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Vicki Slaton

Bulldogs take grip on district hoops action
Page 1B



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WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 9, 2008



BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 34

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Superintendent under fire

Trustees to consider misconduct allegations against Downes

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will consider allegations of misconduct against Superintendent Michael Downes when they hold a



Downes

special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Trustees also are scheduled to conduct their annual evaluation of Downes during the meeting.

A former student recently filed a complaint against Downes with the State Board of Educator Certification accusing him of having inappropriate contact with students at various times during his education career.

Tiffanie Carothers, a former student of Downes and currently a social worker in the Borger area, said the complaint involved "numerous" other former students, some of whom had sexual relations with Downes.

"The complaint is 40 pages long and contains allegations of inappropriate relationships with students at almost every place he's worked," said Carothers.

See **DOWNES**, Page 3A

Hobbs, N.M. woman gets one year jail sentence

She's found guilty of misdemeanor escape

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A Hobbs, N.M. woman will spend a year in the Howard County Jail after being found guilty of misdemeanor escape Tuesday in 118th District Court.

Heather Atkinson, formerly of Big Spring, had been on trial for felony escape and unauthorized use of a vehicle charges. The six-man, six-woman jury acquitted her of the major charges, but convicted her on the lesser charge.

In addition to her jail sentence, the jury also assessed a fine of \$3,000. She had faced up to 20 years in prison if she had been convicted on the felony charges.

Trial testimony showed that Atkinson and Maria C. Hernandez were arrested Aug. 19, 2007, on charges of speeding and unsafe driving. BSPD Lt. Lance Telchik handcuffed both females and placed them in the back seat of his unmarked unit, which had no screen or cage.

See **TRIAL**, Page 3A



Samantha and Robert Martinez share a warm moment with their newborn son, Ethan, who was the first baby born in Howard County in 2008.

First baby of year improving, expected home in near future

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard County's first baby of 2008 had a rough go of his first week, but things appear to be looking up.

Ethan Martinez became the county's first baby of the new year, born to Samantha and Robert Martinez at Scenic

Mountain Medical Center at 10:27 p.m. Jan. 2.

Normally, being the first baby of the year is a cause for bigger-than-normal celebration. In this case, however, things turned somber.

Hospital officials said Ethan was born with "serious health concerns," although they declined to provide further

details. As a result of those concerns, he was immediately transferred to a Lubbock hospital.

There, Ethan underwent surgery Monday and, while he remains in ICU, his prognosis is good, officials disclosed, and should be able to return

See **BABY**, Page 3A

Officials ponder runway project

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

"If you build it, will they come" was only one of the questions local officials had Tuesday night while deciding whether to move forward on a multi-million-dollar project at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

Faced with the fact that pouring more asphalt on the fissure-laced, 8,800-foot runway would be a short-term fix at best, Big Spring City Council members and Moore Development For Big Spring directors had several thoughts to ponder during Tuesday's workshop.

A concrete surface is likely the best answer, officials learned, but how thick a slab? Should they construct a seven-inch thick surface that will accommodate smaller planes or an 11-inch surface that will handle the likes of 150,000-pound Boeing 737s? And how in the world do they pay for the thing, anyway?

As it turns out, the city can get some major help funding the project — just not enough at this point.

The Texas Department of

See **RUNWAY**, Page 3A



Fuqua

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
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.



BLOOD DRIVE SATURDAY

Cornerstone Church is teaming up with United Blood Services for the Blood Gusher Run Blood drive.

Entry fees for the Blood Gusher Run will be waived for those who donate in this drive.

The drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Cornerstone Church, 706 E. 12th St.

Everyone is invited.

Those who would like to make an appointment can call Craig Felty at (432) 213-0409 or go to unitedbloodservices.org to schedule an appointment online. The Blood Gusher Run will be held March 29 at the Sports Complex in Midland.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

Calling all fisherkids!

According to the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1,500 more rainbow trout are expected to be stocked in Comanche Trail Lake today.

Officials are taking advantage of this opportunity to hold a fishing tournament from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday for those age 17 and younger. There will be a workshop from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. to discuss baits and techniques for catching stocked trout. Prizes will be awarded for first fish caught, largest fish and most fish. Register at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The tournament is being sponsored by Wal-Mart.

MEANEST MOM

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — After finding alcohol in her son's car, Jane Hambleton decided to sell the car and share her 19-year-old's misdeed by placing an ad in the local newspaper.

The ad reads: "OLDS 1999 Intrigue. Totally uncool parents who obviously don't love teenage son, selling his car. Only driven for three weeks before snoop mom who needs to get a life found booze under front seat. \$3,700/offer. Call meanest mom on the planet."

"It's overwhelming the number of calls I've gotten from people saying 'Thank you, it's nice to see a responsible parent.'" she said.

South Mountain Realty
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408 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX 79720
432-714-4886

Kelly Myrick
432-466-1178

Donna Love
432-935-3870

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432-213-0909

NEW LISTINGS






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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

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Wednesday, January 9, 2008

IN BRIEF

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches rankings

Several Crossroads high school basketball teams are populating the TABC's latest top 20 state rankings as of Jan. 7.

BOYS

CLASS 1A, DIV. I

1. Cayuga
2. Graford
3. White Deer
4. Martin's Mill
5. Valley View
6. Thorndale
7. Clarendon
8. Trenton
9. Poolville
10. Anderson-Shiro
11. Spurger
12. Big Sandy
13. Avery
14. Moulton
15. Sudan
16. FORSAN
17. Albany
18. Mumford
19. Cross Roads
20. Port Aransas

CLASS 1A, DIV II

1. Goodrich
2. Happy
3. Lipan
4. Rule
5. Avinger
6. Laneville
7. GRADY
8. Adrian
9. Fayetteville
10. Waelder
11. D'Hanis
12. Paducah
13. Ira
14. Nazareth
15. Calvert
16. Eden
17. Hart
18. Priddy
19. Roby
20. GARDEN CITY

GIRLS

CLASS 1A, DIV. II

1. Saltillo
2. Kennard
3. Carmine
4. Roscoe Highland
5. Follett
6. D'Hanis
7. Roby
8. Rochelle
9. Guthrie
10. SANDS
11. Paint Rock
12. Oakwood
13. Strawn
14. Apple Springs
15. Leggett
16. GARDEN CITY
17. Petersburg
18. Wellman-Union
19. GRADY
20. Hedley

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball at Frenship, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Frenship, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Anson, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Anson, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring girls basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at San Angelo Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Colorado City, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball vs. Roscoe, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball vs. Roscoe, 8 p.m.

Bulldogs seize control of district

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — The ability to go into a hostile environment and win is a key ingredient if you are to advance past the district schedule.

The Coahoma Bulldogs proved they are up to that task as they traveled 30 miles west on I-20 to defeat the rival Stanton Buffaloes, 56-38.

Neither team formed much separation in the first half with Coahoma taking a 7-point lead into intermission, 32-25.

However, the Bulldogs found the button to turn off the Buffs with 4:20 remaining in the game. With the score 48-38, Logan Stone found a lane to the basket pushing the lead to twelve, igniting an 8-0 run to ice the victory.

"This is a big road win for us," Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols said. "Anytime we are able to come over here and get a win is a big thing. They always play us hard."

"I can't say enough about how big a win for us this is. You add this to our win on the road against Merkel and then beating Haskell at home and we are in a good place," Nichols continued. "Now we just have to go out and play like we are 4-0 and keep improving and we will be able to achieve our goals."

Colter Morgan and Cody Sheppard led the way for the Bulldogs, scoring 14 apiece,

while Josh Paniagua registered double figures with 11.

Tyler Fulton was the leading scorer for the Buffaloes, scoring 13 while older brother Garrett added 10.

Coahoma 17 15 12 12—56

Stanton 12 13 9 4—38

Coahoma (4-0, 13-4): Mikey Mendoza 2, Josh Paniagua 11, Colter Morgan 14, Logan Stone 6, Matt Tatum 6, Jovi Paniagua 3, Cody Sheppard 14.

Stanton (3-1, 12-6): Garrett Fulton 10, David Erives 3, Tyler Fulton 13, Justin Hinojosa 2, Chase Pinkerton 6, Robbie Noland 2, Adam Evans 2.

Bulldogettes 56,

Lady Buffs 38

In girls action, it was the Bulldogettes tightening their grip on the district lead with the 56-38 win over the Lady Buffs.

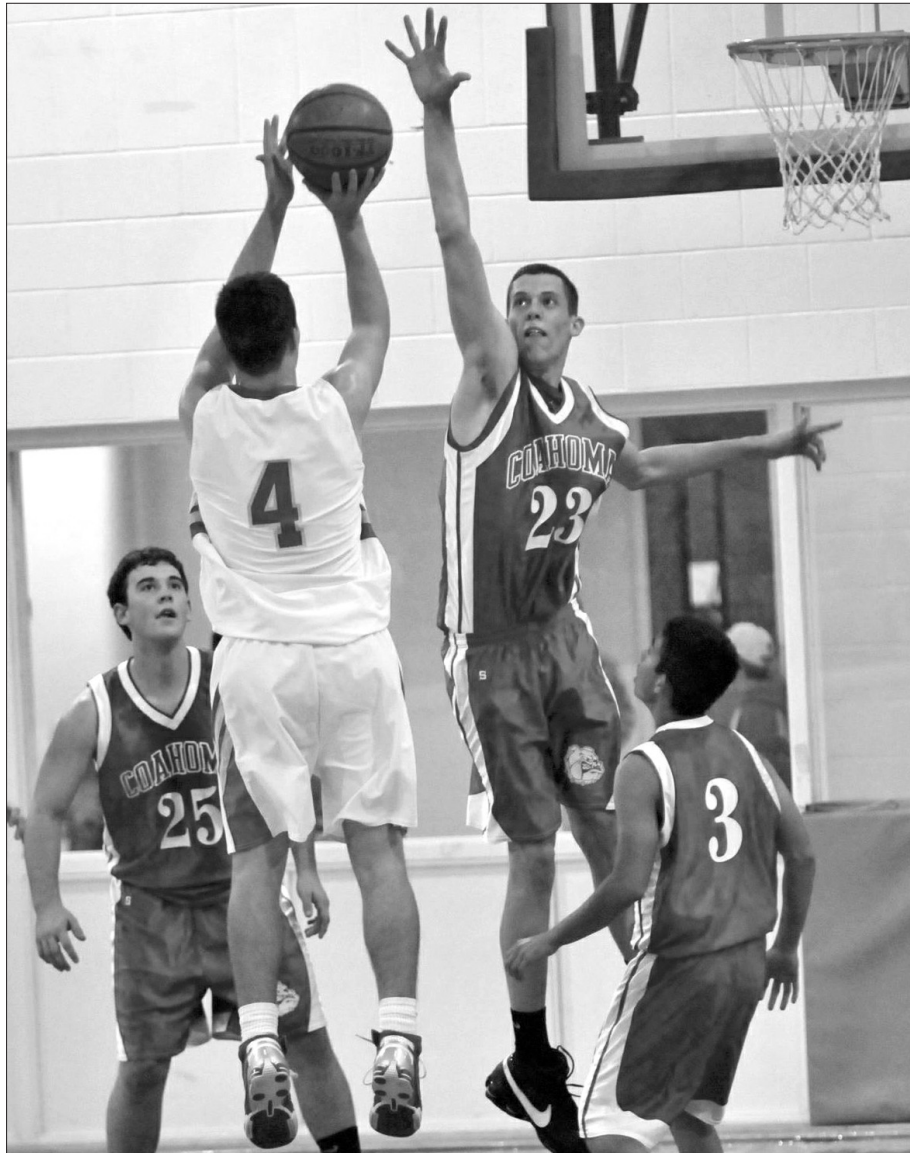
Coahoma opened up a quick 9-5 lead in the first period before closing out the first quarter on a 12-0 run, slamming the door shut on any hopes that Stanton may have entertained about an upset.

Christie Rich did the damage in the first quarter, scoring 13 of her 15 points with the aid of 60 per cent shooting from behind the three-point line.

From there, Coahoma was in cruise control, extending the lead little by little for the remainder of the game.

"I thought that we played alright offensively, but defensively we could have been a lot

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma Bulldogs post Colter Morgan (23) skies to challenge the shot of Stanton's Garrett Fulton in the Bulldogs' 58-39 victory Tuesday night in Stanton.

Brownfield wears down Big Spring

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

For two periods, it appeared the Big Spring Steers basketball team was definitely in the same league as Class 3A's 12th-ranked Brownfield Cubs Tuesday night in Steer Gym.

The Steers led by 6, 36-30, heading into intermission.

However, Brownfield came out of the locker room energized and its relentless high-pressure defense eventually wore the Steers down, leading to a 82-69 victory for the Cubs.

"They're ranked in the top 15 in Class 3A. They've got a good basketball team and play very well," Big Spring Head Coach Marcus Morris said. "They're aggressive and play all four quarters. We played two good quarters tonight. If we played four, then good things would happen."

The Cubs used an interesting strategy in the first half, sending in five fresh

substitutes every minute in an attempt to wear the Steers down. Brownfield's efforts proved to work in the second half.

While Big Spring's players had played several minutes throughout the first and second periods, Brownfield's hadn't. The Cubs' starters were obviously fresher down the stretch of the game. They utilized a fast-paced offensive attack coupled with a full-court defense.

"The whole goal is to wear people down and they wore us down," noted Morris. "In some ways, you could compare it to playing a football team. You play against a spread offense all season and then someone throws a wishbone at you. It's hard to adjust to that. This team plays run and gun basketball and we weren't used to seeing it. I'm proud of our guys. We showed some signs of life."

See STEERS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Big Spring Steers forward Jason Walker glides to the basket for a finger roll in the Steers' 82-69 loss to the Brownfield Cubs in Steer Gym Tuesday night. Big Spring begins District 4-4A play in Wolforth against the Frenship Tigers Friday.

Bufs, Lady Bufs trump Midland Trinity

Garden City, Grady squads sweep Tuesday matchups

Herald Staff Report

MIDLAND — In a close basketball game, how a team responds coming out of the locker rooms in the third period can often determine the outcome.

Forsan's Lady Buffaloes proved this Tuesday night, using a 9-3 advantage in the opening stanza of the second half to put some distance between themselves and the hosting Midland Trinity Lady Chargers.

Forsan led 21-15 at intermission, but it wasn't until that pivotal run in the third period that the Lady Buffs seized absolute control of the game.

Faith Belew scored a game-high 10 points and Amanda Longorio had eight to lead the Lady Buffs. Eight Forsan players registered points in the scorebook.

The Lady Buffs (9-10) can enjoy a bye Friday, but tip off district play at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, host-

Area Basketball Roundup

ing Roscoe.

Forsan 9 12 9 10—40

Trinity 7 8 3 9—27

Forsan (9-10): Shelby McDonald 3, Tori Gauer 6, Miranda Park 3, Faith Belew 10, Caylea Wood 6, Sandi Golleher 2, Charlene Stanley 2, Amanda Longorio 8.

Trinity (7-10): Maddie Cepero 2, Elizabeth Midkiff 5, Jenny McCabe 3, Morgan Brown 4, Kirby Winstead 2, Regan Winstead 2, Lexie Willingham 2, Kendall Meyers 7.

Bufs 77, Midland Trinity 27

There's nothing like a dominant

win to overcome a disappointing loss and gain momentum heading into district play.

The No. 16 Forsan Buffaloes picked up a 50-point win at Midland Trinity Tuesday night after losing just their second game of the season Friday against Midland Classical.

Now the Buffs will try to carry this momentum into the district season, starting with a visit from Roscoe Tuesday.

"We played a good game," Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald said. "Everyone received a lot of playing time and all players scored. Now we need to get our focus ready to start district competition."

All 11 players on the roster scored with Blake Grantham leading with a game-high 16 points. Adam Bailey and Tristan Clay each scored nine points and Jeremy Robbins and Nathan

Atkerson added eight apiece.

Grady 74, Dawson 26

LENORAH — Grady's Lady Wildcats got off to a fast start and never took their foot off the gas, drilling Dawson by 49 points.

The No. 19 Lady Wildcats built a 25-2 advantage by the end of the first period and cruised to victory from there.

Five Lady Wildcats scored in double digits led by Kenzie Madison's game-high 17. Eva Dyck added 14 and Linsey Chavez contributed 11. Kandace Schuelke and Lauren Robinson scored 10 points apiece.

Grady improves to 2-0 in district play and looks to remain perfect, traveling to Loop Friday night.

See AREA, Page 2B

Obituaries

Felix 'Pete' Hudgins



Felix "Pete" Hudgins, 80, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Eddie Pitchford, minister of the Coahoma Church of Christ, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 3, 1927, in Howard County. Pete was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He loved fishing, watching football, was a crossword puzzle fanatic and enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

He was a kind, caring, giving and very spiritual person, who will be missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include one sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Barney Barnhill of Graham, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, seven sisters and two brothers.

The family suggests memorials be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo 79174-0001.

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

Paid obituary

Billy Ray Allred

Billy Ray Allred, 71, of Stanton died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Light and variable winds becoming southwest around 10 mph after midnight.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds around 10 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.

TUESDAY
• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

Police blotter

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

• **FERNANDO DIAZ FRANCO**, 41, of 1106 W. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.

• **MARCUS DEE WILLIAMS**, 19, of Dallas, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone, possession of marijuana - four ounces or less in a drug free zone and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.

• **JIMMY R. GIDDINGS**, 20, of Dallas, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of a dangerous drug, possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and possession of marijuana - less than five pounds in a drug free zone.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 200 block of FM 700.
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 200 block of Marcy.

• **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

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

• **WILLIAM BRENNAN FONTANA**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **BRUCE CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL**, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **JUNIOR ALEXANDER VELASQUEZ**, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.

• **JUANITA PORRAS GONZALES**, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid, violation of the open container law and speeding.

• **HEATHER ANNE ATKINSON**, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for escape.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of E. Davis Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. 12th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• Howard County Court under Judge Mark J. Barr has canceled the jury panel called for 9 a.m. Friday.

• Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair. 2

• 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 267-2713.

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.O. 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 at 267-7387.

Bulletin Board

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

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

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

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

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

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

• 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 is invited.

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

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

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

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

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-14-20-27-34
Number matching five of five: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-3-6-1. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-5-3. Sum It Up: 15.

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2B

SPORTS

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Big Spring led by as many as 7 points in the first half and held the advantage throughout the entire second period.

However, Brownfield opened the second half on an 8-2 run, tying the game at 38.

The Cubs took their first lead at 3:21 mark of the third period, 45-42, courtesy of a 3-pointer. From there, the Cubs quickly took control.

Big Spring helped them out, though, committing

several fouls including two technical fouls. Brownfield converted their free throw opportunities and extended its lead to double digits early in the fourth period.

It appeared Big Spring might make a run at Brownfield in the final stanza, opening with a 6-2 run.

However, the Cubs' pressure defense started to get to the Steers again, forcing Big Spring to rush its shots without anyone under the basket to rebound.

"That's part of playing together," Morris said.

"When one guy shoots, four should be crashing for the rebound while the shooter plays safety. We've got to learn to play better in all aspects. When you play a good team, it exposes your weaknesses."

Big Spring was led by Jason Walker, who scored a game-high 22 points. Lance Gross added 20 points and Terrence Clemons registered a double-double with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Tyler Tannehill pulled down eight boards and Tyrone Clemons led the Steers with five assists.

Brownfield's scoring was more balanced with five players finishing in double figures.

Jonathan Lawrence led the Cubs with 13 and Chris Hudson had 12. Luciano Soliz and Christian Avilas each scored 11 with Chris Davis adding 10.

Big Spring tips off District 4-4A play at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Wolforth against the Frenship Tigers.

Frenship defeated Brownfield by five points earlier this season.

"Frenship has got a good team and beat these

guys," Morris said. "I've seen them play a couple times. We can use tonight as a measuring stick. If we don't play better defense and box out, then we're going to have a tough time beating anyone. We've got to start making our own breaks."

"We've got to get more stops on defense without fouling," he continued. "We've got to keep playing together and share the ball. We want to keep our enthusiasm up and attitudes positive. District is all about winning. It doesn't matter how you do it. It's all about getting a

win."

Brownfield 12 18 27 25—82
Big Spring 17 19 13 20—69
No. 12 Brownfield: Jasper Fininan 9, Chris Davis 10, Rob Simmons 5, Jonathan Lawrence 13, Seth Swaringen 3, Justin Salas 1, DeMarcus Mackey 4, Tanner Edwards 3, Luciano Soliz 11, Christian Avilas 11, Chris Hudson 12.

Big Spring (10-9): Terrence Clemons 19, Lance Gross 20, Jerrell Williams 2, Tyrone Clemons 2, Jason Walker 22, Tyler Tannehill 2, Matt Ritchey 2.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

Dawson 2 8 6 10—26
Grady 25 14 22 13—74

Dawson: Castillo 11, Ramirez 5, Key 1, Straley 2, Rodriguez 7.

Grady (2-0, 16-6): Eva Dyck 14, Lindsey Chavez 11, Kandace Schuelke 10, Kaitlyn Blocker 2, Lauren Robinson 10, Sam Rodriguez 2, Kenzie Madison 17, Rachel Romine 8.

Wildcats 65,
Dawson 39

Grady's Wildcats have recently soared up the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' poll. They've climbed eight spots up to seventh from 15th since Dec. 17.

The Wildcats appear ready to climb even higher in the rankings with an almost routine 26-point victory over Dawson

Tuesday night in Lenorah.

Justin Tubb led Grady with 26 points, allowing the Wildcats to improve to 2-0 in district play. Leighton Fields complimented Tubb with 14 points.

Dawson 7 10 10 12—39
Grady 10 16 20 19—65

Dawson: Hunt 11, Meadows 3, Ramirez 2, Drennon 4, Ramos 5, Key 3, Bell 2, Hall 9.

Grady (2-0, 11-1): Tommylee Rivas 6, Dylan Cox 7, Justin Tubb 26, Jacob Rodriguez 6, Santos Montoya 4, Leighton Fields 14, Lane Shands 2.

Garden City 49,
Blackwell 29

GARDEN CITY — Garden City's Bearkats opened up district play with a decisive 20-point victory over Blackwell Tuesday and improved

their overall record to 10-7.

Garden City led by 7 at intermission, 28-21, and opened the second half with an 11-2 third-period advantage.

Wade Jansa led all scorers with 15 points and Bo Eggemeyer chipped in nine. Jake Schwartz and Eric Hirt added eight apiece.

The No. 20 Bearkats visit Robert Lee Tuesday, continuing with district action.

Lady Bearkats 79,
Blackwell 16

Garden City's Lady Bearkats lived up to the No. 16 ranking, holding Blackwell to a mere four points in the first half. Garden City led 39-4 at the intermission and added to

its lead in chunks throughout the second half.

Four Lady Bearkats reached double figures with Morgan Schwartz and Whitney Kellermeier each scoring a game-high 17. Lyza Lopez and Brittney Chudej chipped in 13 apiece.

The win was Garden City's first in district play, improving its record to 1-1 in the league.

The Lady Bearkats also travel to Robert Lee Friday.

Blackwell 2 2 7 5—16
Garden City 20 19 16 24—79

Blackwell: Gaston 2, Ware 3, Hoyle 4, Henson 2, Monroe 2, J. Morrow 1, S. Morrow 2.

Garden City (1-1, 15-5): Whitney Kellermeier 17, Melissa Hirt 8, Amy Multer 7, Brittney Chudej 13, Macy Schwartz 4, Lyza Lopez 13, Morgan Schwartz 17.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

better," Bulldogettes Head Coach Chris Sumrall said. "We have to main-

tain our focus. We are going to have to continue to work hard if we are to achieve the things that we set out to do at the beginning of the season. We can't become complacent with our strong

start."

Laci Sterling paced the Bulldogettes with 20 while Heather Sheppard added eight.

Rachel Fleckenstein scored 10 for the Lady Buffs and Ruby Salazar

scored seven.

Coahoma will be at home this Friday as they host Anson in district 5-2A action. Junior Varsity action begins at 4 with varsity action immediately following.

su | do | ku

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

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

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Applicant will perform other job-related duties as
assigned.
Although this is an entry level position, applicant
will be required to pass a drug test, physical, and
have a good driving record. For an application, con-
tact the nearest Texas Department of Transportation
Office or visit our Internet address at www.txdot.gov.
Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on
January 16, 2008.
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apply for this job may call the Human Resources
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Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
We have an immediate opening in our Laundry department. Full-time position. Split-shift. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.
PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REP. needed for busy office. 11:30am-4:30pm., M-F. Holidays and Weekends Off. Phone and computer skills required. Good attitude a must. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2157, Big Spring, Texas 79721.
PIZZA HUT is now hiring for delivery drivers- up to \$20 per hour, cooks- up to \$8 per hour and wait staff- up to \$15 per hour. Apply in person, 2601 S. Gregg.

PIZZA INN
EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.
POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training vacations. PT/FT. 1-866-795-4058 USWA

RED MESA Grill has openings for Full/Part Time, Day & Evening. Wait Staff. Apply 2401 S. Gregg.

STERLING COUNTY NURSING HOME.
RN/LVN 6am-6pm & 6pm-6am. Fri.-Sat.-Sun. 36 Hours for 40 hours. Contact Paula (325)378-2134.

SALES REPS NEEDED
Local Company Seeking experienced, motivated, energetic Sales associates. Must have great people skills, sales experience & calling experience. Call (432)599-8018 or Apply at Big Spring Pack and Ship.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Comfort Inn needs housekeeping from 9:00-3:00. Above Competitive pay. Also need Part-time Maintenance. Apply at Front Desk @ 2990 East I-20. No phone calls please.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.

Want to Buy

TOP PRICES paid for Railroad Antiques. Especially want Texas & Pacific items. Also dining car items- any railroad. Call Warren Taylor 432-685-1910 evenings.

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Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

Lost and Found

LOST BRINDLE/WHITE boxer puppy. She got out accidentally. Our son is heart broken. Reward \$50.00. No questions asked. 432-935-3928.

LOST SMALL White dog miniature pincher wearing a red coat. Call 505-973-1256.

Miscellaneous

2 COFFEE tables- \$50.00 each, 2 Dressers- \$50.00 each, twin bed and frame- \$15.00, King size bed w/2 wood head boards- \$50.00, filing cabinet- \$50.00, large chest deep freezer- \$60.00, sofa & love seat- \$450.00, 4 bar stools- \$25.00 each. (needs a little work). Call (432)264-7203.
4 BLACK low profile 20x8.5 high performance Starlet wheels with extreme performance tires. \$1600.00 OBO. Call (432)466-4647.
CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios, Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.
CHERRY SLEIGH bed, new, \$250, iron canopy bed, \$150, must move..... \$129. Queen orthopedic pillow-top mattress and box set, unused with warranty. 806-549-3110.
MEMORY FOAM mattress. Never opened. FLAME RESISTANT. Will take \$470.....
CAL KING-king 3 pc pillow top mattress/foundation. Never slept on. \$230. 806-549-3110.
NEW 500 gallon cement septic tank. \$500.00 OBO. Call 432-213-0619.

Miscellaneous

MUST SEE formal dining table, 6 chairs, hutch/buffet. NEW. List \$3450. Sell \$999..... Mahogany bedroom set, 6 pc. Solidwood, dovetailed, List \$3250. Sacrifice \$890. 806-549-3110.
SERTA PILLOWTOP King sized mattress and box spring set. Call 432-264-9103 after 1:00 p.m.
SOFA/LOVE, MICROFIBER, brand new, lifetime warranty, value \$1700 must sell \$540, can del. 806-549-3110.

TRAILERS FOR Sale: Heavy duty oil field trailer- 20x7, New 750x16 tires, ramps, tie downs, electric jack..... 5x10 Enclosed Moving trailer. 2002 Model. Metal floor, new tires. Excellent condition..... 260 Feet 2-3/8 oilfield pipe, good for fencing- \$1.50 per foot. 1301 East 4th, Bill Chrane 432-213-0426.

On the Farm

BEARDLESS WHEAT Seed for sale. End of Season Special. Call (432)268-3084.

Pets

CKC YORKIES- 2 females. Ready to go. Call (432)213-7585 or 213-4299.

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• Appliances
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PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS
800 W. Marcy Drive
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Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
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\$300/MO! BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 20 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

1 BDR. at 902 E 12th and 2 Bdr. at 1210 Wood. Call 432-267-7380.

1206 EAST 11th Place. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, 2 car garage, CH/A, living/ dining room. \$950.00 Month plus deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. (432)267-2296.

1200 GRAFA, 2 bdr, 1 bath. \$375.00... deposit. 432-263-1792, 432-816-9984.
1900 MORRISON. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$600.00 month, \$400.00. No HUD. Call for more info (432)270-3848.

2 SMALL Houses- 3 Bdrm & 2 Bdrm. Call Kathy 432-263-8742.

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

Real Estate for Rent

804 SETTLES 2 Bdr. 1 bath, CH/A. \$495.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. 432-263-1792, 432-816-9984.

602 GEORGE- Close to College. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Washer & dryer connection. \$750.00 Month plus deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

622 STATE 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CA/CH with garage. \$500.00 month, \$300.00. No HUD. Call (432)270-3848.

706 WEST Marcy. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, 2 car garage, fireplace, hardwood floors. \$1,000. month, \$1,000. deposit. References required. Call (432)213-2319, (432)267-8787.

BUSINESS OFFICE Space 900 feet- 4 Rooms Very nice. High Traffic. Plenty head-in parking. Ideal for Beauty shop, Dog grooming or CPA Shop. 307 Union Street. Call Mr. Bill Chrane (432)213-0426.

FURNISHED APT. extended stay hotel. Weekly \$245.00 plus tax, monthly \$700.00 and up. Microwave and fridge. Call 1-800-677-8175.

NICE BRICK Office Building at 2000 South Birdwell Lane, 3300 sq. feet, with 11 Offices and ample parking. \$1500 Per month. Please Contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

RETAIL BUILDING on Gregg Street. 2200 sq. feet. \$400.00 Per month with 1 year lease. Please contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

SHOP/ STORAGE- over head door and walk thru door 15x40. \$200. Month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT Sunset Ridge Apartments 2911 W. Old Hwy 80
1 & 2 Bedrooms
432-263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

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

2810 CORONADO Ave. 2700 sq feet, 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 3 living areas, fireplace, dishwasher, sprinkler system. \$150K. Call 432-816-4029 or 816-5397.

6-1/2 ACRES CISD, with water well, duplex rentals. Call 432-517-0642 for more info.

BEAUTIFUL LOT- 125X170 feet. Located 2517 East 25th. With a Beautiful view of South Mountain. Ideal for your dream home. Call Bill Chrane (432)213-0426.

BEYOND CITY limited- 3 lots, with in need of repair trailer and 3 car metal carport with storage. Call (432)264-1158.

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. \$128,500.00. Will Pay \$3,300. closing cost or reduce price. Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.

FOR SALE to Settle Estate: 1.07 acres with 1388 sq. ft. double wide home, 2 bd/2 bath plus large extra room. New carpet throughout, all appliances including w/d & satellite system, carport, storage building. As is, No owner finance, in Tubbs Add. Forsan schools. \$55000.00 leave message 325-728-2161, 242-2116.

FORECLOSURE 3 bd, 2 ba Only \$30,005! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

ONE BEDROOM, one bath, with garage and carport. Fenced backyard. Owner will finance with \$1,900 down, \$290. month. Call (512)321-3333. (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

OWNER FINANCE TOUGH CREDIT OK ONLY 5% DOWN 3726 Adams, 3 bed, 1 1/2 bath, CH/A. \$44,900. Recorded info. 432-687-2696.

OWNER FINANCE, \$5000 down. 1901 Morrison. Call (432) 264-9907.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 1413 Sycamore and 508 State. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

Vehicles

2003 HONDA Elite 80CC Great for RV or in town use. Very low miles. Call 432-213-0619.

2005 NISSAN Altima V-6 with chrome rims, sun roof & dual exhaust very well kept. Transferring Military need to sell. \$16,000.00 OBO. Call 432-270-8531, 360-990-1767.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's moon in Aquarius is your off-the-wall mom who embarrassed you as a kid. With her eclectic opinions, mismatched socks and crazy bumper stickers, she was so, well, freakishly different. Now that you're older and no longer mistake blending in for being cool, you admire her originality. What a delicious freedom, to create your own style!
ARIES (March 21-April 19). The responsibilities keep piling up, and what are you to do? Say no, that's what! Realize that you always have a choice, even when (especially when) it seems you don't have a choice.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A clear vision of your professional goals keeps you motivated and on the right track. Or so you think. This is the perfect day to do a review and make sure you haven't derailed at some point.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what you want. And when you find that what you want is diametrically opposed to what they want, it's time for a brainstorming session with Libra and Leo.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not about game playing and manipulation. Still, it helps to have a strategy. When you get stuck, work it out with a Gemini. Tonight, by playing hard to get, you eliminate those pursuers who are less committed.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's nice to have someone remind you of your virtues. That's why it's beneficial to keep an encouraging Aquarius

close by. Tonight, consider this beauty tip by Audrey Hepburn: For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You do have time to work hard AND play hard, so don't choose to bury yourself in work at the exclusion of your personal life. Reorder your world to fit the emerging, improved you.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The confidence that comes with a small but significant personal triumph translates to every other area of your life. The old trick of acting as if you already have your goal will really work.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been shy, caring what others think of you rather than what you think of yourself. It's time to shake yourself out of the mood. Tentative moves won't play. Put a heavy foot on the accelerator of life.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're lucky. But better than that, you know what to do with your new resources. Tonight, what one would experience as a loss, you experience as a liberation.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're quite powerful and may be challenged for your power. In life, the prize often goes to the one who can best defend his or her position. Fight for your side. If you don't, who will?
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're using your inherited assets to make the most of your current opportunities. It's not about money, but those traits and talents that will help you be

successful.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships take central focus. Sometimes you're the one putting in more than you take out. And other times, you're taking out more than you put in. It all balances in the end.
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My son was born Feb. 23, 1990, at 12:37 p.m. I thought we had a very close bond. I was wrong. He is secretive about every aspect of his life. He is violent, punching walls, breaking lamps, name-calling. He is not on drugs or alcohol -- he just is demanding and threatening. He won't consider counseling. His dad supports all of his behavior, and he has never had any consequences for his bad behavior. He has told me that he hates me, and I believe him. Do you see him being remorseful and changing for the better and ever wanting a relationship with me?"
He is very lonely right now, triggering the frustration and anger of his natal Mars/Saturn/Neptune in Capricorn. Pisces people have the awesome task of managing confusing emotions, and your son is dealing the only way he knows how. Don't ask for your son's love right now. Instead, appeal to dad's understanding. Regardless of whether you're married, you two need to be a united front against this irrational behavior. Encourage him to develop and achieve goals that matter to him to help him discover another way to use his pent up anger. February brings changes.

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I am almost 15 and I think I have a problem. I get angry easily. I've tried talking to different people about it, like my friends and the school counselor, but I always get the same response -- it's probably just PMS. This gets me so mad because I can't have PMS 24/7.
I want to ask my doctor, but my mom is always in the room with me, and if I were to ask, I know she would say I was making it all up. I'm afraid I might be bipolar, and that if it goes untreated, I might hurt someone I care for. I've already hit some of the younger children in my family just because they didn't listen to me. I don't want to do that again. Please help. -- Hurtful Teen
Dear Teen: You are having a difficult time controlling your emotions. It doesn't necessarily mean you are bipolar, but if you cannot stop yourself from hitting someone, it means you need help, and you are smart to know it. Talk to your mom again, show her this letter and tell her you wrote it. If she still won't pay attention, bring the column to your school counselor. Someone needs to take your concerns seriously.
Dear Annie: Last



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

to run to the store or walk alone on the beach. He isn't effeminate at all.
Needless to say, I threw him out of our house and I know I should be tested for disease (I stopped counting the number of men at 60), but I am so ashamed. I will never feel clean again and cannot stop washing myself.
Annie, I would not wish this nightmare on my worst enemy. I will never forgive him for putting my life at risk for his sexual enjoyment. What kind of man does this? -- Sadder but Wiser in N.C.

Dear Sadder: Selfish men who lack the courage to be honest with themselves and with others. Not all gay men are effeminate, nor do they all cheat on their partners. Your husband gave you no reason to suspect this side of his personality and it's not surprising you were fooled. Please get tested immediately so you can put this behind you. You may be able to find some kernel of forgiveness if you concentrate on those wonderful grandchildren, who would not exist if your husband had not been in the picture.
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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month, I went to use my husband's computer. He'd left it on and I noticed that the instant message screens were open. I started to close them when I saw that he'd made an appointment to meet a man for sex. I couldn't stop myself from reading message after message of my husband offering himself to service other men.
This had evidently been going on for years and I never suspected a thing. In fact, my husband bragged to "regulars" that I was clueless and not to worry.
Annie, we are in our early 50s and have grandchildren. The only warning signs were that he shaved his body hair, spent a lot of time on the computer, worked late and often said he needed

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DOWNES

Continued from Page 1A

Specifically, allegations concern Downes' conduct during stops in Lefors and other communities he served in earlier in his education career.

Carothers said the complaint was filed by Jamie Owen, a former employee of Downes at Lefors.

Carothers said her involvement with Downes began when she was a junior high school student in Lefors.

"We wrote letters back and forth," she said, "which is something he did with other girls." She declined to reveal the contents of those letters because of the pending complaint.

While Carothers emphatically stated that she did not engage in sexual activity with Downes, she said she

knows of other victims who did.

She declined to name those victims because of the complaint.

"But I do want to reiterate the complaint was filed on behalf of numerous victims over the years — and (Downes) is denying all this," Carothers said. "My goal is not to hurt him or his family; it's to help educate the public and help his victims."

Downes, citing instructions from BSISD attorneys, declined comment on the complaint.

Board President Allan Partee also declined to go into specifics regarding the allegations against Downes, but said trustees will consider all possible angles — including legal — when they hear the matter Thursday.

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

BABY

Continued from Page 1A

home soon.

When he returns to Big Spring, the family will be feted by local merchants, who traditionally present several gifts and free services to mark the occasion.

He is the brother to sisters Desirae Dias and Josyln Martinez. Ethan is the grandson of Gilda Castillo of Big Spring, Martin Rocha of Lubbock and James and Diana Martinez of Odessa.

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

Paramedic didn't check pulse of wreck victim

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A paramedic failed to check the pulse of a car-wreck victim who was presumed dead and left untreated before a medical examiner discovered she was breathing, officials said.

Erica N. Smith, 23, remained in the car's wreckage with a tarp over her body for more than an hour on Dec. 16 before she was taken to a San Antonio hospital. She died from her injuries the next day.

Paramedic Mike Gardner violated the Fire Department's operating procedures by judging Smith to be dead by looking at her and not checking her vital signs, officials said. Smith had suffered a severe head injury.

Checking for vital signs "is part of the protocol, and it's part of the protocol for a reason: To save lives," City Attorney Michael Bernard told the San Antonio Express-News.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

While Telchik was searching the suspects' vehicle, they were able to free themselves and attempted to leave the scene in Telchik's vehicle and struck the officer, he testified.

The duo was later arrested by Howard County deputies.

In her defense, Atkinson admitted escaping from custody, but claimed that Hernandez, who was not pre-

sent at the trial, drove Telchik's vehicle and struck the officer.

"We're somewhat disappointed (with the misdemeanor verdict)," District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said. "The jury undoubtedly had doubts as to who the driver was, which left us with the escape charge alone."

During the punishment phase of the trial, it was learned that Atkinson is currently on probation for the misdemeanor offense of giving false information to a police officer.

Atkinson asked the jury to give her probation for the escape, but admitted on the stand that she had failed to meet several conditions of her current probation.

"So, let me get this straight," Wilkerson said. "You haven't reported, you haven't paid you fine, you haven't performed any community service, plus you've used illegal drugs and you moved out of the county without permission. But now we're supposed to believe you've seen the light and

changed everything since your arrest?"

Wilkerson believed Atkinson's failure to meet her probation terms was a major factor in the jury's sentence, which is the maximum allowed under the law.

"We are appreciative of that part of the jury verdict," he said. "Certainly, the fact that she had a previous probation and had violated that probation ... was a factor in their sentencing."

Defense attorney Tim Yeats

took a good news/bad news approach to the trial.

"I was pleased the jury found her not guilty of the felony offenses," Yeats said. "As for the sentence, I can't argue with the jury, and neither can Heather. We accept the verdict. She'll now serve her sentence and hopefully, move on with her life after that."

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

Council approves bids for heavy equipment

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring City Council signed off on some heavy and high-dollar equipment Thursday for street repair and the landfill.

First, the council accepted the low bid of \$112,500 from Bee

Equipment of Lubbock for chassis-mounted asphalt distributor.

"We believe that we can use this throughout the year and rent a chip spreader when we do our annual seal coating," Todd Darden, assistant city manager, told the council.

Next up was accepting a low bid of \$155,360 from Yellowhouse Machinery of Odessa for a bulldozer to be used at the landfill.

The council also signed off on a grant application with the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. If

received, city officials said the annual grant would be used to purchase equipment for the local compost facility.

In other action, the council appointed Ben Zeichick to the Traffic Commission; approved a lease agreement with FiberCom Inc., DBA Fiberod;

approved previous minutes and consent items; and met with Moore Development for Big Spring board of directors in executive session for their quarterly report. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

RUNWAY

Continued from Page 1A

Highways Aviation Department had previously agreed on a 90-10 financial split to resurface the runway with asphalt. When that option was discovered to be cost-ineffective, TxDOT officials agreed to apply the funding to a seven-inch concrete slab. That project

would cost \$6,260,312, according to Parkhill, Smith & Cooper engineer Larry Valdez, with the city's portion being around \$1.5 million.

TxDOT, however, won't extend the full 90-10 split for the 11-inch concrete slab, calculated at \$7,234,512. In going that route, the city's portion would be \$2.5 million.

Included in the totals is \$919,300 for taxiway improvements — which

the city would be responsible for. If taxiway improvements were omitted, it would lower the city's portion to \$626,000 for the seven-inch project and \$1.6 million for the 11-inch project. When questioned, Valdez told city officials that the taxiway portion of the project could be put on hold for now.

So how to pay for it? The airpark has funds of \$1.3 million, but city officials advise against digging very deep into that.

"We're projecting revenue of \$902,000 (at the airpark) for this year, but expenses of \$900,000, so that's basically a break even prospect," said City Manager Gary Fuqua. "So if you spend those reserve funds, you aren't going to have anything left."

The airpark makes most of its money leasing property. There are 190-plus buildings, 90 self-storage units and 31 businesses located on the 1,800 acres that make up the airpark, according to officials. Some 800 acres are dedicated to the airport itself.

It's that issue of property — and the prospect of bringing in new industry — that has officials wondering whether to try and finance an 11-inch thick runway.

When asked whether Moore Development had been approached about operations moving into the airpark, board member Larry McLellan said there haven't been many inquiries in recent years.

But, he added, "When I first got on the board, there was a lot more activity. There was even discussion about building a large hangar, but it was decided we really needed the runway up to speed before we start talking about hangars."

Several inquiries have been made in past years, officials said — including some from companies that refurbish large airplanes — but the condition of the runway and its inability to accommodate large, heavy planes has always been a deal killer.

But the question remains, is it plausible to expect that if a runway is built to accommodate larger planes, will they come?

"It's very much the chicken and egg type scenario," Valdez told the group. "There's no guarantee." Though he did tell them, "There are maintenance firms all over the country that are looking at places like Big Spring to put in these kinds of operations."

McLellan said, "I think you plan for the future and the future would be with the (11-inch sur-

face)."

Fellow Moore Development director Frank Parker was more cautious in his remarks. "I'd like to know a lot more about it. It's one thing to be able to land a 737 here and another thing to get them here," he said.

Moore Development board members did say that have pledged \$400,000 toward the project — whether it be the seven-inch or 11-inch runway.

Mayor Russ McEwen suggested Moore Development try to gather information about whether companies would be more interested in Big

Spring if the runway could handle larger planes, and asked city staff to look for methods of funding.

"At first blush, I see more reasons to do it than not to do it," said the mayor. "I'd like to see us explore the possibilities."

For airpark director Ret. Col. Jim Little, who put together a presentation on the airpark for those attending Tuesday's workshop, it is not a question of "will they come."

"I don't believe in 'if you build it, they will come.' I believe you build it, and then sell the heck out of it. Sell it, sell it sell it," he said.

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
The Art of Slam Bidding

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q J 6 2
♥ A Q 9 3
♦ A J
♣ 6 2

WEST
♠ 8 7 3
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ 9 6 4
♣ Q J 10

EAST
♠ A 10 9 5
♥ —
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ 8 7 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ K 8 7 5 2
♦ K Q 10 7
♣ A K 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♣

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

What is it that puts a player on notice that there may be a slam? The answer to this question is certainly of much more than ordinary importance.

If a slam is made but not bid, the slam bonus — 500 or 750 points — is lost. If a slam is bid but not made, a game is lost in addition to the undertrick penalty.

Point count sometimes tells the tale. If both hands are balanced, 33 high-card points are usually needed. When distribution enters the picture, the slam can frequently be made with

fewer points — provided there are adequate side-suit controls in the form of aces, voids or singletons together with a strong trump holding. In general, a slam should be bid when there is at least an even chance of making it.

Another good guide to the possibility of a slam stems from the all-important rule that an opening bid facing an opening bid normally yields a game. Extending this principle to slam bidding, an "opening bid plus" facing an "opening bid plus" is likely to produce a slam. A "plus" is usually an extra king or ace above an opening bid. Distributional values may also be considered as pluses.

Note how South appraises today's hand after North opens the bidding with one spade and then jumps to four hearts. With a full opening bid of his own, increased greatly in value by the strong heart fit indicated by North's jump-raise, South has the requisite opening bid plus. North must also be assumed to have extra values for his leap to four hearts. Four notrump is merely a precautionary measure to make sure the opponents don't hold two aces.

The slam is made by playing the trumps carefully. The only threat to the contract is if one defender has all four trumps. If East has them, not even a doctor can help declarer, but if West has them, his trumps can be trapped by cashing the king first.

Tomorrow: The step-by-step approach.
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♦ I AM LEGEND (PG-13) 4:10 PM 7:10 PM

♦ NATIONAL TREASURE: THE BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) 4:00 PM 7:00 PM

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's all be sure we're registered to cast our votes

It's time to think about registering to vote for the March 8 primaries, if you haven't already done so. The last day to register is Feb. 8. That sounds like a long time away, but it's less than a month. The right to vote gives us the opportunity to choose who we want to serve as our voice in the local, state and federal levels of government.

This is the first step in what will be an important November election. In addition to the local races that will determine our — county sheriff, two county commissioners, a county attorney, district attorney and constable, among others — voters will be choosing a president, U.S. senator, state senator, congressman, state representative and more.

Voter registration is simple and free. It takes only a couple of minutes.

To be eligible to vote, residents must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. You do not need to have resided in Howard County for a specific length of time before registering here.

Anyone who has moved since they last obtained a voter registration card should also register.

Please, take the time to register to vote. Today, you might have no interest in the election; you may have no desire to vote. But something may happen that causes you to decide to exercise your right. If you haven't registered, it will be too late. You can even register through the mail. For more information, call Sandra Bloom, Howard County election administrator, at 264-2273.

From our point of view, voting is an important process in which all U.S. citizens should participate. It's their voice. The *Herald* encourages you to register if you haven't, study the candidates and their platforms, and vote.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm proud to be an American and proud to be the grandmother of a United States Marine. My granddaughter is one of the young ladies that was pictured in Tuesday's (Jan. 1) paper. Thank you, Big Spring Herald, for running the pictures that were taken at the Midland airport by the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee.

Liza, my granddaughter, arrived in Midland on Dec. 20. Prior to her arrival, another young lady, serving in the Navy, arrived. Both were greeted and applauded by the Welcome Home Committee. Their titles were not questioned.

Mrs. Diaz, my granddaughter Liza graduated from Big Spring High School in May of 2005. In June of 2005 she went to Marine boot camp. On Sept. 27, 2005, she became a Marine. She has been stationed here in the U.S. She is now Cpl. Liza N. Carrillo. Your husband, being a Marine, knows this was not given to her for the heck of it. She earned it.

My granddaughter and the young Navy seaman are very important to their service and to our country.

and women who join their choice of service, may God bless you all.

There is a war going on in which more than 3,000 of our service men and women have died. Thousands have been injured. Many thousands are in danger. I pray every night for our those in our armed forces that they be kept out of harm's way. I pray for an end to this war.

My our Lord bless our present administration and grant our leaders knowledge and wisdom to resolve this and put an end to this war so our men and women can return to their families.

Mrs. Diaz, you husband will never be forgotten. I live in the land of the free and home of the brave, thanks to our brave men and women, past and present, who have served. Thank you all for our freedom.

When Vickie Gomez, one of the ladies from the Welcome Home Committee, e-mailed me pictures taken at the airport, her first sentence was, "May no soldier go unloved; may no soldier walk alone; may no soldier be forgotten, until they all come home."

LUPE ZARRAGA
BIG SPRING

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We have what it takes to make a difference, Lord, when we have You.

Amen

No resolution ... not this year

First things first: My New Year's resolution this year was not to have a New Year's resolution. That's right ... I finally figured out a way to make a resolution I could keep.

In the past several years, I have made all sorts of sincere vows to improve my life in one way or another. And while I wouldn't call these efforts dismal failures, neither would I call them rip-roaring successes either.

Personally, I have come to the conclusion that making a formal resolution is just another way of daring God to laugh in your face. And who needs that kind of pressure — or abuse?

And I'm not alone in my beliefs. Many folks have come to me with horror stories about failed resolutions. It's sad, I tell you, just sad.

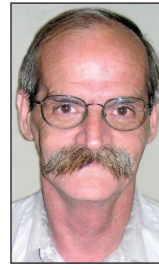
On the other hand, it's true that misery loves company.

So, no more of that stuff for yours truly. In other words, I will always strive to improve myself, but I'll be darned if I'm going to post public updates.

Call me honest or call me pathetic. You'll probably be right on both counts.

...

I'm all for fiscal responsibility on the part of governments, and I'm glad to report Australians agree with me, as the following Associated Press report states:



STEVE REAGAN

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's new government has banned taxpayer-funded massages for pampered bureaucrats as part of an austerity drive, a minister said Wednesday.

Assistant Treasurer Chris Bowen said public service chiefs have been told that they and their staff must pay for their own back rubs in the new government's clampdown on public sector largesse and waste.

"There are lots of very hard working people ... working 12 hour shifts in factories as well who would love a back rub at the end of the day, I am sure. But they don't get one," Bowen told Sydney radio 2UE.

Bowen's Labor Party, which was elected to government on Nov. 24, has long railed against the free massages provided for some privileged public servants.

"There are lots of public servants that work very, very hard and they need to be rewarded, but we've taken the view that this is not an appropriate way of rewarding them," Bowen said.

The most recent figures produced in Parliament showed that bureaucrats spent \$95,451 in public money on rub downs in 2004. While not all public servants are eligible for the perk, those that were spent an average of \$176 for the year.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has established a task force to cut waste in a public service that he said became bloated during the previous government's 11-year rule.

A few comments:

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
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Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
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Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER** (512) 463-0604
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
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Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

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• **RUSS McEWEN**, MAYOR —
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• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0260.

Latino-American History, Chapter 3

Until you get to Chichen Itza, Mexico, and you stand before the great pyramid of Kukulcan, you don't fully appreciate the amazing ingenuity and achievements of the Mayan people.

Sure, you may have seen pictures and heard that this ancient city was the political and economic center of a pre-Hispanic civilization that spanned through what is now southern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and parts of Honduras and El Salvador. You may be aware that this amazing place recently was declared one of the "New 7 Wonders of the World." But you have to be here to understand why this place is so important and why it makes many Latinos, especially Mexicans, so proud of their heritage.

In an occasional series, this column has been rewinding to the past in an effort to recognize the long and often ignored history of Latino contributions to U.S. society, dating back the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century. But to fully understand who Latino Americans are, where we come from and why we are so proud of our culture, sometimes we will have to rewind much further, back to our pre-Hispanic heritage.

And Chichen Itza is a good place to press pause.

Throughout the Yucatan peninsula, you see a cultural heritage that dates back many centuries, before the Spanish colonization of the Americas.

This is a place where Mexicans and other Latinos come to recharge their ethnic batteries, a place where they come out feeling proud of their indigenous American heritage.

In a recent column, we established that the Spanish were build-

ing settlements several decades before the British arrived in North America. But the Mayas built impressive cities centuries before the Spanish arrived in Central America.

Their highly developed sciences — mathematics, astronomy, chronology, architecture — and their mastery of the arts — sculpture, painting, ceramics — are not only remarkable but also still clearly evident everywhere you go in Yucatan. Their hieroglyphic writing system enabled them to keep historic records. They invented the use of the number "zero," they figured out a way to measure the cycles of the sun, the moon and Venus, and they were even able to predict eclipses. They developed an accurate 365-day calendar. They built one of the world's greatest civilizations.

Mind you, this is a civilization that spans about 3,200 years, a culture that flourished in the ninth century — about 500 years before Columbus "discovered" the "New World."

Here at Chichen Itza, which also flourished in the ninth century, you meet today's Mayas, many of whom are artisans who still practice the craftsmanship of their ancestors. Many others are, of course, mestizos, of both Mayan and Spanish lineage.

But you find that the people here are just as proud of their Mayan roots as they are of their Spanish ancestry.

In colonial Spanish towns, such as Merida, and in the smaller pueblos throughout Yucatan, the locals tell you that they are predominantly Catholic and that their many impressive churches were built in the 16th and 17th centuries with stones taken from Mayan temples and other public monuments.

But instead of expressing resentment for the Spanish conquest and the pillaging of Mayan architecture, many say they see the Maya stone on the walls of their church-

If the *Herald* ever starts providing free back rubs for its employees, I may never retire.

I wonder if this will negatively impact the massage business in Australia? Would that be just one more example of government putting the screws to some poor Joes (or Janes) trying to make a buck?

According to my meager math skills, around 555 back rubs were paid for by taxpayers Down Under in 2004. Does this mean that 555 different people received the massages? Or was there just one guy whose job was so stressful that he had to visit the masseuse more than 500 times? If it's the latter, I would strongly urge the poor fellow to find another line of work.

Like I said, I'm a big fan of fiscal responsibility on the part of nations, but in the scope of things, what does it mean for Australia cutting \$95,000 worth of waste from its budget? How much of the budget does that represent — .0001 percent of .0001 percent?

Yes, I know, you have to start somewhere — and this was an obviously easy target — but call me when you've saved a few millions here and there. Then, I'll be impressed.

All this talk about massages has made my neck sore. I wonder if my boss would let me ... oh, never mind.

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

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MOVIE DREAM COMES TRUE



Courtesy photo

Big Spring native Jordan Herrera, right, who currently resides in Monahans, poses for a picture with cast members from Odessa-based film company Super Amigo Productions' upcoming short film during a recent shoot in downtown Midland. The film crew used four city blocks as their set in shooting "A Day In Odessa," which is expected to be featured in several upcoming film festivals.

Honor roll

Kentwood Elementary School Second Six-Weeks "A" Honor Roll First Grade:

Jacob Brue, Quade Creswell, Reyna Gonzales, Kayleigh Penny, Kaycee Reagan, Dylan Thompson, Brooke Vincent and Parker Wigington.
Second Grade: Hayley Allen, Emily Bacon, Zakariah Baker, Saleen Burchett, Nolan Dominguez, Paula Hendrickson, Kendrick Kennemur, Conner Martinez, Kylie Palmer, Johnnie Smith, Samantha Solis, Brooklyn Tubb and Ranen Wilson.
Third Grade: Brantz Burchett, Ryan

Dimidjian, Zachary Hamby and Katie Wash.
Fourth Grade: Hannah Alsobrooks, Blake Baldock, Lauren Simer, Caytlin Wagner and Erin Wolf.
"A-B" Honor Roll
First Grade: McKenna Alsobrooks, Brett Berringer, Ryan Brue, Jack Everett, Chesney Gillespie, Mason Harrington, Emily Hendricks, Mason Kirby, Jason Miramontes, Jakob Rankin, Breydon Reyes, Mateo Rodriguez, Thomas Scott, Jazlyn Segundo and Kimberly Trawick.
Second Grade: Kassidy Cadenhead, Brandyn Cannon, Scott Cantrell, Courtney Christian, Emily Conner, Ryleigh Fryar, Kalli Hale, Stephanie Kizziah, Breeana

Matthews, Annalisa Padilla and Dario Pineda
Third Grade: Sarah Boyd, Brianna Brown, Jonathan Byrd, Keegan Carrillo, Nina Clare, Danielle Conner, Paige Davis, Megan Doner, Kaylee Dyer, Addie Jimenez, Megan Magallanes, Ava Minjarez, Yzabele Olivarez, Morgan Parnell, Ricky Prater, Nickolas Richardson, Daisi Salazar, Haley Smith-Davidson and Philip Wigington.
Fourth Grade: Bailee Allen, Joshua Baker, Courtney Berringer, Jennifer Campos, Tommy Cantu, Valarie Estill, Tylar Hale, Christian Letcher, Jaret McElroy, Violet Munoz, Matilde Sotelo and Mallory Thomas.

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WEDNESDAY

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Wednesday. Columns include WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



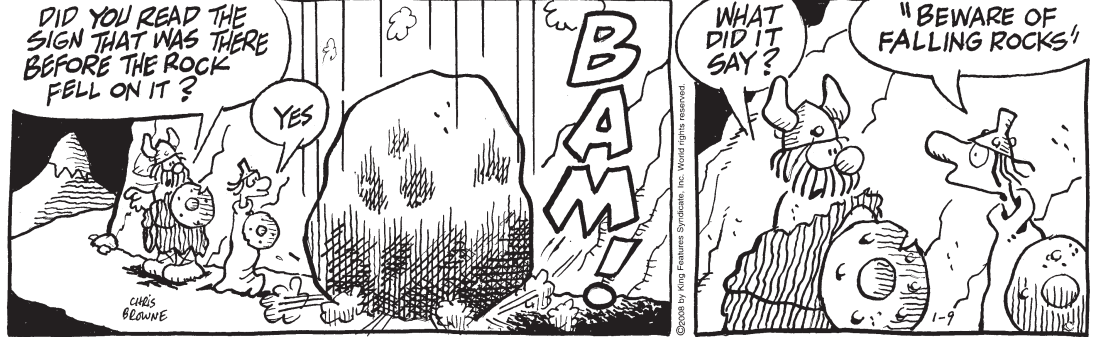
"If you want to get Margaret's attention, just whisper."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

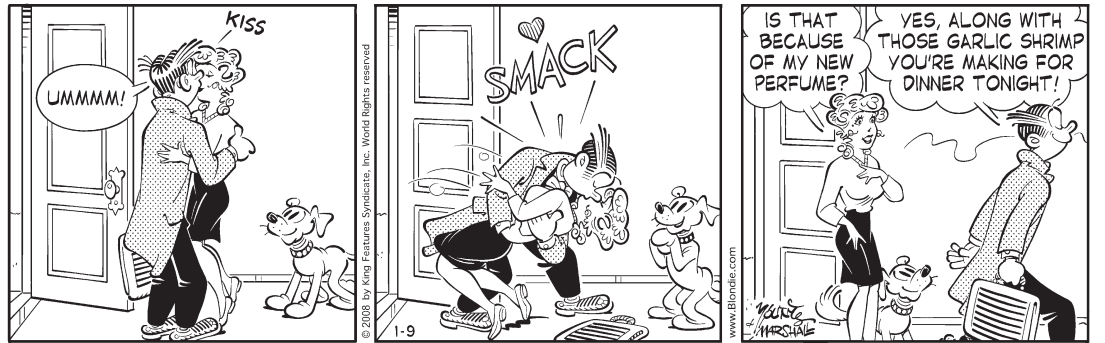


"There'll always be prayer in schools as long as there are tests."

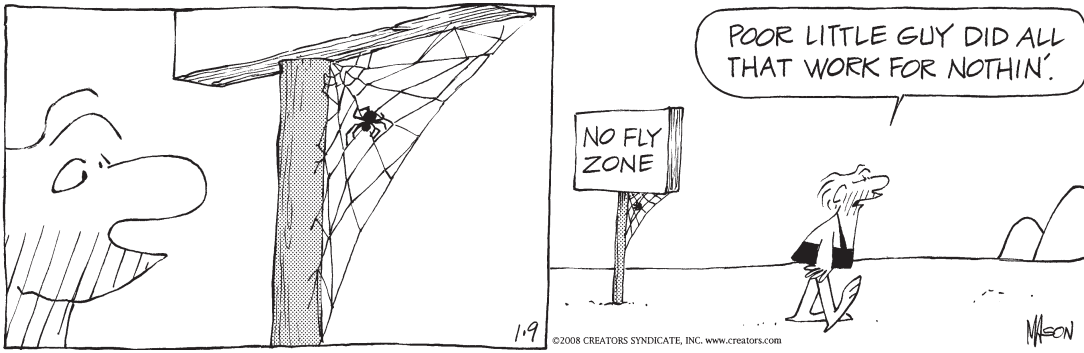
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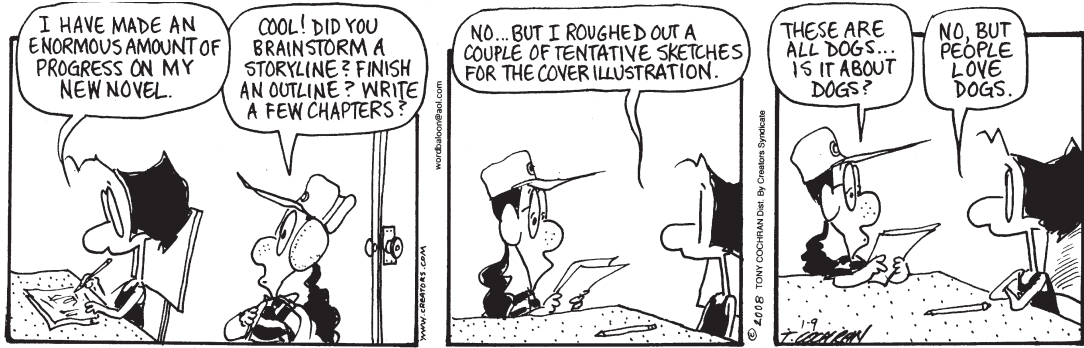
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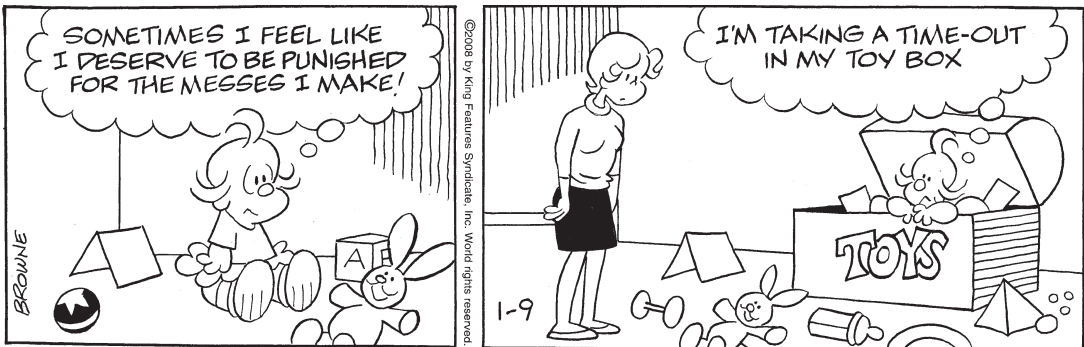
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AGNES



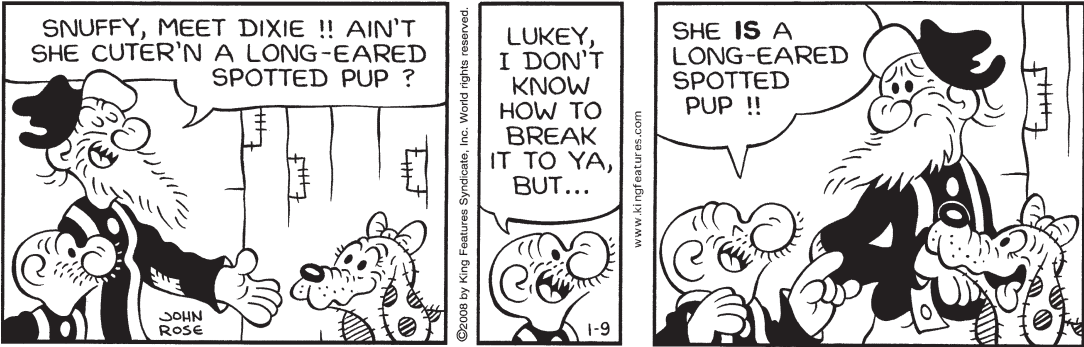
HI AND LOIS



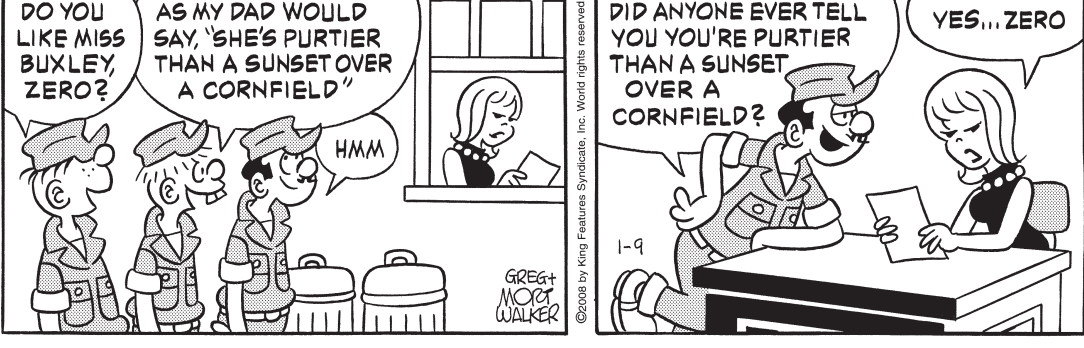
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2008. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, Calif.

On this date: In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, N.J.

In 1861, Mississippi seceded from the Union.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines.

In 1958, President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the

threat of Communist imperialism

In 1964, anti-U.S. rioting broke out in the Panama Canal Zone, resulting in the deaths of 21 Panamanians and several U.S. soldiers.

In 1968, the Surveyor VII space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported biography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

One year ago: U.S. forces staged airstrikes against suspected al-Qaida fighters in Somalia in the first offensive there since 18 American soldiers were killed in 1993.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 80. Football Hall-of-Famer Bart Starr is 74. Sportscaster Dick Enberg

is 73. Actress K. Callan is 72. Folk singer Joan Baez is 67.

Actress Susannah York is 67. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 64. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 58.

Singer Crystal Gayle is 57. Actor J.K. Simmons is 53. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 45. Actress Joely Richardson is 43.

Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 41. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 41. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 41.

Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 40. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 30. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 21.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like BLAST, DASH, TOPS, AUDIO, OBOE, APOP, STANDSTILL, KALE, HEM, DUET, PEELED, SLED, MESA, BATTED, DIRECTS, ERROR, FANS, HOHO, EDAM, AND, AREA, SODA, ABCS, ENTER, RECYCLE, FACETS, HERE, CORE, POTATO, MALL, SPA, ALEC, BEARDOWN, YEAH, ACRE, BEAST, SOME, TOES, EDGES.

Newsday Crossword

THE BASICS by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Alaska city
5 Bulgarian capital
10 Eagle's weapon
14 Imperfection
15 Skilled
16 Tune for a sitar
17 Be fond of
18 "Here's to you," e.g.
19 Laundry-room appliance
20 40 Down denizen
21 Backwards duplicate
23 International news service
25 "We ___ not amused!"
26 Study, with "over"
27 Friendly
32 Coffeehouse order
34 Befits
35 Orbison or Rogers
36 Functions
37 Shirley Temple trademark
38 "You bet!"
39 ___ Vegas
40 Sorrowful poem
41 Battled, as a blaze
42 Modern
44 Do, as dishes
45 Salesperson
46 People from Akron
49 Alternate title for the puzzle
54 Witnessed

DOWN

- 1 Raven or Falcon
2 Popeye's girl
3 Absentee's exam
4 Lamb's parent
5 Mad magazine material
6 Kitchen emanations
7 Phobia
8 ___ fact
9 Draws in
10 Black Sea peninsula
11 Actress Flynn Boyle
12 Slack-jawed
13 Opposite of wax
21 Simple
22 Spring flower
24 Preschoolers
27 Sudden increase
28 Slick
29 Dismiss disdainfully
30 Legends

- 31 Checked out
32 Whopper
33 At once
34 Bird food
37 Baloney
38 Fair to middlin'
40 Biblical garden
41 Nixon Chief of Staff
43 East
44 Largest mammals
46 Santa-like
47 Part of USNA
48 Overwhelm
49 Little devils
50 Yarn
51 Strike with the palm
52 Good guy
53 Wicked
57 Part of a week

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for clues.

Fort Rucker soldier awarded Purple Heart

By **MICHELLE OWENS**
Army Flier Staff Writer

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — September 16, 2005, began like any other day during CW3 James Williamson's deployment in Iraq. However, a seemingly "normal" refuel stop with his co-pilot CW2 Scott Chachere would begin a series of events that would change his life forever. Williamson would be wounded and he would escape death by mere millimeters.

Williamson received the Purple Heart in front of family, friends and comrades Dec. 5 at Aviators' Landing for wounds he sustained while deployed with 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C.

The forward operating base on which Williamson and Chachere's helicopter was refueling was hit with mortar rounds so they quickly finished fueling the aircraft and started back to their home base.

However, since they were the closest reconnaissance aircraft available, they accepted a request to fly around the area to find out who was responsible for the attack.

Not long after beginning the search, Williamson spotted two men running from a mortar tube through an open field.

"I grabbed the controls and executed a hard left turn to climb up and dive back down on them. As I came up on them, they ran into a tree line," Williamson said.

While Williamson was descending toward the tree line, he began explaining the enemies' location to his co-pilot. Then everything went black.

Williamson was shot on the left side of his helmet and slumped over the controls.

"It actually went through my clear visor, went through my hair-line, out my helmet, through the top of the aircraft, (ricocheted) off the hydraulic reservoir and embedded in the rotor blade," Williamson said.

Chachere regained control of the descending aircraft and transported Williamson back to the forward operating base. The next thing Williamson knew he was lying on his back at the base where they refueled just minutes before.

Doctors removed helmet and bullet fragments from his face and around his eye, and because of a concussion, he was grounded for 30 days.

"Just three or four months ago, a piece of metal jacket worked its way out (of my face)," he said.

The first request for

Williamson's Purple Heart was denied due to missing paperwork, but his wife, Capt. Jennifer Williamson, a Staff Judge Advocate trial defense attorney, was determined to see the medal pinned on her husband's chest.

"It wasn't that big of a deal to me, but Jenn fought to get it approved," James said. "We do that stuff every day over there."

"He's very dedicated to his career. He's a wonderful husband and father. We raised a good one."

It's not uncommon to get shot at. It becomes a routine thing."

Even after two years, Williamson, who is a Training and Doctrine Command Systems Manager armed reconnaissance helicopter standardization instructor-pilot here, remains modest about his injury and receiving the honor of the Purple Heart.

Jennifer said her husband didn't want to make the ceremony a big deal. "I thought it was important though," she said. "Five or 10 years from now, he can tell (his son) the story and show him the award that he definitely deserves. I want to make sure he was able to share this with Max and explain his middle name."

The Williamson's named their 15-month-old son, Maximus Chachere Williamson, after his copilot.

"(Max) wouldn't be here if it weren't for Scott," James said.

James' parents, Ella and Mel, made the journey from Big Spring to see their son receive the medal.

"This is so awesome for us ... and it's a great achievement for him," Ella said. "He's achieved so much in his short life. He's been in (the military) for (19 years). He left us at 18 and I can't say there's been a time that we've been more proud of him. He's very dedicated to his career. He's a wonderful husband and father. We raised a good one."

First Sgt. J.D. Summers, who deployed with 1st Squad., 17th Cav. Regt., came to the ceremony to congratulate James.

"He's always been a go-

to guy, he's level-headed and above all that, a great friend," said Summers, now with B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment.

Other soldiers who deployed with Williamson came to his Purple Heart Ceremony including his squadron commander Lt. Col. Frank Muth. Also, in attendance was Medal of Honor recipient retired Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall.

Muth praised James' abilities and dedication to the unit during their deployment and attributes those qualities to the reason he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, both for valor.

"I'm honored to be here today. He's a phenomenal pilot, warrior, soldier, officer, husband and father, and I'm just glad to be able to call him a friend," Muth said.

Gen. George Washington first presented the Purple Heart to three soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The medal was officially recognized after World War I, according to Maj. Gen. Virgil L. Packett II, U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker commanding general. Packett presented the Purple Heart to Williamson during the ceremony.

"From those roots ... (we have) the recognition that we give for the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is for the sacrifice, the blood that we shed for one another, our country, the pride in our country and what we stand for," Packett said. "It's a very coveted and remarkable medal that's earned by few who demonstrate that degree of dedication and that level of sacrifice for our country."

After hearing the kind words from the commanding general and Muth, James, who was filled with emotion, thanked everyone — Packett, his parents, his wife and the soldiers he deployed with and told Crandall it was an honor to receive the award in his presence.

"For two years, I pretty much wrote it off. That's just the way I am," he said. "But Jenn, my best friend, had the tenacity to keep fighting for it and made it happen."



Photo by Mollie Miller
Maj. Gen. Virgil L. Packett II, USAAWC and Fort Rucker commanding general, right, prepares to pin the Purple Heart on CW3 James Williamson's chest during a ceremony at Aviators' Landing.

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Clinton reviews political roadmap after surprise win

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Fresh from New Hampshire victories, John McCain rallied Wednesday for a Michigan showdown in the most confounding Republican presidential contest in half a century, while Hillary Rodham Clinton, buoyant once more, took time to “get grounded” for the grueling races ahead.

Back home in Chappaqua, N.Y., after a win that surprised her own campaign and shocked nearly everyone else, Clinton considered questions about how to make her next big stand in the Democratic race and whether her organization needed changes. She was able to seek those answers in the first blush of success, instead of the failure that had been anticipated, in the New Hampshire primaries.

Being home, she said Wednesday, “gives me a chance to kind of get grounded and take a deep breath before I go out for the next couple of weeks leading up to the February 5th grand finale of all those states.” She was referring to Super Tuesday, when more than 20 states vote.

Before then, Democrat Barack Obama will be bidding for resurgence in South Carolina and Nevada. On Wednesday, he anticipated the endorsement of the 60,000-member Culinary Workers Union local in Nevada after collecting the backing of the state’s chapter of the Service Employees International Union. He said unpredictability has become the hallmark of the race.

“Anyone who thinks they know how voters are going to respond at this point are probably misleading themselves,” the Illinois senator said Wednesday. “And I think voters are not going to let any candidate take anything for granted. They want to lift the hood, kick the tires. They want us to earn it.”

McCain campaigned in Michigan, a state he won in 2000. He counted experience, knowledge and judgment as his calling cards in the contests ahead.

“I can throw a dart at a map of the world and show you a place where there’s national security challenges,” he said on the flight to Grand Rapids. “I’m the only one that’s been involved in these issues for the last 20 years.”

The Arizona senator staggered Mitt Romney in

New Hampshire on Tuesday to vault back to the top ranks of the Republican field. “Nothing quite as invigorating as a win,” he said Wednesday.

Romney is considered strong in Michigan, the state where he was born and where his father was governor. Mike Huckabee, winner of the Iowa GOP caucus and third-place finisher in New Hampshire, also is in contention for the Jan. 15 Michigan contest. He flew to South Carolina on Wednesday, eager to capitalize on a polling lead he enjoys there and woo the state’s religious conservatives, a bigger bloc of voters than he encountered in New Hampshire.

Former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson set South Carolina as his firewall for a campaign that has yet to take off. “I’m proud to say I am drawing a line in the sand in South Carolina,” Thompson said Wednesday in Sumter. He bypassed New Hampshire’s GOP campaign and finished last there.

He said he won’t change his style for political



AP Photo/Charles Krupa
Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., celebrates with her husband, former President Clinton during a victory party after winning the Democratic New Hampshire Primary in Manchester, N.H., Tuesday.

expediency. “What you see is what you get,” he said. “If they like that, I’ll be in great shape.”

Clinton attributed her win in part to her success late in the race in telling voters why she’s in public life, a reference to her choking up when a voter asked her how she was faring.

Asked whether that was a turnaround for her, she said, “I think it could well have been.”

McCain did well among New Hampshire’s voters concerned with national security and the threat of

terrorism. “Those are the themes,” he said. “I have the knowledge and experience and judgment.”

Clinton, McCain and Obama commented in a round of talk show appearances on ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox.

New Hampshire placed Clinton squarely back in the contest for the Democratic nomination after her third-place fin-

ish in Iowa and revived McCain’s hopes seven months after his campaign had seemed to be down for the count.

Ahead were Michigan, South Carolina (Republicans, Jan. 19; Democrats Jan. 26), Nevada (Jan. 19) and Florida (Jan. 29). Two dozen states vote on Feb. 5.

The victories for McCain and Clinton were evidence of New Hampshire’s prickly habit of rejecting those chosen by Iowa voters a few days earlier and raised the prospect of a drawn-out nomination battle between two history-making candidates: Clinton, who would be the first woman to hold the presidency, and Obama, who would be the first president of African-American descent.

McCain rode a wave of support from independent voters to defeat Romney, a former governor of neighboring Massachusetts. That showing reprised the senator’s victory in the traditional first-in-the-nation primary in 2000 before he was knocked out of the race in South Carolina, where independent voters do not vote in the party primaries.

The results were a bitter blow to Romney, the Republican who spent millions of dollars of his own money to win the kickoff Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary — only to finish second in both.

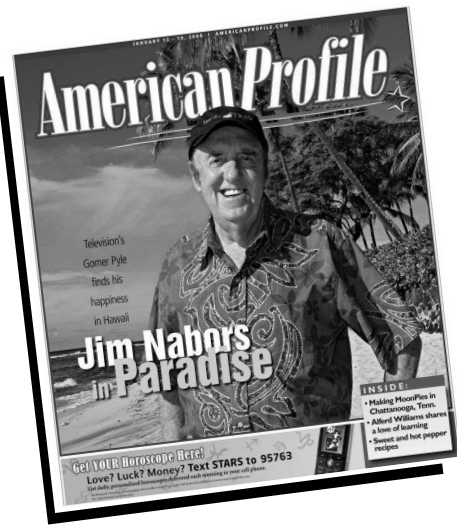
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Big Spring Herald



Gomer says hey in Hawaii

These days, actor Jim Nabors is 39 years and 2,390 miles away from his days serving as America’s favorite U.S. Marine private on television’s *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* But the character has never left him and Nabors is glad. Plus, sharing a love of learning and pepper recipes.

American Profile

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