers patrolling the streets tonight, but will be on the lookout for apparent drunk drivers.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by

# High court weighs in on voter ID law

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The dispute over Indiana's voter identification law that is headed to the Supreme Court next week is as much a partisan political drama as a legal tussle.

The mainly Republican backers of the law, including the Bush administration, say stateproduced photo identification is a prudent measure to cut down on vote fraud — even though Indiana has never had a prosecution of the kind of fraud the law is supposed to prevent.

The opponents, mainly Democrats, view voter ID a modern-day poll tax that disproportionately affect poor, minority and elderly voters — who tend to back Democrats. Yet, a federal judge found that opponents of the law were unable to produce evidence of a single Indiana resident who had been voting barred from because of the law.

The Supreme Court, which famously split 5-4 in the case that sealed the 2000 presidential election for George Bush, will take up the Indiana law on January 9, just as the 2008 presidential primaries are getting under way.

A decision should come by late June, in time to be

felt in the November elections in Indiana and in Georgia, the other state with a strict photo ID requirement, as well as in a handful of other states.

The justices will be asked to decide whether the law is an impermissible attempt to discourage certain voters or a reasonable precaution among several efforts aimed at cutting down on illegal voting.

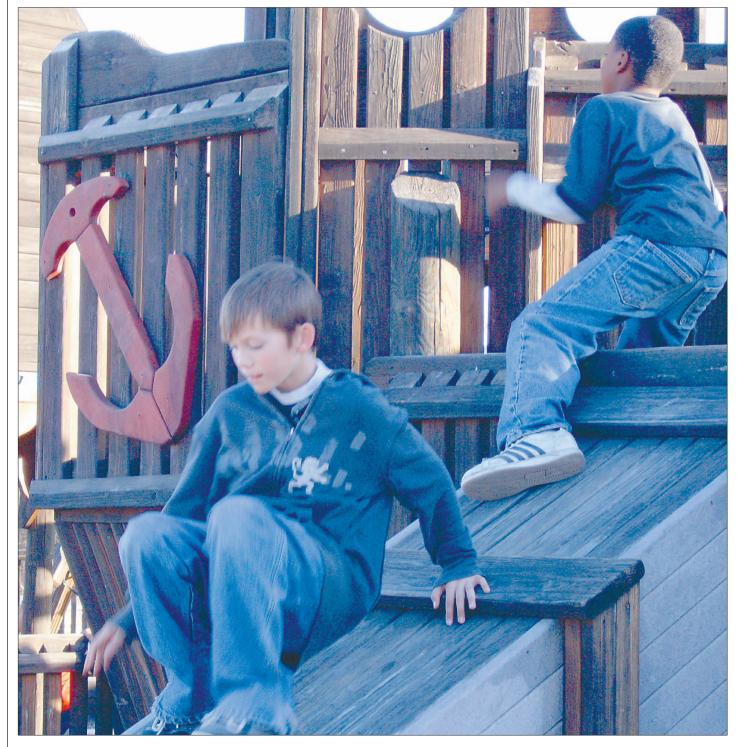
"There's more than a little bit of irony in going to the Supreme Court and asking them to rise above partisan politics in election cases," said Richard Hasen, an election law expert at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

The court's decision in the disputed 2000 election is partly responsible for the ensuing increase in election-related lawsuits and the loss of confidence by some groups in the voting system, Hasen said. Yet, the other branches of government seem more politicized than ever, leaving the court as the best option despite the 2000 election dispute, he said.

Indiana argues that demands for identification are frequent in today's society, and producing a photo ID at polling places is hardly onerous.

See COURT, Page 3A

### HAVING A BLAST



Triston Seay, left, and Michael Mathews apparently find the Kidz Zone playground to their liking Sunday afternoon. Many people took advantage of warm weather to flock to Comanche Trail Park last weekend.

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#### To reach us:

**Sports** 

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

### Transportation Chairman Williamson dead at 55

By MATT CURRY **Associated Press Writer** 

DALLAS — Texas Transportation Commission Chairman and former longtime state lawmaker Ric Williamson died Sunday of an apparent heart attack, officials said. He was 55.

Williamson died at Weatherford Regional Medical Center just after 1 Texas Department a.m., spokesman Transportation Chris Lippincott said.

"It is a great shock, everyone is very surprised to hear this news," Lippincott told The Associated Press on Sunday.

"He certainly left his imprint on the commission and on the state with the vision he had for transportation."

Gov. Rick Perry said Williamson was a longtime friend who will be greatly missed. The two were conservative Democratic colleagues in the Texas House during 1980s. Both later joined the GOP.

Williamson served in the Legislature for more than 20 years.

"Ric's passion to serve his beloved state of Texas was unmatched and his determination to help our state meets its future challenges was unparalleled," Perry said in a written statement. "He

will be missed beyond words. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Williamson family during this very difficult time."

Perry named Williamson to the transportation commission in 2001, and he became chairman in 2004. The fivemember commission oversees the Texas Department of Transportation.

State lawmakers heavily criticized state transportation policy on toll roads and private contracts during this year's legislative session.

The agency has traditionally been a

See WILLIAMSON, Page 3A



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## Sports

### 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 Monday, December 31, 2007

### IN BRIEF

#### Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area subvarsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

#### 2007-2008 NCAA Division I-A college bowl schedule **TODAY**

**Armed Forces Bowl** At Fort Worth, Texas Payout: \$750,000 California (6-6) vs. Air Force (9-3), 11:30 p.m. (ESPN)

#### Sun Bowl

p.m. (ESPN2)

At El Paso, Texas Payout: \$1.9 million South Florida (9-3) vs. Oregon (8-4), 1 p.m. (CBS)

**Humanitarian Bowl** At Boise, Idaho Payout: \$750,000 Fresno State (8-4) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 1

**Music City Bowl** At Nashville, Tenn. Payout: \$1.6 million Florida State (7-5) vs. Kentucky (7-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

#### **Insight Bowl**

At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$1.25 million Indiana (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (6-6), 5 p.m. (NFLN)

#### Chick-fil-A Bowl

At Atlanta Payout: \$2.9 million Clemson (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 6:30 p.m.

#### JAN. 1 **Outback Bowl**

At Tampa, Fla. Payout: \$3.1 million Wisconsin (9-3) vs. Tennessee (9-4), 10 a.m.

#### (ESPN) **Cotton Bowl**

At Dallas Payout: \$3 million Missouri (11-2) vs. Arkansas (8-4), 10:30 a.m. (FOX)

#### Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$4.25 million Michigan (8-4) vs.

Florida (9-3), Noon (ABC) **Gator Bowl** 

#### At Jacksonville, Fla.

Payout: \$2.25 million Virginia (9-3) vs. Texas Tech (8-4), Noon (CBS)

#### **Rose Bowl**

At Pasadena, Calif. Payout: \$17 million Southern California (10-2) vs. Illinois (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

#### **Sugar Bowl** At New Orleans

Payout: \$17 million Hawaii (12-0) Georgia (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

#### JAN. 2 Fiesta Bowl At Glendale, Ariz. Payout: \$17 million

West Virginia (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

#### JAN. 3 **Orange Bowl** At Miami

Payout: \$17 million Kansas (11-1) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

### Buffs, Wildcats claim holiday titles

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

STERLING CITY — Holiday champions. It has a nice ring to it. Only two Crossroads basketball teams can make a claim to that title, though.

Four area squads made into the finals of their respective tournaments, but only the Forsan Buffaloes and Grady Wildcats prevailed.

Forsan won a hardwood Battle of the Buffs over Stanton Saturday night with the Sterling City Holiday Tournament title on the line. The game came down to the last shot, but Stanton's Chase Pinkerton missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer, giving Forsan the 52-50 win.

"That was a great game for us to build off of," Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald said. "Stanton is a tough team and they're going to be very competitive in their district. It was great for our kids to pull this game out at the end."

Grady found a familiar foe in Rankin's Red Devils standing in the way of winning its home tournament, the Cotton Classic. While Rankin's Garrett Avalos gave the Wildcats fits on the hardwood much like he did on the gridiron during football season, Grady found a way to pull out a 9-point victory, 45-36.

The other Crossroads team to compete in a championship game was Coahoma's Bulldogettes, who made it to the finals of the West Texas Invitational against the host Slaton Lady Tigers.

Unfortunately for Bulldogettes, their offense never got in a flow and they fell, 37-23. There was also good news

Saturday for the Buffs', Wildcats' and Bulldogettes' high school counterparts. Forsan's Lady Buffs, Grady's Lady Wildcats and Coahoma's Bulldogs each won the consolation bracket in the Tournament ticipated in Saturday.

Garden City's Lady Bearkats pulled down 15 boards. finished third in the Big Lake

Big Spring's Lady Steers went in search of their first victory of season Saturday, Sundown's Lady Roughnecks had other plans. The Lady Roughnecks thwarted Big Spring, 60-21.

#### Forsan 52, Stanton 50

Forsan led by as many as 7 points in the first half, but Stanton never let the White Buffaloes get out of reach.

Trailing 17-10 heading into the second period, Stanton slowly erased the deficit over the course of the stanza. Finally, Tyler Fulton picked up a loose ball at the top of the arch and nailed a 3pointer to tie the score at 27 just as the buzzer sounded, ending the first half.

Stanton held the advantage more than Forsan in the second half, but never led by more than 4 points. However, Forsan retook the lead, 44-43, with 4:56 remaining in the third period courtesy of two big plays by Cameron

Parker hit a trey to pull Forsan within 1 and then stole the ball on Stanton's ensuing possession. Parker passed to Jeremy Robbins, who missed a layup, but Blake Grantham snuck inside for the offensive rebound and an easy put back.

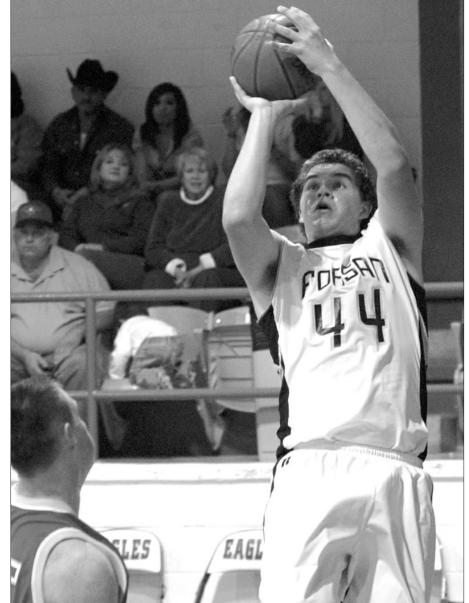
That 5-0 run turned into an 11-3 streak for Forsan, giving the Buffs a 52-46 advantage with 1:37 left to play. However, Stanton still wasn't done.

The Buffs from Forsan found it difficult to secure a defensive rebound and Stanton eventually pulled within 2, 52-50, with 50 seconds on the clock.

Unfortunately for the Red Buffaloes from Stanton, they never got another good look at the basket and Pinkerton's three fell just short.

Adam Bailey secured the MVP award. respective tournament they par- Despite having a tough night shooting, he scored 10 points and

Tournament courtesy of a domi-but he got his teammates nant 57-27 win over Irion County. involved and they stepped up



Forssan's Nathan Atkerson pulls up for a jumber against Stanton in the Buffs' 52-50 victory Saturday night in the finals of the Sterling City Holiday Tournament.

their game," McDonald said. "Cameron's really been playing great for us lately. He's a very good spot shooter from behind the arch and hit some big shots for us.'

Parker led Forsan with 17 points and was named to the alltournament team. Jeremy Robbins joined Parker on that team.

For Stanton, Garrett Fulton scored a game-high 22 points and "Adam was off a bit tonight, Pinkerton had 11. Fulton and Adam Evans each made the alltournament team.

Forsan plays the state's No. 1 ranked private school Midland Classical Friday in Midland. Last season, Classical dropped the Buffs by 12 points.

Stanton 10 17 12 11-50 Forsan 17 10 12 13-52

Stanton: Garrett Fulton 22, David Erives 3, Tyler Fulton 5, Justin Hinojosa 3, Chase Pinkerton 11, Adam Evans 8.

Forsan: Jeremy Robbins 3, Adam Bailey 10, Cameron Parker 17, Alex Huckabee 8, Nathan Atkerson 8 Blake Grantham 6

See **HOLIDAY**, Page 2B

### The best part of a new year



Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell throws a pass in action from earlier this season against the Texas Longhorns. Harrell leads the Red Raiders into Jacksonville, Fla., Tuesday to take on the Virginia Cavaliers in the **Gator Bowl.** 

hat is New Year's Day without bowl games? Seriously, would the holiday even feel the

same? It wouldn't for me.

I know I'm a bowl-crazed sports guy who won't stop blatantly using his section in the *Herald* to support his addiction, but I seriously wouldn't enjoy New Year's

HULL without the traditional Jan. 1

JONATHAN

bowl games. For most, New Year's brings thoughts of new beginnings or partying until the sun comes up. Well, I'm too busy following sports for anything to seem new and I despise alcohol. So for me, New Year's makes me think of cotton, roses, sugar, gators and credit cards.

Honestly, the only party I'm caring to see around New Year's is the Fiesta Bowl. I'll get my fill of alcohol thanks to hundreds of beer commercials that will be broadcast throughout the day. That's the closest I come to imbibing the brutal substance, anyway.

My hangover occurs once the bowl season is complete. There's a bit of a lull for me that first day after the BCS Championship game.

No longer will there be a football game on every night of the week. It changes my lifestyle completely. Although, some would argue that the change is for the better.

Is it really that obvious I'm

single?

Oh well, here's a look at Tuesday's non-BCS bowls.

Happy Bowl Da ... I mean. Happy New Year's Day every-

#### **Gator Bowl** Texas Tech (8-4) vs. Virginia (9-3)

Noon Tuesday (CBS) Last bowl appearances:

#### Texas Tech 44, Minnesota 41 (OT) (2006 Insight); Virginia 34, Minnesota 31 (2005 Music City).

Synopsis: There's no secret to what Texas Tech is going to try and accomplish offensively. The Red Raiders are first nationally in passing offense and dead last in rushing.

Quarterback Graham Harrell has thrown for more yards than anyone else in the country and is fifth in passing efficiency. Harrell's favorite target is playmaking wide receiver Michael Crabtree.

Crabtree, a redshirt freshman, has set freshman records in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns. Not bad for a player who was originally being recruited by Tech to play basketball for Bobby Knight. Opposing defenses know where Harrell wants to throw and still can't stop him.

However, neither of those players are the biggest key for who wins this game. Instead, the pressure is on the Tech offensive line, which will face the best pass rush it's seen this season.

Virginia has the best pure pass rusher in the country in defensive end Chris Long. Long, the son of NFL Hall of Famer Howie, has 14 sacks and 19 tackles for loss this season. He does this in a 3-4 defense, which generally prevents defensive ends from racking up large sack

See **BOWLS**, Page 2B

#### **Obituaries**

#### **Clairese Hale**



Clairese Hale, 75, of Stanton died on Sunday, Dec. 30, 2007, in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, at the First Baptist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Derrick Looney, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, officiating and the Rev. Leandro Gonzales Jr., pastor of Lenorah Baptist Church, assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park Big Spring.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born on Jan. 13, 1932, in Knott and married Doyle Hale on July 19, 1950, in Stanton.

Clairese was a help to Doyle in his involvement with Scouting. She was a Den Mother for Pack 37 for six years. She lived in Big Spring for 17 years and was involved with the Washington Elementary PTA, taught Sunday School at Hillcrest Baptist Church and volunteered at Grady School for many years. They moved to Stanton in 1967 where she and Doyle farmed in the Badgett Community. She was a member of Tarzan Baptist Church and a member of Beta Sigma Phi for over 35 years.

Survivors include her husband, Doyle Hale of Stanton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Rodney and Peggy Hale and Gary and Melissa Hale, all of Stanton; three grandchildren, Matt Hale Midland; Brandi Grant of Midland and Heather Lopez of Honolulu, Hawaii; five great-grandchildren, Brooke Hale of Pecos, Evan Luttrell of Midland and Kaitlyn, Cameron and Collin Grant, all of Midland; one brother, Kimmie Long of Big Spring; and three sisters, Gerry Stroud of Stanton, Peggy Ballard of Big Spring and Betty McDonald of Abilene.

The family suggests memorials made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79701 or to the charity of ones choice.

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

#### Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-25-30-32-33-44 Number matching six of six: None.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$10 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-13-18-19-29 Number matching five of five: None. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

7-4-2-0. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

6-6-6. Sum It Up: 18.

#### Weather

Today — Sunny — Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. \

Tonight — Mostly clear. Colder. Lows around 16. North winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. New Years Day — Sunny. Highs in the lower 40s.

Light and variable winds.

.Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows around 17. Light and variable winds.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid

Friday — Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 60s.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs around 70.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

### **Support Groups**

#### **MONDAY**

205 W. 15th

- 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-
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call Alex at 264-6921 or 1-800 392-8677.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity: • PAMMY PUGA, 42, 1409 Settles, was arrested on a

charge of public intoxication.

• FREDERICO GONZALES, 31, New Mexico, was arrested on charges of failure to identify and burglary

• ABEL GUZMAN, 25, 1504 Vines, was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and burglary of a vehicle.

• IRENE FLOREZ, no age given, 2000 Johnson, was arrested on warrants from Howard County and Sterling County.

• RAMIRO MARQUEZ, 17, 508 Abrams, was arrested on charges of no driver's license and burglary of a vehicle.

• CHRIS RODRIGUEZ, 20, 1908 Settles, was arrested on 10 local warrants.

• JOAQUIN LOPEZ, 31, Mexico, was arrested on a hold for ICE.

• ABEL TORRES, 19, 1408 Johnson, was arested on a chitation warrant and a charge of evading arrest.

• ERINEO SANCHEZ, 32, 813 W. Sixth, was arrested on a local warrant.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 900 block of Willia. • CRIMINAL MISHCIEF was reported in the 1100

and 1000 blocks of Ridgeroad. • DRIVING WHLE LICENSE INVALID was report-

ed in the 400 block of FM 700. • EVADING ARREST was reported in the 600 block

• FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPON-SIBILITY was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg.

• RESISTING ARREST was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg.

• THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell and the 900 block of Willia.

### Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (Note — officials reported 53 prisoners in the Howard County Jail):

• FILMORE W. JOHNSON, 62, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• JOSHUA HERNANDEZ, 22, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation.

• TERRY EDWARDS SHIRLEY, 44, was trnasferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

• DAVID ARTHUR WITTREIN, 27, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license

• JOHN MICHAEL FONDA, 31, was arrested on a bondman off bond warrant for theft. • FAVIAN ANDREW URIAS III, 21, was arrested

by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and evading arest with a vehicle.

• LARRY H. RAMIREZ, 41, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a cahrge od DWLI.

• LANA DOWER MARTINEZ, 34, was transferred

from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of DWLI. • PHILLIP G. MARTINEZ, 19, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• CHRIS RUIZ, 38, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.

• ROBERT LUIS SALAZAR, 41, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• CAROL ANN RIVAS, 19, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of resisting

• MICHAEL RENE ROBLES, 35, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a probation violation

• LUIS RAMIREZ, 20, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

### Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at N.W. Ninth and Main streets. One person was transferred to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Hillside. One person was transferred to SMMC.

**MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20. One person was transferred to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported at S. Highway 87 and

Highway 821. One person was transferred to SMMC. • **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th. One person was transferred to SMMC.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1000 block of • STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1300 block

of Mt. Vernon. It was a smoke scare. • MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transferred to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Conally. One person was transferred to SMMC. • **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Ann.

Service was refused. • MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC.

• TRUAMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC. • **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N.

Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC. • STRUCTURE FIRE was reported on Rocco Road.

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### **Bulletin Board**

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

**TODAY** 

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.

· League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public

• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

#### **FRIDAY**

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

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. • Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

#### Take Note

- The "Good Timers" will perform for a dance at 7:30 p.m. today at the Spring City Senior Center. All seniors are invited.
- Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.
- St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-
- A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.
- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming an Odyssey Healthcare volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.
- All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.0, 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie
- Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.
- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.
- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- 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.

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SPORTS

### College Bowl Forecast

#### **2007 NCAA Bowl Games**

Poinsetta: Utah 34, Navy 32 New Orleans: Fla Atl 44, Memphis 27 Papajohns: Cincinnati 31, So. Miss 21 New Mexico: New Mexico23, Nevada 0 Las Vegas: BYU 17, UCLA 16 Hawaii: East Carolina 41, Boise State 38 Motor City: Purdue 51 Cen. Michigan 48 Holiday: Texas 52, Arizona St. 34 Champs: Boston Coll. 24, Mich. State 21 Texas: TCU 20, Houston 13 Emerald: Oregon State 21, Maryland 14 Meineke: Wake Forest 24, UConn 10 Liberty: Mississippi St. 10, UCF 3 Alamo: Penn St. 24, Texas A&M 17 Independence: Alabama 30, Colorado 24 Armed Forces: Cal vs. Air Force Humanitarian: Ga. Tech vs. Fresno State Sun: South Florida vs. Oregon Music City: Kentucky vs. Florida State Insight: Indiana vs. Oklahoma State Chick-fil-A: Clemson vs. Auburn Outback: Wisconsin vs. Tennessee Cotton: Missouri vs. Arkansas Gator: Texas Tech vs. Virginia Capital One: Michigan vs. Florida International: Rutgers vs. Ball State GMAC: Bowling Green vs. Tulsa Rose: Illinois vs. USC Sugar: Hawaii vs. Georgia Fiesta: Oklahoma vs. West Virginia Orange: Virginia Tech vs. Kansas BCS Championship: LSU vs. Ohio State



monday page 2b 12/31/07 10:12 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

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Purdue

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Kentucky

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Missouri

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Tulsa

**USC** 

Georgia

Oklahoma

LSU

13-2





Bill McClellan Utah **Memphis** Cincinnati New Mexico **BYU** Boise St. Purdue **Texas Boston College TCU** Oregon St. **Wake Forest UCF** Texas A&M Alabama Cal Ga. Tech South Florida Kentucky Oklahoma St. Clemson Tennessee Missouri **Texas Tech** Florida **Rutgers** Tulsa USC Hawaii Oklahoma



John Moseley

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10-5



Steve Reagan

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### **BOWLS**

Record to date

Continued from Page 1B

numbers.

Long isn't a one-man crew, either. Linebackers Clint Sintim and Jeffrey Fitzgerald had eight and six sacks, respectively.

However, Tech is 17th in the country in sacks allowed — a remarkable accomplishment considering how often the Red Raiders throw the football. The key is a quick release and Harrell's ability to read defens-

es before the snap. Prediction: Texas Tech 30, **Virginia 24** — As soon as Tech gets Virginia's pass rush contained, the Cavs will be exposed badly. Their pass defense can be made very suspect when Long and company can't get to the quarterback.

**Cotton Bowl** Missouri (11-2) vs. Arkansas (8-4) 10:30 a.m. Tuesday (FOX)

Last bowl appearances: Oregon State 39, Missouri 38 (2006 Sun): Wisconsin 17. Arkansas 14 (2006 Capital One).

**Synopsis**: Missouri is playing in its first New Year's Day postseason game since the 1972 Fiesta Bowl and the Tigers probably feel slighted by it

being in Dallas instead of Arizona or Florida.

LSU

9-6

No team was stiffed more by the BCS than Missouri. The Tigers' only two losses came to Oklahoma, which many feel is the best team in college football. Then, they defeated the Kansas Jayhawks late in the year, yet, Kansas got the BCS nod over Missouri.

I can understand the argument for Kansas being in the BCS since it is a one-loss team, but the loss to Missouri sticks out. Both can't be in the BCS because one conference can't have three representatives and Oklahoma is an obvious choice to be a participant since the Sooners are the Big 12 champs.

It comes down to the selection processes and the Orange Bowl wanted Kansas over Missouri, despite the Tigers being ranked higher in the final BCS poll. I don't see the appeal of Kansas over Missouri given the star talent the Tigers possess.

Chase Daniel finished fourth in Heisman trophy voting and is probably the top contender in preventing Florida's Tim Tebow from winning the award again next season. Daniel is fourth in the nation in total offense. He's not the most exciting weapon for the

Tigers either.

That title goes to Jeremy Maclin, who plays a variation of a wingback in Missouri's spread offense.

Virginia Tech

LSU

11-4

Arkansas' Darren McFadden is the best NFL prospect in the nation. McFadden has all the talent of Adrian Peterson without the injury history. He's finished second in the Heisman voting the past two seasons.

Prediction: Missouri 37, **Arkansas 34** — There will be plenty of offense in this game. Both defenses will struggle to get stops, but Missouri will get more.

**Outback Bowl** Wisconsin (9-3) vs. Tennessee (9-4) 10 a.m. Tuesday (ESPN)

Last bowl appearances: Wisconsin 17, Arkansas 14 (2006 Capital One); Penn State 20, Tennessee 10 (2006 Outback)

**Synopsis**: It's not the players on the field who will make the biggest difference in this matchup, but instead the ones who won't be allowed to play.

Tennessee will be without five players, who were declared academically ineligible for the Outback Bowl. Three starters are included amongst the five — middle linebacker Rico McCoy, defen-

sive tackle Demonte Bolden and wide receiver Lucas Taylor.

LSU

8-7

Wisconsin is also wondering if its top offensive weapon will be on the field. Sophomore running back P.J. Hill is a star, but has been bothered with deep leg bruise over the last month of the season. The Badgers are saying Hill is 100 percent, yet he won't start. That raises questions to his health in my mind.

**Prediction: Tennessee 34, Wisconsin 17** — Hill's presence now becomes an x-factor. If the big, bruising back is healthy, then it makes no sense to not give him as many touches as possible. If the Badgers decide to not do that, then it's a terrible coaching mistake. However, if Hill plays, then Wisconsin could come away with the victory.

**Capital One Bowl** Michigan (8-4) vs. Florida (9-3) Noon Tuesday (ABC)

Last bowl appearances: USC 32, Michigan 18 (2006 Rose); Florida 41, Ohio State 14 (2006 BCS Championship).

**Synopsis**: No matter what the future might promise with new Head Coach Rich Rodriguez, the present is a Michigan team getting ready to face the type of athlete at the

quarterback position that has haunted them all season.

LSU

11-4

LSU

Appalachian State's upset victory of Michigan in the first week of the season was well covered and set the tone for the wildest season in college football history. The reason the Wolverines struggled stopping Appalachian State was because of dual-threat quarterback Armanti Edwards.

The following week, Dennis Dixon led a similar Oregon offense easily past Michigan. In the Capital One Bowl, the Wolverines will face one of the best dual-threat quarterbacks to ever play the game.

Heisman-winning quarterback Tim Tebow became the first quarterback to ever pass for at least 20 touchdowns and run for another 20 scores.

The hardest part of trying to defend the Florida offense is as soon as a team focuses on Tebow, the speedy Percy Harvin makes them pay for it.

Prediction: Florida 38, Michigan 24 — Michigan receiver Mario Manningham could have a big night against a subpar Gators' secondary.

Still, Florida will be able to thwart Michigan's offensive attack enough to allow Tebow and company to gain an advan-

#### **HOLIDAY**

Continued from Page 1B

#### Grady 45, Rankin 36

LENORAH — Grady rode an MVP performance by Justin Tubb to successfully defend its home court at the Cotton Classic.

Tubb had 11 points for the Wildcats as two of his teammates joined him in double figures against Rankin.

Leighton Fields led Grady with 12 points and Dylan Cox posted 10. Cox, Fields and Tommylee Rivas were each named to the all-tournament team.

Garret Avalos scored a gamehigh 18 and also earned all-tournament honors for Rankin.

Rankin 5 10 7 14-36 12 8 12 14—45 Grady Rankin: Smith 2, Evans 2, Chase Epley

8, Garret Avalos 18, Schmitz 6. Grady (8-1): Tommylee Rivas 6, Dylan Cox 10, Justin Tubb 11, Jacob Rodriguez 2, Leighton Fields 12, Lane Shands 4.

#### Slaton 37,

**Bulldogettes 23** 

SLATON — Slaton used the home court and crowd to its advantage, keeping the Bulldogettes from scoring no more than seven points in a period.

The Lady Tigers led 20-11 at the half and had extended that lead to 14 by the end of the third period.

Heather Sheppard scored more than half of Coahoma's points, finishing the game with

Coahoma picks back up with district play Friday, hosting Haskell at 6:30 p.m.

9 11 10 7—37 Coahoma 6 5 5 7-23 Leading scorers: Slaton - Moses 10:

Coahoma - Sheppard 14

#### Bulldogs 61, Monahans 51

BIG LAKE — Thanks to a fast start, the Bulldogs built a lead that proved unconquerable for the Monahans Lobos.

Coahoma established its low post game early, jumping out to a 19-11 first period advantage.

Monahans made a run at the Bulldogs late in the game, but Coahoma held onto the double digit win.

The Bulldogs were led by Colter Morgan's 12 points. Cody

Sheppard had 10 and Matthew Tatum chipped in nine. Josh Paniagua and Mikey Mendoza each had eight.

immediately following the girls game Friday. Monahans 11 9 10 21-51

The Bulldogs face Haskell

Coahoma 19 9 16 17-61 Monahans: Wallace 8, Owens 7, Titus 4, Dipasquale 4, Jaquez 10, Armendariz 3,

Hughes 9, Rose 2, Childress 4.

Coahoma (11-4): Mikey Mendoza 8, Braden Griffin 3, Josh Paniagua 8, Josh Jones 1, Colter Morgan 12, Logan Stone 7, Matthew Tatum 9, Jovi Paniagua 3, Cody Sheppard 10.

#### Lady Buffs 56, Midland Lee JV 43

STERLING CITY — Forsan's Lady Buffs outscored Midland Lee's junior varsity 13-0 in overtime Saturday night to win the consolation bracket at the Sterling City Holiday

Tournament. Forsan's Amanda Longorio had what Head Coach Robert Hillger called a monster game, leading the Lady Buffs with 29 points and 13 rebounds. She was selected to the all-tournament team.

Longorio scored in double digits in all three of Forsan's

bracket games. She had 17 points and nine boards in the Lady Buffs' opening-round 40-34 loss to host Sterling City.

Then she posted another double double — 15 points, 11 rebounds — against Robert Lee as the Lady Buffs avenged an earlier season loss, 49-44.

Sandi Golleher had eight points in the opening game, 15 against Robert Lee and five in the overtime victory over Midland Lee.

Hillger credited the entire team with solid play, including strong guard play from Tori Gauer, Shelby McDonald and Faith Belew.

#### Lady Wildcats 53, Trinity 20

LENORAH — Grady's Lady Wildcats were led by Eva Dyck's 13 points as eight different players found the bottom of the net in Saturday's consolation final in the Cotton Classic.

The Wildcats outscored Trinity 20-2 in the opening period and coasted to victory from there.

Lauren Robinson added nine points and Kandace Schuelke

had eight. Kenzie Madison had five points and eight rebounds and was named to the all-tournament team.

2 6 3 9—20

20 12 11 10-53 Grady Trinity: Brown 4, A Winstead 2, B.

**Trinity** 

Winstead 6, Willingham 6, Glinsmann 2. Grady (14-5): Eva Dyck 13, Linsey Chavez 7, Kandace Schuelke 8, Kaitlyn Blocker 2, Lauren Robinson 9, Sam Rodriguez 4, Kenzie Madison 5, Rachel Romine 5.

#### Garden City 57, **Irion County 27**

BIG LAKE — Garden City's Lady Bearkats nabbed third place in Reagan County's Mary Tatum Invitational. Garden City never trailed and carried a double digit lead throughout the second half.

Every player on the Lady Kats' roster scored led by alltournament selection Brittney Chudej with 11 points. Whitney Kellermier chipped in 10 and Macy Schwartz hit two treys for six points.

Garden City 10 17 14 12 6 Irion County 3 Garden City: Paige Niehues 4, Morgan Schwartz 4, Brittney Chudej 11, Whitney Kellermier 10, Lyza Lopez 3, Macy

Schwartz 6, Amy Multer 7, Hailey Schaefer

4, Melissa Hirt 2, Britton Avery 4.

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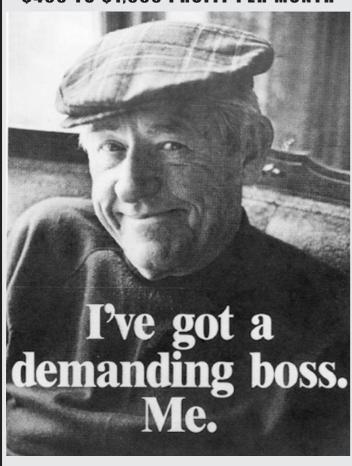
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#### **Tomorrow's Horoscope**

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Mars backs up into Gemini, energizing minds to consider what the old New Year's song asks:

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot never and brought to mind?" There are things about 2007that belong

the

HOLIDAY forever in **M**ATHIS past.

Consider what you'd like to leave and what qualities you will take with you as you move into 2008. ARIES (March 21-April

19). Take your good-to-go attitude into the New Year with you. And if there's one thing you can leave back in 2007, it's your need to prove a point. You know when you're right, and that should be enough. TAURUS (April 20-May

20). Take your work ethic into the New Year. You stay until the job is done -- it's a matter of pride, and it's a matter of dignity. That said, if there's one thing to leave in the past, it's your tendency to settle for too low a wage. GEMINI (May 21-June

21). Take your bright, intellectual style with you into the New Year. You're full of ideas, and many of them will catch on. Leave in the past your tendency to overthink things.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take your instinct about what is truly valuable with you into the New Year. And what vou can leave back in 2007 is your fear that you are unworthy of it. Repeat: "I am worthy of the things I desire."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Take your need for attention into the future. It perfectly matches other people's need to be amused. But if there's one thing you can leave back in 2007, it's low confidence. You're a star! Believe it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. Take 22). your perfectionism into the future because your high standards are what keep your life going toward your dreams. If there's something you can leave in the past, it's your need to micromanage.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take your lovely sense of diplomacy into the New Year. But leave your need to make it right for Sometimes, everyone. compromise cheapens things for everyone involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take your sense of mystery into 2008. It attracts people to you and in many cases makes you downright irresistible to Leave your them. tendency not to ask for the help you need back in SYNDICATE, INC.

2007.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take your adventurous spirit into 2008. You are even more daring and ready to embrace whatever unfolds before you. Leave unresolved business in the past. Figure out a resolution quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take your inner drive and ambitious dreams into the future. As you do, leave behind your doubts about what is reasonable. Your aims have nothing to do with being reasonable, and that's why you'll achieve them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your accept people who are very different from you. It's a lovely habit and a quality vou should definitely take into the New Year. Leave behind your need to please others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Take your spiritual quest into the future. The best thing you can do for the cause of world peace is to create peace in your own life. Leave behind your need to control the uncontrollable. Surrender.

#### ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was born

July 18, 1957. husband was born March 3, 1958. Last year, my son was attacked and spent 25 days on life support. The doctors didn't think he would make it. I spent 14 hours a day at the hospital, only to come home to my husband screaming and yelling at me for not being home with him and our other kids (at the time they were 16 and 12). My husband was arrested for domestic violence; he is now in court-ordered anger management. I can't understand why he was not there for me when I needed him most (we have been married almost 21 years). My husband and I have been separated for months. I am in therapy. What now?"

Everyone has different ways of dealing with stress and grief. Though you empathize with your husband's pain, violence is acceptable. Bottom line: When violence and fear are present in a relationship, love will not thrive. With your Cancer sun square Neptune, you can work with your therapist on developing the healthy boundaries you didn't learn as a child.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page.

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#### STATE / NATION

#### **BIG SPRING HERALD** Monday, December 31, 2007

#### Texas News Briefs

monday page 3a 12/31/07 10:11 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

#### Greyhound track closes in Corpus Christi CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — It proved tough to call the

winner of Sunday's last race at Corpus Christi Greyhound Race Track — at least for a short time.

In the end, Border Town Girl beat Oates before an audience that was about twice the usual 250 the track gets on Sundays.

Facing mounting losses, this coastal city's greyhound race park closed for at least a year after Sunday's card, ending a near-two-decade run.

The track's owners decided to go dark for 2008 after the Texas Racing Commission denied a request for a reduced racing schedule. The track had hoped to institute a racing circuit with a track in Harlingen.

Filings with the Texas Racing Commission show the Corpus track was losing about \$3.5 million a year and owed investors \$35.5 million. It sustained losses for years hoping the state would legalize slot machines or live poker.

General manager Rick Pimentel said about 115 people will lose their jobs, but the track hopes to be able to reopen in 2009.

Betting on simulcast racing at other tracks — a draw when the local dogs aren't running — is scheduled to end Monday.

#### DA criticized over e-mails seeks re-election

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal rejected calls by the county Republican Party to give up his 2008 re-election campaign because of a scandal over affectionate e-mails he sent to his secretary.

"I'm going to run for district attorney and I am going to win," Rosenthal said.

Fifteen members of the Harris County Republican

party — s Advisory Committee voted unanimously on Sunday to urge Rosenthal to withdraw from the March 4 GOP primary.

"The consensus was this is a position of high trust, and when this position is questioned, when this position is breached, we feel like it's important that we make a change," said Harris County Republican Chairman Jared Woodfill.

The party has contacted about 10 potential candidates, Woodfill said. He refused to name the potential candidates but said he is certain one or more challengers will register before Wednesday's deadline.

E-mails from Rosenthal to his secretary, Kerry

Stevens, surfaced last week as part of a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Harris County Sheriff's

They contain the phrase "I love you" more than a dozen times, and Rosenthal asks Stevens to let him hold her.

#### Garland man held in turcker's death

SCIO TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — The Washtenaw County sheriff's department says a 44-year-old man was stabbed to death at a Scio Township truck stop after a conversation on a CB radio led to a confronta-

The department tells The Ann Arbor News officers got a call Saturday to the TA Travel Center in Scio Township, about 35 miles west of Detroit.

They say Gregory A. Hobalt of Davenport, Iowa, was pronounced dead at the University of Michigan Hospitals.

Authorities are holding a 36-year-old man from Garland while they determine charges.

They say the suspect apparently made offensive comments on the CB radio about the 10-year-old daughter of Hobalt's girlfriend.

#### Senator's widow uninjured after another blaze

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The widow of state Sen. Frank Madla was uninjured Sunday in a house fire at the same location where a blaze claimed the lives of her husband, mother and granddaughter last year.

Helen Madla, her roommate Rose Alcaraz and her roommate's dog, a dachshund named Charlie, escaped unharmed, according to a report in the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

The fire, confined to a chimney, caused about \$40,000 damage.

"I just can't believe it happened," said Helen Madla. Madla's husband, her mother Mary Cruz, 81, and her 5-year-old granddaughter Aleena, died in a fire at the same house after a Thanksgiving dinner. A candle lit for the holiday caused that fire.

Sunday's fire broke out around 8 a.m. in the chimney after Madla lit a fire in the fireplace.

After a while, she noticed smoke in the house. She and her roommate heard horns honking and neighbors yelling that the home was on fire.

A fire official said the blaze was an accident.

#### Cop killer's room full of supremacist symbols

BASTROP, La. (AP) — The man who killed two Bastrop police detectives and was then killed in a

shootout carried Nazi and Confederate emblems on flags and jewelry, and had them tattooed all over his body.

Dennis Clem, 26, and Tanya "Little Feather" Smith, 24, had left Houston because Clem was wanted for questioning in the July 14 killings of a 15- and 19-yearold outside his home.

Smith has pleaded not guilty to six weapons charges related to the Aug. 10 killings of police officers John Smith and Charles "Chuck" Wilson in Bastrop.

Evidence lists, interview transcripts and rap sheets added to the court record last week give a more complete picture of the couple. The documents show that police found drugs, weapons and supremacist trappings in their room and vehicle.

Those included 15 flags, decorated with Nazi symbols and slogans such as "Heritage not Hate;" three bags of jewelry bearing Confederate emblems; Nazi pins, patches and clothing; tattoo stencils and materials.

Clem's tattoos included swastikas, an Iron Cross and the slogan "Kill 'Em All." Though Smith's affiliation with organized white supremacy is not clear, prison booking photos from a prior arrest show swastikas on her body and "Love Thy Race" across her lower back.

Clem served time in Texas for deadly conduct behavior that places another in danger of serious bodily injury.

#### Suspect arrested again in double slaying

SAN ANTOINO (AP) — New evidence in a 12-yearold double slaying has led to a murder charge against a man who was an original suspect.

Jack King, 38, was arrested Friday night at a San Antonio hotel following a tip to authorities. He was indicted in the slayings earlier this month by a grand

King remained in custody at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center on Sunday on \$75,000 bond.

Kids found the decomposing bodies of Ray Wechsler, 25, and Rosendo "Chubby" Torres Jr., 33, partially buried behind a trailer park on Christmas Day in 1995.

Bexar County sheriff's deputies worked the case for three years, finding the murder weapon and making two arrests — King and a man who later died from an overdose. But the district attorney's office dropped the case against them.

A cold case detective reopened the case last year and found new witnesses who claimed to have seen the shooting of Wechsler and Torres.

Investigators believe Wechsler and Torres were shot Sept. 10, 1995, then buried on vacant land in South Bexar County.

#### **WILLIAMSON**

Continued from Page 1A

pay-as-you-go organization, building roads with money collected from gas taxes and fees.

But under Perry and his appointees to the commission, notably Williamson, the agency has increasingly shifted to relying on toll roads and borrowed money to speed construction. The change has

prompted intense criticism from the public and lawmakers.

Legislators from rural areas were concerned about private property rights. Those from urban districts complained of toll roads financed and owned by foreign compa-

"We were moving faster than most government agencies move and it spooked some people," Williamson said in June.

TxDOT Director Amadeo Saenz said Williamson was a visionary.

"As a member and chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, he brought passion and focus to meeting many of the challenges facing Texas today and for generations to come," he said.

John D. Esparza, president and CEO of the Motor Texas

Executive Transportation Association, called Williamson a genuine public servant.

> "As an industry, we were proud to have had the opportunity to work with him," Esparza said.

Williamson served in the Legislature from 1985-98, and was on key committees such as the House/Senate Budget Conference Committee, Appropriations (vice chairman) and Ways and

#### Means.

He received a bachelor's from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974 and went into the natural gas production business.

Survivors include his

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wife, Mary Ann; three daughters; and two grandchildren.



#### **COURT**

Continued from Page 1A

"In light of such widespread demands for ... government-issued photo identification, it is almost shocking that in late 2007 Indiana can be characterized as even unusual in requiring it at the polls," the state said in its court filing.

The Bush administration maintains states need not wait for fraud to occur to take action to prevent it. "The state's interest in deterring voter fraud before it happens is evident from the monumental harm that can come from such fraud," the government said in its supporting brief.

The law's opponents counter that an ID may be just one card among many in most people's wallets, but some groups are far less likely to have

Homeless people wanting to vote might face the most difficulty under the law. While the state will provide a voter ID card free of charge to the poor, applicants still must have

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that special gift.

Stuffer Shelf or take a stroll

down Gift Alley and pick out

a birth certificate or other documentation to get the ID card.

"I think it's wonderful, but if you can't prove who you are, you can't get an ID," said Carter Wolf, executive director of Horizon House, which provides services to homeless people.

Getting a birth certification isn't always easy, Wolf said, or cheap. Sometimes it can cost \$60 to \$70 to get a birth certificate from other states.

"Obtaining a photo identification card under Indiana law requires documentation that is difficult, if not impossible, for many homeless individuals to provide," Carter leading Phillips, a Phillips, a leading Supreme Court lawyer, wrote in a supporting brief.

Even without an ID, indigent people can cast provisional ballots, then show up within 10 days at county offices and sign a form attesting to their vote.

But the Marion County Election Board, which Indianapolis, includes said just two of 34 voters who cast provisional ballots because they lacked

Open Mon.-Sat. 10am to 6pm

**Located in the Imperial Shopping Center** 

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Bring in this ad for 20% off any regular priced item - One Coupon per visit - Not valid for Lay-Always. Expires 12/22/07 voter ID showed up at county offices to validate their vote in the 2007 municipal election. Their signatures all matched those on file, but could not be counted because of the photo ID requirement.

Hasen said while neither side has abundant evidence to back its position the fraud argument is far less plausible than the claim that and ID requirement will reduce voter turnout.

Someone wanting to sway an election through fraud would be unlikely to get individuals to show up at the polls, pretend to be someone else and then ask them to cast a secret,

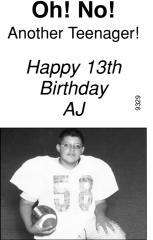


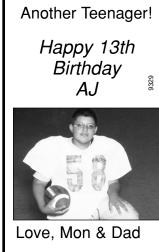
unverifiable ballot, said Hasen.

But he said, "When voting is more difficult, people tend to not vote.'

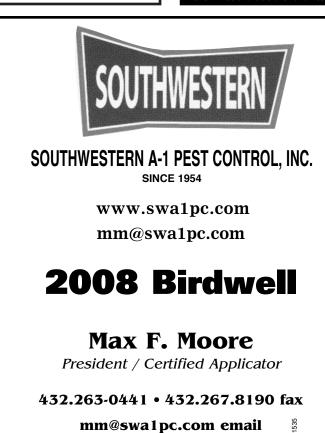
Opponents to the law argue the real potential for voter fraud lies in the filing of absentee ballots and that Indiana has made it easier to vote

absentee in recent years. The cases are Crawford Marion County Election Board, 07-21, and Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita, 07-25.











**O**PINION

DONALD

"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

Monday, Page 4A, 12-31-07 12/31/07 10:10 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Fo∤der:

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

Ron Midkiff

John A. Moseley Managing Editor **Bill McClellan** 

**OUR VIEWS** 

### Please party with caution this evening

rea law enforcement officers have a message for would-be partygoers as we close 2007 and welcome in 2008 tonight: Don't drink and drive.

That warning is issued every year and we devote a couple of editorials to it every year at this time. That's because anyone who has been drinking and takes the chance of getting behind the wheel is endangering lives — not just their own, but ours

Call us stuffed shirts, if you must, but we simply find that unacceptable.

Oh, yes, it should be noted that those who drink and get behind the wheel also run a better than usual chance of getting stopped and taken to jail because extra law officers will be on the street.

That's true for both the city and state, because both the Big Spring Police Department and the Department of Public Safety are taking advantage of grant money to pay overtime for peace officers to be on patrol.

As local DPS Sgt. Jason Hester and Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith have noted, they always have a "zero tolerance" policy for both those who drink and drive and those who are not wearing seat-

Once again, we'll be honest, we're not asking that you don't drink and drive so that you won't wind up in jail. No, there's a lot more to it than that.

We all enjoy celebrations and the end of a year has always been an acceptable cause to celebrate. But it's not reason enough to endanger lives, and that's a point that can't be driven home enough.

If your driving is impaired, the chances of your having an accident are greater — that's a fact. While you may be able to keep a vehicle "between the lines" so to speak, your ability to react to sudden changes is diminished. Your defensive driving skills simply aren't what they should be.

In other words, it's not worth it. It's not worth the embarrassment; it's not worth the fine and jail time; it's not worth a chance having it on your record; it's not worth the chance of endangering your life, the lives of those with you or the lives of other motorists or pedestrians.

Please, please, please ... if you are planning on drinking and being out tonight, appoint a designated driver.

Make sure you are around to celebrate again next year.

#### How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St. • By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

- 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-

#### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can call on You, Lord, anything, anywhere, absolutely free. Thank You.

#### Myths of governance and baseball The bomb is a monster of our hearsay right now and thinly

estern culture is layered with myths and legends that resonate through the centuries, stories that never seem to lose their relevance.

There is the Cinderella myth, for example, telling the story of the poor but worthy per-

son who is lifted out of meager circumstances by a single person or event.

It's Rocky; it's American Idol. We never tire of that story.

It's why we play the lottery; we want to be Cinderella.

destroying him.

KAUL Then there's the Frankenstein legend, the story of a brilliant man who creates a living being out of spare parts then is unable to control his invention. The creature rises up against its master, eventually

Seen in a modern context, it is the story of the atomic bomb. We have ingeniously created this device of stupendous power, yet our efforts to harness it or at least limit access to it are increasingly ineffective.

We tell Iran "Do not build this bomb, do not even acquire the knowledge to do so," but we don't know how to make that happen, short of starting World War III. And at least one of the countries that have the bomb, Pakistan, teeters on the brink of revolution.

What if such a country and its bombs fall into the hands of Islamic fanatics?

What risk then?

creation and we can only hope not to be destroyed by it.

The myth that's come into the news recently is that of Faust, the alchemist who trades his soul to Satan for a life of luxury, excess and decadence. In at least some of the versions, Faust resists when Satan comes to claim his soul and is torn to bits, the remnants of his body left on a dunghill.

That's baseball and steroids.

Former Senator George Mitchell released his report on steroids in baseball last week, naming some 90 players as users of performing enhancing drugs.

Barry Bonds. The greatest slugger of his era, has been the lone poster boy for such accusations but now he has company — Roger Clemens, perhaps the greatest pitcher of his generation, among

It is a shoddy report in many ways. It lumps together the 90 names as though they were the same, but that's obviously not true. Some were aging stars seeking to prolong a dying career, some were marginal ballplayers who wanted to become stars, others used drugs to help them rehabilitate injuries. Still others admit to using drugs only a few times, experimentally, then stopping.

And some, perhaps like Bonds or Clemens, were great stars who wanted to become even greater

I say perhaps because it has not yet been proved that Bonds or Clemens or hardly anyone else used steroids or Human Growth Hormones. Clemens, for one, denies it vehemently. It's all

sourced hearsay at that, as is the entire Mitchell report when you come down to it.

I suppose you have to expect that when an investigator lacks subpoena power. Still the major flaw in the report is that it vastly understates the use of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball. Ninety is an absurdly low number. Surely the total should be in the hundreds, many hundreds.

How do I know that? Elementary my dear Watson.

Throughout the era the baseball players union steadfastly resisted mandatory testing for steroids. Wouldn't hear of it.

Would that have been the case if only a few or a few dozen players were users?

Hardly. It's a competitive sport. If you find out an opponent is cheating, then he's taking bread out of your mouth. You want to stop him, not shield him from discovery.

What the offending players had in common was that when the guy in the black cape with the red silk lining came around, they were ready to listen to him.

And now their reputations are dismembered and lying on a dunghill.

Someone should have told them that Faust doesn't have a happy ending.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-losing Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul1@verizon.net.

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### What Darwin teaches about drug war

ith every passing year the drug problem seems to get worse. The U.S. government responds by pumping billions more dollars into the war on drugs. Federal spending for this "war without end" is

more than 20 times what it was in 1980 and still the drug traffickers appear to be winning. Despite more than six billion dollars spent on "Plan Colombia" alone, cocaine production has actually increased in that country. Now the **Bush Administration** 

Sanho TREE is asking for \$1.4 billion more to aid the Mexican government's drug crackdown through the "Merida Initiative."

Although it may seem counterintuitive, the "law and order" response by our politicians only intensifies the problem. Instead, they might turn to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution to glean insight as to why these "common sense" reactionary solu-

tions often are counterproductive. As illegal drugs become easier to obtain and more potent, politicians respond in a knee-jerk manner by ramping up law enforcement. After all, drugs are bad so why not escalate the war against drugs? Politicians get to look tough in front of voters, the drug war bureaucracy is delighted with ever expanding budgets, and lots of low-level bad guys get locked up. Everyone wins — including, unfortunately, the major drug traffickers.

Amen As politicians intensified the drug war decade after decade, an unintended consequence began to appear. These "get tough" policies have caused the drug economy to evolve under Darwinian principles (i.e., survival of the fittest). Indeed, the drug war has stimulated this economy to grow and innovate at a frightening pace.

By escalating the drug war, the kinds of people the police typically capture are the ones who are dumb enough to get caught. These criminal networks are occasionally taken down when people within the organization get careless. Thus, law enforcement tends to apprehend the most inept and least efficient traffickers. The common street expression puts it best: "the dealer who uses, loses." Conversely, the kinds of people law enforcement tends to miss are the most cunning, innovative and efficient traffickers.

It's as though we have had a decades-long unintended policy of artificial selection. Just as public health professionals warn against the overuse of antibiotics because it can lead to drug resistant strains of bacteria, our overuse of law enforcement has thinned out the trafficking herd so that the weak and inefficient traffickers get captured or killed and only the most proficient dealers survive and prosper. Indeed, U.S. drug war policies have selectively bred 'super-traffickers.'

Politicians cannot hope to win a war on drugs when their policies ensure that only the most efficient trafficking networks survive. Not only do they survive, but they thrive because law enforcement has destroyed the competition for them by picking off the unfit traffickers and letting the most

evolved ones take over the lucrative trafficking space. The destruction of the Medellin and Cali cartels, for instance, only created a vacuum for hundreds of smaller (and more efficient) operations. Now the police cannot even count the number of smaller cartels that have taken over — much less try to infiltrate and disrupt them.

Moreover, the police have constricted the supply of drugs on the street while the demand remains constant thus driving up prices and profits for the remaining dealers. Increasing drug interdiction creates an unintended price support for drug dealers which, in turn, lures more participants into the drug economy. Of all the laws that Congress can pass or repeal, the law of supply and demand is apparently not one of them. A public health approach to deal-

ing with illicit drugs should take precedence over "law and order" approaches. Treatment and prevention must take priority over interdiction and eradication because drugs are a demand-driven problem. Politicians, however, continue to devote most drug funding toward cutting the supply. The proposed aid package for the notoriously corrupt Mexican drug war establishment would be better spent on providing treatment for addicts in the United States.

Over reliance on politically expedient "get tough" policies will only continue an endless spiral of drug trafficking evolution.

Sanho Tree is a Fellow at the *Institute for Policy Studies in* Washington, D.C., and directs its Drug Policy Project. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.

#### **NUTRITION WISE**

### Cuts of steak; about saccharin

Q: Are some cuts of steak lower in fat than

A: Steak can be high in saturated fat, the type of fat that raises blood cholesterol and therefore risk of heart disease. Several types of steak, however, can be reasonably lean, namely T-bone, porterhouse and tenderloin (filet mignon). In terms of limiting fat intake, how well the steak is trimmed of exterior fat is key.

For example, a standard three-ounce serving (roughly the size of a deck of cards) contains about 8 grams (g) of fat and 170 calories if the out-

side fat is completely trimmed off. But if untrimmed, that same portion of steak soars to over 20 g of fat and 290 calories. A second contributing factor is portion size.

Obviously as the portion increases, so do the fat and calorie content. Restaurant steak portions are usually 9 to 12 ounces – that's three to four standard servings.

Some restaurants pride themselves COLLINS on steak portions so large they're equal to five standard servings; MS, RD, CDN indulge here and you're taking in over 100 g of fat and 1450 calories for

an untrimmed portion of meat. In the end, however, the negative health effects of consuming large amounts of red meat go beyond the soaring fat and calorie calculations. And they cannot be erased by simply choosing a leaner cut of steak. According to the latest international report on diet and cancer risk from the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), research is now convincing that red meat in itself increases risk of developing colon cancer. Consequently AICR recommends limiting red meat to no more than 18 ounces a week. That allows a 6-ounce steak perhaps two or three times a week. To help make the adjustment, begin to think of steak as a treat and eat it slowly, savoring every bit. If you're mindful of your food, you won't need a large portion to feel satisfied. Also, if you are reducing your portion of meat, be sure to fill the remainder of your plate with plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grains to avoid feeling

#### Q: Do herbs and enemas that cleanse the colon protect against colon cancer?

deprived.

A: No well-controlled, scientifically accurate studies offer any convincing evidence to support such suggestions. The mucus and bacteria that many "cleansing products" pride themselves on removing are a normal part of our digestive system, helping it to function and stay healthy. Suggestions that we need special procedures to remove "toxins" are likewise unfounded. Instead of wasting your money on unsubstantiated products, consider increasing the fiber in your diet instead. Studies show that food waste moves through the digestive system considerably faster in people who eat diets high in fiber. Some experts link this increased transit time to the probable role that fiber-rich foods play in reducing risk of colon cancer, suggesting that potential cancer-causing substances in waste material spend less time in contact with intestinal membranes. Other research points to benefits gained from substances produced from fiber by intestinal bacteria. For lower risk of colon cancer and better overall health, follow AICR's research-supported recommendation: eat a mostly plant-based diet with plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans; get regular exercise; limit consumption of red meat, processed meat and alcohol; and maintain a healthy weight.

#### Q: Does saccharin cause cancer?

A: No. Saccharin (commonly referred to by it's brand name Sweet'N Low) is a zero-calorie sweetener used in tabletop sugar substitutes as well as in reduced-calorie baked goods, jams and other commercial products. High doses of the artificial sweetener saccharin were linked to bladder cancer in rats in the early 1970s, but further research showed that the implicated pathway was not applicable to humans. Other human population studies show no consistent evidence that saccharin is associated with bladder cancer.

Accordingly, saccharin has been removed from the list of established carcinogens and food labels no longer contain a saccharin warning.

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**Big Spring, Texas** 

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Enjoy some creamy vegetable soup

If your only exposure to vegetable soup a watery, high-sodium canned version, it's time for an update. This week's recipe presents a creamier soup prepared with roasted vegetables. For an added kick, the dish is seasoned with garam masala, a blend of ground spices from northern India.

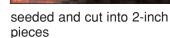
This recipe calls for first roasting its vegetables. Although a bit timeconsuming, the end result helps each vegetable retain its unique flavor and it intensifies the depth of flavor of the overall dish. In addition, the process prevents the color of the soup from turning muddy when pureed.

Cruciferous vegetables are well represented in this soup. The cauliflower and broccoli add bulk to the dish thanks to their fiber. Moreover, crucifervegetables have received attention for their potential role in cancer prevention. According experts at American Institute for Cancer Research, nonstarchy vegetables, like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and Brussels sprouts, likely protect against several common cancers.

While there are many versions of garam masala, nearly always include cinnamon, clove, cumin, nutmeg and cardamon. These spices give the dish a warm, earthy flavor and are a nice compliment to the soup's more mild milk base.

#### **Creamy Vegetable Soup** 1 small zucchini, cut in 1-

- inch pieces
- 1 small acorn squash, peeled, seeded and cut into
- 2-inch pieces (about 3 cups) 1 medium carrot, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Cooking spray 1 tsp. garam masala\* 3 cups cold water 2 cups 1% milk Salt and freshly ground
- black pepper, to taste Low-fat sour cream (optional) 3 garlic cloves, peeled and
- halved 1 yellow bell pepper,



- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 2 cups cauliflower florets 1/2 fennel bulb, cut in 1inch pieces
- 1 medium red-skin potato, diced
- 2 large shallots, quartered 1 medium tomato, seeded and cut into 6 wedges
- \* Or make your own mixture of 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon, plus 1/8 tsp. each ground allspice, coriander and black pepper

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.

Coat two baking sheets with cooking spray.

On one sheet, place the garlic, bell pepper, broccoli, cauliflower, fennel, potato, shallots, tomato and zucchini. Coat liberally with cooking spray. Place the acorn squash and carrots on the second sheet and coat with cooking spray as well. Bake the vegetables for 15-20 minutes. Stir once and

bake 10 minutes longer, or until slightly soft.

to a large, deep saucepan. Add the spice mixture and 3 cups cold water. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer until the vegetables are very soft, about 20 minutes. Add the milk. Transfer the mixture to a blender and purée until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot and

Transfer the vegetables

### garnish with a dollop of sour cream, if desired.

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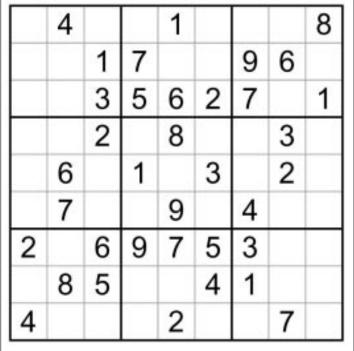
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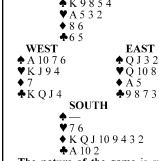
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com





By Steve Becker

#### Famous Hand



East dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

The nature of the game is such that different players frequently react differently when faced with the same circumstances. For a dramatic illustration, consider this deal from the 1975 world team championship.

At one table, in the France-U.S. match, the French South started the proceedings by bidding five diamonds. West doubled, everybody passed, and West led the king of clubs. Declarer ducked, and West shifted to a trump. East took the ace and could have defeated the contract two tricks by returning a trump. Instead, he returned a heart, and the French declarer went down only one for a loss of 100 points

At the other table in the same

match, the U.S. South opened with four diamonds. West doubled, East responded four spades, and everybody passed. This contract went down one, so the U.S. team gained 150 points on the combined result.

At the first table in the Indonesia-Italy match, the Indonesian South opened with three diamonds. West doubled, and the Italian East jumped to four spades. North doubled, and the contract went down one. At the second table in that match.

the Italian South, Giorgio Belladonna, playing with Benito Garozzo, opened with one diamond. West doubled, and the Indonesian East responded two notrump. When West bid three clubs, East bid three notrump, which North doubled.

South led the king of diamonds. initiating the slaughter that ensued. East took the ace and led the jack of spades. When Belladonna showed out, declarer went up with the ace and led a low heart toward his hand. Garozzo rose with the ace and

returned the eight of diamonds, on which Belladonna played the deuce! This gave Garozzo the opportunity to cash the king of spades did - before leading a club to Belladonna's ace. As a result, declarer went down six — 1,100 points in those days — to give the Italian team a net gain of 1,000 points on the deal.



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monday page 6a 12/31/07 10:07 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

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6		News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy!	Premios	The Simpsons	News	12 Corazones		Raymond	Jack Van Impe John Hagee			Planet of the Apes	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Notarized: Top 100 Videos of	That's-Raven	SportsCenter Special (CC)	Kentucky College	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
7	:30	Movie: Shrek 2	Movie: Shrek 2	"	Movie: Men in Black II (CC)	Big Bang Th	Eternamente Selena		Friends (CC)	Update Israel Charles Scott	Live From Lincoln Center	, ,	Movie: Planet of the Apes	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	'07 Countdown (CC)	,,	SportsCenter Special	Football: Chick-Fil-A	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
8	:PM :30	"	33	33	33	Two/Half Men Engagement		Culture Nation	Family Guy Family Guy	Light of the Southwest	(CC)	MythBusters (CC)	39	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	1 / /	39	37	Series of Poker		Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
9	:PM :30	New Year's- 2008	New Year's- 2008	!Feliz 2008!	TMZ (CC) Raymond	CSI: Miami (CC)			Family Guy Family Guy	27	Great Performances	Weapon Masters	Movie:	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	,,	Zack & Cody Zack & Cody	2007 World Series of Poker	(CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
10	:PM :30	News (CC) New Year's	News Dick Clark's	27	Two/Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	22		10 Items-Less 10 Items-Less		(CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Beneath the Planet of the	CSI: NY (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	106 & Party: New Year's	Zack & Cody Zack & Cody	SportsCenter (CC)	New Year, No Limits	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
11	:PM :30	Big D N.Y.E.	New Year's Rockin' Eve	33 33	New Year's Eve Live	Letterman Late Late	22		10 Items-Less 10 Items-Less		33	MythBusters (CC)	Apes Movie: Escape	Movie: Sin City	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Eve '07 Special (CC)	Zack & Cody Kim Possible	NFL Primetime	" SportsCenter	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone
10	:AM :30	New Year's Rockin' Eve	2008 <b>(CC)</b>	Premio lo	(CC) George Lopez	Show The Insider	Decisiones de Programa	News	10 Items-Less Sex and-City	Update Israel Rico Cortes	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	From the Planet of the	"	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Rip the Runway (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	(CC) Madden Nation	(CC)	Twilight Zone The Twilight

#### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



`Don't Jelly Beans count as a veg-table?"

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I guess it's time we looked at these family newsletters we were too

#### sudden **link** 2006 Birdwell 267.3821





HAPPY NEW YEAR, HONEY! I WONDER WHY WE DIDN'T HEAR THE LET'S SEE IF IT'S BROKEN

LOOKS LIKE OUR
LITTLE CUCKOO STARTED
CELEBRATING A LITTLE OH, DEAR! TOO EARLY THIS YEAR!



YOU DO KNOW IT'S ONLY



YOU MEAN I GOTTA

WIZARD OF ID

 $\mathbf{BC}$ 







**AGNES** 







HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST



**SNUFFY SMITH** 









#### This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 31, the 365th and final day of 2007.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J.

On this date:

1775, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec: Montgomery was killed. In 1857, Britain's Queen

Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed an act paving the way for West Virginia statehood.

In 1877, President and Mrs. Hayes celebrated their silver anniversary (actually, a day late) by re-enacting their wedding ceremony in the White House.

In 1946, President Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War

In 1974, private U.S. citizens were allowed to buy and own gold for the first time in more than 40 years. In 1978, Taiwanese diplo-

mats struck their colors for the final time from the embassy flagpole Washington, marking the end of diplomatic relations with the U.S.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that

was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1987, Robert Mugabe was sworn in as Zimbabwe's first executive president. Today's Birthdays: Folk

and blues singer Odetta is

### Answer to previous puzzle MNEMONICUPLIFT

#### **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS**

- **9** Club regulation
- 15 Sandwich-
- 16 Rental
- document
- 17 Tucson's loc.
- **18** The Dalai 19 Bulletin-board
- fasteners
- **20** Noisy winter
- 23 Take a break
- **24** That lady
- popcorn
- cleaning
- **35** Caviar source
- example
- at the office"
- 44 Collective-
- group
- 46 Office neckwear
- **47** Ritzy residence
- **49** Seafood servings
- **52** Dentist's
- usually

- **59** Noisy
- machine
- 66 Adam's second son

68 Item's cost

71 War horse

70 Adam's home

**73** Mailed away

2 Have coming

**3** Threesome

4 "Oh, yeah?"

**5** Dye, for

Saudi

instance

8 Australian

9 Crunchy

sandwich,

for short

**6** Jordanian or

7 Tourney rounds

bearlike beast

**DOWN** 

**1** Mardi

69 Location

stats.

- **1** Obtains
- 5 Wine barrel
- 14 Hard to find
- cookie name

- vehicle
- 25 Seasons, as
- 27 Household
- chemical 31 Noisy fight
- **36** Sgts., for
- **39** "Sorry,
- **40** Noisy kitchen appliance
- bargaining
- **45** Chair or bench

- with shells
- concerns **55** Work-wk. start,
- **56** Software
- purchaser
- gardening
- 64 End of a fable

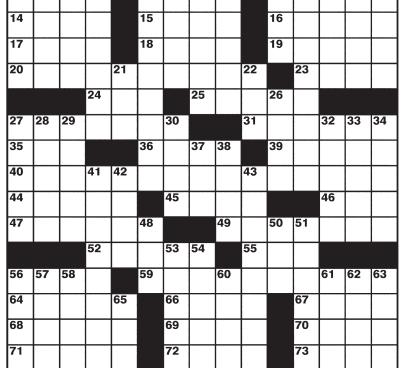
- NOISEMAKERS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman 10 Way back **67** Great review
  - when
  - **11** Doily material
  - 12 Inquires
  - **13** Toward sunset
- **72** Incoming-plane **21** Guys **22** Santa's helper
  - **26** Excursion **27** Engage in
  - debate 28 Complains
  - **29** Have coming
  - 30 Experts
  - **32** Social
  - stratum
  - **33** To no
  - (ineffective) **34** Monica of
  - tennis **37** Type of poem

  - 38 Thailand's
  - **41** Competition
- former name on the water

- www.stanxwords.com **42** Penny-\_\_ poker
  - 43 Loses one's footing 48 "Electric" fish
  - **50** Note after fa **51** Makes noise
  - while sleeping
  - 53 Make fun of **54** Customary
  - practice 56 Baseball officials
  - **57** Prepare, as laundry
  - **58** A Great Lake **60** Greek cheese
  - **61** Walk through
  - water -steven (tied)
  - **63** Apartment payment

10 11 12 13

65 Showed the way



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

Monday, December 31, 2007

**BIG SPRING HERALD** 

### New pipe organ being installed at First UMC in Bryan

By JIM BUTLER

Bryan-College Station Eagle BRYAN — Bryan's First United Methodist Church hoped to unwrap a new pipe organ for Christmas, but the not-quite-finished instrument was still able to bring the music of the season to the congrega-

The organ is being installed by Garland Pipe Organs of Fort Worth. For nearly 40 years, Dan Garland has built and placed pipe organs. His 50th major installation is close to completion at the Methodist church on 28th Street.

"Every pipe organ is different," Garland said by phone from his Fort Worth workshop.

"Each one has to fit the room the sanctuary, and you come to physically and architecturally. The No. 1 thought in my mind is always that I am building an instrument to help congregations sing hymns. I like to think that the wind moving through the pipes is the breath of God."

monday page 7a 12/31/07 10:03 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

One look behind the facade of a pipe organ would lead some to think that only God could create such an instrument. From a front-row pew in the Bryan church's sanctuary, a visitor might be able to count 32 shiny, metal pipes — 16 on each side of the choir loft.

But climb a ladder into the attic, step carefully on boards that keep you from falling into

a small space in which an average person can barely stand.

There are two such spaces, one behind each set of visible pipes. In these spaces are thousands of pipes made of metal or wood, from tiny to huge, aligned in ranks. For this particular organ, there are 45 ranks (or rows) of 61 pipes each for a total of 2,745. Each rank represents a musical octave of eight notes.

"Most of the lower notes come from wood pipes," Garland said. "Wood produces a warmer sound."

The new pipes were manufactured in Germany, the Netherlands and Ohio.

Garland was able to reuse some pipes from the organ being replaced.

"I was thrilled to find some Hook pipes in the previous organ," Garland said, explaining that Hook & Hastings was a top-of-the-line pipe manufacturer in Boston. "They didn't survive the Depression (1930s). These pipes probably came from the original organ in the old church building.'

Newer organs use an electrical circuit board with thousands of wires that control air to the pipes. Older organs used wires.

The church started planning for a new organ in 2003, said the Rev. David Henry, minister

of music for the First United Methodist Church.

"The old organ lasted 45 years, which is pretty good for a mechanical device," Henry said.

The church did almost no fundraising to pay for the \$500,000 instrument.

"We got a very large anonymous gift to get it started, and another gift that got us up to 75 percent. More gifts came in, and we ended up being oversubscribed by \$100,000. We used \$40,000 of that to renovate the sanctuary with new tile and carpet. We justified using the organ fund because the renovations help the organ sound bet-

### Condemned killer says Bible helped jury decide his death sentence By MICHAEL GRACZYK dentiary hearing on the the Code of Criminal reads: "But if he struck as the weapon." "You could say God and "You could s

Associated Press Writer

LIVINGSTON — Nearly a decade after an East Texas man was gunned down during a burglary of his home, the death sentence of the Waco man convicted of the slaying remains under scrutiny because jurors at his trial had Bibles with them when they decided he should be executed.

Khristian Oliver, now 30, was condemned by a Nacogdoches County jury in 1999, a year after authorities said he and three companions were involved in the break-in of the home of 64-year-old Joe Collins, who was shot and beaten.

Oliver's three accomplices received prison terms ranging from five to 99 years. He got the death penalty and in his appeals lawyers are contending jurors improperly consulted Scripture that called for death as punishment for murder.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last month upheld Oliver's conviction and denied his request for a federal evi-

Bible-related claims, but Procedure agreed to consider written arguments on the matter and then hold oral argu-

"This is headed toward a showdown on a very fundamental question on the use of the Bible,' Cochran. Winston Oliver's lawyer, said.

Cochran had until the end of December to present written briefs to the court. Prosecutors will then have an opportunity to respond. Oral arguments before the New Orleans-based court are not likely until later in 2008.

"I'm really surprised the 5th Circuit has got much interest," said speprosecutor Korioth, who handled the initial appeal to the Texas of Criminal Appeals, which upheld the conviction and death sentence. "I think the Supreme Court ruled on this years ago, that you can't tell people to leave their values at the door.

"Unless there's a suggestion they used religious law as opposed to

and the instructions the judge gave them, but that wasn't an issue in this case."

At issue is a verse in Chapter 35 of Numbers which, in the New American Standard Bible, him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death." Other versions of the Bible have similar passages, some of them referring to an "iron rod"

"This poor old farmer, he got shot and when he was lying outside on the ground, he was struck with the barrel of a gun," Cochran said. "So he was literally struck with an iron rod.

"You could say God and Moses anticipated this exact thing if you take a literal view of it. And that's got a lot of potential for mischief."

Korioth said there never was an implication jurors voted based on Scripture.



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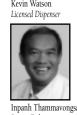












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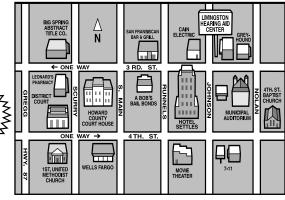


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monday page 7a 12/31/07 10:03 AM Page 2 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folde:

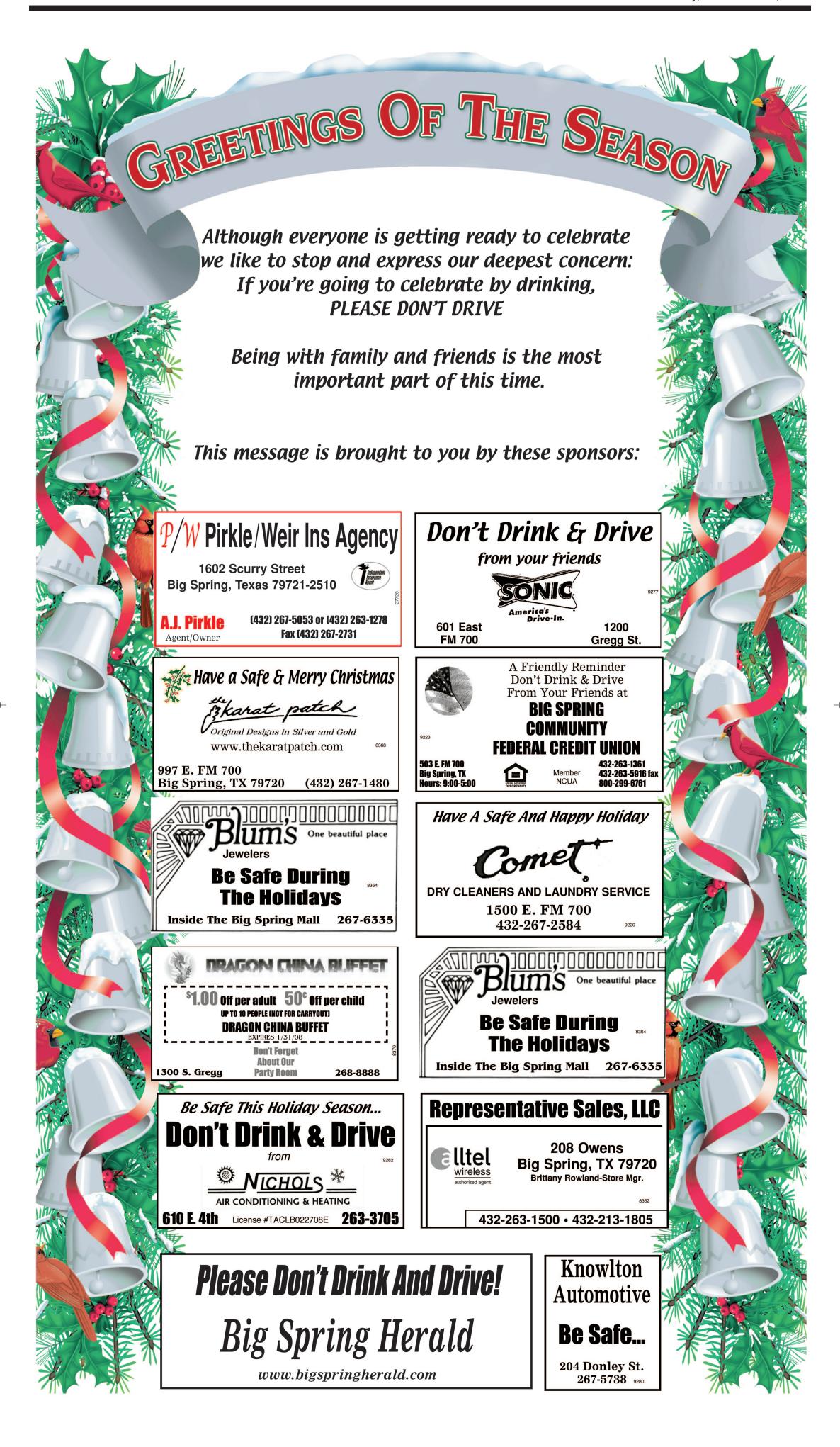
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From: All of Us Happy New Year!

2007: The Year in Review

### **April**

### Lady Bullfighter returns home

Patricia McCormick, the Big Spring native who won fame as the first American female bullfighter, returned home to Big Spring in April.

McCormick's visit came just in time for the opening of an exhibit featuring her at the Heritage Museum of Big Spring.

A long-running feud, of sorts, between the Howard Commissioners Court and Constable Mark Winn came to a head in April when County Attorney Mike Thomas filed an application to remove Winn from his elected position, citing his failure to obtain peace officer certification.

Thomas' filing came early in the month, but it was not until almost four weeks later that commissioners finally said a final "no" to Winn's request for additional time in order to acquire his certification, as well as additional funds to pay college coursework required receive his certificate.

Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Provost Dr. Ron Brasel announced his plans to retire during the month, amid protests by SWCID students complaining about a number of issues ranging from the quality of the cafeteria's food to their request that Dean of Students Edward Tagge be fired.

During meetings with Brasel and Howard College President Dr. Cheri Sparks. the SWCID students also requested that trustees appoint a deaf person to suc-



Patricia McCormick, left, a former Big Spring resident who gained fame as a female bullfighter in Latin America during the 1950s, talks with Bonnie Warren of Seminole during a recption in McCormick's honor at the Heritage Museum on April 10.

retirement.

Although little was firmed up as a result of the meetings between administrators and the SWCID students, Sparks stressed that the school takes the students' concerns seriously and is

educational experience for everyone.

Other noteworthy events that took place during April included:

• Former Big Spring Police Department jailer Lawrence Wayne Hein was arrested on a charge of sexual assault of the Marilyn Keaton Newsom a public servant following Family Lodge at Big Spring an almost year-long investigation by Texas Rangers.

• A "wintry mix" of sleet, snow and below-freezing temperatures created treacherous conditions in the Crossroads area on April 7, leading to numerous traffic accidents, power outages and even a brief closure of Interstate 20. Despite the rash of accidents, no fatalities were reported.

• The Big Spring Symphony closed its 2006-2007 season with a concert featuring soprano Renay Peters Joubert.

• The Big Spring City Council approved a resolution that enhanced its conover the Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. Board of Directors.

• "Good Health — Now and For Our Future" was the theme for the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

the state took part in the sentation.

annual Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk at Big Spring State Park.

• More than 200 friends and family members honored the Don and Marilyn Newsom family during rededication ceremonies at State Hospital.

• For a fourth consecutive year, the Big Spring High School Band received a sweepstakes trophy at the University Interscholastic League Concert Contest after having won Division I ratings in marching, concert and sight-reading competitions. And for the first time, Big Spring's top two junior high school bands also took home sweepstakes awards.

· Howard County commissioners approved the hiring of Carl R. Griffith and Associates Inc. to provide consultant services in an effort to cut costs for a proposed new jail.

• The Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show was staged April 28-29 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum..

 Danny and Reed Stewart were named Conservation Rancher of the Year Award winners during the annual Howard Soil and Water • Participants from all over Conservation District pre-

**Sports** 



HERALD file photo On the first play from scrimmage Ahmad Childress (99) sacked San Angelo quarterback Dixie Wooten (7) for a sevenyard loss. The Big Spring Roughnecks won over fans in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum with a 39-23 victory April 1.

From the first snap of the April 1 Intense Football League game at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, the Big Spring Roughnecks had the San Angelo Stampede Express right where they wanted them - scrambling, fumbling and, in general, losing to a better footbal team.

The Roughnecks took the IFL preseason win, 39-23.

"It was difficult at first because I didn't know what to expect," Roughnecks owner Tommy Benizio said, "but I felt very welcomed here. I hope to be able to do this more often.'

"The fans were knowledgable and really into the game," Roughnecks Coach Chris Williams said. "They were truly impressive."

Roughnecks quarterback Chad Friehauf, formerly of the Denver Broncos, finished 24 of 36 for 183 yards and two touchdowns. Friehauf was named the player of the game.

"This community has been really supportive of us," Friehauf said. "I hope we won some fans."

• The Big Spring Lady Steers softball team fought back to win several district games and pull out the thirdseed heading into the softball playoffs slated to start in May.

· Coahoma's Bulldogettes faced their biggest challenge since they joined District 5-2A. The Hawley Lady Bearcats finished atop the District 5-2A standings with the Bulldogettes, forcing a one-game playoff to decide the No. 1 seed coming out of the league.

After enduring a rain delay, which became a common theme throughout the baseball and softball playoffs in 2007, the Bulldogettes defeated Hawley, 7-0, claiming a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

• Forsan's baseball and softball teams earned its first playoff berths in school history after having each program available for just two years.



**HERALD** photo/Thomas Jenkins Three children braved the cold winds to hunt Easter eggs at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home on April 7.

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#### 2007: The Year in Review

### August

### World's best hang gliders arrive

For an eighth straight year, Big Spring hosted a championship hang gliding event in August at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. This time, however, it was the most important event of them all — the 16th FAI Hang Gliding World Championships.

The event brought more than 150 of the world's best hang gliders to Big Spring for almost two weeks of competition and assorted activities.

When all was said and done, Hungarian Attila Bertok claimed the individual title, while Austrian pilots Gerolf Heinrichs and Robert Reisinger finished second and third, respective-

In team competition, Great Britain didn't have any of the top individuals, but put four pilots in the top 20 to take the gold medal, while France finished second and Austria was third.

While weather conditions were not as ideal as they had been in previous years, FAI officials, pilots, team leaders and manufacturers who took part in the event said it was the best world championships the FAI has ever staged.

They stressed that the flying conditions were not only the best they've ever encountered for the event, but the hospitality afforded by the Big Spring community was unlike anything they've ever received.

On a more serious note, the month began with Adan Munoz, executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, meeting with Howard County commissioners and County Judge Mark Barr in Austin and warning them that if the county's voters failed to approve a bond issue to finance construction of a county jail November, the commission would close the existing facility permanently.

That same message was delivered in a former letter to the commissioners court a few days after, and was restated later in the year when Munoz made appearances at a Big Spring Rotary Club meeting and during a town hall meeting with local residents on the Howard College campus.

Two murder trials in 118th District also topped the headlines in August. In the first of those proceedings, Michael Harbert of Lamesa was found guilty of murder by a six-man, six-woman jury in connection with the Dec. 24, 2006, shooting death



of former Big Spring High School track and football star Tory Mitchell.

Harbert was sentenced to life in prison and a \$10,000 fine for the murder of Mitchell.

He was additionally sentenced to 20 years in prison and another \$10,000 fine after being found guilty of possession of a firearm by a felon.

In the second trial, John Michael Hays received a 99year sentence after being found guilty of murder in the beating death of 20-yearold Roland David Dickinson on Jan. 1, 2007.

While city, county and school district officials wrestled with proposed budgets and tax rates for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, Alon USA Howard County. Larson's announced that it would sue the Howard County Tax Appraisal District for a second straight year over its valuation of the Big Spring Refinery.

The refinery appraised at almost \$320 million, but Alon appealed the appraisal saying the property should only be valued at \$152 million.

Appraisal Review Board members heard Alon's argument, but upheld the \$320 million valuation by a 2-1

Until litigation is settled in the matter, Alon officials announced the company would pay taxes on a value of \$80 million for the facility.

Other top news stories for August included:

• Howard College trustees hiring the architectural consulting firm of Parkhill,

Smith and Cooper to oversee a \$21.6 million renovation of the Big Spring campus.

· Three area school districts — Glasscock County, Sands and Grady — received "recognized" status when the Texas Education Agency released its accountability ratings.

 County commissioners approved a tax rate of 48.787 cents per \$100 valuation for fiscal 2007 — 6.38 cents above the rollback rate. The increase should generate approximately \$700,000 in additional funding for the county.

• After less than three months on the job, Tim Larson resigned as executive director of the United Way of Big Spring and resignation came just days

before the 2007 United Way Campaign Luncheon. Jan Hansen was named interim executive director for the United Way a few days later.

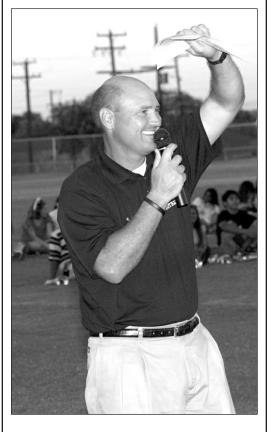
• Brad Dockrey, 29, of Big Spring was killed in an accident at the Colorado City Airport. Dockrey was in between crop dusting runs when the accident occurred. He was struck by the prop of his plane.

The Big Independent School District administrators announced first-day enrollment had surpassed projections. BSISD Superintendent Downes said 3,774 students attended classes on the first day of school, a sharp increase from the 3,623 enrolled at the same time in



Members of the U.S. team are announced during opening ceremonies for the 16th FAI Hang Gliding World Championships.

#### **Sports**



**HERALD** file photo Big Spring Steers Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Mike Ritchey leads a cheer at a community pep rally Aug. 27.

Summer vacation ended midway through August and a new school year got under way. With it came a new high school sports season to the Crossroads region.

The fall season didn't indicate the start of just football for Big Spring High School. Male and female athletes in volleyball, cross country, swimming and team tennis also began their 2007 campaigns.

However, it was the beginning of a new era for the Big Spring Steers football team as Mike Ritchey started his first season as Steers' head coach and athletic director.

Ritchey stepped down as principal of Big Spring High School in order to get back into the coaching ranks.

Still, the passion and love for coaching has always stuck with Ritchey.

"Coaching is my passion," he explained. "I enjoyed being principal, but I wouldn't say it was my first love in the education system. Coaching and being a part of the athletic program has always been my first love. I've always missed coaching, but I don't feel I ever really stopped being one."

The season didn't start the way Ritchey had hoped, though, as the Steers fell to Odessa High, 41-6.

• The first week of the football season appeared grim for most Crossroads teams.

Football squads in Coahoma, Forsan, Garden City, Lenorah Grady and Ackerly Sands kicked off their seasons Aug. 31 with only Grady winning its opener.

• The Lady Steers volleyball team had a slow start to its season, losing its first 12 matches. However, Big Spring found its way onto the winning path in the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo, winning three games in bracket play. The Lady Steers picked up two 3-set victories over Water Valley and San Angelo Grape Creek and a dominant straight sets win over Colorado City.



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2007: The Year in Review

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### December

### Christmas still special in Big Spring

Santa Claus came to town on Dec. 1 — and he had a lot of company.

Thousands of Howard County residents lined Gregg Street that evening to welcome Santa and a few hundred escorts as the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade was held for the 22nd time.

Even Mother Nature helped out during the proceedings. Unlike the past few years, moderate temperatures made for a pleasant evening of parade-watching.

Herald Publisher Ron Midkiff put his stamp of approval on the evening's proceedings. impressed with the way the community turned out for the parade, and I thought it was a great success," said Midkiff. "And I was very proud of the people at the Big Spring Herald who worked so hard to put this on."

More than 48 entries echoed this year's parade theme of "Peace on Earth," and three floats earned top honors from the judges. Winning \$100 for Best in Show, presented to the top entry in the parade, was the City of Big Spring float, while Western Container's entry was awarded the Mayor's Trophy (worth \$75) and West Texas Centers for MHMR earned \$50 for earning the Grand Marshal's Award.

Howard The County Sheriff's Posse was judged to have the best mounted Kayla while Cervantes topped the individual/family division; the through the final day of the Blue Knights of Texas won



The city of Big Spring's entry for the 22nd annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade took the top prize available, most effectively conveying the parade theme of "Peace on Earth."

the civic/church/school division; Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home won the commercial division; and Alon USA won the industrial division.

The same night the First United Methodist Church of Big Spring held its annual Living Christmas Tree presentation, performing to a the Symphony Guild's annupacked audience.

A week later First Church of the Nazarene's Drive Through Nativity drew thousands of visitors, and the annual Festival of Lights

Luminaria annual Ceremony, the Big Spring Symphony's "The Symphony at Christmas" concert, the St. Andrew's Celebration staged by St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the Big Spring High School Band holiday concert and al Christmas Tour of Homes were added, there was more to see and do during the Yuletide than in many cities much larger.

As always, the spirit of opened on Dec. 15 and con- Christmas ruled the month tinued drawing visitors to and Howard Countians Comanche Trail Park again proved they can open their hearts and pocketbooks for those less fortunate.

Local residents provided presents for almost 500 needy children and senior citizens registered for the Salvation Army Angel Tree project, as well as answering the call from the Child Protective Services' Giving Tree project and the Adult Protective Services' Be A Star effort.

In fact, the effort to provide for those less fortunate were almost too numerous to mention. Among those getting headlines during the month were the Cossacks Motorcycle Club's annual Bykes for Tykes effort, the 1946 Hyperion Club's project to provide all the needs for two families for the holiday, Big Spring Herald/Salvation Army Toy Drive, and the Spring Toys Tabernacle's Children effort.

And remarkably, students at Kentwood Elementary School pooled their funds to

When Howard College's make a \$276 cash donation to the Salvation Army, as well as providing a large amount of much-needed canned goods for the charity's food pantry.

> Other top stories grabbing the headlines in December included:

> Big Spring Police Department officers were called on to investigate a rash of drive-by shootings that continued early in the month.

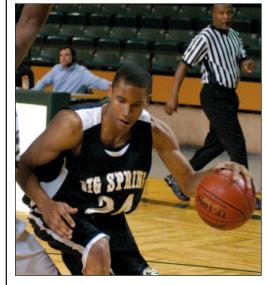
> • Big Spring Independent School District trustees had hoped to be able to sell the old Runnels Junior High School building, but rejected the only two bids they received for the property.

> • The Big Spring City Council and Howard County Commissioners Court began making plans to place the Spring City Senior Citizens Center under the city's umbrella. Long operated by the county with financial assistance from the city, officials say the center can be better operated and funded under the city's administration.

> • A former Big Spring Police Department records clerk, Marie Wilson of Forsan, was arrested on charges of theft by a public servant. She was released on \$20,000 bond. If convicted of the charge, she could face a prison term of two to 20 vears.

> The Settles Hotel Development Company made a long awaited announcement just before Christmas, saying it would begin renovation of the historic hotel building in February 2008.

#### **Sports**



**HERALD** file photo Big Spring's Jason Walker makes a move in the post in action from Dec. 11 at Midland College's Chaparral Center.

Midway through the second period, it appeared the Big Spring Steers basketball team was going to fall short of winning the Gym Bice Classic in Andrews Saturday.

The Steers' opponent was from Lovington, N.M., and featured the incredibly athletic forward Lance Smith. Smith fueled a 9-0 Lovington run in the second period, giving the New Mexico team a 29-15 lead with 5:12 left in the first half.

Fortunately for the Steers, they feature a fairly athletic forward themselves. Jason Walker scored 16 points in the second period alone as Big Spring outscored Lovington 25-9 in the last five minutes of the first half for a 40-38 lead at intermission.

It was a lead the Steers never relinquished on their way to a 91-72 pounding of Lovington in the finals of Andrews' annual basketball tournament.

Big Spring opened the season 0-1, falling to a very athletic Abilene Wylie team. However, the Steers were without several key players who were still playing football.

Once those players joined the rest of the team, Big Spring rolled off seven consecutive victories. The Steers would hit a bump in the road, though, as they matched up with several superior 5A teams and lost four straight.

The Steers picked up a win over Snyder Dec. 17 to finish the first half of their season 8-5 before the Christmas break.

• Two Steers were named to the Class 4A All-State football team as honorable mentions. District 4-4A Defensive Most Valuable Player Cade Hollandsworth, a junior, made the squad as a middle linebacker. Joining him was sophomore running back Monte Anderson, who was also a first-team all-district selection.

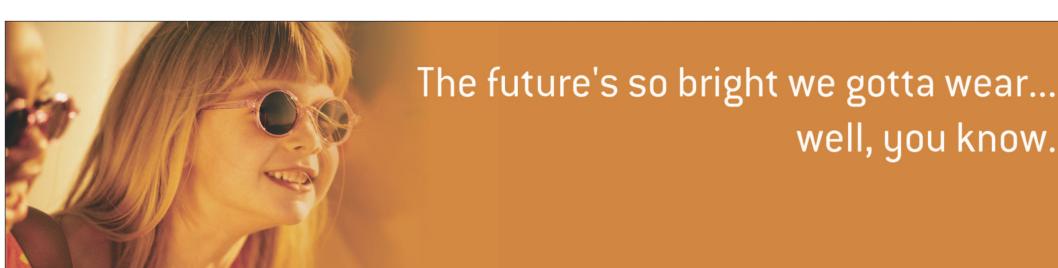
The Steers ended up with 14 players

named to the all-district team. · Forsan's Buffaloes started their season 8-1 and won Garden City's Bearkat Klassic Dec. 1. The Buffs are the only Crossroads basketball team ranked in the top 20. They entered the rankings Dec. 17 at No. 15.

 Coahoma's girls and boys basketball teams put up memorable showing at its own Coahoma Invitational, ending Dec. 1. The Bulldogettes claimed the title, while the Bulldogs grabbed a second-place finish.



Courtesy photo The Living Christmas Tree presentation at First United Methodist Church always draws a big crowd.



2007 was a great year for Big Spring and Atmos, and we think 2008 will be even better. And all through next year, and the years to come, you can count on Atmos to provide the service, comfort, and convenience you've come to count on. Happy New Year!



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### 2007: The Year in Review

### **February**

### Director: VAMC has solid future

After two years of uncertainty, Howard County residents were assured that the future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center was bright. Michael Director Bell announced in February "There was a cloud over us ... That's been lifted, and

now we can look forward to a new mission."

The "cloud" he referred to was a two-year federal study that looked into the possible closure of the facility. Instead of being closed, however, it was decided the facility would remain open. In addition, plans called for a facility on the hospital grounds that would provide long-term care for veterans suffering with mental health or substance abuse issues.

'Bogus bills being passed in Big Spring' was the headline that greeted readers in the Feb. 1 issue of the Herald. The article went on to alert merchants that several counterfeit \$50 and \$100 bills had been received over the past several days.

With much fanfare, it was announced in February that a "Brawl in Big Spring" Intense Football League exhibition game would be held at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum between the San Angelo Stampede Express and the "Big (Odessa) Spring" Roughnecks in March.

Thirty-five-year-old Kirk Douglas Flanary was taken into custody in San Angelo and charged with firstdegree murder for his alleged role in the January death of Roland David Dickinson, 20. Flanary was the second man charged in the death of Dickinson, whose body was found Jan. 11 in a ravine six miles north of Coahoma. John Michael Hays, 50, had been arrested earlier at his home on Midway Road.

Later in the month, 33year-old Christopher David Lovett would be charged with first-degree murder in connection with Dickinson's death, after being taken into custody in Eastland.

Still later, a fourth suspect, Billy Wayne Haynes, 30, of Houston was taken into custody during a traffic stop in Winkler County and charged in the murder.

Howard County Sheriff's Office said at the time that the murder was part of an Aryan Circle conspiracy.

in February, a Also Garden City man and his wife died in what was alleged to be a murder-suicide. Brian Christopher Cook, 37, and his wife, Dana



Michael Bell, left, director of the Big Spring VA Medical Center, talks to Charles Beil during a reception at the hospital. Bell said the future of the facility was bright.

Erin Cook, 36, were found dead in their home northwest of Garden City by Brian Cook's mother.

Local police began investigating an aggravated robbery in which a woman in repairs and improveentered the Dollar General store at 501 Birdwell Lane, knife and demanded money. The woman then fled on foot, according to police.

Goliad fifth grader Michael Akin won the 2007 Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee. He held off a determined challenge from Big Spring Junior High School student Blake Brorman over nine rounds to win the title.

Elbow Elementary School students were crowned University Interscholastic League academic champions for their age group. It was the fifth year in a row that Elbow students won the zone competition, according to school officials.

In what might be the story of the year — because of a failed bond election followed by a successful one — the need for a new county jail came up time and time again in February. On Feb. 12, commissioners were told that the cost of housing inmates of county eclipsed \$75,000 in January.

bonds, the Big Spring City Council approved sale of its general bond and certificates of obligation, moving forward — on paper, anyway with more than \$15 million ments. Approved by voters in 2006, the bond would lift \$1.01 per \$100 valuation. Of the funds, some \$9.2 million was dedicated to street and roadway improvements primarily in the downtown area and Main and Scurry

streets. Another \$5 million is to go enhance city parks, including a major upgrade and expansion at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex.

Crime reports dominated mid--to-late February. Fiftyone-year-old Callie Jo Nickle of Big Spring was indicted by a Howard County grand jury after it was alleged that she tried to kill herself and her 12-year-old daughter in June, 2006. She was indicted for attempted murder.

And, a former Florida teacher, Gil Raimundo Cancel-Comas, 29, was held without bond in Tallahassee on charges of kidnapping a 13-year-old Big Spring girl. Cancel-Comas was also charged with lewd and lascivious conduct, contributing to the delinquency of a Speaking of money and minor and custody interfer-

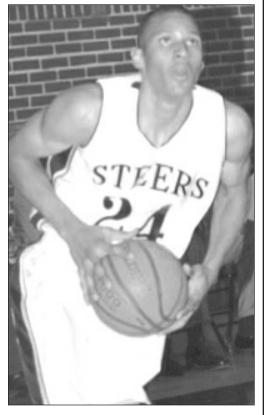
Authorities said the two apparently made contact on the Internet and had been chatting for about a year before Cancel-Comas picked up the girl and transported her to Florida. The girl contacted family members in Comas was arrested shortly afterward.

Late in the month, police were investigating an aggravated robbery at a 7-Eleven store in the 900 block of Willia during early morning hours. Brandishing a knife, the male suspect left the store with about \$300 worth of cigarettes, according to police.

As February came to a Howard College close, trustees voted unanimously to put a general obligation bond for more than \$21.6 million on the May ballot. The funds would pay for extensive renovation and rehabilitation of the college's buildings and facilities.

Meanwhile, Mayor Russ McEwen gave his State of the City address, telling those in attendance, "Big Spring is actualizing its rebirth. We're enjoying prosperity we haven't witnessed in decades. There is much to celebrate, yet there's much to be done."

**Sports** 



**HERALD** file photo **Big Spring Steer Jason Walker prepares** to launch to the top of the rim for two his 15 points in the loss to Estacado Feb. 2.

It was announced in late January that professional football was coming to Big Spring, but it was other news that broke in Febuary that really brought the Intense Football League's appearance in Howard County home.

Howard County had one of its favorite sons playing in the IFL preseason "Brawl in Big Spring."

Starting his competitive football career as a Steer at Big Spring High School, wide receiver J.T. Smith ended it as a Big Spring Roughneck.

"J.T. called and was very excited about the IFL bringing the first-ever professional football game to his hometown of Big Spring," Roughnecks President Tommy Benizio said. "He offered to help in anyway that he could, but he probanever dreamed that the Roughnecks would ask him to suit up and play in the game."

Smith was born in 1955 and graduated from Big Spring High in 1973. After scholastic football, Smith enjoyed 13 years as a professional player in the National Football League. He played for three teams: the Kansas City Chiefs, Washington Redskins and the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals from 1978-1990.

• Big Spring's boys and girls teams struggled throughout conference play. The Steers were officially eliminated from the playoffs by No. 3 Lubbock Estacado.

• Garden City's Lady 'Kats upset No. 5 Roby to advance to the girls basketball state finals.

• A district championship slipped through the fingertips of the Forsan Buffaloes as they fell to Hamlin 44-43 Feb. 6. The Buffs had a chance at winning the game at the buzzer, but the shot didn't fall. The Buffs still managed to make the playoffs, though, but fell to Sundown in the area round.

• Coahoma's Bulldogs claimed a District 5-2A championship. The Bulldogettes also streaked into the playoffs, but were knocked out in the first round.

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2007: The Year in Review

### **January**

### Four arrested for Jan. 11 murder

A murder case that would eventually earn a Coahoma man 99 years in prison began with the discovery of a man's body in a ravine Jan. 11.

The victim, who was identified as 20-year-old Roland David Dickinson, had lived in the Big Spring area for less than six months, according to Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker.

Preliminary autopsy results showed the cause of death to be blunt trauma to the head. The body, which was found wearing only a pair of underwear and a white T-shirt, showed signs of a brutal assault, according to Walker.

Dickinson's body remained unidentified for several days before family members came forward, officials said.

One week later, John Michael Hays, 50, was arrested at his home on Midway Road and charged with murder. Also arrested in the case were a trio of accomplices — Christopher Lovett, Calvin Fox Jr. and Billy Ray Haynes.

"To start out with nothing, the case came together very quickly," said Walker. "At times it developed so rapidly it was hard just to keep up. We greatly appreciate all the assistance we received from the Big Spring Police Department, TDCJ and the Texas Department of Public Safety. We're extremely glad to have closure on this case. I feel like we were very fortunate."

Later in the year, Hays was tried and convicted for Dickinson's death in 118th District Court and received a 99-year prison term.

Lovett eventually pleaded guilty to aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury and received 10 years in prison, while murder charges remain pending against Fox.

Haynes was indicted for murder, but charges were subsequently dismissed.

Also in January:

• Teresa Andrea Torres became Howard County's first baby born in 2007 when she made her debut at 3:26 p.m. Jan. 2 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She weighed five pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 inches long at birth. Teresa is the fifth child for Adam and Leticia Torres — and the fourth girl.

• Big Spring High School members Malle Band Carrasco and Ryan Harris were named to the Texas Music Educators Association Class 4A All-



Leticia Torres holds her daughter, Teresa Andrea Torres, who became Howard County's first baby of 2007 when she was born at 3:26 p.m. Jan. 2.

ond time Carrasco was than 40 breaks in main selected, while the honor was Harris' first.

• Forsan High School senior Eric Ellis also won all-state band honors, earning a spot on the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band. It was the second straight year Ellis earned the honor.

 Several local families were left homeless Jan. 11 after an early morning fire — aided by high winds ripped through an apartment building. Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jenson said the fire was reported at an apartment building located at the intersection of Eighth Street and Nolan at approximately 3 a.m.

• Crews with the city water

municipal water lines

caused by a cold snap. Howard County commissioners voted 3-2 to hire Jeff Heffelfinger of Southwest Architects to consult on the construction of a new countv jail. Later in the year, voters approved construction of an \$11 million jail to replace the current facility, which has been beset by several compliance problems over

the past several years. • Big Spring businesses were hit in late January with a wave of counterfeit bills, as several fake \$50 and \$100 bills were recovered, police officials said.

• Officials with Bealls Department Store announced plans to expand department had their hands its store located at Big full in late January, as they Spring Mall by approximate-

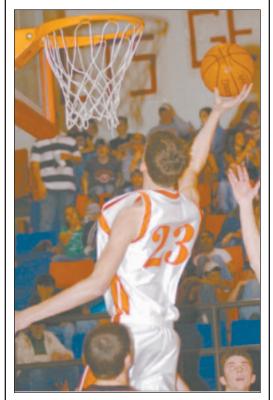
State Band. It was the sec- struggled to repair more ly 8,000 feet. Danielle Ramirez, property manager for Big Spring Mall, said Bealls would expand into three lots directly across from the Hallmark store in the mall.

> • Rey Villarreal, who was assistant superintendent of Big Spring schools for several years, left the district to accept the position with Pecos ISD.

> Villarreal, who was relieved of his assistant superintendent duties earlier in January, resigned as director of curriculum and grants Jan. Michael Superintendent Downes said.

> Villarreal assumed his new duties as director of personnel for the Pecos school district Jan. 24, a spokesperson at that district confirmed.

#### **Sports**



**HERALD** file photo Colter Morgan (23) goes high for a rebound and tip-in basket to help the **Coahoma Bulldogs blowout the Hawley** Bearkats 60-38 Jan. 26 at Coahoma's Elementary Gym. Morgan ended the game with 10 points.

One shot after another floated towards the basket in the Stamford-Coahoma basketball game and time after time Coahoma's Colter Morgan swatted the spalding basketball towards the stands, towards his point guards, out of bounds and everywhere else in the gym Jan 19.

When the final buzzer sounded Morgan had set a new school record by blocking 14 shots, two more than the previous record of 12 established in 2005 by Isaac Brenner. The Bulldogs (16-8) defeated Stamford 62-43, to remain in a tie for second place in District 5-2A.

"Yeah ... I was surprised to hear how many I had, but I'm just as excited about how well we played tonight," a humble Morgan, who stands at 6-7, said after he was told that he had broken a school record. "Our defenders on the perimeter kept the pressure on the ball and that's what brought them down low to me. Without the great defense by everyone else I wouldn't have the blocks."

· Howard College's men's basketball team opened the season 12-1, but found winning tough in conference play. Howard started off 0-3 in the conference, essentially eliminating them early from the race for a title.

The Hawks first two losses were heartbreakers. Howard fell the Midland College 71-70 in its conference opener, despite having a chance to win the game with 2.8 seconds left. Brandon Sampay's shot wouldn't fall, giving the soon-to-be National Champions a pivotal win.

The Odessa Wranglers led the Howard Hawks for two seconds Jan. 15 — the most important two seconds — as they sent the Hawks home with a stunning 65-63 defeat at the buzzer.

The Hawks eventually grabbed a conference victory, beating Western Texas College to nab their first. The Hawk women also struggled

to find the win column in January,

opening up 0-4 in conference play.

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### 2007: The Year in Review

### July

### July begins with a 'Pop'

July started off with an exercise in patriotism, as residents from Howard County and other surrounding communities came together to celebrate the July 4 holiday.

The annual Pops in the Park concert and fireworks show drew thousands to Comanche Trail Park for the ever-popular combination of good company, good food and good music.

In addition to putting on a fantastic show, event organizers said donations collected during the holiday event will cover the cost of the 2008 show.

"One of our new presenters came forward and asked us how much we needed to make our goal and they came up with the difference, right at the last minute,' said event chair Jan Hansen.

That timely donation from Fiberod enabled event organizers to achieve and surpass their \$40,000 goal and begin making preparations for an even bigger and better 2008 event.

The fun in Big Spring didn't end with the Pops in the Park festival, as the Funtastic Fourth Festival sponsored by Downtown Revitalization Association — took over the Heart of the City Park July 4.

'Starting this year we're taking a new direction with the Funtastic Fourth," said Allan Johnson, owner of Allan's Furniture and president of the DRA, prior to the festival. "We decided to scrap the battle of the bands and we've taken a completenew direction. The Funtastic Fourth is going to be a celebration of God and country. We're getting a lot of local churches involved and our long term goal is to get every single church in town involved in this event.

The Coahoma Freedom Parade and the Highland South Fourth of July Parade also gave residents a chance to show off their patriotic

colors. The annual Farmer's Market got under way the first part of July, providing area shoppers with fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits, as well as other locally made products. The market also provided entertainment in July, as Jesse and Noah Bellamy — sons of famous singer David Bellamy — performed to mark its opening.

A Howard County jury took less than two hours to find a Coahoma man not guilty of aggravated sexual



Fireworks of every shape and color light up the West Texas sky night as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra plays "Stars and Stripes Forever" during the annual Pops in the Park celebration.

District Court in July, as Simon Chavez, 29, was acquitted.

Chavez had been accused of forcing his then 6-year-old daughter of performing oral sex on him on or about Aug. 27, 2006. If convicted, he could have faced a term of between five and 99 years or life in prison.

Howard County commissioners managed to whittle down the court's list of possible sites for a new county jail in July, settling on the site located on W. Highway 80. Two weeks prior, the court had announced it would pursue a second site — the lot west of the courthouse and adjacent to the 118th District Court — a choice County Judge Mark Barr later called premature.

two-hour standoff involving more than a dozen area law enforcement officials ended with the appar-

assault of a child in 118th ent suicide of a Big Spring man July 10. Michael Kilmer, 26, died of a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, said Justice of Peace Katheryn

Wiseman. Police were initially called to the 1000 block of Goliad Street in response to an armed subject call at 10:38 a.m. There, they found a woman who had fled the house, claiming there was an armed man inside the

residence. At about noon, officers heard a single gunshot and immediately attempted to contact Kilmer by telephone and bullhorn. When those efforts were not successful, SORT officers entered the residence, where they found him dead.

Perry Wells, 44, transient, was life-flighted to a Lubbock hospital after a chase that ended with the suspect allegedly inflicting a serious stab wound to his left arm with a pocket knife, according to law enforcement officials. Wells was released from the hospital several days later.

A 54-year-old Big Spring man was pronounced dead at University Medical Center in Lubbock following a major accident involving a train July 4. Roland Glenn Cate succumbed to the wounds he sustained in the crash, which took place at the railroad crossing on Birdwell Lane, at approximately 8:13 p.m..

The Big Spring Salvation Army kicked off its annual Back to School program, which provides school supplies for the area's low income families, while residents of Stanton celebrated the Martin County Old Settlers Reunion.

The honored family at this year's reunion was the Caleb and Sarah Louder clan. Family members participated in the morning parade, then were honored at a reception.

The Big Spring Independent School District effort to provide teachers and students with laptop computers came to fruition, as more than 1,200 were delivered to the high school in mid-July.

Spring Department officers made a trio of drug-related arrests in the final days of July while attempting to serve a warrant on a local man who was indicted on a pair of

felony drug charges. Terry Lynn Hargers, 37, of 2607 Fairchild, was arrested at 303.5 E. Ninth Street on warrants for delivery of a controlled substance (second-degree enhanced) and delivery of a controlled substance (first-

degree felony, enhanced). Angela McGee, 24, of Big Spring, was also arrested at the scene on a charge of evading arrest. Police also Kimberly arrested Killcrease, 26, of Big Spring, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Elevated property values in Howard County translated into quite a spike in the taxable values for area entities, as the County Appraisal District released it's 2007 certified values.

The taxable value for Howard County took a mighty upswing in 2007, up \$352 million with \$1.87 billion, compared to the \$1.51 reported in 2006. Howard College, which follows the same taxable values as the county, posted identical numbers.

#### **Sports**



**Courtesy photo** Big Spring's Mariah Cervantes swings at a pitch for the 8U All-Stars in the West Texas All-Star Tournament held at UTPB's campus in Odessa July 21. The tournament ended prematurely due to

In Big Spring, as in most smaller cities throughout the country, little league baseball and softball become the headlining sports in the middle of

July saw several softball and baseball teams play in all-star tournaments. However, Mother Nature allowed only one tournament to be completed.

Five teams represented the Big Spring Little League Baseball Association in all-star tournaments held throughout Midland and Odessa in the early part of the month.

Unfortunately, only one team survived past the Fourth of the July. After rolling through the bracket, becoming one of the final four teams, the 11-year-old All-Stars lost two consecutive games in the double-elimination tournament, bringing an end to Big Spring's Little League baseball

If you asked members of the Big Spring's Girls Softball Association, they'd say the boys were fortunate to get to play that deep into their brack-

Whether the teams came out as winners or losers, it was the weather that claimed the ultimate victory July 20-21 at the West Texas Softball Tournament on the University of Texas-Permian Basin's campus in

All 12 softball fields felt the wrath of a downpour on the 21st and the rest of the tournament was called off, leaving the four Big Spring Girls Softball Association all-star teams with an unsatisfying end to their sea-

• Four Coahoma Bulldogettes were honored as All-State selections by the Texas Sports Writers Association. Freshman pitcher Heather Newton, sophomore second baseman Laci Sterling and junior centerfielder Krista Kerby were all selected as third-team honorees. Senior first baseman Ami Martinez claimed an honorable mention selection.

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#### 2007: The Year in Review

### lune

### Money woes and personal accolades

Howard County commissioners — facing rising costs in energy, utilities, insurance and expenses incurred by the state's closing of the county jail — began working on a half-million dollar budget deficit.

Big Spring businessman Jerry Worthy was selected for the 2007 Boss of the Plains Award from the Ranching Heritage Association. He was recognized for his service and generosity to the museum and historical park.

Relay for Life officials announced during their annual Relay Wrap Up that the cancer research fundhad generated \$185,923 in total receipts. It was the second straight year for the effort to surpass its

Crystal Ward, Big Spring High School senior, was selected as an Outstanding Performer at the 2007 Texas State Solo and Ensemble contest. She was the first BSHS band member in recent memory to accomplish the feat, officials said.

Hays Stripling Jr. was supposed to be honored as being instrumental in the construction of the Northside Community Center's new building during a Rotary Club meeting in June. What was to be a small salute, however, turned into Hays Stripling Jr. Day, as the longtime humanitarian was lauded for his efforts not only Northside Community Center, but with the Boy Scouts of America, the Howard County Bible Class organization, Howard Soil and Water Conservation First United District, Methodist Church and numerous other endeavors, including lauding Texas



Tommy Welch, right, emcees a salute to Hayes Stripling Jr., seated with his wife, Dorothy, during a meeting of the Big Spring Rotary Club.

A&M University.

Proposed site of a new Howard County Jail — along West Highway 80 — drew controversy, with some residents objecting to the loca-

"I think it's a bad idea to have a jail in a residential area," said JoAnn Staulcup, city council member and west side resident. "There's a significant number of people living on the west side who prefer not having it there."

Tabernacle Church, declared "We're in the deliverance business," and added, "That area of town is just infested with drug problems ... we're hoping the jail might make a difference with all that."

Commissioners, citing cost as a major factor, voted to secure the property, contingent on a bond passing to pay for the jail.

Big Spring Independent School District named Bruce Wilson as principal at Big Spring High School and Dana Rodriguez as principal at Kentwood Elementary.

Several people were indicted in June for the aggravated kidnapping of a 4-1/2year-old child. Christene Michelle Bean, 26, was However, not everyone indicted for her alleged part was opposed to it. Mona Lue in the April 9 kidnapping. Tonn, minister of Spring Indicted for aggravated kidnapping aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was Tuterrence Davis, 28. Demaskinni Tiffinie Monique Vanderbilt, 23, was indicted for aggravated kidnapping

and delivery of a controlled substance.

Police said the motive for the kidnapping may have been related to "narcotic activity."

A Howard County woman accused of trying to kill herself and her 12-year-old daughter pleaded guilty to attempted murder in June and received a 10-year sentence. Callie Jo Nickle, 51, pleaded guilty to a single charge of attempted murder after police said she gave an overdose of medication to her daughter and herself the previous June.

Crime didn't pay in June but other events did, including the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, Howard-Glasscock Old Settler's Reunion, and the state park's Stargazing program.

The Rhotons and Overtons were recognized as pioneer families of the year during the settler's reunion.

In a positive move for downtown Big Spring, the Settles Hotel Development Company announced it had acquired several properties adjacent to the Settles Hotel, including the old Greyhound Bus Terminal.

Later in the year, the company would announce renovations at the historic hotel will begin in February 2008.

Following a nine-month search for an executive director, Moore Development for Big Spring board members turned their attention homeward and selected longtime local resident and businessman Terry Wegman to fill the position.



Matt Bright of London, Tenn., hangs on as a horse tries to buck him off the in the bronc-busting competition in the 2007 Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and

As is the case with most of Big Spring's annual attractions, tradition plays a huge role with the staging of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and

Rodeo at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

Of course, that's what one would expect with one of the oldest rodeos in the United States. In fact, the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo is the oldest continually running professional rodeo in Texas.

That says a great deal because Texas is, after all, rodeo country.

The event's 74th edition took place June 21 and with no decline in interest occurring, Big Spring could look forward to another 74 years of rodeo

'Seventy-four years is getting on up there," said Skipper Driver, a longtime member of the rodeo association board. "Not that many people put on professional rodeos in this part of the state. We're very proud of it."

• Howard Hawks shortstop Tyler Ladendorf was drafted for a second straight year in Major League Baseball's amateur draft.

Ladendorf was reportedly ranked by some scouts as a possible fifthround pick.

However, his name was never called during the draft's first day. Instead, he waited until Friday evening to be drafted in the 34th round by the San Francisco Giants.

This marks the second consecutive year that Ladendorf was drafted in the 34th round. Last season, he was drafted right out of high school by the New York Yankees with the 1,034th pick.

This year he was selected just three picks higher as the 1,031st selection.

Ladendorf led the nation in steals, converting all 56 attempts without being picked off. He'll be wearing a Hawks' jersey again next season.

Ladendorf was the first Howard College baseball player to be drafted since 2005, when J.W. Brown was drafted in the 46th round by the Cincinnati Reds.

Little League baseball all-stars filled baseball fields all over the Permian Basin at the end of the month in area tournaments that lasted into July. Five teams represented the Big Spring Little League Baseball Association in five different brackets.



**HERALD** file photo

Jacque Mauch builds a nice looking hamburger with the help of Martin Fryar during the Howard Glasscock Old Settlers Reunion, held in the Howard County Fairbarn.

The City of Big Spring thanks our employees for their hard work and continued success this year.

City of Big Spring Spirit of Progress

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### 2007: The Year in Review March

### Big Spring headed to Austin in March

To examine Big Spring and Howard County in the month of March, one would have to widen their views to include the state capitol, as local officials hit the road for Big Spring Day in Austin.

More than 250 local residents traveled to Austin and descended on the grounds of the Texas Capitol March 7, taking music — in the form of a children's choir composed of fourth graders from Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan schools — and the always-popular Blue Bell Ice Cream, in hopes of raising awareness for Crossroads area among lawmakers.

It marked the sixth time that Howard County residents peacefully invaded the Capitol for Big Spring Day in Austin, having made the trek every other year.

March was also a month to draw attention to our country's Native American past, as the annual Big Spring Powwow took place at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Powwow featured Otter Trail from Oklahoma as the Southern Drum host and Eagle Point Singer from Austin as the Northern Drum host.

The Head Female Dancer was Nicole Shultz of Norman, Okla.

Big Spring Independent School District trustees took a major step toward putting a laptop computer into the hands of every high school student and teacher in March, deciding on a 4-3 vote to go out for sealed blas for the computer program.

Trustees Mike Dawson, Allan Partee and Irene Galan voted against seeking bids, while Tony Kennedy, Maria Padilla, Furqueron and former board member Ricky Robertson supported the measure.

Howard County commissioners had their hands full in March, as the court struggled to solve problems with its jail and address the concerns of the county's consta-

Commissioners agreed the county should budget funds for constables to acquire the continuing education credits demanded by the state every two years, estimated at approximately \$295 plus travel expenses, which failed to meet the approval of Constable Bill Holden.

"That doesn't even cover what I've already paid out of my own pocket," said Holden as he stormed out of commissioner's court. "I can't see that. I just can't see that. This is a joke.'



Savannah Sumrall prepares to carry the American flag into the rodeo arena during the 29th annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo.

Holden, a certified peace officer, was requesting the county pay for decals for his vehicle, dues for the state's Justice of the Peace and Constable Association and continuing education hours required by state mandate.

Commissioners also heard requests from fellow constable Mark Winn, who was asking the court to fund the completion of his peace officer certification.

Not only did commissioners deny Winn's request, they later removed him from office for not getting his state certificate within the state mandated period.

Commissioners also made progress on its two-fold jail situation — to bring the current jail into state compliance and the design and construction of a new facility. County officials raced to repair the jail's smoke evacuation system in hopes of having the facility, which was closed by state officials in November 2006, re-

The court also struggled to find a suitable site to build a new jail facility after the court's first choice — the old Kmart building located at Birdwell Lane and FM 700 was optioned for purchase by a local church.

The board of directors for Moore Development continued its search for an executive director during the month, enlisting Lubbockbased personnel consultant Laurin Prather to head up the effort.

The economic development agency continued to operate with the position vacant after longtime director Kent Sharp announced he would be resigning in August 2006.

The board also continued negotiations with the Settles Hotel Development Company for \$3 million in funding to help with the restoration of the historic Settles Hotel.

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Brint Ryan — manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the hotel. SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project which includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

A Big Spring man received a three-year sentence after pleading guilty to one count of indecency with a child March 20 in 118th District Court, bringing an ongoing trial to an abrupt close.

Daniel Ray Jones, 38, of 2507 Peach St., pleaded guilty to indecency with a child, a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

**Assistant District Attorney** Robin Orr said two other charges facing Jones — two counts of aggravated sexual

assault of a child, a firstdegree felony punishable by five to 99 years to life in prison — were dismissed as a condition of the plea bargain.

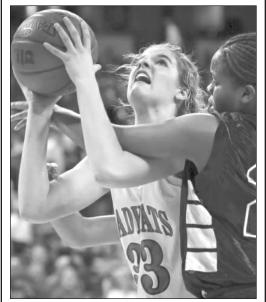
A Howard County grand jury officially charged a Lamesa man with the murder of former Big Spring High School track star Tory Mitchell. Michael Harbert, 23, of Lamesa, was among 15 people indicted during March's session of the grand jury. Harbert was indicted for murder in the Dec. 23, 2006, shooting death of Mitchell.

Officials with the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery announced David L. Foster would be taking over the facility reins in April, stepping in for Joe Concienne, who became Alon USA's vice president for refinery operations.

Big The Rattlesnake Roundup, sponsored by the local American Business Club, took over the Howard County Fairbarn for a weekend in March, while Coahoma Elementary School celebrated its western heritage with the 29th annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo.

The 38th Annual Big Spring Prospector's Club Gem and Mineral Show also met with local success, joining the Third Annual Spring Clean Community-Wide Flea Market as just one of many events filling the Crossroads calendar during the month.

#### **Sports**



**HERALD** file photo Garden City's Morgan Schwartz in fouled by Kennard's Felicia Skinner in the third quarter of Friday night's Class 1A, Division II state semifinals game in Austin. The Lady Kats won and advanced to face Nazareth in Saturday's championship game.

It may have been Big Spring Day in Austin March 7, but it was Garden City's month as both the boys' and girls' basketball team made trips to the state tournament.

The No. 6- ranked Garden City Lady 'Kats erased a 10-point deficit March 3 night as they rallied back to knock off Kennard's Lady Tigers in the Class 1A, Division II state semifinals at the University of Texas in Austin.

The Lady 'Kats never led by more than three in the game but were ahead when it counted most — when K'Lann Niehues scored off an offensive rebound with two seconds left to give Garden City a 37-35 victory and a chance to play in the state final against perhaps the most storied girls' basketball team in Texas -Nazareth's Swiftettes.

The Lady 'Kats saw their bid for a state basketball title come to an end as they fell to Nazareth in the Division II, Class 1A state title game,

Garden City's only lead of the game came in the opening moments as the Lady Kats scored the opening basket but Nazareth answered with a three to take the lead and never looked back.

"I have six seniors who have fought and dreamed of this moment, getting our school to the state tournament,' Head Coach Brent Kirkland said. "This is something they can be proud of having started."

Garden City's boys were knocked out in the semifinal round by Laneville, 60-43.

"It's been a dream in a lot of ways just to get here," Garden City coach Koby Abney said. "It ended a little short but there are a lot of other teams that wish they were in Austin right now."

 Howard College's Hawks pulled off the upset of top-seeded Temple in the first round of the Region V Tournament. The Hawks won 81-72 in what was essentially a home game for Temple on the campus of Mary-Hardin Baylor University.

The fourth-seeded Hawks couldn't continue the Cinderella run, though, as South Plains College knocked them off in the next round.

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2007: The Year in Review

### May

### Jail finally passes the test in May

After being locked out of their own lockdown, Howard County prisoners were able to go home, in a fashion, in May

Six months after it was closed because it failed to meet certain life safety guidelines, the Howard County Jail was allowed to reopen for business by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

County officials got the good news after tests on the fire alarm and smoke evacuation systems finally passed state muster May 24.

"We're ready to go now," said County Judge Mark Barr. "The test went excellent. We're now approved to reopen the jail any time we want."

Barr said the facility could see its first inmates as early as the following week.

"I talked to the sheriff, and they still have to go through and do some cleaning and some painting," said Barr. "Once that's completed, we'll start bringing the inmates back in."

The county jail was shut down by the jail standards commission in November 2006, after the facility's smoke evacuation system failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests earlier that year.

The jail also failed to meet state requirements that call for a stand pipe in the jail to deliver water to firefighters and a door that swung in the wrong direction. However, these pair of problems had been corrected, leaving the smoke evacuation system the lone obstacle standing in the commissioners court's way.

Repairs at the jail cost the county more than \$250,000.

Since the jail's closure, local inmates had been housed in other counties, including Dickens, Glasscock and Lamb counties, at considerable expense to the county.

And while reopening the jail certainly helped lessen the burden housing inmates outside the county put on governmental coffers, Barr said it was a problem he expected to see continue.

"If we can keep our numbers right about where they are now, we'll still be forced to house between one and six inmates out of county even after we reopen the jail," said Barr. "That's just because of overcrowding. Also, we still can't house women in our jail, so there's another 10 inmates that we'll have to pay to house out of county.

"The cost of the past sever-



Workers make some last minute adjustments to a jail fire alarm system at the Howard County Courthouse May 21. The jail, closed by state order for six months, was allowed to reopen in May

al months has nearly killed us. We're looking at the budget for the coming year right now, and it doesn't look favorable. Its doesn't look favorable at all."

after passing life safety standard tests.

Also in May:

• Ritchey, the principal at Big Spring High School, returned to his coaching roots when he was introduced as the new athletic director and head football coach for Big Spring Independent School District. He succeeded Tim Holt, who resigned his position after meeting with school district officials May 9. Holt had been AD/head coach for two years, compiling a 7-15 wonloss record during his tenure.

• Big Spring Independent School District became the first school system in this area to provide laptop computers for its high school students and staff after the BSISD school board formally approved the program at its May meeting.

By the same 4-3 margin that characterized past votes on the issue, trustees voted to authorize more than \$500,000 in expenses to start the program for the coming school year.

Board President Tony Kennedy, along with trustees Ricky Robertson, Phil Furqueron and Maria Padilla voted in favor of the program, while Vice President Allan Partee and

• Big Spring Independent trustees Mike Dawson and Irene Galan voted in oppositive school system in this tion.

• Among the distinguished high school graduates who received their diplomas in May was one who waited a long time for the honor — 41 years, in fact.

Big Spring's Mike Tarpley, Snyder High School Class of 1966, finally received his diploma at SHS graduation ceremonies May 25. Tarpley dropped out of high school in 1966, joined the Army and served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He recently learned of a Texas state law that allows combat veterans to receive their high school diplomas, which led to his belated graduation.

#### **Sports**



Coahoma Bulldogettes Head Softball Coach Tracy Tadlock (right) is showered with ice water by Janice Gonzalez following the Bulldogettes' 4-1 win over Hawley in the Region I finals May 26.

While the school year was winding down, the high school baseball and softball playoffs were just heating up in May, culminating in a record setting trip to the state tournament for one area squad.

Five softball and baseball teams from Howard County made a run into the postseason. Forsan and Coahoma each had representatives in both sports' playoffs, while the Big Spring Lady Steers made it into the softball postseason.

Surprisingly, all five qualifiers survived the playoff rush at least until the second round.

The Lady Steers were the first team eliminated from the playoffs, falling to Pampa in the area round.

Forsan's and Coahoma's baseball teams also bowed out in the area rounds. The Buffaloes, making their first postseason appearance, lost to the No. 2 ranked Hamlin Pied Pipers. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs suffered a heart breaking loss to Blanco in 10 innings.

While others fell to the wayside, Forsan's Lady Buffs and Coahoma's Bulldogettes battled toward a trip to the state tournament. Unfortunately, only one would succeed in earning a trip to Austin.

A young Lady Buffs squad, featuring no senior players, lost to Seymour in the regional semifinals, bringing Forsan's first trip into the softball playoffs to an end.

However, Coahoma extended its run of appearances in the state softball tournament to nine in 14 seasons, defeating district-rival Hawley for the Region I championship.

Sadly, the Bulldogettes were eliminated in the semifinals, falling to eventual state champion Troy, 11-1.

• Big Spring's Zack Dawson advanced to the state track meet, finishing third in the mile.

• Garden City's Taylor Niehues and Alex Halfmann cruised to their second consecutive Class 1A state tennis championship in boys' doubles.

The duo didn't drop a set on their way to becoming back-to-back state champs.

• Forsan's Cayley Eggleston and Kaylon Stanley earned a bronze medal in girls' doubles at the state tennis tournament.

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#### 2007: The Year in Review

### November

### County jail bond passes

Howard County residents went to the polls in November, and their message was simple: Give us a

With what county officials deemed overwhelming support, Howard County voters approved a \$11.57 million bond to finance a new jail facility Nov. 6, moving a project more than three years in

the making forward. With 4,079 total votes cast in the election -2,113 during early voting, 1,820 on election day and 191 absentee ballots — Howard County residents approved the bond with 2,863 votes for the measure and 1,216 opposed. Percentage wise, the ballot received 70.19 percent in favor and 29.81.

The future jail — which will be a 96-bed facility — is planned for a tract of land on U.S. Highway 80, between Utah and Wright, on the city's west side.

The November vote came in stark contrast to the 2006 defeat of a similar bond, when voters turned down a 144-bed, \$10.1 million jail by 60 percent of the ballot.

November would also see county commissioners struggle with budgetary constraints, putting the County Library and the Spring City Senior Citizens Center on the fiscal chopping block.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, talks between the city of Big Spring and the commissioners court continued, with the Senior Center expected to become a city responsibility.

Barr said turning over control of the Senior Center could certainly have a good impact on the county's coffers, which was already suffering through more than \$1 million in cutbacks.

Commissioners also continued negotiations with several wind energy developers in November, as the court worked to establish a trio of re-investment zones to allow for tax abatements for projects planned for the Howard County area.

Tuterrence Demaskinni Davis, 28, who was indicted on charges of aggravated kidnapping and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in June, and was accused in the abduction of a four-and-a-half year old child, had his day in court in November.

After having the aggravated kidnapping charges against him dismissed, Davis was found not guilty on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in 118th District Court.



The Forsan High School Band marches its way into Texas history as the group clinched the State 1A Marching Contest.

Being named the Texas Educators Association Class 1A Honor Band earlier in the year just wasn't enough for Forsan High School.

They wanted more — and they got it in November, as the FHS Band clinched the 1A-2A State Marching Championship title at the Alamodome in San Antonio, defeating defending champions Sundown with nine-outof-10 votes for the first-place spot.

"It's such a wonderful feelsaid FHS Band Director Jim Rhodes. "Last year, we came in second place behind Sundown, so to be able to knock them out of the top spot this year just made it all the sweeter."

The Crossroads area celebrated Veterans Day in true American fashion during November, as the Big Spring VA Medical Center — joined by other local veteran put on a Community-wide Veterans Day program at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The program featured keynote speaker Michael Bell, director of the West Texas VA Health Care System and master of ceremonies Randy McKinney, a member of the local Vietnam Memorial Committee, as well as representatives from other military and veteran organizations.

It wasn't all fun and cheer in November, however, as Big Spring suffered a rash of shootings in the 1300 block of College, 1500 block of Sunset, Main Street and Cherokee and the 2500 block of Langley.

At least three injuries were reported as a result of the shootings, which local law enforcement officials said

were gang related, but refused to go into more detail.

Howard County also saw a dramatic increase in the number of grass fires in November, as Tommy Sullivan, HCVFD fire chief, and his personnel responded to at least a dozen reports.

"We're seeing a heavy influx of wildfires," said a tired and weary Sullivan. "We expected that because of the rains this year. Rain is always good for our area, but the end result is always high fuels. We have the highest amounts of fuel this year than we've seen in the past 25 years."

The increase in wildfires along with prompting from Sullivan — led county commissioners to enact a burn ban later in the month.

The administration and staff of the Big Spring Salvation Army turned its attention on Thanksgiving holiday in November, serving more than 500 meals, complete with turkey, dressing and all the trimmings.

The meal consisted of 18 turkeys, 150 pounds of potatoes, 20 pounds of onions and numerous No. 10 cans of vegetables.

Area residents received a Thanksgiving gift from mother nature, as well, as the Big Spring area saw several inches of snow on the ground during the holiday.

The Salvation Army also launched its annual Angel Tree program, taking applications from approximately 135 adults during the charity's application process, amounting to 378 children and 68 seniors being approved for the program, which provides Christmas gifts for area low income residents who might otherwise wake up Dec. 25 to a bare

Adult Protective Services also tried to get shoppers in the giving mood with its annual "Be a Star" program, which provides gifts for the area's elderly and disabled.

Shoppers looking for holiday decorating ideas also got some help in November, as the Canterbury Christmas Bazaar offered up more than 20 vendors hocking everything from lighted glass blocks to wooden Christmas trees and snowmen.

Grady School officials wasted little time reaping the benefits of voters' largesse. A little more than a week after district residents approved a \$10 million bond for construction and renovation projects, the school poard took its first steps toward turning plans into action.

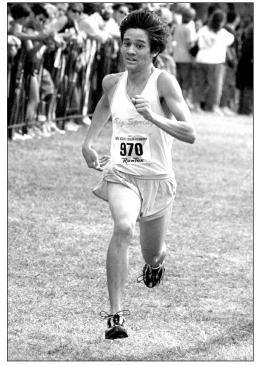
Three men accused of conducting a month-long burglary spree were among 18 defendants indicted by the **Howard County Grand Jury** in the last days of November.

Christopher Wade Clark, 21, Steven Silletti, 17, and Robert Pearson, 20, of 904 Nolan, were indicted in connection with a string of burglaries that occurred earlier in the year. Clark was indicted on two counts of burglary of a habitation, one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle and seven counts of burglary of a building.

Silletti was hit with nine indictments — two for burglary of a habitation, one of UUV and the rest for burglary of a building.

Pearson faces a comparatively lighter load — he was indicted three times, all for burglary of a building.

**Sports** 



Big Spring's Zack Dawson races to a third-place finish at the state cross country meet held at Old Settlers' Park

When a team returns four out of seven individuals from a state championship team, then a repeat performance is generally expected.

in Round Rock Nov. 10.

Unfortunately, that didn't hold true for the Big Spring High School cross country team Nov. 10 at the state meet in Round Rock.

The Steers finished in third behind Katy Seven Lakes and Mesquite Poteet, proving how difficult it is to defend a state title in cross country.

"There's so many good athletes at state that it becomes hard to defend," Head Coach Randy Britton said. "I'm still disappointed, though. We had four returning runners. There's no reason we shouldn't have been more competitive for the title.'

The Steers had two runners — Zach Dawson (third) and Jordan Valle (12) — finish in the top 15, but didn't have another runner cross the finish line until Jessie Sanchez did at 39th.

Dawson finished with the same exact time and in the same exact place as he did at state in 2006.

 The Steers football team finished its regular season with two straight wins over Lubbock Estacado and San Angelo Lake View, giving Big Spring the second seed in District 4-4A and a playoff berth.

It was one and done for the Steers in the postseason, however, as Hereford's Whitefaces jumped out to an early lead and held on late to win, 34-20. The game marked the second time Hereford had beaten the Steers in 2007.

• The Texas schoolboy playoffs were in full effect with three Crossroads teams other than the Steers qualifying.

Coahoma bowed out in the opening round, falling to Ballinger for the second time in the season, 35-20.

Forsan advanced to the area round by beating Winters in the first round. The Buffs lost, 40-21, to Valley Mills.

Grady made the deepest postseason run, coasting past Ira into a rematch with district-rival Rankin in the Region I finals. Rankin avenged a 50-46 regular season loss to the Wildcats by pounding Grady, 50-29, at Big Spring's Memorial Stadium.

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#### 2007: The Year in Review

### October

### Crime clouds year's 10th month

Crime and — what else? — the jail bond issue stole the show for October in 2007.

Seeking support for a second jail bond issue, commissioners asked for help from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Adan Munoz, executive director of the agency, told those attending a town hall forum, "After what I saw today, my recommendation to the commission will be to shut the Howard County Jail down permanently if the jail bond doesn't pass."

He later said, "Folks, you've done it to yourselves. There are plenty of people who want to run around pointing fingers, but it was you that voted this bond down last year, and costs just keep jumping up."

At the same time, County Judge Mark Barr told the public that if the jail were closed, there would be drastic cuts in personnel and services in order to house prisoners out of county.

Voters would go on to pass an \$11.57 million jail bond issue in the November election.

Bomb threats, kidnappings October was one for the police logs.

Police were called to Subway Sandwiches early in the month in response to bomb threat received by telephone at the business. The threat turned out to be a hoax.

Days later, police were dispatched to the resident of an 89-year-old woman who had been robbed at knifepoint. The suspect, a male, had apparently broken into the home through a back door, woke the woman and demanded money while threatening her with a knife. The victim gave the man some money and he fled, police said.

A rash of burglaries led to the arrests of several individuals in September and October. Charged with possession of drug paraphernalia near where police described as a hot spot for burglaries were 21-year-old Chris Clark and 17-year-old Steven Silletti. Police said the pair later confessed to taking part in the burglaries. An arrest warrant was also issued for 33-year-old Bobby Baker in connection with the burglaries.

In an unrelated case, police arrested 18-year-old Kimberly Denise James of Snyder on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Officers alleged that James entered the residence of an 84-year-old man and demanded money. The victim gave her \$20 but that didn't satisfy the woman. Police said the man got a handgun from his bedroom but the victim struck him on the head with a BB gun she found displayed on a wall of the home. She then took the man's handgun and fled. Officers located her a short time later, hiding in a nearby residence.

It took a Martin County jury just 30 minutes in October to decide Rodolfo Hernandez was not guilty of sexual assault of a child. Hernandez, a native of Mexico living in Stanton, had been accused of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy the previous December. Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr said he was shocked at the outcome, especially considering the prosecution provided testimony from the victim and a nurse examiner as well as DNA evidence.



HERALD file photo

The Howard College mascot gets a giggle out of 6-year-old Jacki Torbik at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The college cheerleaders were on hand to help celebrate Texas Chamber of Commerce Week in October.

Quick thinking by an 8-year-old boy may have saved him and a friend from a disastrous fate Oct. 14, police said. As it was, officers arrested 46-year-old transient Traci Lynn Wilson for kidnapping and aggravated kidnapping and the children were returned safely to their guardians.

According to police, the two children—the boy and a 9-year-old girl—were taken from a front yard by a man claiming to be their uncle. A motorist, unaware of what was transpiring, gave the trio a ride to an old motor home in the 1600 block of E. Third Street.

While at the home, the boy became scared that his mother would be looking for him and ran out an open door, police said. The girl tried to follow but the man stopped her. The boy ran to a 7-Eleven where the police were called. Officers followed the boy's directions to the motor home and apprehended Wilson.

Police did not believe the girl had been sexually assaulted, but feared that was Wilson's plan.

Sexual conduct did occur in another criminal case that saw an end in October. Former Big Spring Police Department jailer Lawrence Wayne Hein, 44, was sentenced to two years in a state jail for having inappropriate sexual conduct with a prisoner.

Hein had been convicted of the

Quick thinking by an 8-year-old boy offense on Sept. 25 by a district court jury. He was sentenced in mid-October by Judge Robert H. Moore III.

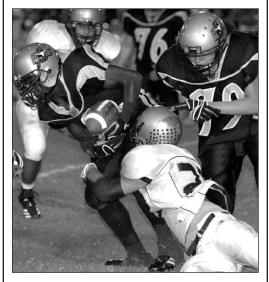
Steven Glen Hildebrand was indicted in October for the May 31 beating death of James David Boettcher, 59, both of Big Spring.

Hildebrand was arrested Sept. 22 for murdering Boettcher, who was found dead near his residence at approximately 11:22 p.m. Hildebrand was not arrested initially because investigators could not at first rule out that the death may have been accidental.

Aside from crime? Longtime farmer Marcus Phillips received the Ag Producer of the Year Award and Kelly Newton Insurance Agency accepted the Ag Business of the Year Award during ceremonies at the annual Expo and Luncheon, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Big Spring High School students and exes celebrated homecoming with an annual parade, ballgame and other activities. Ale Garcia and Jono Smith were named homecoming queen and king, respectively.

As the month came to a close, a bid by Big Spring High School and Stanton High School bands fell just short of reaching state competition; however, Forsan High School did earn a date in San Antonio's Alamodome. It would result in a state championship. **Sports** 



Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson drags an Andrews defender as his teammate Pavel Plakhotny looks to throw a block Oct. 5 at Memorial Stadium. Andrews ended up putting a damper on Big Spring's homecoming night, winning 33-29.

Big Spring's Steers entered October winless at 0-5, still searching for Mike Ritchey's first victory as Steers' head football coach.

It appeared that victory would come Homecoming night, when the Steers hosted the hated Andrews Mustangs. It was a different look on offense for Big Spring with most of its offense being run out of the newly-installed Jumbo package, meaning running back Monte Anderson lined up at the quarterback position in a shotgun set.

The new offense baffled the Andrews defense, allowing the Steers to jump out to an early lead. Big Spring held the lead for most of the night, but couldn't close the deal.

Andrews scored two touchdowns in the last four minutes of the game, earning the 33-29 win and sending Big Spring to 0-6.

However, the Steers wouldn't have to wait too much longer for their first victory of the season. Big Spring opened District 4-4A play the very next week with a 26-16 win over Plainview. It served as a very emotional and much needed win for a beleagured Big Spring team.

"Honestly, I'm much more excited for these kids than I am for our coaching staff or for myself. These kids earned this win tonight and absolutely deserve it," Ritchey said. "If I've got tears, then they're not tears of joy for the coaching staff. They're tears of joy for these athletes. Everything is starting to come together. Winning can be everything for a team. It changes attitudes and a player's outlook. It gives us great confidence as well."

• The Big Spring Lady Steers played the volleyball match of the year Oct. 2 at San Angelo Lake View. The Lady Steers fought through five tough sets for their only win of the district sea-

Unfortunately, the Lady Steers would lose a 5-set heart breaker against Lake View Oct. 16, eliminating Big Spring from playoff contention.

• Forsan's and Coahoma's football teams also got on the winning path in October. Both squads were 3-1 in the month.

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2007: The Year in Review

### September

### City, county approve hefty tax hikes

Local and county taxpayers will see a hefty increase in their tax bills after actions taken by the Big Spring city council and Howard County commissioners in September.

Faced with cost overruns, commissioners reluctantly approved a new tax rate of 48.8 cents per \$100 valuation for the new fiscal year during their Sept. 23 meeting.

Commissioners had cited declining fund balances and ongoing litigation with Alon USA — owner of the Big Spring Refinery — concerning property values as the reason for the tax hike, which is expected to generate approximately \$700,000 in additional funding for the coming fiscal year.

"This is reluctant," said County Judge Mark Barr. "However, it's the only way we can make this thing work."

The county also made a number of budget cuts totaling \$300,000 in savings — in hopes of avoiding

bankruptcy in the coming years. Unfortunately, those cuts

translated into layoffs. Budget cuts expected to go

into effect Oct. 1 included the elimination of two fulltime positions and one parttime position from the sheriff's office, two full-time positions and one part-time position at the county library and two full-time and one part-time position from the county's road and bridge department.

Commissioners approved the elimination of one full-time and one parttime position from the maintenance department and a single part-time position with the District Clerk's

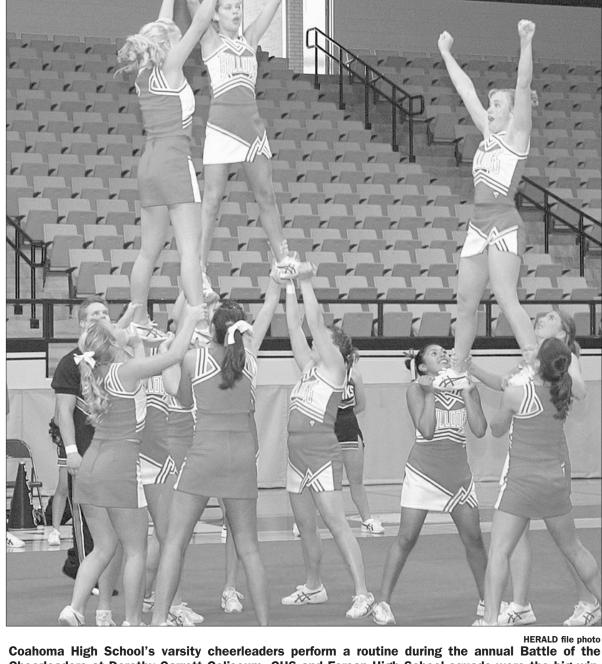
office. A day after the commissioners' action, the Big Spring City Council also approved a tax hike when they OK'd a new rate of \$1.02 per \$100 valuation.

council The Councilwoman Stephanie Horton, who supported the rate on its first reading, was not present — voted 5-1 in favor of the rate, which is approximately 5 cents over the city's rollback rate of 97.7820 cents.

Councilman Greg Biddison, who voted against the rate during its first reading, was once again the only council member to vote against the measure.

"We're trying to bring new industry to Big Spring, but when they see this tax rate what do you think they are going to say?" said Biddison.

City Finance Director 7.32 cent tax hike strictly for the Howard County Sheriff's returning the verdict.



Cheerleaders at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. CHS and Forsan High School squads were the big winners during the competition, held in conjunction with the annual Howard County Fair.

Peggy Walker said the tax the creation of a narcotics hike would translate to a tax bill increase of approximately \$100 for the average valued home.

"The average home owner is paying \$237 per year based on this year's tax rate," said Walker. "With the proposed rate they would be paying \$338, an increase of approximately \$101 a year. The owner of a home valued at \$100,000 is looking at an increase of \$275."

The rate includes an additional 30.14 cents for bond projects approved by voters last year, a clear message they support the tax increase. according Mayor Russ McEwen.

"The majority of the tax increase came from the bond issues that passed, and the taxpayers basically said to us they want to do these projects and we're willing to have our taxes raised to do that," said McEwen.

task force within the Big Spring Police Department.

Also in September: • Members of the Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors said goodbye to a pair of their former members Wednesday, as three new board members were welcomed aboard.

The board — which includes newly appointed members Glenn Fillingim, Dr. Keith Ledford and Glynna Jones Mouton approved a resolution thanking former board members Richard Steel, Raul Marquez and Mike Niklasch for their labors over the past several

• A Big Spring man pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child and was sentenced to 30 years in prison, ending what investigators say was a three-year string of offenses.

Joshua Abraham Edwards, The rate also included a 34, was arrested in May by

Office after allegations of abuse. Edwards was indicted by a Howard County grand jury on two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony, and two counts of indecency with a child, a second-degree

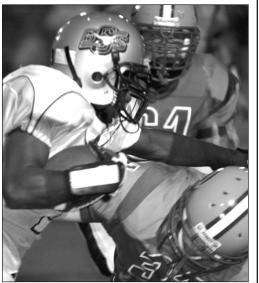
felony. If the case had gone to trial, Edwards faced five to 99 years to life in prison for each of the first-degree charges, and two to 20 years in prison for each of the second-degree felonies, officials

said. A Howard County District Court Jury took less than an hour to find a former Big Spring Police Department jailer guilty of inappropriate sexual contact with a prisoner.

Lawrence Wayne Hein, 44, was later sentenced to two years in state jail by District Judge Robert H. Moore III

The seven-man, fivewoman jury deliberated for about 40 minutes before

#### **Sports**



**HERALD** file photo Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson stiff arms a San Angelo Central Bobcats defender Sept. 7 in the Steers' 11-7 loss. Anderson scored Big Spring's only touchdown of the game.

Big Spring's boys cross country team started the 2007 season in the same manner they ended last season. Winning.

The defending Class 4A state champion Steers opened their season at Abilene Christian University's Cross Country Classic Sept. 1 at Sherrod Residential Park in Abilene. Big Spring dominated the field, taking first place as a team with all seven runners finishing in the top 20.

Zack Dawson — last year's thirdplace finisher at the state meet won the classic, finishing the 3-mile course in 15:29.70. Jordan Valle claimed second place with a time of 15:41.29.

However, the Steers didn't dominate throughout the month. On Sept. 24, the Steers finished eighth amongst 15 teams at the A&M Invitational. It was a performance that Coach Randy Britton hoped would serve as a warning to the

"This will hopefully be a wake-up call for the boys' squad," Britton said. "We should have finished higher in the field."

• Head Football Coach Mike Ritchey continued to not see the start he had hoped for from the Big Spring Steers. A young Steers team dropped all four of its September matchups, including shalackings from Abilene Wylie, 61-14, and Sweetwater, 40-0.

• The Lady Steers volleyball team also struggled to get on the winning path in September. The Lady Steers finished 0-10 in the month, dropping their overall record to 3-22. Three of those losses came against District 4-4A opponents.

• As a matter of fact, winning in September wasn't coming easy for most Howard County teams.

Coahoma went 0-3 in the month and was shut out twice, once by Roscoe and once by Merkel.

Forsan didn't fare much better, but did see its fortunes turn around in its final game of the month.

The Buffs overcame a 27-point deficit to Irion County to win 35-34 in an overtime thriller.

• It wasn't all losses in the Crossroads region, though. The football squads from Grady, Garden City, Sands and Stanton combined for an overall 12-1 record in the month.

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