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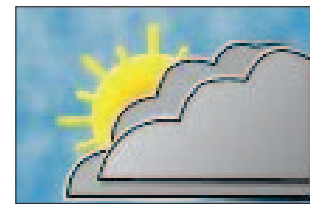


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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 17, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 41

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Mayor: Seniors' fears unfounded

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

City officials say they plan to expand and improve services at the Spring City Senior Citizen Center, as the municipality prepares to take control of the facility from Howard County. Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said this week rumors that the city plans to cut services or begin charging extra

fees at the center are unfounded.

McEwen's assurances come in the wake of concerns expressed during Monday's meeting of the Howard County Commissioner's Court by several area seniors who use the facility.

"We've heard so many rumors that we don't know what's going on. I guess we're not supposed to," said C.V. Wash, one

of several seniors attending and speaking out at the county meeting. "We heard that if Big Spring took it over, as far as our little bunch of dancers are concerned, they're going to start charging us — because we're organized or a club — \$100 a night. That's the latest one I've heard. We can hardly pay the band now."

McEwen said nothing could be further from the truth.

*"The only plans the city has for the center at this point is to make it better for our seniors. We want the Senior Center to be something the city, and area residents, can be proud of, and we feel like we can accomplish that."*



—Mayor Russ McEwen

"There has never been any discussion on this matter," said See **SENIORS**, Page 3A

## Chamber banquet draws near

*Deadline to acquire tickets is 5 p.m. Friday*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Time is growing short to obtain tickets to the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

The deadline for purchasing tickets to the banquet — scheduled for 6:30 p.m. next Thursday in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum — is 5 p.m. Friday, chamber officials said.

Tickets are \$25 apiece and can only be purchased at the Chamber Office, 215 W. Third. They will not be available at the door, said Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the chamber.

"Celebrating Howard County" will be the theme for this year's banquet.

"We're showing off us,"



ValVerde

ValVerde said. "We're showing off Howard County, Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan."

Emcees for the event are Jay Hendricks and Tatum Hubbard, news anchors for KOSA-TV in Odessa.

Breaking from tradition, the banquet will not feature a keynote speaker; instead, officials plan on a PowerPoint presentation highlighting area accomplishments during the past year.

"We're going to celebrate Howard County, Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan," said Debbye ValVerde, executive

See **BANQUET**, Page 3A



Kody Phernetton, a third-grade student at Coahoma Elementary, gets his goat — aptly named Twister — ready for competition Wednesday morning in the Howard County Livestock Show.

## Stock shows are under way

HERALD Staff Report

Competition in the Howard County Junior Livestock Show continues with rabbits taking over the limelight this evening.

Steers and barrows are expected to be in place and weighed this afternoon. Tonight's highlight will be the rabbit show at 6 p.m.

Steers will be judged beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, with barrows

taking center stage at 1 p.m.

The show concludes with the annual buyers' barbecue at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by the awards presentation and auction at 1 p.m., according to Howard County 4-H Extension Agent Amanda Toerck.

The Martin County Junior Livestock Show began today with weighing for all livestock between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the communi-

ty center annex.

Friday is show day for goats (9 a.m.), lambs (immediately following the goat show), pee wee goats and lambs divisions following the lamb show and the steer show later that afternoon.

The livestock show concludes Saturday with hogs and pee wee hogs shows in the morning and the annual awards banquet at 6:30 p.m.

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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.



### GOLF SCHOLARSHIP



See Page 1B

### MLK PROGRAM SLATED

Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most influential civil rights leaders in American history, will be remembered during a program set for 6 p.m. Monday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

Dr. George Bell, pastor of the Greater Ideal Baptist Church of Midland will present the program. Big Spring High School student Joshua Wilson will recite King's stirring speech, "I Have a Dream."

Members of a community choir will provide music and officials from the city, county, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the League of United Latin American Citizens will speak. The program is free.

### BSISD BOARD TO MEET

Big Spring Independent School District officials are expected to lay the groundwork for the May 10 trustee election when the school board holds its regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. today in the high school board room.

The board will deal with several election-related items during the meeting, including contracting with county election administrator Sandra Bloom to conduct the elections, scheduled for May 10.

Two BSISD board seats will be up for election — Districts 1 and 3. The incumbents in those districts, Irene Bustamante and Alan Partee, have not indicated if they will seek re-election.

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# Sports

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

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

Page 1B  
Thursday, January 17, 2008

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball vs. Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys and girls basketball at Stamford, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys and girls basketball at Rotan, 6:30 p.m.

### Free junior tennis league playing every Wednesday

A free junior tennis league will take place every Wednesday for several weeks from 4:45 to 5:45 beginning tomorrow.

Boys and girls of any skill level between ages 8-12 are welcome to attend. The league is being conducted by Big Spring tennis instructor Ted Oleson.

No sign up is required. Bring a racket or one will be provided while available.

For more information, call Oleson at (806)236-8901 or visit www.bigspringtennis.com.

### Howard College presenting the Harlem Starz

The Howard College athletic department will present the Harlem Starz at 7:00 p.m. Jan. 28th at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The game is a fundraiser which will benefit the Howard College athletic program.

With names like Zig Zag, Hollywood, K-Money, Air Bama and Werm, fans will know they are not attending an ordinary basketball game. Almost every play will involve fancy dribbling, no look passes, amazing dunks and comedy.

In addition to the game, highlights will include a halftime show, prizes and autographs. The game will provide every fan in attendance with a memorable night of sports, fun and entertainment.

For ticket information, contact Howard College at 264-5040.

### KBYG 1400 AM's scheduled airings of NBA basketball

KBYG 1400 AM is airing both San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks basketball throughout the NBA season.

**TODAY**  
San Antonio vs. Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
Dallas vs. Seattle, 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY**  
Dallas vs. Washington, Noon

**WEDNESDAY**  
San Antonio vs. Los Angeles Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

# Guinn inks with Western Texas

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Knowing what's next is extremely important for a high school senior. Big Spring's Cassie Guinn got that part of the post-graduation process out of the way Wednesday as she signed a letter of intent to play golf for Western Texas College in Snyder over the next two years.

Guinn stood out to Western Texas Golf Coach Cody Cox when he watched her play in the Big Spring Invitational as the coach of the Steers' district rivals.

"I spent a year at Frenship so, of course, Big Spring was in our district," Cox said. "We were playing in the invitational here and the weather was terrible. I remember Cassie standing out because she played really well. I preach and preach and preach mental toughness. We can't let the conditions and things like that bother us. I need kids that obviously have a good work ethic and that are mentally and physically tough. So that they can handle anything the weather or the course might throw at them. I saw all of that in Cassie."

Throughout the signing ceremony, Guinn was referred to as a hard working individual by her coaches and parents.

"I remember seeing Cassie



Big Spring High School senior golfer Cassie Guinn (left center) signed a letter of intent with Western Texas College Wednesday at the Athletic Training Center. Seen with Guinn is Western Texas Golf Coach Cody Cox (left), Big Spring Golf Coach Chris Joslin (standing), her mother Carla Guinn (right center) and father Delvin Guinn.

coming up as a freshman when I was an administrator as a great example of what hard work can produce," Big Spring Athletic Director Mike Ritchey said. "She worked hard and with the support of parents, coaches and teammates, she's achieved a lot."

Cassie is the daughter of Delvin and Carla Guinn. Her parents expressed not only their pride and excitement about her signing with a college that's not too far from home, but also, their belief in her abilities to succeed at the next level.

"Just the fact that she's signing and going to play in college shows she'll be successful," Delvin Guinn said. "She put forth the time and effort to get here, so we know she'll put forth the effort to succeed at it, also."

See GUINN, Page 2B

# Knight picks up 900th victory

## Texas Tech upsets No. 10 Aggies for monumental win

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — After getting Bob Knight his 900th victory, Texas Tech can get on with just winning.

Knight became the first men's Division I coach to reach the milestone Wednesday night with the Red Raiders' 68-53 win over No. 10 Texas A&M.

"I'm ... glad it's over," Knight said when asked to succinctly sum up his feelings.

Charlie Burgess, who scored eight points for Texas Tech (10-6, 1-1 Big 12), said the win was about desire.

"We just wanted it more than them," he said. "And basically we tried not to let that 900 thing get in the way but we really needed that tonight just to get it out of the way."

Knight, in his seventh season at Tech, has never opened Big 12 play with consecutive losses. The win kept that record in tact.

Knight went on to wax nostalgic just as he did when he surpassed former North Carolina coach Dean Smith for first place on the men's Division I career list last season with win No. 880. Like that milestone, Knight got his 900th victory on his second try.

"I'm happy that I've been able to coach this long cause I've basically enjoyed coaching probably 70-30, anyhow," he said. "That's a

mark of longevity as much as anything so I'm just glad I've lived this long."

Before he left the floor Knight addressed the more than 11,000 fans who watched the win over the Aggies and they chanted his name as he walked off the court to a thunderous ovation.

"You folks being here, seats being full for a change, really made a difference tonight," Knight told the crowd.

The win was Tech's third straight over an Aggies team ranked in the top 10. Last season the Red Raiders beat A&M twice by a combined four points. The Aggies were ranked No. 6 going into each game and were on nine- and five-game winning streaks, respectively.

"Can't explain it," said Joseph Jones, who played in all three of the losses to Tech. "They got our number, like you said. They've got us the last two years."

The Aggies (15-2, 1-1 Big 12) looked frazzled and out of sync most of the game. A&M went 18-for-53 from the field in its worst shooting performance (34 percent) of the season and they turned the ball over a season-high 20 times.

"We were really bad," A&M Coach Mark Turgeon said. "That's the only way I can put it. I think Tech was really good and we were bad."

See KNIGHT, Page 2B



Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bobby Knight reacts to a play during the Red Raiders' 68-53 win over Texas A&M Wednesday night in Lubbock. The win was Knight's 900th of his career.

# Raptors spoil Artest's return to Kings' lineup

By The Associated Press

Mike Bibby and Ron Artest are back. Wednesday night, it looked like the same old Kings anyway.

Bibby played for the first time after missing 36 games with a torn ligament in his left thumb, and Artest returned from a nine-game absence because of right elbow surgery. It didn't matter. Chris Bosh scored 31 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the suddenly healthy Kings 116-91.

"I didn't want the welcome to be like that," Bibby said. "We have to get used to playing with each other again and get everybody on the same page."

Bibby finished with 19 points, six rebounds, no assists and four

turnovers in 29 minutes. Artest, who did not speak to media following the game, was held to four points, shooting 2-for-10.

Coming off a 39-point performance in Monday's win over Dallas, Kevin Martin again led Sacramento, scoring 22 points but acknowledging the Kings need to make some changes.

"Anytime you have guys coming back from an injury there's going to be an adjustment period," Martin said. "You just don't know how long it's going to take. Ron and Mike are such a big part of our team."

"We're in a situation where everybody has to give a little to gain a little for the team. Some guys have got to give up min-

utes, some guys have got to give up shots. That might be best for the team."

In other NBA games Wednesday night, it was: Boston 100, Portland 90; Charlotte 99, Orlando 93; Chicago 126, Miami 96; Indiana 125, Golden State 117; New York 111, New Jersey 105; Milwaukee 87, Atlanta 80; and New Orleans 123, Seattle 92.

Kings coach Reggie Theus urged his players to be more unselfish.

"Right now, everyone who catches the ball takes a look at the rim instead of swinging it," Theus said. "That's a technical thing that can be fixed right away but it's something they have to work out themselves."

It was the eighth loss in the last 12 games for Sacramento, which finds itself 67 games behind Golden State for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Bosh went 11-for-12 from the field and 9-for-10 from the line.

"I was just trying to be aggressive and drive to the basket," Bosh said. "At the beginning of the game, I saw a lot of lanes. Guys weren't really concentrating that much on me if I wasn't in the post. Anytime that happens I'm going to try to drive as soon as I catch the ball."

Bosh, who added nine rebounds, has scored 20 or more

See NBA, Page 2B



## Obituaries

### Pearl Dean Cotten



Pearl Dean Cotten, 64, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall, Odyssey Hospice chaplain, and the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 11, 1943, in Big Spring. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was an active member of Midway Baptist Church.

She is survived by one sister, Merle Berry Young and her husband, Bremen, of Big Spring; five nieces; eight great nieces and nephews; one aunt; and a number of step great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother and step father, Mary and H.L. Thurman; her father, William Jube Cotten; one brother, William James Cotten; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Petty; and two aunts. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

### Wilson Money



Wilson Money, 77, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, at the St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Kelly Conkling officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Ector County Cemetery in Odessa.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

He was born Nov. 16, 1930, in Hamlin and married Jean Willis Eiben on May 30, 1970, in Odessa.

He came to Big Spring in 1977 from Odessa. He had worked as an oil field pumper/lease operator, retiring in November 1992. He was a massage therapist and a woodcrafter.

Mr. Money was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Eiben Money; two daughters, Patricia Saldana and Vicky Lacey and husband Kenneth; one son, Rick Money and wife, Paz; four stepsons, Gratan Eiben and wife Diane, Willis Eiben, Carter Eiben and wife Sherry and Lloyd Eiben; one stepdaughter, Hope Eiben Galloway and husband Jerry; 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers; one sister; and a daughter, Jacqueline Money.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 2949, Big Spring 79721-2949 or to a favorite charity.

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

### Pedro Trevino

Pedro Trevino, 70, of Garden City died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. U.S. Highway 80. Everyone is invited. Serving will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Plates are \$8 each.

- 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.

- 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 a Compass Hospice 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.

## Police blotter

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

- ROBERT BAKER JR.**, 34, of 407 S. Donnelly, was arrested Wednesday on charges of theft, evading arrest and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- SHAWNA GRAYSON**, 36, of 303 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on charges of theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- PIERRE GORDON**, 17, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of investigative detention.
- RAUL MARTINEZ**, 50, of 1510 Oriole, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.
- JASON EDWARDS**, 19, of 903 Saunders Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of investigative detention.
- ALEXANDER BURCIAGA**, 18, of 1309 S. Bell, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DAVID WITREIN**, 27, of 116 Hooser Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of disorderly conduct - gestures.
- CYNTHIA SALAZAR**, 24, of 2310 Rannels, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- JACOBY MENDEZ**, 18, of El Paso, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- ESMEREGILDO BALDERAS**, 34, of Lubbock, was arrested Wednesday on a parole revocation.
- TOBY JOHN MEEK**, 26, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BRANDI RENEE NEUSER**, 32, of 1429 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on three local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- JADE ALEX COWDERY**, 24, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on nine local warrants.
- THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 200 block of Marcy.
  - in the 1100 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
  - in the 200 block of FM 700.
  - in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 300 block of State.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1400 block of FM 700.
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1400 block of FM 700.
- DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 800 block of Lorilla.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 800 block of Owens.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.
- JAMES RAY COGBURN**, 30, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of assault - family violence and criminal mischief.
- JAY BILLINGSLEY**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- LAUREN RACINE SMITH**, 20, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of forgery of a government/national instrument for money/security.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of N.W. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Canary. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Carl. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

- 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

## Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
  - 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 Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
  - Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
  - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
  - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
  - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
  - Dance to Midnight Express at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

- SATURDAY**
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
  - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
  - Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

- MONDAY**
- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
  - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-8-17-25-39  
Number matching six of six: none.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-22-26-33  
Number matching five of five: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-3-7-8. Sum It Up: 27.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-7-9. Sum It Up: 16.

## Weather

Tonight...Decreasing clouds. Lows around 18. Light and variable winds becoming southwest around 10 mph after midnight.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the northwest in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 18. North winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 40s. Northeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs around 60.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Martin luther king jr day...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs around 50.

Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Highs around 40. Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Venus struggles in win, Federer impressive

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Marcos Baghdatis needed five sets to defeat Marat Safin 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 Thursday at the Australian Open, evoking memories of his run to the 2006 final.

The marquee matchup of the night was packed with drama — long rallies, seemingly impossible winners and shifts in momentum.

Baghdatis appeared to be on his way to a straight-sets victory, looked down and out, then pulled himself together to set up a third-round meeting with another former No. 1, Lleyton Hewitt.

Earlier, Venus Williams overcame a lethargic outing, committing 44 unforced errors and dropping her serve four times in a row, to beat Camille Pin 7-5, 6-4, while top-seeded Roger Federer was impressive again in ending friend Fabrice Santoro's record 62nd Grand Slam tournament 6-1, 6-2, 6-0.

The mercurial Safin, the 2005 champion who has slipped to No. 56 because of a rash of injuries, tossed his racket twice in frustration while falling behind, then broke it after

dropping serve early in the fifth set.

Both players took tumbles on the court, with Safin making a lunging layout to pick off a passing shot for a winner and Baghdatis awkwardly doing the splits when he slipped on the dead run.

The 15th-seeded Baghdatis constantly rallied two years ago, feeding off the energy from vocal fans from Melbourne's large Greek community, before he lost the final to Roger Federer.

His beard and ponytail are gone, but the support was there again, and Baghdatis fed off it.

Sharp in taking the first two sets, Baghdatis' game slipped at the same time Safin picked up his performance.

The Russian broke Baghdatis early in the third and fourth sets, then fended off triple break point while serving at 5-3 to hold with his 11th ace to even the match.

Baghdatis pulled ahead 3-0 in the fifth set and never yielded the advantage despite constant pressure from Safin.

He finished off the victory in 3 hours, 13 minutes by breaking Safin for the fifth time when a forehand went long on match point.

The rowdy fans included a group of young men wearing white face masks and sunglasses who chanted "pepper spray" — a reference to an incident two nights earlier when police used pepper spray to subdue three spectators during a match between Fernando Gonzalez of Chile and Konstantinos Economidis of Greece.

The Federer-Santoro match went by so quickly that Santoro asked him to wait a moment on match point, pointing to the scoreboard and smiling. The Swiss star got a chuckle out of it, too, then got in a serve-and-volley winner.

"It was a tough match for me," Santoro said. "It was not easy to have fun, but I tried to have some."

Despite the rout, Santoro was ready to take on Federer again.

"Because it's so beautiful, what he's doing," said the 35-year-old Frenchman, who had only four unforced errors. "At my age, you can be able to play your match and appreciate your opponent, too."

"Today, I feel like he's coming from somewhere else. I served quite good. I was moving well. I was fit physically. I was hitting the ball well. And I won three games."

Federer won the last 10 games, ended it with a serve-and-volley as Santoro edged in almost to the service box. He clambered over the net to embrace the Frenchman.

Dictating play, Federer ended up with 53 winners and 18 unforced errors.

"Obviously I always enjoy the match against Fabrice," said Federer, chasing his third consecutive Australian Open title and his 13th major. "First time I played him, he totally dismantled me. Showed I had a lot of things to work on."

"Today I was in great shape, could play aggressive. We always have great rallies together, because of his playing style ... he does a great job of making you doubt. It's always a tricky match against him. But you know it's going to be fun. And this is what it's supposed to be, this game."

Williams looked stiff, sluggish and out of sorts, trudging back to the baseline in growing bewilderment as she sprayed balls all over the court. Clearly trying to win points quickly, she ventured to the net 39 times and often went for high-risk winners.

Pin pulled ahead 5-4 in the first set, only to see the

American pull herself together long enough to take the last three games. Williams also ran off the last four games of the second set after falling behind 2-4.

"She's a real fighter ... really feisty," Williams said. She now plays No. 31 Sania Mirza of India, who ousted Timea Bacsinszky.

Second-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova, a former U.S. Open champion, rallied from 5-2 down in the first set to win in straight sets against Tsvetana Pironkova. Other seeded players advancing were No. 4 Ana Ivanovic, No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze, No. 9 Daniela Hantuchova and No. 14 Nadia Petrova.

Joining Federer in the third round were No. 3 Novak Djokovic, No. 5 David Ferrer, No. 7 Fernando Gonzalez, No. 10 David Nalbandian, No. 12 James Blake, No. 13 Tomas Berdych and former No. 1-ranked Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Nalbandian, who beat Federer and second-ranked Rafael Nadal to win consecutive tournaments in Paris and Madrid last October, had a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 win over Australian Peter Luczak.

## GUINN

Continued from Page 1B

For Big Spring High School's Golf Coach Chris Joslin, the reasons for Guinn's success are simple.

"Since I've been here, the one thing I've really preached is to spend extra time practicing," Big Spring High School Golf

Coach Chris Joslin said. "When I talk to (Big Spring Country Club golf pro) Larry (Bryan) about who has been out at the course, he always gives me the same four or five names. The first name at the top of this list is right here. That is what it takes to get where Cassie is right now."

Guinn's decision to attend Western Texas was based on its

proximity to home as well as an opportunity to catapult her to a bigger school to continue her golfing career and further her goal of becoming a nurse.

When asked about her scoring average, Guinn noted that it varied day by day.

"That depends. Are we talking about a good day or a bad day," Guinn said with a laugh. "I'd say about high 70's to low

80's on a good day."

Big Spring's golf season begins Feb. 1, meaning Guinn has much to prepare for and compete in before starting at Western Texas. Joslin spoke to the other Steer golfers in attendance about what it was going to take for a successful season.

"It's going to take the dedication that Cassie has shown to get this program turned

around," Joslin said. "There's nothing better than having a leader like Cassie and after this year someone else is going to have to be ready to step up."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at [sports@bigspringherald.com](mailto:sports@bigspringherald.com).

## KNIGHT

Continued from Page 1B

Knight lauded his team.

"That was about as good, in that context, as I think I've ever had a team play," he said. "It was obviously a really good win but there isn't any such thing as a bad win, I guess."

"I hope it's an indication to our players how they can play."

Martin Zeno scored 19 points and Trevor Cook added a career-high 14 for Texas Tech.

The 67-year-old Knight has been a head coach for 42 years at three Division I schools. He got his 100th victory at Army, then moved to Indiana, where his Hoosiers went 662-239 and won three national championships from 1971-00.

His first NCAA title came in 1976 when Indiana went unde-

feated, a feat no team has done since. In 1984, he coached the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in Los Angeles.

Two women's coaches have reached 900 wins: Tennessee's Pat Summitt has 961 and former Texas coach Jody Conradt retired after last season with 900.

The career victory leader in men's coaching is Harry Statham of McKendree

University, an NAIA school. The 70-year-old coach has won 949 games in 42 seasons.

The Aggies used a 14-4 run to whittle the Red Raiders' lead to 39-31 with about 16 minutes remaining.

But Tech stiffened and went on a 20-4 run to go up by 56-35 with 7:45 remaining. The run included two 3-pointers by Cook and one by Alan Voskuil.

A&M never threatened after

that.

Josh Carter and Joseph Jones scored 11 points each to lead the Aggies.

Asked if he could fathom 900 wins, Turgeon offered that his bosses might call it quits on him at 200 wins.

"It's amazing," he said. "He does what he does and he does it well. I hope I'm playing golf when I'm his age, enjoying it, but we'll see."

## NBA

Continued from Page 1B

in seven of Toronto's past eight games.

"The way he has played the last week and a half, he really cannot play any better," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said.

Carlos Delfino came off the bench to score a career-high 26 and Toronto won for the fourth time in five games.

Jose Calderon had 17 points and 14 assists, Anthony Parker had 12 points and Kris Humphries had 11.

Sacramento's Brad Miller had 16 points, but just two in the second half, while Francisco Garcia had 10.

### Celtics 100, Trail Blazers 90

At Boston, Ray Allen scored a season-high 35 points, Kevin Garnett had 26 and the Celtics rebounded from their first consecutive losses of the season.

The Atlantic Division-leading Celtics, who had lost three of their last four games and two straight at home, also got 12 points from Paul Pierce and 10 from Eddie House.

Brandon Roy led the Northwest division-leading Trail Blazers with 22 points. Travis Outlaw and Jarrett Jack each had 17.

### Nicks 111, Nets 105

At East Rutherford, N.J., Jamal Crawford

scored a season-high 35 points and hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer, and New York took the season series from New Jersey for the first time in eight years.

Zach Randolph added 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who are 3-0 against their cross-river rivals after the Nets had owned the series since Jason Kidd arrived in the area. New York hadn't won the series since going 3-1 in the 1999-00 season.

### Hornets 123, SuperSonics 92

At New Orleans, Peja Stojakovic scored 23 points to lead six Hornets in double figures.

Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 21 rebounds and Chris Paul had 12 points and 11 assists. It was the 12th time they've had double-doubles in the same game this season, and New Orleans has won all of those games. David West added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

### Bobcats 99, Magic 93

Gerald Wallace had 36 points and 14 rebounds, Jason Richardson hit a 3-pointer and four free throws in the final minute for host Charlotte.

The Bobcats, who trailed by 19 points early in the third quarter, avoided a season sweep against Orlando.

### Bucks 87, Hawks 80

Andrew Bogut had 21

points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots and Milwaukee beat visiting Atlanta.

The Hawks, losers of 18 of their last 20 in Milwaukee, failed to hit a field goal for more than 12 minutes spanning the third and fourth quarters, missing 13 straight shots.

### Pacers 125, Warriors 117

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 29 points

### Bulls 126, Heat 96

At Miami, Chicago's Ben Gordon scored 24

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

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

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
**Distributional Hand Evaluation**

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ K J 9 6 2  
♥ A 9 5  
♦ K 10 9 8  
♣ 3

**WEST**  
♦ A 8 5 4 3  
♥ Q J  
♦ 7 5 3 2  
♣ 8 4

**EAST**  
♦ Q 10 7  
♥ 10 8 6 4 2  
♦ —  
♣ K Q 9 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♦ —  
♥ K 7 3  
♦ A Q J 6 4  
♣ A J 10 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
6♦			

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

As the bidding progresses, the rise and fall of one's values is a phenomenon worthy of close attention. In distributional hands especially, their worth may fluctuate startlingly as new information is gathered from the opponents' or partner's bidding.

For example, when you first look at today's South hand, you would initially rank it as well above a minimum opening bid. Not only does it contain 15 high-card points, but it has an attractive 5-5-3-0 distribution. Point-counters might differ as to the

exact value of the hand, deeming it worth anywhere from 17 to 20 points, depending on which school they came from.

But North's one-spade response should have a depressing effect on the initial evaluation. The spade void is no longer an asset but a liability. In fact, at this point the hand depreciates to only its high-card values.

However, when you next bid two clubs and partner jumps to three diamonds, the complexion of the hand changes radically. The original value is not only restored, but augmented. Your previous doubt as to whether there was even a game is more than resolved — so much so that a slam is now a very real possibility. And, you should conclude that if North feels the combined hands will produce 11 tricks, you're surely entitled to try for 12.

The play of the hand is relatively simple. Only one pitfall has to be avoided. You plan a straight crossruff to score 12 tricks, but you should cash your two heart tricks very early — before starting the crossruff. If you don't, you'll wind up with your arm in a sling after West gets rid of his remaining heart while you are ruffing clubs in dummy.

After playing the king of hearts, ace of clubs and ace of hearts, you ruff spades and clubs back and forth, finishing with 12 easy tricks. That's all there is to it.







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# State briefs

## 3 killed, 1 injured in Navy helicopter crash

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Three crew members were killed and another was injured when their Navy helicopter crashed in a muddy field just south of Corpus Christi, a Navy spokesman said Thursday.

The injured crew member was taken to Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial, where he was listed in critical condition, said Ed Mickley, public affairs spokesman for the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command.

The Navy MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter was part of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 out of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Mickley said. It was on a routine training mission when it went down about 8:15 p.m. Wednesday in a farmer's field south of the intersection of Farm Roads 2444 and 665, about 4 miles south of Corpus Christi, he said.

J.D. Batten, who lives about two miles from the crash site, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times that he was walking near his property's front gate when he heard a helicopter overhead.

"Suddenly I saw a red-glowing fireball shoot hundreds of feet up into the air," he said. "I heard a giant boom a second later. It was then dead silent and I couldn't hear the helicopter anymore."

Searchers initially set up a perimeter of about 200 yards around the crash site, but the restricted zone was expanded as the search continued for the missing crew members, Mickley said. It was unclear what the weather was like at the time of the crash, he said.

Lt. Sean Robertson, a spokesman for NAS Corpus Christi, told the Caller-Times that the crash happened during heavy fog. The Caller-Times reported that downed power lines hindered the efforts of the first rescuers.

Corpus Christi firefighters as well as volunteer firefighters from a number of communities helped put out the flames that broke out.

## Appeals court finds death row inmate mentally retarded

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's top criminal appeals court has reduced a death sentence to life imprisonment for a death row inmate condemned for murdering a Houston-area convenience store clerk during a 1995 robbery.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals handed down its ruling Wednesday in the case of Daniel Plata. The court found that Plata, 32, was mentally retarded and thus ineligible for the death penalty.

The Texas Defender Service, which handled Plata's appeal, said its client was the 11th Texas death row inmate to receive a life sentence since 2002. That's when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a Virginia case that the execution of mentally retarded inmates was unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

Plata was one of four teenagers charged in the robbery of a Stop-N-Go in northwest Harris County. The store's security camera showed Plata fatally shot cashier Murlidhar Mahbubani. Plata pleaded guilty during his capital murder trial and was sentenced to death.

In December 2006, a Harris County state district judge held a hearing on whether Plata was mentally retarded. In the end, state District Court Judge Mark Kent Ellis rejected some methods used by the state expert who found Plata's intelligence topped the Supreme Court's 70 IQ retardation standard.

## CPS granted temporary custody of 6 children

HOUSTON (AP) — Six children whose mother is accused of leaving them at home alone while she went to Nigeria to marry a man she met on the Internet will remain in the custody of the Texas Child Protective Services for now.

A judge granted CPS temporary custody of the children on Wednesday while social workers try to interview their mother and determine if the children could be placed with other relatives.

Harris County deputies making a welfare check earlier this month at the family's home in Cypress found the children ranging in age from 1 to 9 being cared for by their 15-year-old sister. She also was taking care of a neighbor's 3-year-old boy and 4-year-old girl.

Shanell Monique Mosley, 33, has been charged with child endangerment and child abandonment.

CPS said Mosley had told her 15-year-old daughter that she would be gone a month. CPS said the 15-year-old told them they were left with no food or diapers for the baby. The youngest child, a 1-year-old, was showing signs of malnutrition when emergency workers arrived.

An aunt of the children stayed overnight one night,

but no relatives thought to care for the children full time, the Houston Chronicle said court documents showed.

Mosley told CPS investigator Loree Childers on Friday in a short telephone call that she thought she had left her children in the care of relatives and that she didn't intend to abandon them. Some relatives said Mosley was expected back in the United States this weekend.

Childers told the court Wednesday that Mosley said the soonest she could leave Nigeria would be Jan. 23.

State District Judge Michael Schneider asked CPS workers to conduct a home study and background check on James Ellis Raiford, the father of Mosley's youngest child. Raiford told the court that he wanted to visit his son and take him back to his home in Baton Rouge, La.

## Dems ask judge to declare Craddick challenger eligible

MIDLAND (AP) — The state Democratic Party wants a judge to settle questions over the eligibility of a Midland City Councilman to run for the legislative seat held by House Speaker Tom Craddick.

Democratic officials filed a complaint in federal court Wednesday and asked a judge to declare Midland City Councilman Bill Dingus, a Democrat, eligible to run.

The Republican Party of Texas sent a written notice this week to the state Democratic Party suggesting Dingus couldn't challenge Craddick, a Midland Republican, because he didn't resign from the City Council before filing to run for the House.

State Republican Party officials say an article in the Texas Constitution states a person holding a lucrative office during the term for which he is elected or appointed is ineligible for the Legislature.

But Democrats counter with a 1996 federal court ruling that says a city council member may announce candidacy for any office and is considered to have automatically resigned the local post when sworn in to another office.

Dingus said conversations with officials at the Midland City Attorney's Office and other legal representatives led him to believe the law doesn't require him to resign from the council to seek the House seat.

## SENIORS

Continued from Page 1A

McEwen. "It's so weird how rumors like these get started. However, the answer is simple, there are no plans to charge seniors for the use of the dance floor."

"The only plans the city has for the center at this point is to make it better for our seniors. We want the Senior Center to be something the city, and area residents, can be proud of, and we feel like we can accomplish that."

Concerns were also expressed during the county meeting about the future of the center's staff, including Senior Center Director Leslie Grantham, a situation McEwen said the city has yet to approach.

"We haven't made a determination on this yet. How could we?" said McEwen. "We have no idea at this point in the process. However, I can tell you we have no plans at this point to remove any of the employees who are currently working there. But there's just no way to make a determination on employees at this point."

Talks between Howard County, which currently manages the center, and the city began in late 2007 when county officials announced consideration was being given to closing it due to budgetary constraints.

Commissioners voted 4-1 Monday in favor of transferring management of the center to the city, with County Judge Mark Barr and commissioners Bill Crooker, Jerry Kilgore and Emma Brown supporting the measure.

Commissioner Gary

Simer, the lone commissioner voting against the measure, said he felt the court should have waited to make the decision.

"I just felt like we should have given it a little bit longer," said Simer. "Our revenue doesn't run out until the end of the year, and I think there are some more things we should have looked into before we just turn it over to them."

Simer wasn't the only one opposing the transfer. Wash was one of several seniors who spoke out against the measure.

"I still feel like you're leaving all of us in a lurch by turning this over to the city," said Tom Guess. "Because the same people that have caused all the problems will have total control."

McEwen said accusations that any council members don't have the center — and its seniors — best interests at heart are baseless.

"There isn't a single person on the city council who isn't looking to make the Senior Center the best it can possibly be," said McEwen. "Why else would we agree to take it over? To go in and start cutting services or charging for them? That doesn't make any sense at all."

According to city officials, the council is expected to discuss and consider taking action on the acquisition of the center during its meeting Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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

## BANQUET

Continued from Page 1A

director of the chamber. "We've had a lot of positive things happen in this area, such as downtown renovation efforts, and we want to salute those accomplishments."

An annual feature of the event that will remain is the naming of the chamber's man and woman of the year. JoBeth Corwin and Jim Little, who won the awards last year, will present the honorees.

ValVerde said 48 area businesses have signed up to decorate tables at the banquet.

"We'd like to see those tables full," she said. "There's going to be lots

of great give-aways. These people go all-out in promoting their businesses."

Corporate sponsors for this year's banquet are Wells Fargo, State National Bank, First Bank of West Texas and Water Water, she added.

For more information, contact the chamber at 263-7641.


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

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## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Pearl Dean Cotten, 64, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 3:00 PM Saturday. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Charles Dennard, 84, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Goldthwaite, Texas.

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**



By Eddy Pitchford

Lights are extremely helpful. They enable a person to walk through a house at night without falling and getting hurt. They allow drivers to reach their destination without getting lost.

Jesus Christ identified Himself as light. "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'" (John 8:12).

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (I John 1:6-7).

Through Jesus, we do not fall. Through Jesus, we will arrive safely home.

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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

### Livestock shows young entrants deserve attention

A doubleheader is now under way in the Crossroads. No, it's not baseball, we're talking about the area's junior livestock shows. Both the Howard County and Martin County stock shows are currently being held, so it's a busy time for area extension agents, ag instructors and others — not to mention several hundred of our youth.

The Howard County show began Wednesday and runs through Saturday afternoon, while the Martin County show began today and continues through Saturday.

These stock shows are community events that give our youth an opportunity to show their knowledge. In raising the animals and working with instructors and fellow students, they learn teamwork, responsibility, animal science and other skills that will help them through life.

Wednesday was lamb and goat day at the Howard County show and today's scheduled highlight is the rabbit show at 6 p.m.

Today's schedule at the Martin County show calls for the weighing in of all animals before 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the community center annex.

Here's a brief outline of what's still on tap:

At the Howard County show, steers will be judged beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, with barrows taking center stage at 1 p.m.

The show concludes with the annual buyers' barbecue at 11:30 a.m., followed by the awards presentation and auction at 1 p.m.

Friday is show day for goats at the Martin County show, followed by lambs, pee wee goats and lambs divisions following the lamb show and the steer show later that afternoon.

The show concludes Saturday with hogs and pee wee hogs shows in the morning and the annual awards banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Plan on attending one or more of these stock shows and supporting our youth specifically and agriculture in general.

## YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to thank the doctor that took excellent care of my daughter today at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room.

You see our daughter has RSD, reflex sympathetic dystrophy. She has to be very careful of what medications she takes for a cold, etc.

There have been so many times that she has gone to the ER and the doctors there had no clue to what RSD is and how to treat it.

I asked the doctor if he had a private practice and he said no. Well, that is a shame because he

was very good with her and so was the nurse who gave her breathing treatments.

OK, now here is the doctor's name: Dr. Parks.

So, Dr. Parks, thank you very much for your caring bedside manner. I just thought that Big Spring would like to hear some positive news instead of bad news.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about RSD, go to the Website www.RSDHope.org, or go to rdsa.org.

Thank you again, Dr. Parks.

MARILLYN MIEARS  
BIG SPRING

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

*With You, Lord, as our partner we have total control.  
Amen*

# Speaking loudly, saying nothing

Learn how to give a really long speech full of undefined promises and meaningless buzzwords and you too can run for president. Master the art of garnering applause for making declarative statements that no right-minded person would disagree with and you might even win.

Watch the current campaign for the Democratic nomination and all you essentially know is that Barack Obama wants change. Hillary Clinton also wants change and even John Edwards wants change so long as nobody messes up his hair while bringing it about. Candidates from the party trying to take back the White House always want change because using the word "change" sends a message that you have big ideas even when, in fact, you don't.

On the Republican side, candidates have a slightly different, but equally vague, message as instead of simply promising change, they get to offer "family values" and "national security." Once again, these words mean little except that they differentiate those on the right from their leftist foes who

apparently support the destruction of both the family and the nation.

The various candidates may actually have huge ideas that would shake up the country. Perhaps Obama wants to force third graders to spend a year abroad and maybe John McCain has a plan to balance the budget by selling drugs to the citizens of countries he doesn't like, but you would not know any of this from watching either of them give a speech.

Unfortunately, nobody knows what actual plans any candidate has because campaigning for office involves giving speeches that cite a lot of meaningless buzzwords and little else. Nobody ever asks for the details and none are ever given out voluntarily. Instead of laying out specifics would-be-presidents stick to safe areas where they clearly disagree with the opposing party and everyone on their side also agrees.

A Democrat can score points for being against the war in Iraq, but never has to explain how we might withdraw our troops and still maintain stability in the Middle East. It's easy for a Republican to be against abortion, but not so easy to lay out a plan detailing how we might pay for all the unabortored children that would result.

Having specific plans for what

you might do as president would greatly interfere with a candidate's ability to get elected. If you offer specifics, then people might disagree with you and vote for someone who else. Instead, it's easier to say nothing really loudly as often as possible.

Running for president has become an elaborate show where appearance matters way more than substance. New Hampshire voters actually switched their primary votes to Hillary Clinton because she cried during a speech. Even though Clinton has an extensive record by which she could be judged, voters cast that aside in favor of her meaningless emotional display.

If we let bad acting and hyperbolic speeches sway our opinions then we're doomed to yet another poor president. You can't argue with someone who "supports working Americans" or wants to "clean up our streets," but we should need more than empty promises before casting our votes. If we don't ask candidates to go deeper then we might as well just vote for the best looking person or let Howie Mandel give away the job on a game show.

*Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be e-mailed at dan@notastep.com*



DANIEL KLINE

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# Hillary's pro-active political jiu-jitsu

Hillary is playing with fire on the race issue. What ground she gained by playing the gender card while denying it, she might lose by playing the race card while denying it.

There is no principle the Clintons pretend to stand for that they will not abandon in pursuit of political power — power they insist they need to advance those abandonable principles. So it is with the issue of race.

Until recently, Hillary had employed essentially a two-pronged strategy in her presidential primary campaign. The first was to depict her main opponent, Barack Obama, as an eloquent and gifted speaker but also as a candidate with no experience, no record, no substance and no plan to match his lofty rhetoric. The second, developed out of desperation to staunch her post-Iowa bleeding, was to play the gender card by appealing to women voters through showing her supposedly vulnerable, "human" side.

Now, she has also invoked the race issue, something only a liberal or Democratic candidate would even think about doing. First, she trotted out a well-known African American, Robert L. Johnson, the founder of Black Entertainment Television, to make an unmistakable yet deniable allusion to Obama's self-admitted youthful experimentation with drugs.

On the stump with Clinton in Columbia, S.C., Johnson said, "To me, as an African American, I am frankly insulted that the Obama campaign would imply that we were so stupid that we would think Hillary and Bill Clinton, who have been deeply and emotionally involved in black issues since Barack Obama was doing something in the neighborhood —

and I won't say what he was doing, but he said it in the book — when they have been involved ..."

This isn't just significant because it's the second time a high-profile Clinton ally used the drug-smear against Obama. It's about more than drugs. It's also a subtle effort to steal black voters from Obama by having a prominent black endorse Hillary's theme that she was actually working on issues important to blacks, while Obama was otherwise predisposed. All the while, Hillary pretends to be an innocent bystander.

Next, Hillary refined her race strategy further by allowing an unspoken racial component to loom large in her awkward reference to the respective contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon B. Johnson to the civil rights movement.

Hillary said that MLK's dream of racial equality was realized only when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This tied in perfectly to Hillary's campaign theme contrasting her supposed experience with Obama's empty, unproven rhetoric.

But is it merely an innocuous coincidence that in Hillary's allusion, both MLK and Obama are African Americans and LBJ and Hillary are the white people who are presumably necessary to get things done? Why else would she choose the MLK and LBJ example? Hillary might be insensitive, but she's not tone deaf.

I am truly not trying to be provocative or incendiary here, and it's sad that we even have to raise these questions, but it's entirely appropriate given the Democrats' insistence on playing identity politics and the Clinton's history of utilizing unconscionably dirty tactics born of cold political calculations.

The likelihood of coincidence is further reduced by what followed. When the press started asking her

about her MLK/LBJ statement, she immediately accused the Obama campaign of injecting racial tension into the contest. Yet Obama forces, as far as we know, hadn't yet responded to her statement.

"This is an unfortunate story line the Obama campaign has pushed very successfully," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I don't think this campaign is about gender, and I sure hope it's not about race."

But you'll note that Obama had not used the race card against Hillary. Hillary brought up the subject herself and then falsely accused Obama of having raised it so that she could deftly "respond" and perhaps neutralize his presumed race advantage with Democratic voters.

Hillary was employing a tactic I'll call preemptive, pro-active political Jiu-Jitsu. The art of Jiu-Jitsu involves using an attacker's energy against him rather than directly opposing it. But Hillary modified the Jiu-Jitsu technique by fabricating her opponent's attack so that she could react and score points — on race.

She used the same modified Jiu-Jitsu approach in New Hampshire in appealing to women. She skillfully exploited the near-tear moment to show her human side and then falsely accused mostly unnamed men of sexism for saying she looked weak and unpresidential (who said that?), thereby appealing to women for solidarity against this largely fictitious attack.

But employing this tactic on race is far riskier and might backfire against this very white former first lady, even if she is married to the "first black president."

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. To find out more about him, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.*

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## Honeypot project is up again

Project Honeypot is back on track, as a consortium of leading IT security experts prepare to re-launch the global sensor network in an effort to dupe more cyber-criminals into handing over information about their latest attack methods.

The Web Application Security Consortium's Distributed Open Proxy Honeypot Project — now there's a mouthful for you — which was initially turned on in January 2007, will re-light its set of attack monitoring sensors on

or about the first of the year after significantly scaling back its operations during December.

According to project officials, the effort took a month-long hiatus to give project researchers more time to examine results and plan for the year ahead.

Unlike more traditional OS-level or SMTP-based honeypot applications — systems designed to collect individual malware samples for subsequent examination by anti-virus researchers — the WASC project utilizes a network of 14 specially-configured open proxy servers (or proxypots) to monitor traffic for nefarious activities carried out by everyone from botnet herders to adware purveyors.

Traditional honeypots have proven useful for tracking widespread computer viruses and allowing AV companies to produce the signature files needed to protect machines against infection, but those targets are ill-suited to provide the level of real-time intelligence needed to protect against today's fast-moving customized threats, said Ryan Barnett, the WASC project's leader.

By serving up an unprotected open proxy server to the larger Internet — think of it as those fake deer hunters use to lure in duped game — and thereby advertising itself as exactly the type of anonymous conduit that attackers seek out to distribute their work, rather than merely an undefended computer, the effort is already garnering new insight into cyber-criminals' methods, according to Barnett.

What the use of the proxypot model allows the project to observe are the source IP addresses being used by attackers running over its sensors, along with the nature of their threats and their targets.

For instance, out of the 8.9 million questionable transactions carried out over the group's servers in October, when the sensor network was last running at full bore, 2.6 million of the requests were related to advertising click fraud, the leading type of threat observed in the firewall logs.

Further investigation of the results would allow WASC to figure out exactly which sites



THOMAS JENKINS

## News in brief

### FDA to declare over-the-counter cold medicines too risky for babies and toddlers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Parents may be left with only love and lots of liquid to give their sniffling babies and toddlers now that the government is declaring over-the-counter cough and cold medicines too risky for tots.

The Food and Drug Administration was issuing that warning Thursday to parents of children under 2.

It's a move expected for months: Drug companies last October quit selling dozens of versions of nonprescription cold remedies targeted specifically to babies and toddlers. That month, the FDA's scientific advisers also voted that the drugs don't work in small children and shouldn't be used in preschoolers, either — anyone under age 6.

The FDA still hasn't decided if OTC decongestants, antihistamines and cough suppressants are appropriate for older children, officials told The Associated Press. Expect a decision on that by spring, the deadline necessary to notify manufacturers before they begin production for next fall's cold season.

For now, FDA's first official ruling focuses on youngsters under 2, warning that "serious and potentially life-threatening side effects can occur."

### Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke appears open to package to stimulate weakening economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Faced with a deteriorating economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has indicated he is open to congressional and White House efforts to develop a rescue package to avert a recession.

The fragile state of the economy has gripped Wall Street and Main Street and is a rising concern among voters. The situation has galvanized politicians — including those vying to be the next president — and poses the biggest test to Bernanke, who took over the Fed nearly two years ago.

Much attention will be focused on Bernanke's testimony Thursday before the House Budget Committee for insights into what can be done to help blunt the ill effects of a deep housing slump and a credit crisis. The big worry is that those problems will force consumers to clamp down on their spending and businesses to put a lid on hiring, sending the economy into a nosedive.

Joint Economic Committee Chairman Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he had spoken with Bernanke on Monday and that the Fed chairman was "generally supportive" of lawmakers and Bush passing a stimulus bill.

"He said that while he wasn't going to endorse a specific plan, if an economic stimulus package was properly designed and enacted so that it enters the economy quickly, it could have a very positive effect on the economy," Schumer said.

### Republican race so unsettled some are talking of a possible deadlocked convention

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican presidential race is so unsettled that some party officials are openly talking of a scenario that seemed almost unthinkable until now: the first contested GOP convention in 60 years.

Even if Republicans choose a nominee before they convene in Minneapolis-St. Paul on Sept. 1, there's a good possibility he will emerge weeks or even months after the Democratic nominee is chosen, giving Democrats an advantage in fundraising, organizing and campaigning. Congressional Republicans particularly wanted an early nominee to draw voters' attention from President Bush, whose low approval ratings could hurt the entire party in the fall.

Bush's former top political aide, Karl Rove, told Republican officials Wednesday that major challenges await "the moment our candidate secures the nomination." As if they needed reminding, Rove told those at the Republican National Committee's winter meeting, "the primaries are far from over."

Democrats also face the possibility of a long and costly battle involving Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois and former Sen. John Edwards. But officials attending the RNC meeting said Democrats seem likely to make their choice before a clear winner emerges from the pack of four or five still-credible GOP contenders.

"The way it looks now, it could end up in the convention," Ron Schmidt, South Dakota's Republican National Committeeman, said of the party's nominating process. "It's fascinating if you're a political junkie."

### O.J. Simpson released on doubled bail; judge rips his 'arrogance or ignorance or both'

LAS VEGAS (AP) — O.J. Simpson again walked free from a Las Vegas jail, hours after a judge blistered him for "arrogance or ignorance" for breaking bail terms in a robbery case.

Simpson posted bond and was released from jail just after 11 p.m. Wednesday. He walked out by himself, quickly got into a white Mercedes, and was driven away without comment to the dozen members of the news media on hand.

Earlier in the day, with his hands cuffed at his waist and a defeated expression on his face, Simpson listened to a lecture from Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass as she doubled his bail to \$250,000.

"I don't know, Mr. Simpson, what the heck you were thinking, or maybe that's the problem — you weren't," Glass said.

Simpson's attorney, Yale Galanter, said before Simpson's release that the former football star would post the deed to his home.

### Lawmaker says interrogation tapes were destroyed over CIA's objections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA official who gave the command to destroy interrogation videotapes apparently acted against the direction of his superiors, the top Republican House Intelligence Committee member said.

"It appears he hadn't gotten authority from anyone," Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., said Wednesday, speaking to reporters after the first day of closed testimony in the committee's investigation. "It appears he got direction to make sure the tapes were not destroyed."

Hoekstra said that raises the troubling prospect that there's a thread of unaccountability in the spy culture.

"I believe there are parts of the intelligence community that don't believe they are accountable to Congress and may not be accountable to their own superiors in the intelligence community, and that's why

it's a problem," he said.

Hoekstra spoke after the CIA's acting general counsel, John Rizzo, testified behind closed doors for nearly four hours as the first witness in what committee officials have said will be a long investigation.

"I told the truth," Rizzo said in a brief appearance before reporters.

### Former congressman charged in conspiracy involving terror fundraising ring

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former congressman and delegate to the United Nations was indicted on charges of working for an alleged terrorist fundraising ring that sent more than \$130,000 to an al-Qaida supporter who has threatened U.S. and international troops in Afghanistan.

Mark Deli Siljander, a Michigan Republican when he was in the House, was charged Wednesday with money laundering, conspiracy and obstructing justice for allegedly lying about being hired to lobby senators on behalf of an Islamic charity that authorities said was secretly sending funds to terrorists.

The 42-count indictment, unsealed in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Mo., accuses the Islamic American Relief Agency of paying Siljander \$50,000 for the lobbying — money that turned out to be stolen from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The charges paint "a troubling picture of an American charity organization that engaged in transactions for the benefit of terrorists and conspired with a former United States congressman to convert stolen federal funds into payments for his advocacy," Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Wainstein said.

Siljander, who served in the House from 1981-1987, was appointed by President Reagan to serve as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations for one year in 1987.

### Giuliani pins his hopes for GOP nomination on a victory in Florida

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican Rudy Giuliani challenged political convention in shrugging off early primaries while staking his presidential candidacy on delegate-rich, later-voting states, a strategy that could be a colossal failure or a masterful calculation.

The former New York mayor is suffering from money woes and hasn't won a single primary. Other Republicans have been gobbling up delegates and national media attention, but Giuliani has won one key bet he placed long ago: Even after the first few contests, there would be no clear front-runner in the GOP field.

As his opponents spent time, money and energy battling in Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan and beyond, Giuliani shifted his resources to Florida, where he hopes its winner-take-all Jan. 29 primary will hand him 57 delegates and catapult him overnight to the top of the race for the nomination. He has no delegates so far.

Mitt Romney, who won the Michigan primary Tuesday, leads the delegate race with 42, followed by Mike Huckabee with 32 and John McCain with 13. It takes 1,191 to win the nomination.

Giuliani did not always pin his hopes on Florida. Initially, his campaign plan was multi-pronged, until he decided to abandon efforts in early voting Iowa and New Hampshire. His strategists originally thought he had a good shot at winning an early state or two, and at one point he gained ground in New Hampshire — spending a chunk of cash there — and was also a leader in South Carolina polls.

### New species of palm tree that flowers itself to death discovered in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — A self-destructing palm tree that flowers once every 100 years and then dies has been discovered on the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar, botanists said Thursday.

The name of the giant palm and its remarkable life cycle will be detailed in a study by Kew Gardens scientists in the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society published Thursday.

"It's spectacular. It does not flower for maybe 100 years and when it's like this it can be mistaken for other types of palm," said Mijoro Rakotoarinivo, who works for the London botanical gardens in Madagascar.

"But then a large shoot, a bit like an asparagus, grows out of the top of the tree and starts to spread. You get something that looks a bit like a Christmas tree growing out of the top of the palm," he said.

The branches of this shoot then become covered in hundreds of tiny white flowers that ooze with nectar, attracting insects and birds.

### Mubarak endorses Bush's hopes for quick Mideast peace deal

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP) — President Bush's fast-track plan for a Mideast peace agreement got a welcome endorsement Wednesday from a nation long seen as a key Arab mediator. Bush responded by pulling his punches on the human rights backpedaling in Egypt that has cooled relations with this longtime ally.

The president closed an eight-day Mideast trip well-fed from several lingering meals with his Arab hosts and upbeat about what even some of America's closest allies say is an unexpected and ambitious drive. An Israeli-Palestinian agreement has eluded U.S. presidents for decades, and Bush didn't put much effort into trying for the first seven years of his presidency.

Bush had a message for skeptical Arab states whose help he needs to make any accord stick and who doubt the president's intention to personally shepherd a deal. "I mean what I'm saying," Bush said.

In a brief appearance with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bush dealt gently with the pace of political reform in Egypt, the issue that has most distanced his administration from this historical partner, the first Arab state to make peace with Israel and the recipient of the most U.S. aid except Israel. He started with praise that had less to do with Egypt's government than with its history and populace. He said he discussed the issue with Mubarak, who himself said nothing on the topic.

"Because of the predominate role you play, and because I strongly believe that Egypt can play a role in the freedom and justice movement ... my hope is that the Egyptian government will build on these important steps, and give the people of this proud nation a greater voice in your future," Bush said.

He did not publicly mention jailed political opposition leader Ayman Nour, whose case U.S. officials have pledged to raise each time they meet the Egyptians.

As gasoline and heating oil prices soar at home, Bush urged the OPEC oil cartel to consider boosting production.

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# Truck of Texas

## Ford adds Harley-Davidson edition to Super Duty lineup

**B**ack in October I had the chance to drive the new Super Duty Harley-Davidson edition during the Texas Auto Writer's annual Truck Rodeo where we evaluated more than 50 trucks, SUVs and crossovers for on- and off-road performance during a three-day period.

I, along with the majority of my fellow TAWA members, was so impressed that we rewarded the Super Duty Harley-Davidson truck

with the highly prized "Truck of Texas" award for 2008 models.

This week I had the chance for an extended test drive and Ford handed me the keys and told me to have fun.

I know, I have such a rough job — but somebody has to do it.

For starters, Ford's Super Duty is a remarkable vehicle.

Powered by a 6.4-liter Power Stroke super clean, super quiet diesel engine (350 horsepower/650 lbs.-ft. torque), this bad boy

can tow up to 24,500 pounds with a maximum payload of 6,120 pounds.

Mated to a five-speed automatic transmission, the four-door, five-passenger 4X4 special edition Super Duty is also loaded with a number of comfort and convenience features, such as the new integrated Tailgate Step and rearview video camera

backup system.

And that's before you even get to the Harley-Davidson special edition features.

There hasn't been this much leather and chrome in one place since the cattle ranchers' convention and Metallica were booked at the same hotel.

But it sure does look good.

The 2008 Super Duty Harley-Davidson edition marks the 105th anniversary of both Ford and Harley-Davidson.

In 1903, Henry Ford began producing vehicles while William S. Harley and Arthur Davidson began making motorcycles.

The two companies formed an alliance in 1999 to produce special edition F-Series pickup trucks

under the co-branding agreement.

This marks the 11th model to be produced from the



alliance, which has sold more than 60,000 Harley-Davidson F-Series. The 2008 edition draws its design theme from the special edition 105th Anniversary Harley-Davidson motorcycle and features unique "Vintage Copper" paint. It also features special 105th anniversary badging throughout the truck.

Buyers have the choice of black monochromatic exterior paint with a custom Vintage Copper stripe running along the beltline, or a black and Vintage Copper two-tone paint scheme.

Brad Richards, design manager for Ford Harley-Davidson trucks, pointed out the design of the side vent and grille on the Super Duty represents the heat stakes on a cylinder head of a Harley-Davidson V-Twin engine.

"That was intentional as we wanted to thematically tie these trucks directly to the bikes in ways that enthusiasts would appreciate," he added.

The Vintage Copper accents are carried through the interior as well, accenting the specially designed leather seats.

Other unique styling features include: chrome billet-style grille with body-color surround; unique headlamps and illuminated molded running boards; chrome exhaust tips; rubber bed mat with Harley-Davidson bar & shield logo; PowerScope trailer tow mirrors; unique 20-inch polished forged-aluminum wheels; power sliding rear window;

memory power-adjustable performance pedals; black and dusted copper leather-trimmed front and rear captain's chairs (a 60/40 split, flip-up rear bench is optional) with bar & shield logo mounted to the top of the seat backs; memory heated power driver seat and heated power front passenger seat.

Both bold and beautiful, the 2008 Ford Harley-Davidson Super Duty is capable of getting the job done in style and comfort.

Without question, it's a head-turner everywhere I

drove (I've even had people follow me into the parking lot or see the truck at the paper and come in to ask about it).

Now here's the down side.

You can expect to pay for what you get.

With a base price starting in the mid \$50,000 range,

my test vehicle listed for \$59,000 when a few optional accessories were added in.

As the 11th model in the Ford/Harley-Davidson series, this is by far the best one yet. It is, after all, the 2008 Truck of Texas.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at [neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com](mailto:neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com).

### ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

### PROJECT

Continued from Page 5A

were being pumped-up by those automated traffic hoarders and inform any companies involved of the illegal activity, Barnett said.

And Project HoneyPot couldn't come back at a more opportune time, as security experts say a new Trojan program is targeting unwitting users' bank data by intercepting account information before it is encrypted and sending it to a central attacker database.

The Trojan — dubbed Trojan.Silentbanker by security software company Symantec — can intercept online banking transactions that normally are well guarded by two-factor authentication procedures.

During a banking transaction, Silentbanker will change the user's bank account details over to the attacker's account, all the while mimicking what the user would expect to see from a typical banking transaction. Because users have no idea their account data has been changed, they then unknowingly send money to the attacker's account after entering their second authentication password.

Although the Trojan.Silentbanker is listed by Symantec as having a low level of distribution and being easy to remove from infected machines, Symantec security response team member Liam O'Murchu says it still poses a danger because of its ability to work without users detecting it.

"The scale and sophisti-

cation of this emerging banking Trojan is worrying, even for someone who sees banking Trojans on a daily basis," writes O'Murchu on Symantec's security response blog. "This Trojan downloads a configuration file that contains the domain names of over 400 banks. Not only are the usual large American banks targeted but banks in many other countries are also targeted, including France, Spain, Ireland, the UK, Finland, Turkey — the list goes on."

The Trojan can be "downloaded or delivered silently through Web exploits," according to Symantec. Once it has been loaded to a machine, it can hook onto various APIs in both Internet Explorer and Firefox. As soon as the program is in place on a Web browser, it is free to cause all kinds of mischief, including redirecting legitimate banking requests to attacker-controlled computers; altering the HTML of pages shown to the user; and recording user names and passwords, as well as capturing screenshots of any Web pages the user visits.

Additionally, says O'Murchu, the Trojan can constantly update itself, as it relays URLs and HTML from banking

Web sites to the attackers on a daily basis.

"Using these submissions they can target banks for which they do not have bank accounts already," he says. "We are currently monitoring all of the updates to this Trojan."

Symantec recommends users take several steps to guard themselves against this Trojan, including disabling system restore before getting rid of the virus, to ensure the system doesn't inadvertently back up a copy of the Trojan software; making sure all virus definitions are updated on their antivirus software; running a full virus scan of their machines; and finally, deleting the value from their registry.

The Silentbanker Trojan is not the first Trojan aimed at attacking bank accounts. Late last year, for instance, security firm SecureWorks discovered a botnet-controlled Trojan called the "Prg Banking Trojan" that is believed to have affected customers from more than a dozen banks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain.

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



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THURSDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV stations and their programming for Thursday. Columns include WFDA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



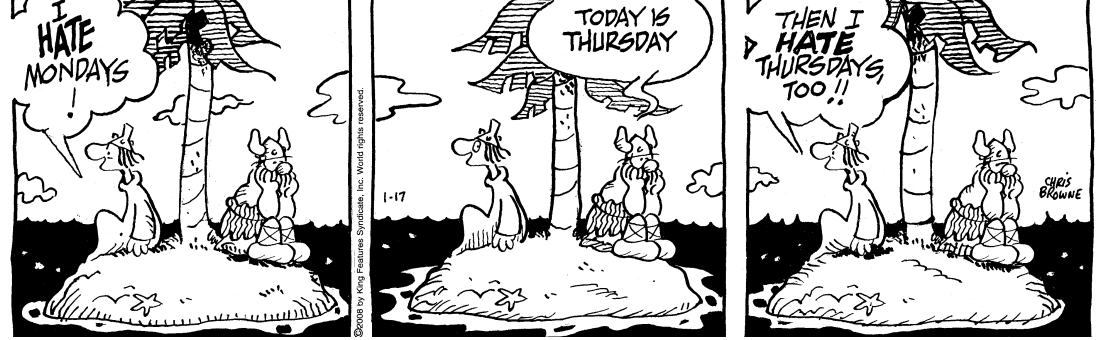
"HEY, DAD! MOM USED ONE OF YOUR GOLF WORDS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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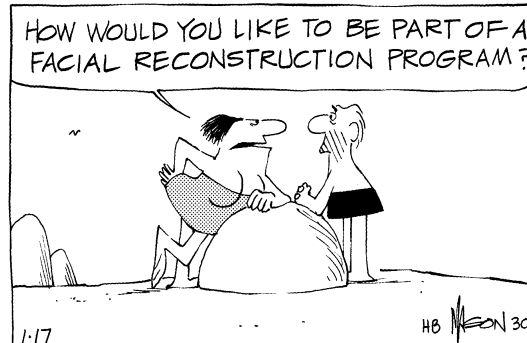
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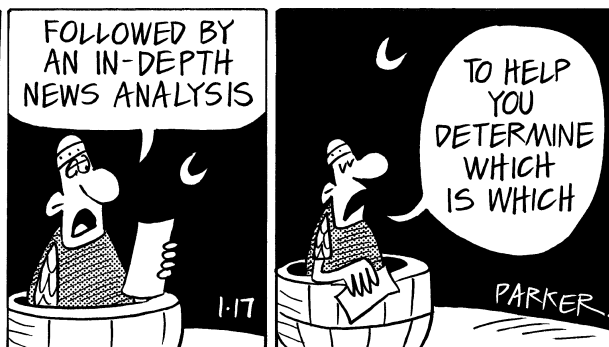
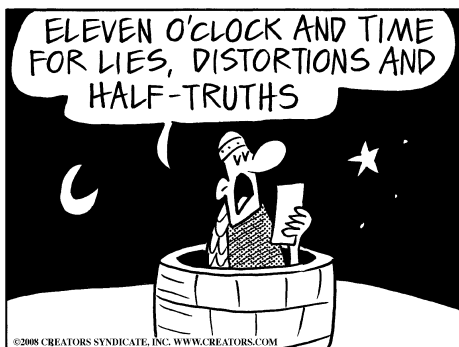
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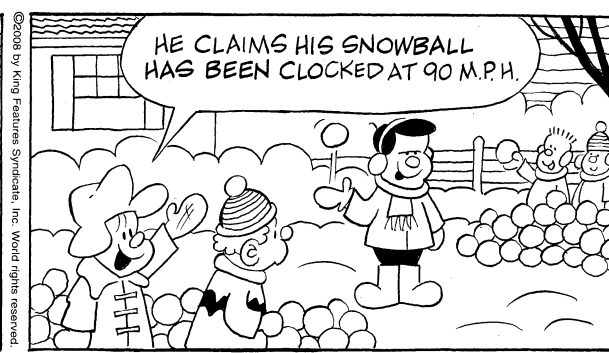
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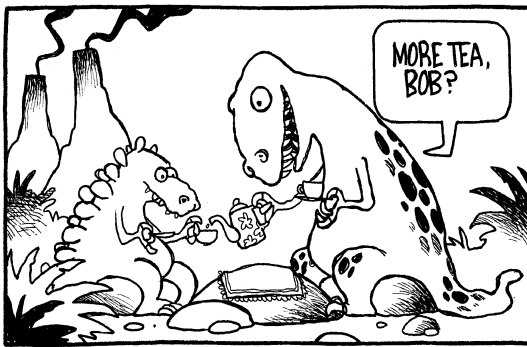
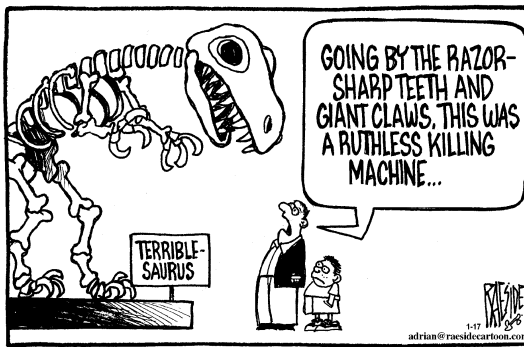
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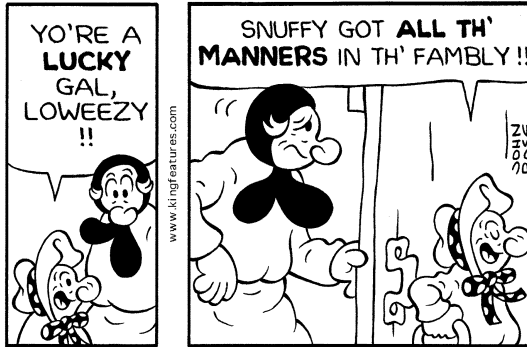
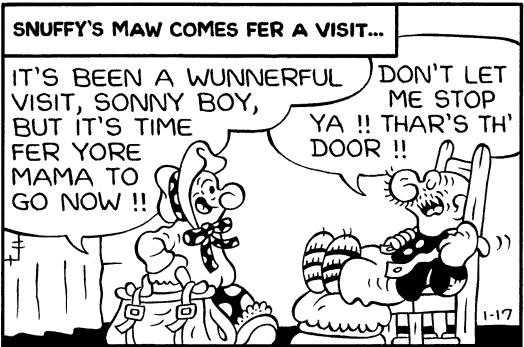
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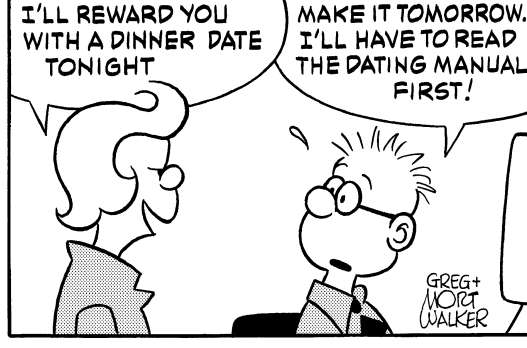
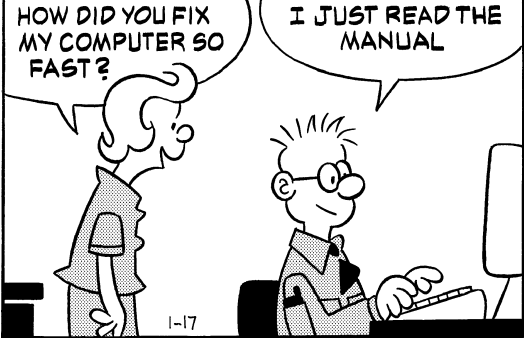
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2008. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 17, 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II.

On this date: In 1893, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70.

In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate.

In 1917, the United States paid Denmark \$25 million for the Virgin Islands.

In 1945, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1961, in his farewell

address, President Dwight Eisenhower warned against the rise of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1966, a U.S. Air Force B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast. (Three of the bombs were quickly recovered, but the fourth wasn't recovered until April.)

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1994, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 72 people.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

In 1997, a court in Ireland granted the first divorce in the Roman Catholic country's history.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 86. Singer-actress Eartha Kitt is 81. Actor James Earl Jones is 77. Talk show host Maury Povich is 69. Former heavy-

weight boxing champion Muhammad Ali is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 63. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 55. Singer Steve Earle is 53. Singer Paul Young is 52. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 51. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 49. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 46. Actor Joshua Malina is 42. Singer Shabba Ranks is 42. Actor Naveen Andrews is 39. Rapper Kid Rock is 37. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 33. Actress Zooey Deschanel is 28.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like ASTI, PORE, SHUE, COOL, SANER, HORA, HURLACUSATIONS, ERE, RIMS, ANTISY, SOFA TEST, THROWIN THE TOWEL, WEAR, WILLY, ALE, ELIE, TEENY, PSAT, ELL, MIRE, ETTU, TOSSINONESLEEPE, ARTS, RIOT, STOUT, GARP, FRA, PITCH, HORSESHOES, ODDIE, ARIES, BONK, TESS, MEND, OLDS.

Newsday Crossword

PLAY IT AGAIN by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Dressed, 5 Waiting-room reading, 9 FBI abbreviation, 12 Time of day, 13 Mexican pot, 14 Like notebook paper, 17 Linen color, 18 Creamy dessert, 19 Must, slangily, 20 "Kapow!", 21 Try to fix, maybe, 23 Did livery-stable work, 25 Tries to fix, maybe, 26 Demoted planet, 29 Caught, in a way, 31 Excursion, 33 After deductions, 34 Nota, 38 More oily, 40 Brook, 42 Green superhero, 43 First name in Objectivism, 45 Multitude, 46 Interpret, 48 Actress Verdugo, 49 Where found, 54 Short, 56 Packaging material, 58 Rib, for one, 62 Click "send", 63 Part of a February phrase, 64 "By Jove!", 65 Melodic, 66 Potion holder, 67 mater, 68 NFL stats, 69 Sushi fish, 70 Believe to be, 9 Ragged Dick author, 10 Plains tribe, 11 Nay sayers, 15 Kitchen addition, 16 Morse signals, 22 Soup morsel, 24 Bumper-sticker directive, 26 Sumptuous, 27 Doozie, 28 Gas co., for one, 30 Always, to Poe, 32 Get ready, 34 Sequin alternative, 35 Writer Wiesel, 36 Motel sign, 37 European volcano, 39 Grain crop, 41 Air-show formations, 44 Adrian Monk's assistant, 47 Disavowal, 49 Rapper/actor, 50 Verne skipper, 51 Move from horizontal, 52 Trojan War saga, 53 Some car payments, 55 Movie spools, 57 Come down with, 59 Look at impolitely, 60 Enumerate, 61 Imported cheese.

17x17 crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for the clues.