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THURSDAY
JANUARY 24, 2008



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Winning science School getting a firmer footing

Project quality at fair rising

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Projects ranging from the commonplace to the sublime highlighted the annual Big Spring Independent School District Science Fair Wednesday afternoon.

Ever wonder which whitener works best? Or if there is a scientific method toward determining the ratio of different colors in a M&M's bag?

Those subjects — and more serious ones, such as exploring everyday applications for electrolysis — were examined by BSISD students at the science fair.

"The science fair allows kids to involve themselves in scientific experiences that effect their lives on an everyday basis," said BSISD Curriculum Director Darrell Ryan. "And overall, there's also the opportunity for college scholarships in different categories."

Student projects were judged in a variety of science fields, including chemistry, biology and animal, behavioral and social science.

Those who placed in the top three in their respective categories qualified their projects for the regional science fair to be held March 8 in Odessa.

See **FAIR**, Page 3A



Hannah Weber, a student at Big Spring High School, stands by her project which was judged best in the senior division at Wednesday's Big Spring Independent School District Science Fair.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

It's taken seven years and seven figures, but concerns over the foundation at Big Spring Junior High School may soon be a thing of the past.

Big Spring Independent School District officials announced that studies show that the foundation of the building, which has been a cause of concern for years, appears to finally be stabilizing.

That is welcome news for BSISD, which has spent around \$1 million in the past several years to find a fix to the shifting substructure.

"We've had no significant movement (in the substructure) in the last year," BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said. "And we feel the grouting process, when it is completed this summer, will complete the stabilization process."

Inadequate fill and packing work prior to the building's construction led to the problem of shifting beneath the foundation, which led to uneven settling and cracks in the foundation and building.

The solution that finally proved most effective was the method of impact grouting — injecting a concrete-like substance beneath the building foundation to provide more support.

Grouting work has been completed on the south and southeastern portions of the building, with additional work scheduled for this sum-

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3A

Congress reaches deal on stimulus package

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Democratic and Republican congressional leaders reached a tentative deal Thursday on tax rebates of \$300 to \$1,200 per household and business tax cuts to jolt the slumping economy.

Congressional officials close to the negotiations said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio reached agreement in principle in a telephone call Thursday morning.

The officials, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said the two wanted key members of their parties to sign off on the accord before any announcement.

The development came as the Bush administration, which also has been pushing for a deal, said agreement seemed imminent. "Our understanding is there is no final deal yet but they are making progress," presidential spokeswoman Dana Perino said early Thursday.

Pelosi, D-Calif., agreed to drop increases in food stamp and unemployment benefits during a Wednesday meeting in exchange for gaining rebates of at least \$300 for almost everyone earn-

ing a paycheck, including low-income earners who make too little to pay income taxes.

Pelosi, answering questions from reporters Thursday after a speech in Washington, said, "I am not confirming anything." But Pelosi added she would have something to say later.

Families with children would receive an additional \$300 per child, subject to an overall cap of perhaps \$1,200, according to a senior House aide who outlined the deal on condition of anonymity in advance of formal adoption of the whole

See **ECONOMY**, Page 3A

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Sports

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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 24, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

Due to inclement weather, Coahoma's and Forsan's boys and girls basketball games were canceled Tuesday and will be made up Thursday.

TODAY

Coahoma girls basketball at Merkel, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Merkel, 8 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Hamlin, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Hamlin, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Coahoma girls basketball at Hawley, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Hawley, 8 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. 29th 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. 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. Miami, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Dallas vs. Los Angeles Lakers, 7 p.m.

High school steroids testing starts in February

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — The company that conducts drug testing for the NCAA, minor league baseball and other sports leagues has been chosen to run Texas' massive high school steroids testing program.

The National Center For Drug Free Sport was selected Tuesday to run the largest steroids testing program in the country, testing 40,000-50,000 public school athletes by the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Testing is expected to begin within weeks, although the

University Interscholastic League, the governing body of Texas public school sports, declined to say exactly when.

Drug Free Sport competed with 13 other companies for the two-year, \$6 million program. UIL officials said they wanted a contractor with a proven track record of reliability and expertise.

"We look forward to working closely with Drug Free Sport in implementing a first-class steroid testing program that we feel will be a model for other states and organizations to follow," UIL Athletic Director Charles Breithaupt said.

The tests were ordered by the state lawmakers concerned that young athletes may be taking illegal and potentially dangerous performance-enhancing drugs.

The Legislature wanted testing to begin before last football season, but delays over writing the program rules and finding a contractor pushed it back several months.

"With the testing company now under contract and testing just around the corner, I believe it will deter young people from risking their lives by abusing illegal steroids," said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the Republican who led the charge for testing.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., Drug Free Sport was created in 1999 by Frank Uryasz, who had been the director of sports sciences for the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Uryasz had developed the NCAA's drug testing program in the 1980s and his company has handled NCAA testing since 1999.

Drug Free Sport tests about 13,000 college athletes annually for the NCAA and has separate contracts with various leagues and about 200 colleges and universities around the country,

See **STEROIDS**, Page 2B

Baylor outlasts A&M in 5 OTs

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Curtis Jerrells sat down, slumped his shoulders and exhaled audibly.

"I'm tired," he said. No one could blame him after he scored a career-high 36 points in 53 minutes of No. 25 Baylor's 116-110 five overtime win over No. 18 Texas A&M on Wednesday night.

Jerrells scored 11 points in the final overtime and another 11 in the previous four to lead his team. He also had eight assists, four rebounds, two steals and a block.

"I don't even know how many overtimes it was," Jerrells said, looking confused.

Told it was five, he shook his head.

"That just shows the ability, the dedication and the will of this team," he said. "If we put our minds to it, no matter what happens we're going to get it done."

Baylor (16-2, 4-0 Big 12) won its fifth in a row and first since entering the rankings for the first time since 1969 on Monday. It broke a 15-game home winning streak for Texas A&M and is the Aggies' third straight loss.

"I think this has been great for our team and even more enjoyable as a coach, being able to step back and be so happy for our community and fans and everybody that waited so long for this," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "And obviously it's pretty sweet for us to break through in the rankings and then have a game like this."

Three free throws by Jerrells gave Baylor a 106-103 lead in the fifth overtime. Dominique Kirk

got A&M (15-4, 1-3) within a point with a layup on the next possession.

Jerrells pushed the lead back to 3 with his steal and layup with about a minute left. Aaron Bruce added a pair of free throws before a layup by Bryan Davis made it 110-107 with less than 30 seconds remaining.

Jerrells added four more free throws and Lacey Darius Dunn chipped in a pair to ensure the win.

The small but vocal group of Baylor fans chanted "B-U!" incessantly as time ticked down in the final overtime and players jumped around wildly and hugged after the clock ran out.

Davis, who led A&M with a career-high 30 points, made a layup with 9 seconds left in the fourth overtime to knot it at 99 and send it to the fifth OT.

"Five overtimes is asking a lot when you're just not as deep as you need to be," Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon said.

Dunn scored five points in the first half of quadruple overtime to give Baylor a 97-94 lead with about three minutes to go. Davis made two free throws to get A&M within one before a layup by Tweety Carter made it 99-96 with about a minute left.

Just as he had late in triple OT, Donald Sloan made just one of two free throws, this time making it 99-97.

Jerrells scored six points in the last 1:01 of triple overtime, including the tying layup with 10 seconds left to leave it at 90-all and force the fourth overtime.

"Jerrells, he's something else," Turgeon said as he looked over the stat sheet.

See **NCAA**, Page 2B



AP photo/Paul Zoeller

Texas A&M's Donald Sloan (15) jumps over Baylor's Curtis Jerrells (0) for the dunk to end regulation, sending the game into overtime Wednesday at Reed Arena in College Station. Turned out that five overtimes were needed with Baylor finally prevailing, 116-110.

Mavs hold off late Bobcats' surge, 102-95

By MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson could never relax in his first game against Charlotte Bobcats coach Sam Vincent.

It was just as Johnson expected.

In their first matchup since Vincent left Johnson's staff to take his first NBA coaching job, the Mavericks nearly blew a 14-point fourth-quarter lead before pulling out a 102-95 win on Wednesday night.

"His team didn't quit tonight. We had a chance to put them away, but they fought back," Johnson said. "That's a tribute to his toughness and what he's instilled in these guys."

Devin Harris scored 23 points and Josh Howard had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks, who were coming off their most lopsided loss of the season, an 18-point rout at Washington on Monday.

After racing to a 10-1 lead and seemingly in control in early in the fourth quarter, Vincent's Bobcats stormed back, only to run out of gas.

"Now I understand what some of my mentors go through," said

Johnson, who met with Vincent Tuesday night. "It was difficult because you want him to be successful. Not tonight. We needed a win in the worst way."

Charlotte got within 90-87 on Emeka Okafor's layup with 2:38 left. Charlotte twice had the ball trailing by three, but couldn't convert before Harris and Dirk Nowitzki hit six straight free throws.

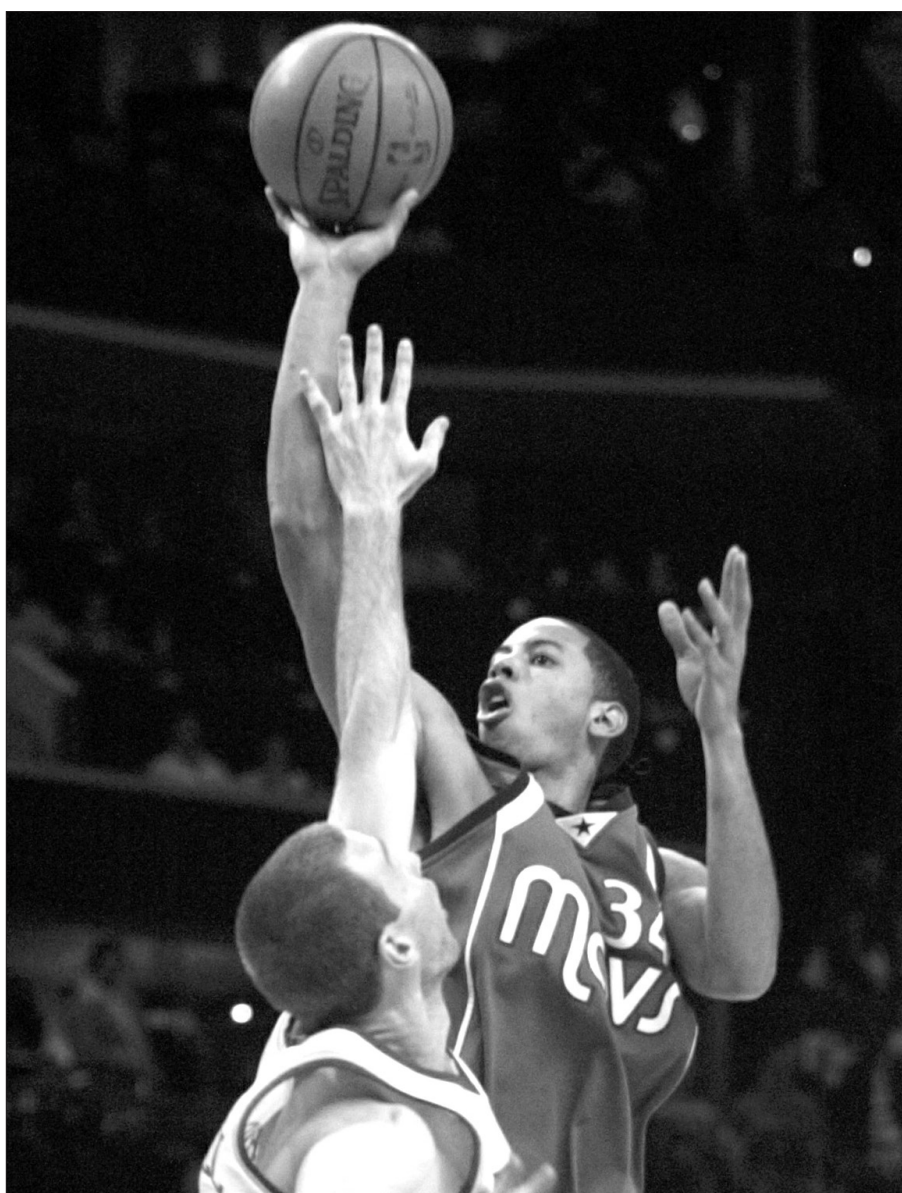
Nowitzki had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who improved to 7-0 all-time against Charlotte.

"The teams that we're used to getting wins from, they're not easy wins anymore," Howard said. "They're coming to play night in and night out."

Gerald Wallace had 22 points and 11 rebounds and played all 48 minutes despite being questionable going in with a strained left calf. Wallace said he wasn't at full strength, and it hampered him when he missed a jumper and a reverse layup with Charlotte trailing by three with less than 3 minutes left.

"I can live with it because I know my explosiveness wasn't there," Wallace said. "I didn't jump or attack the basket the

See **NBA**, Page 2B



AP photo/Nell Redmond

Dallas Mavericks guard Devin Harris (34) shoots over Charlotte Bobcats guard Matt Carroll (13) at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena in Charlotte, N.C., Wednesday. Harris scored 23 points and Dallas won 102-95.

Obituaries

Dorothy Martin

Dorothy Martin, 81, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• 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.

1
• 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.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

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

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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Police blotter

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

- **SHAWNA GRAYSON**, 36, of 303 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **TERRORISTIC THREATS** was reported in the 2000 block of Hudgens.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2000 block of Hudgens.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.
- **THEODORE E. RIOS**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.
 - **JUAN MANUEL GARCIA**, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping - failure to appear (three counts); theft; forgery of a financial instrument; resisting arrest, search or transportation; unlawfully carrying a weapon; and evading arrest or detention (two counts).
 - **JOSEPHINE VALE**, 49, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear - failure to stop and give information for damages and no driver's license.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1800 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of El Camino. Service refused.

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 provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call 263-6819 or 263-1758. Leave a message.

TUESDAY

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

• Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings have been canceled. They will no longer take place at the Howard County Library. If you have questions, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- 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.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 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 at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 15-18-24-29-32-53
Number matching six of six: None.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$17 million.

•••

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-15-19-22-31
Number matching five of five: None.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night, in order: 6-5-5-9. Sum It Up: 25.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers 0-1-3. Sum I
The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order:
0-1-3-8. Sum It Up: 12.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order:
8-3-9. Sum It Up: 20.

Weather

Today — Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Highs in the lower 30s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Winter storm watch in effect. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of freezing rain and sleet. Lows in the upper 20s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday — Mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of rain and light freezing rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 40s. South winds around 10 mph.

Friday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Light and variable winds.

Saturday — Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Light and variable winds.

Saturday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

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

Sunday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday — Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Monday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday — Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday — Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

way I wanted to.” Jason Richardson also scored 22 points and Okafor had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats, who lost their second straight game.

“We played hard and played well in spurts,” Vincent said. “We just have to get better at making key decisions at key times.”

Vincent, who spent one season on Johnson’s staff, appeared overmatched at the start.

With the Bobcats starting essentially two point guards with 6-foot-1 Raymond Felton and 6-4 Jeff McInnis, the Mavericks immediately took it inside.

Dallas had four offensive rebounds in the first three minutes and built a 10-1 lead before Okafor’s dunk ended Charlotte’s 0-for-6 start from the field.

Dallas scored 18 points in the paint in building a 30-17 lead after the first quarter before

Richardson led Charlotte’s comeback.

Richardson scored 13 of the Bobcats’ final 16 points of the second quarter to get Charlotte within 57-49.

The Mavericks lost swingman Jerry Stackhouse for the game to a strained right hamstring early in the period.

The Mavericks built their lead to 82-68 on Jason Terry’s jumper 15 seconds into the fourth quarter.

That’s when the Mavericks let the Bobcats back in the game with shaky defense and by settling for jumpers.

While it wasn’t turnovers that cost the Mavs — they had only eight after committing 39 in the past three games — they allowed Charlotte to go on a 19-8 run that forced Johnson to use his starters all the way to the end, two days before they host the Los Angeles Lakers.

Harris eventually bailed out the Mavericks. Continuing a stretch of strong play, he finished two points shy of his career high set last week. Harris shot 8-of-12 from the floor and 6-of-7 on free throws

while consistently beating Bobcats’ defenders off the dribble.

“Devin Harris made some really big-time moves,” Johnson said.

Enough to give Johnson a 1-0 lead against his first assistant to get an NBA head coaching job.

The rematch is March 12. “Except for the two games we play them, we want Sam to do well,” Johnson said. “He’s done an awfully good job in a transition year with a young basketball team.”

Raptors 114, Celtics 112

Boston’s bullying of the Atlantic Division is over. Toronto’s torrid outside shooting took care of that.

The Raptors were 15-for-21 from 3-point range Wednesday night, beating the Celtics 114-112. Boston had been 10-0 against division foes, with three of those victories coming against Toronto.

“It was really important to beat them — so we could see if we could,” guard Jose Calderon

said. “We knew how to play them after already playing them three times.”

In Boston, Calderon converted a go-ahead, three-point play with 10.5 seconds left and finished with 24 points and 13 assists.

Chris Bosh and Anthony Parker scored 23 points apiece, Andrea Bargnani had 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, and the Raptors carved up the team with the NBA’s best record.

“Fifty-eight percent (from the floor); 71 percent from the 3; 100 percent from the foul line. At least the foul line wasn’t guarded,” Boston coach Doc Rivers said. “Half the guys in our league couldn’t shoot 15-for-21 if they were in a gym by themselves.”

Toronto (23-19) won for the sixth time in eight games, improving to 1-3 against Boston (33-7).

Kevin Garnett scored 26 points for Boston, which had won three in a row. Paul Pierce had 19 points and nine assists, and Ray Allen also scored 19 for the Celtics.

Cavaliers 121, Wizards 85

As good as the Raptors were, Cleveland may have been better. Just ask LeBron James.

James scored 23 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 24 without missing from the floor and the Cavaliers handled the Washington Wizards 121-85 for their season-high fifth straight victory.

“Offensively we were unbelievable, nearly perfect,” James said. “It was pretty dang gone good.”

Ilgauskas went 10-for-10 from the field as the Cavs set season highs in margin of victory, assists (39), points in a quarter (43) and field-goal percent shooting (56).

Spurs 103, Lakers 91

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 28 points and 17 rebounds, Ime Udoka added a season-high 18 points, and four other players scored in double digits in the Spurs’ second straight victory.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

NCAA

Continued from Page 1B

Kevin Rogers’ layup with 1:31 remaining in triple OT cut A&M’s lead to 87-84 and he fouled out less than 30 seconds later, the fourth Bear to foul out. In all, five Baylor players fouled out. Rogers finished with 19 points and 18 rebounds.

“You didn’t want to see anyone lose a game like this,” Drew said. “I don’t think you could come up with any more of a team effort.”

Both teams managed just four points apiece in the second overtime, with Davis scoring all the Aggies’ points. A&M’s Sloan had a chance for the win at the buzzer, but his layup was blocked by Rogers to take it to triple overtime.

Kirk forced the second overtime when his tip-in at the buzzer made it 76-all. He missed a 3 on the play and a tip by Davis bounced off the rim before Kirk swooped in for the rebound and shot.

Turgeon was impressed with Davis, who had 14 rebounds to go with his 30

points. “Bryan Davis was just a warrior tonight,” Turgeon said. “He was great.”

Sloan, who had 18 points, got the inbound pass and streaked past Rogers and the rest of the Baylor defenders for the one-handed dunk to tie it a 64 and force overtime.

The teams combined to shoot more than 100 free throws, with Baylor going 39-of-47 and A&M making 36-of-59.

The game lasted so long that even one of the referees got confused.

In the break before the start of the fourth overtime, a referee approached a member of the media and asked if triple overtime was about to begin.

When told it was four, he shook his head and walked off.

Texas Tech 92, Missouri 84

Martin Zeno was in Bob Knight’s doghouse not too long ago.

After Tech lost at Oklahoma State earlier this month, Knight called Zeno’s play disappointing. Wednesday night he

scored a career-high 33 points to lead Tech to a 92-84 win over Missouri.

“It’s motivation,” he said of Knight’s admonishment after the loss to the Cowboys. “Also, it makes me go out there and just do my best, just prove him wrong. That just gives me the edge right there.”

The loss left the Tigers winless on the road this season, while Tech’s win gave Knight his 901st career win.

The loss extended the Tigers’ road-loss streak to five games.

Keon Lawrence scored 24 points, Stefhon Hannah added 17 and DeMarre Carroll got 14 to lead the Tigers (11-8, 1-3).

Turnovers hurt the Tigers. They had 21 turnovers; they are averaging 13.

Zeno, who went to the line a career-high 24 times, made a career-high 19 of them. Both the attempts and the free throws made are school records.

All five Tech starters scored in double figures, with John Roberson adding 25 points, Alan Voskuil 13 for Tech.

Damir Suljagic had 10 and Charlie Burgess added 11.

No. 1 Memphis 56, Tulsa 41

In Tulsa, Okla., Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 20 points and Derrick Rose added 19 to help the top-ranked Tigers beat pesky Tulsa and avoid the fate that befell them the last time they were atop the rankings — 25 years ago.

After winning each of its past six games by at least 20 points, Memphis (18-0, 5-0 Conference USA) didn’t take a double-digit lead until Douglas-Roberts’ two-handed jam with 6:21 remaining made it 48-38.

The last time Memphis reached No. 1, Virginia Tech upset the Tigers 64-

56 on Jan. 10, 1983, shortly after the poll came out.

No. 2 Kansas 83, Iowa State 59

In Lawrence, Kan., Darnell Jackson had 21 points and 11 rebounds to help the Jayhawks stay unbeaten.

The Jayhawks (19-0, 4-0 Big 12), one of two unbeaten teams in Division I, dominated almost from the start, leading by 10 at halftime en route to their 33rd victory in their past 34 games.

No. 5 North Carolina 98, Miami 82

In Coral Gables, Fla., Tyler Hansbrough scored 27 of his season-high 35 points after halftime, Ty

Lawson scored 15 of his 23 points in the opening 20 minutes for the fifth-ranked Tar Heels.

Wayne Ellington added 12 points for North Carolina (19-1, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), which lost its No. 1 ranking after an 82-80 home loss to Maryland on Saturday.

Lance Hurdle scored a season-high 20 points for Miami (14-4, 1-3).

No. 7 Indiana 65, Iowa 43

In Bloomington, Ind., D.J. White scored 19 points and Eric Gordon added 17 to help the Hoosiers extend their winning streak to 13.

Indiana (17-1, 6-0) has won 29 in a row at Assembly Hall.

STEROIDS

Continued from Page 1B

spokesman Dan Regan said.

It also conducts drug testing of high school athletes in New Jersey and Florida.

New Jersey was the first state to conduct random steroid testing of high school athletes and tested 500 athletes in its first year.

Bob Baly, assistant director of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, praised Drug Free Sport’s performance in his state.

“Extremely professional. It’s not like they haven’t done this before,” Baly said. “They handle students very well. We’ve had no complaints.”

New Jersey’s program, which began in the 2006-2007 school year, tests students who participate in the postseason and must be renewed annually.

The Texas program is much broader. Every one of the approximately 764,000 public school athletes are eligible to be tested, whether their sport is in season or not.

To select athletes for testing, officials will first randomly select about 30 percent of school across the state. The schools provide lists of athletes in all sports.

Agents from Drug Free Sport randomly select

athletes from the list and go to the schools to collect urine samples, which are sent to labs for testing. Students won’t know they will be tested until they are pulled from class.

Drug Free Sport uses only laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency, Regan said, and there are three in North America: the UCLA Olympic

Analytical Laboratory, the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the lab at WADA in Montreal.

“Drug Free Sport will rely on its vast experience in high school and collegiate steroid-use prevention in administering a top-notch program across the state of Texas,” Uryasz said.

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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

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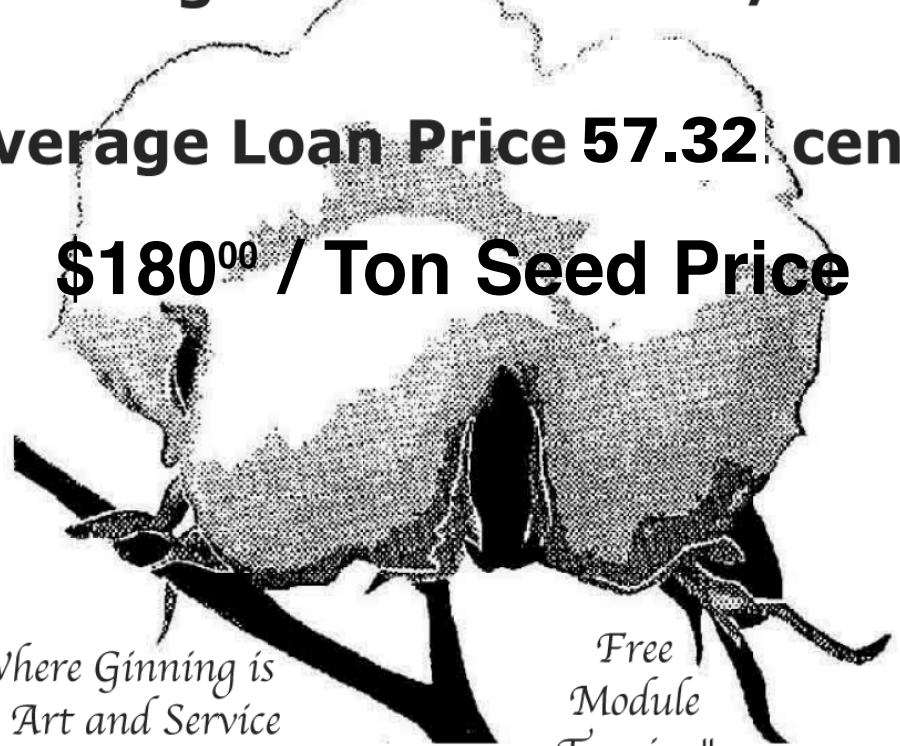
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7	4	9	1	3	6	2	5	8
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9	1	7	3	6	2	8	4	5
2	3	4	5	8	1	6	7	9
6	8	5	4	7	9	1	3	2

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on February 8, 2008 for the following:

The purchase of one (1) New Diesel Powered Tandem Drive Motor-grader to be used for maintenance of County Roads.

Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432) 264-2210.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on February 11, 2008 for their consideration.

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #5657 January 24, & February 1, 2008

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Want to know where your relationship is headed? Venus, entering Capricorn

today, won't leave you guessing. Hearts are realistic, steady and sensible. We gravitate toward

suitors with class and vision, who show us real competence over sugary fluff. If love is an attractive proposition, a 10-year plan and a solid resume sweeten the deal.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don't commit to pursuing your goal or all you will get is a strong chase toward it. Commit to having what you want, which is the best thing for you and everyone you know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Commitments that are slightly amiss can be set right. Maybe there's no need for lawyers. Direct communication is the best way to go — don't wimp out and just hope someone gets the hint.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A different approach to the same old problem is called for. Change one thing and one thing only, and it opens a pathway that is new. More is possible than you currently know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). True to your water-sign nature, you get your best ideas in the shower. Other revelatory

moments come when you're in a relaxed environment where you feel not much is expected of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a thin line between love and hate because the underlying feeling of both states is passion. You're attracting this passion presence into your life now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When was the last time you were triumphant? Well, today brings this rare emotion and it feels so fine you'll wonder why you can't conjure up the feeling all the time. And, of course, you can if you try.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're vibrant with creativity, and the best part is that these are not pie-in-the-sky ideas. Each notion has a practical application. Get to work. Loved ones are suitably impressed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've lost touch with certain friends — it's nothing personal, life just took the two of you down different paths. The afternoon brings a chance to peek in and see what one of these friends is doing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What others think of you would hardly matter at all to you if it didn't so directly affect what you think of yourself. Dare to form your own opinion of yourself, and let it be generously in favor of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is a pessimistic saying that

no good deed goes unpunished. But as long as your motives are pure, your assistance will be well received, especially if you are helping yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Loved ones who want to help you are eager to provide a solution to your every problem — most of them completely wrong. Smile, be grateful and agreeable, and do your own research.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your service-oriented attitude makes you an asset to any group lucky enough to have you. Articulate

communication helps you close a deal by sundown. Connections with Leo are particularly lucrative.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra dating another Libra for seven months. However, there still seems to be some secrecy between us even though the relationship is steamy. I feel like I've opened up but she hasn't. Are Libras that stubborn that we would hold out for something that is out of our reach? Is committing so difficult for us? I feel deceived!"

Same sun-sign couplings can and do work. Secretiveness isn't a Libran trait, and neither do Libras hold exclusivity over non-commitment. Libras do reach for an ideal, and through setting them, they find their desired love. Likely, your Libra isn't trying to deceive you, but impersonality

and coolness is the issue. If you think she's holding out, ask her why. And consider that it may be more of a personal style than personal. Two air signs together have the challenge of creating ongoing warmth and connection; you two need outside social stimulation and interests. I imagine two Librans as ballerinas in a lovely ballet — not as principle dancers but as the dancers surrounding them. To sustain a long-term relationship, you need to create an environment that allows you two to play roles in the lives of others. Mirrors unlock Libra's heart and happiness.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Alicia Keys has said she's refused to compromise her artistic style for fame or fortune. Like many Aquarians, she's an individualist at heart and will consistently choose to stay in self-integrity over conforming to mainstream expectations. With Mars and Mercury there, she displays the finer altruistic qualities of the sign by dedicating her energy and voice to AIDS awareness.

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

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I are separated and he moved in with his girlfriend six weeks ago.

A few weeks ago, I had to call the girlfriend's husband in order to pass along some information. "Harris" and I met for dinner and haven't stopped calling each other since. We occasionally meet for coffee or drinks. There is an attraction that gets stronger each time.

I have met Harris' children and my kids have met him. However, our spouses have no idea we are seeing each other. I realize we are not the ones who broke up the marriages, but I just don't know whether this is proper.

We seem so compatible. Should we continue this relationship at a slow pace to see where it takes us, or must we go our separate ways? — Waiting Patiently

Dear Waiting: If there is a possibility that your husband or Harris' wife will attempt a reconciliation, you might not want to pursue a relationship. It is always risky to become involved with someone who is still legally married. However, if reconciliation is out of the question and divorce is imminent, you may date whomever you wish. Your respective spouses may not like it, mainly because it means you have managed to find happiness without them, but it's not their call. If you can handle some awkward family gatherings, there is nothing otherwise improper about dating your ex-husband's current girlfriend's ex-husband. (Whew.)

Dear Annie: My friend "Tina" constantly sends me e-mail chain letters. Usually the subject line says, "Send this back to me," and the body of the e-mail is some sentimental sappy poem about friendship or cute



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

graphics of angels or kittens, and then — drumroll, please — comes the chain mail threat. You know, the one that says, "Send this back to the person who sent it to you and then forward it to 15 of your friends within 24 hours or you'll have bad luck for a year." It usually includes an example of some anonymous person who deleted the e-mail and was subsequently hit by a bus.

Yes, it's complete and utter superstitious nonsense and I find it very annoying. And those people who actually believe this tripe can be emotionally affected if the chain breaks. What kind of "friend" would do that to another?

I never, ever, answer these or forward them, which is beginning to bother Tina. She's not a bad person — just superstitious. How can I gently tell her that, as much as I value our friendship, I'd rather she stop sending these ridiculous things to me? — Deliberately Missing Link in Virginia

Dear Virginia: Tell Tina you appreciate her sentimental good wishes, but you absolutely will not follow the directions in chain letters or pass them along. Let her know if she keeps sending them your direction, you can guarantee the chain will be broken. She may be disappointed, but it should solve your

problem. Dear Annie: This is in response to "Friends Go Dutch," who said women who just want to be friends should pay their own way.

I agree that friends should share the cost of meals when they go out, but his remark that "she shouldn't be accepting generosity that creates obligation" really irked me. Since when are women obligated to go to bed with a man because they are dating? All she owes him for a meal is a "thank you." If a man is buying a woman dinner and expecting sexual favors in return, he might as well just leave the money on the nightstand, if you get my drift. — Disgusted in Arizona

Dear Arizona: We agree that women do not owe sexual favors for a free dinner, but when men bear the entire cost of dating, they believe the woman is interested in a romantic, eventually intimate, relationship. They otherwise feel used and resent it. Whether justified or not, women would be wise to keep it in mind.

Dear Annie: Last year, we bought a home with my parents. At the time, they were living in a shack, raising my sister's three children. They couldn't get financed on their own, but together we could afford a nice place.

Six months ago, my grandmother came for a visit. She was supposed to stay four weeks, but while here, she fell and broke her hip. Grandma was living with my aunt in another state, and now my aunt has decided Grandma doesn't need to return.

Ten of us now live in a four-bedroom home. (I have two children.) We are redoing the garage for Grandma and she is paying for most of the improvements. But my husband and Grandma

don't exactly get along. He says my aunt and mother should not be the ones making the decision and he wants her gone. My mother says he is being unreasonable, that it's her mother and she can stay if she wants. She is furious with my husband. I am stuck in the middle.

None of us can afford the home on our own. With the housing market right now, I don't even think we could sell it and get back what we owe. What can we do? — Stuck Between a Rock and a Very Hard Place

Dear Annie: "Tired of Snoops" said her Aunt Bess is a loan officer who apparently has access to a lot of the relatives' personal financial information. If Aunt Loan Officer is getting her information from credit reports, as is most likely, she and the company she works for could be sued. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, credit reports are strictly private and one must have a purpose other than curiosity to pull a credit report.

"Tired" should order a free copy of her credit report from Annual Credit Report Request Service (AnnualCreditReport.com) at 1-877-322-8228 and see who inquired, and then consult a consumer lawyer if it turns out to be Aunt Bess. In fact, everyone should get a copy of their credit report. — New Haven, Conn.

Dear New Haven: Thanks for the additional information. You are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months, and the facts and figures are provided by the three major consumer credit reporting companies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Billionaire U

As superrich get richer, college tensions mount

By JUSTIN POPE

AP Education Writer

New figures on university endowments confirm it's not just the "haves" and "have nots" in academe these days. Beyond the great majority of colleges, there's a growing group of the newly rich schools, and — at the top of the heap — a tiny cadre of ultra-wealthy institutions.

The latest endowment figures from NACUBO, a college business officers' group, highlight the growing prosperity but also the stratification among elite universities. That development is creating tension.

There are now 76 colleges and universities with endowments that have passed \$1 billion — including 16 new members of that club like Georgetown and the Universities of Oklahoma and Missouri.

Five at the top each have nearly \$6 billion more than any school outside that group: Harvard (\$34.6 billion), Yale (\$22.5 billion), Stanford (\$17.2 billion), Princeton (\$15.8 billion) and the University of Texas system (\$15.6 billion). The survey marks the end of the most recent fiscal year, which at most schools ended last June 30, so the numbers don't reflect the recent downturn in the stock market.

Harvard's endowment expanded by an amount last year that's more than Ivy League rival Cornell has altogether. Princeton now has over \$2 million

in the bank for every student. Stanford raised nearly \$1 billion during its last reported fiscal year alone.

There is a "tremendous dispersion in wealth from the people right at the top to the lesser ones," said Ronald Ehrenberg, an expert on higher education economics at Cornell. "It falls off very, very quickly."

The figures come at a time when the advantages of that small group of superrich schools have been a contentious topic.

There's been growing criticism from the public and some in Congress that the wealthiest schools should be dipping deep into their savings to hold down prices. But when Harvard and Yale recently announced they would do so by boosting aid for families earning well into six figures, they were sharply criticized.

Other schools complained they would be forced to keep up by spending more on aid for wealthier students and less to help students who need it most.

Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust added to the tension by getting into an exchange with Big Ten provosts over whether ambitious science research should be left to the most elite universities. Some objected to her suggestion that it would be better for some institutions to focus on social sciences and humanities.

There's also rising resentment in higher education over faculty raiding, with wealthier col-



Courtesy photo

Air Evac Liftime give a program at the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meeting Jan. 4. Club members pictured from left are Richard Sanders, club member (behind door); Gwen Dunson, president; Debbye ValVerde, treasurer; Debra Wallace; and the Air Evac Lifeteam manager and paramedic.

leges offering salaries that poorer schools can't possibly match.

It's not just the very richest schools — prosperous public universities raid poorer peers, too. Some argue there's a public benefit when talented scholars gather in one place and collaborate. There's also a cost when the schools that educate the most people lose their stars.

Harvard now pays full professors on average about \$177,000, compared to about \$106,000 at the average public research university.

"The public lag woefully behind the prestigious privates not only in terms of faculty salaries, but in terms of their ability to attract the best graduates students and pay them competitive stipends,"

said Mark Yudof, chancellor of the University of Texas.

Yudof says he doesn't mind competition, and his system is better off than most — its \$15.6 billion endowment is the largest by far of any public university. Texas leads a group of public institutions like the universities of Michigan (\$7 billion) and Virginia (\$4.3 billion) that have achieved real financial clout.

Texas' funds support 300,000 students, more than 10 times the number at schools such as Harvard and Yale.

The NACUBO survey reports colleges earned on average 17.2 percent on their investments last year, with schools with \$1 billion or more returning 21.3 percent, compared to

14.1 percent for schools under \$25 million. Those figures are comparable to a similar survey released earlier this month by the Commonfund Institute.

Institutions spent on average 4.6 percent of their endowments to support their operations, about the same as last year.

Sen. Charles Grassley, the Iowa Republican who has pressured wealthy colleges to spend more, called on them to do just that in a statement responding to the survey.

"Based on the new numbers, a 5 percent payout requirement wouldn't break the bank," he said.

"It seems a lot of these schools could go beyond 5 percent and consider a payout commensurate with their rate of endowment growth over time.

That would offer real relief for low- and middle-income families."

David Ward, outgoing president of the American Council on Education, an umbrella group that lobbies for colleges in Washington, said he worries the focus on the wealthiest schools distracts the public. In fact, most colleges are much more hand-to-mouth, and state funding will likely take a hit this year with the economic slowdown.

"I agree the anxiety is there," he said. "I think the magnitude (of wealth at the richest colleges), the scale is sometimes exaggerated because of the visibility of the schools. That doesn't mean it doesn't have a perceptual impact that's very powerful. That's what we're dealing with."

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 1A

package. Rebates would go to people earning below a certain income cap, likely individuals earning \$75,000 or less and couples with incomes of \$150,000 or less.

Workers would have to have earned at least \$3,000 in 2007 to receive the rebates, the officials said.

Another element of the plan is a package of tax breaks for businesses that could cost \$70 billion, far more than had been expected, said a senior House aide and a Democratic lobbyist said.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., scheduled a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee for next week

to discuss the tentative package.

"The Senate will want to speak, as well," Baucus said, adding that he and Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the panel's senior Republican, had "agreed to work together, move quickly, and mark up economic stimulus legislation next week."

Bush has supported larger rebates of \$800-\$1,600, but his plan would have left out 30 million working households who earn paychecks but don't make enough to pay income tax, according to calculations by the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center. An additional 19 million households would receive only partial rebates under Bush's ini-

tial proposal.

To address the mortgage crisis, the package also allows Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac — government-sponsored companies that are the two biggest U.S. financiers and guarantors of home loans — to buy home mortgages much larger than the current \$417,000 limit. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said that lending cap might reach as high as \$700,000 in areas with the highest home prices.

The business tax portion would give businesses incentives to invest in plants and equipment, give small businesses more generous expensing rules and allow business-

es suffering losses now to reclaim taxes previously paid.

After a key Wednesday night meeting in which the parameters of an agreement were reached, Pelosi and Boehner spoke again Thursday to cement the accord. In the talks, Pelosi pressed to make sure tax relief would find its way into the hands of lower-income earners while Boehner pushed to include upper middle-class couples, according to congressional aides.

The emerging package was already drawing fire from liberal activists and labor unions upset that proposals to extend unemployment insurance and boost food stamps had been dropped. They said those ideas could pump

money into the economy more quickly than tax rebate checks that won't be delivered until June.

Conservative Republicans were likely to be restless over tax rebates going to those without income tax liability.

Democratic aides said greater GOP flexibility over giving relief to poor families with children — who would not have been eligible under President Bush's original tax rebate proposal — was the catalyst that moved the talks forward.

Pelosi's decision to drop expanding unemployment payments and more money for food stamps — which many lawmakers had assumed would be included in the package

— could prove very controversial with Democratic constituencies, who were already stung by a decision to deny states more money for their Medicaid programs.

Many Democrats had pressed to extend unemployment benefits for people whose 26 weeks of benefits have run out, but Republicans resisted.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Henry "Gene" Adams, 69, died Monday. Memorial services will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at First Baptist Church. Sandra Sweeden, 64, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 1:00 PM Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Susan Lee Dodd, 50, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at the Old Noxville Cemetery at Junction, Texas.

Severa Vargas, 77, died Monday. The Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Friday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Dorothy Martin, 81, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

Junior high and high school students, however, can ultimately qualify for the state science fair scheduled for April in

San Antonio.

Ryan said participation in the local science fair remains strong.

"The quantity of the projects really hasn't changed much, but the quality has gotten better and better," Ryan said.

"Every year, I'm just amazed at what these kids are doing — especially the elementary kids."

Overall winners at Wednesday's Big Spring ISD Science Fair were:

- Senior — Hannah Weber, environmental.

• Intermediate — Brady Weber, chemistry; Ryane Colette, math; Shilow Creswell, engineering.

• Junior — Ethan Morelion, Bauer; Bailee Allen, Kentwood; Kaitlin Aaron, Marcy; Faith Norman, Moss; Dustin

Garcia, Washington; Brycen Kiker, Goliad.

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

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

mer on the north and northeast quadrants.

"We believe, based on the recommendations by engineers, that we'll have the same degree of success with the impact

grouting this summer that we've had in the past," Downes said.

BSISD Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner estimates that the district has spent about \$1 million in the past decade on the problem, both in substructure work and in building repairs.

Waggoner said officials with Rimkus Consultants will continue to survey the substructure at regular intervals in the future.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

According to a radio report, the third Monday in January is the most depressing day of the year for the following reasons:
New Year's resolutions have gone by the wayside.
Credit card bills from the holidays have arrived.
From the standpoint of a Christian, what can be done about such "A Blue Monday?"
Resolve to have more resolve this year. Understand that no resolution will be kept apart from commitment, diligence, intentional choices and accountability.
Understand that choices have consequences - including the choice to spend more than is affordable. If you anticipate spending a lot of money on Christmas 2008, why not purchase a little each month or save a little each month in preparation for December spending?
Praise God that "Good Friday" and "Resurrection Sunday" determine how we will live and respond to one another. We choose to walk by faith every day of the year - including "Blue Monday!"

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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

Be sure to get your Valentine a gift this year

Valentine's Day is still weeks away, but don't let all that lead time go to your head. It's definitely time to do something special for the love of your life.

One of the easiest and best ways we've found is to let the Volunteer Services Council at Big Spring State Hospital take care of it for you.

It's an annual fund-raiser for the hospital volunteer group, which makes it kind of special — knowing that part of the money you spend is going to help patients who really need it.

If you aren't familiar with the Council's Valentine's Day fund-raiser, it goes like this. You pick from a variety of available gifts and the volunteers deliver them for you on Wednesday.

Each year, the gift list gets longer. Available items range from singing telegrams to stuffed bears hugging candy hearts to a small bud vase. "We have it arranged to fit any circumstance or price range," Billie Christie-Morgan, the hospital's community relations director, said.

Items are available at the hospital Community Relations office now, and will be available at Howard College and the Citizens Federal Credit Union starting Feb. 1; and a special sale will be held at the TA Travel Center Feb. 9-10 for people who would like to place orders or those who want to pick up an item to deliver themselves.

Items for sale include:

- Life-sized bear, \$75.
- Stackable boxes of love, \$40.
- Tiered boxes of love, heart-shaped wicker snack basket, or musical animal with heart candy, \$25.
- M&M race car with assorted loose candy, Sweetheart wire basket, or singing telegram, \$20.
- Paint buckets or carnation bud vase, \$12.
- Musical rose in vase or snack bucket, \$10.

Deliveries are free, or items may be viewed and picked up at the Community Relations Office. For more information, call 268-7536, 268-7271 or 268-7535.

You can purchase these gifts and deliver them yourself if you like, or let the Volunteer Services Council do it for you. They'll deliver them to a home, office, restaurant — just about anywhere. What could be easier than that?

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

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

Being with You, Lord, is never a mistake.

Amen

Isn't it time to answer Fred's call?

Commentators are citing the unpredictability of the Republican primary contests as proof that Reagan conservatism is dead when precisely the opposite conclusion is warranted.

The main reason the conventional wisdom is being shattered in the primaries is that conservative voters, so far, have not been persuaded there is an electable, reliable conservative in the race.

But as I've stated before, I believe Fred Thompson is a reliable, consistent conservative. There are others in the field I could support, but not without some reservations.

The more I learn about Fred and observe him in action, the more convinced I become that he's the right choice.

I was among those who urged Fred to step up and prove to the people he wanted the job. Regardless of whether Fred actually had "fire in his belly," the unmistakable perception out there was that he did not, so I encouraged him to add a little spring to his step.

But I've also appreciated Fred's unwillingness to be somebody he is not. He will not respond like a puppet when a debate moderator tells him to raise his hand to signify a childishly simplistic approval or disapproval of a certain policy. He will not be goaded by interviewers into saying things he doesn't feel comfortable saying. He won't divide us with class envy or pretend we can be friends with rogue regimes or terrorists. He does not promise a chicken in every pot or pander to liberals on global warming.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

He will not otherwise tailor his positions to suit the demands of particular constituencies. For example, he has the courage to preach that Social Security is in trouble, but unlike most others, he doesn't surrender to the oppressive populist seduction to urge government fixes for it or for health care. Instead, he courageously tells us — if we'll listen — that the answers lie in greater market forces. (Listen up, conservatives.)

Fred does not run from his record — more to the point, he doesn't need to. He shoots straight without the constant self-serving reminders that he does, as in telling us he's driving the "Straight Talk Express."

More importantly, Fred is right on the issues, and there's little doubt his positions are firm. Research his stances; read his position papers. You'll find he's very strong in all areas important to mainstream conservatives, including national defense, taxes, spending, life, immigration, federalism, appointing originalist judges, health care and education.

I'm not drooling over Fred or saying his record is flawless, but I am saying he's the real deal, and it's a bit disappointing that more haven't taken a closer look.

I think this is due partly to his laid-back personality and partly to his timing. He peaked about the time he was contemplating entering the race but not acting on it. By the time he jumped in, it was anticlimactic, and he still hasn't recovered from that reversal.

There has also been a negative momentum hovering over his already-stalled campaign, acting as a psychological barrier to his catching fire among conservative voters.

There is simply too much herd mentality among us about elec-

tability. We tell ourselves a candidate is not inspiring, then pretty soon we're convinced he's unelectable, and, voila, he almost becomes so. Yet, at that very moment, he's proving to us that he is quite presidential, quite electable and quite motivated for the job — if we can only shed our predispositions against his "electability." Since electability is often a matter of collective perception, it can turn on a dime, as with the reversal of the respective fortunes of screaming Howard Dean and somniferous John Kerry in 2004.

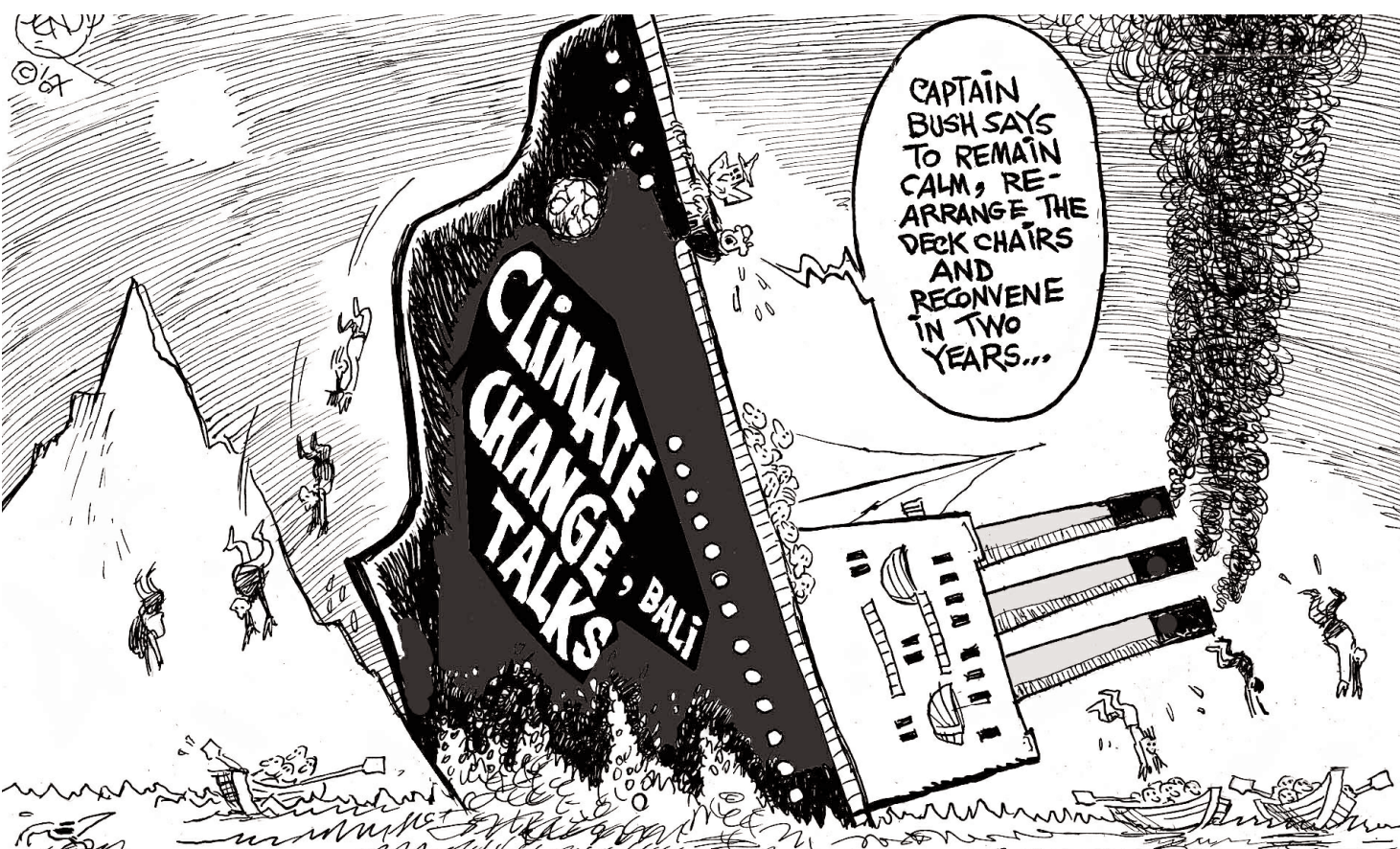
This primary season, relatively speaking, has just begun. But Fred is now up against the wall. How can we expect him to have done much better than he has to date with everyone prattling on about the overwhelming odds against him? The "experts" continue to be wrong at almost every turn, so why can't they be wrong about Fred, too? It's time to quit empowering them by following their dictatorial doom-prophecies. It's encouraging that John Zogby's latest South Carolina poll shows that while levels of support for McCain and Huckabee "have remained static," Fred is starting to move up.

Supporters have asked Fred to step up, and he has — he has shone brilliantly in the last month, setting himself head and shoulders above the pack in many cases. Now it's time for conservative voters to step up and quit placing artificial limitations on Fred, and on themselves.

Fred has answered the conservatives' call. Shouldn't we answer his?

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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Where's Oprah when she's needed?

Was it just last month that the Queen of Everything was everywhere, pulling tens of thousands of people into rallies in Iowa, stomping with Barack and Michelle Obama at just the point it seemed his campaign most needed a lift?

It's that point again. But no Oprah.

According to her representatives, she's busy negotiating a deal for the Oprah Winfrey Network. Do I dare say she has lawyers for that?

On her website, there are signs of a backlash, with some Oprah fans openly upset at what they see as her decision to put "race over gender" in her choice of her friend Obama over her friend Hillary, in her decision to throw her support behind the first black with a real chance to make it to the White House, as opposed to the might-be first woman president.

Perhaps even more troubling, more and more women, especially African-American women, seem to be angry at the very notion that this is a race or gender choice, as if they decide how to vote by comparing the importance of their skin color versus their genitalia, as opposed to examining things like issues and experience.

A recent web posting by CNN of

one of those race vs. gender stories, this one based on interviews with women in a mostly black beauty salon in South Carolina, generated a storm of response from black women who believed the whole premise of the story was an insult to their intelligence.

And it wasn't just black women who were insulted. One white man wrote in to say that maybe he should be interviewed on the race vs. gender question since for him, as a white man, the choice between Clinton and Obama could just as much be seen as race (white, therefore Hillary) vs. gender (male, therefore Obama) as it could for the black women who were supposed to be in such a unique and difficult position, at least according to the premise of the piece.

Good point.

What's clear is that there are a lot of people out there who, in making their choice in this hard-fought Democratic race, don't want to be told who they "should" be for or why, much less have their votes explained back to them in race or gender terms.

This complicates things for a woman whose trademark is that everyone loves Oprah.

The problem for celebrities when they take sides in political contests is that there are indeed sides. Some people will be offended because you're not on theirs, and some people will question why you're telling them how to vote or

the basis for that advice. Being a celebrity, being Oprah, is about universal appeal, about everybody liking you, about being all things to all people. Politics is about getting more votes than the other candidate, which generally means offending almost as many people as you attract.

The only thing everyone now knows is that the campaign for the Democratic nomination is going to be a fight. Most Democrats, I think, could comfortably support either Hillary or Barack, but that doesn't mean people don't have preferences, strong ones, and it doesn't mean the candidates can't or shouldn't be tough with each other.

I still believe whoever wins will be better off for having been forced to fight for it, but that doesn't mean they won't leave some blood on the floor.

I certainly wouldn't blame Oprah if she'd prefer not to be the one spilling blood, but that's what happens when you get in a ring for a real match-up.

And that's why I'm not holding my breath waiting for her reappearance. She'll be there for the coronation. Until then, this is politics, not show business.

This is an arena in which celebrities can only lose friends, which is not what much-loved celebrities like to do.

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Z06

505 horsepower Corvette hottest ride on the road

This is without question the best after-Christmas present I've ever received.

What better way to start off a new year than by test-driving the new 2008 Chevrolet Corvette Z06?

There's lots of exciting news about the '08 Corvette — including a new engine for the coupe and convertible, enhanced transmission shift points for both the six-speed

manual and quicker shift times on the paddle-shift six-speed automatic, interior trim enhancements and lots of new standard equipment features.

But my test vehicle for the week is the racing-inspired Z06. Let me cut to the chase.

It is the fastest, most powerful and most technologically advanced production model in Corvette's 55-year history.

It's powered by the LS7 7.0-liter V-8 engine (505 horsepower/470 lbs.-ft. torque) and mated to a six-speed manual transmission. It is capable of a 0-60 mph time of 3.7 seconds (in first gear) with a quarter-mile time of 11.7 seconds (125 mph) and an Autobahn-tested top speed of 198 mph.

Need I say more? Sorry, that was a rhetorical question.

To distinguish it from the Corvette coupe and convertible, the Z06 features an aggressive and unmistakable appearance, which include:

- A wide front fascia with a large, forward-facing grille opening, a splitter along the bottom and wheel opening extensions along the sides to provide aerodynamic downforce.
- The trailing edge of the front wheel opening is radiused to achieve improved drag, but protects the body finish with a tough molding and the large air extractor is

located behind the wheel.

- A fixed-roof body style optimizes rigidity and mass.

- Wider rear fenders with flares cover the massive rear tires and a brake cooling scoop in front of the wheels visually balances the fender extractor.

- A tall rear spoiler.
- 10-spoke wheels (18-inch front, 19-inch rear).
- Four large stainless steel exhaust outlets.
- Z06 badging on the carbon fiber front fenders.

You can't dismiss the aerodynamics of this vehicle, from its .34 coefficient of drag to the elevated spoiler which provides downforce to balance the front splitter, it is one of, if not the hottest rides on the road.

While the Z06 is certainly what I would call race ready, I was even more impressed with how well it handled every day driving.

Admittedly, most of my daily commutes are far

from exciting. In fact, my drive from home to work is all residential with four school zones thrown in for good measure — not exactly an ideal route for a high-performance sports car. Often, a great car for the track isn't very fun to drive on neighborhood streets.

That's not the case at all with the Z06. I was extremely impressed with how well-mannered this vehicle is when driving in 30-40 mph zones. Sure, it's made for the open road; slices through the curves and can accelerate like a rocket. But it can also handle the routine drive to and from work with ease — and a whole lot of style.

The Corvette is one of the greatest cars of all time. The 2008 Z06 only enhances the legend.

For those in the market for truly great performance coupe, I highly recommend this car for a test drive.

Neal White has been



The 2008 Chevrolet Corvette Z06.

ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Chevrolet Corvette Z06
2-seat performance coupe
Rear-wheel drive
Trim packages:
Coupe, convertible, Z06
**(Corvette coupe and convertible will be covered in a later review. All specifications below are for the Z06.)*
PRICE RANGE:
*\$71,000-\$82,000
ENGINE:
*7.0-L V8 (505 hp/470 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
*6-speed manual
EPA: 15 mpg city, 24 mpg highway *

FUEL: Premium unleaded
SUSPENSION: * Short/long arm double wishbone, cast aluminum upper and lower control arms, transverse-mounted composite leaf spring, monotube shocks (front and rear).
TRACTION CONTROL: Electronic traction control with active handling
BRAKES: * Front and rear power-assisted disc with ABS with 6-piston front and 4-piston rear calipers, cross-drilled rotors.
LENGTH: *175.6 inches
WHEELBASE: 105.7 inches
WIDTH: *75.9 inches
HEIGHT: 49 inches
WEIGHT: *3,162 lbs.
FUEL TANK: 18 gallons
TIRES: 18-inch front, 19-inch rear.
0-60 mph: 3.7 seconds
1/4-mile: 11.7 seconds
TOP SPEED: 198 mph

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@waxahachiedaily.com.

Why not check this out? At the Howard County Library

It is a cold, wintry day today and what you need to do, is come to the library and check out a cookbook dedicated to stews, soups, etc.

The Library has "32 Soups and Stews" (641.8 AA J) by Jan Aaron; or maybe "The Soup Line Recipes for All Occasions" (641.8 KUB T) by T. J. Kubiak.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

These were all published in the 1980s or 1990s so you might prefer a more up-to-date cookbook like "Smart Crockery Cooking" (641.588 MUN C) by Carol Munson. She uses a crockpot to create a simple meal consisting of main dish, salad and maybe hot rolls or cornbread.

We also have "The Ultimate Casserole Cookbook" (641.821 JON B) by Barbara C. Jones that has some absolutely great-sounding dishes. All you add is love (what company did that slogan come from?)

And you cannot go wrong with a dessert of "Brownies to Die For" (641.865 SCH B) by Bev Shaffer. Superb brownie recipes. But if pressed for time, Betty Crocker (I think) has a pretty good brownie mix you can stir up quickly.

Science Fiction

While you are holed up at home, awaiting snow and ice (or sun and sand) as the case may be,

might I suggest Diana Gabaldon? She is the author of the award-winning Outlander novels, described by Salon magazine as "the smartest historical sci-fi adventure-romance story ever written by a science Ph.D. with a background in scripting 'Scrooge McDuck' comics."

The adventure begins in 1991 with the classic Outlander and continues through five more best-selling novels — "Dragonfly in Amber," "Voyager," "Drums of Autumn," "The Fiery Cross" and "A Breath of Snow and Ashes" — and a nonfiction (well, relatively) companion volume, "The Outlandish Companion," which provides copious details on the settings, background, characters, research and writing of the novels.

Gabaldon has also written two historical mysteries, "Lord John and the Private Matter" and "Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade," as well as several novellas.

The Library has many of these books for you to check out. The information in this review comes from her Web site: www.its.caltech.edu/~gat/ti/gabaldon.

Mystery

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Another intriguing mystery series is Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael series. You may remember a BBC TV series that featured Sir Derek Jacoby as Brother Cadfael.

A little background: Cadfael is a Welshman, now in his 60s, and a Brother in the monastery of Saints Peter and Paul, in Shrewsbury, England. The time is the 1100s, while Stephen and Maud are contending for the throne of England.

Cadfael is now a Brother, but he has been in the world — he spent 15 (or so) years in the Mideast, first as a Crusader, then as captain of a fishing boat. While there, he began to learn about gardening and herbs, loved several women and even fathered a son, although he did not know it at the time.

Finally, the quiet, the peace of the monastery called to him, and he came home to England and took vows. When the series begins, he has been a brother for about 15 years. His adventures are all centered in life in the monastery, which is the center of his life, but they also show that he has not turned away completely from the world.

There are now 20 novels and a book of short

stories written about Cadfael. Ellis Peters died in the autumn/winter of 1995, so there won't be any more Cadfael stories. If you are interested, I do have a chronological list of the Cadfael series. The Library has quite a few of them, but not all.

Please stop by the Library and see the American Girl display. A

staff member's daughter collects them and was kind enough to bring them to be displayed.

Each American Girl is not only the star of a historical six-book series, but also a shining example for girls today. Lessons of love, friendship, courage, compassion and tolerance are at the heart of every

American Girl story.

The Library has several of the series: "Felicity," "Kaya," "Kirsten" and several other girls. Quite interesting and we also have books on crafts that each of the girls might have engaged in.

Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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easy updates for your bathroom and more



LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$79 WAS \$99.00
PEGASUS® BATH FAUCET
Heritage bronze finish.
4" center set. (666068)



LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$19.86 WAS \$29.86
GLACIER BAY® TEAPOT BATH FAUCET
Includes pop-up assembly and white porcelain handles. (102856)



LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$79 WAS \$138
PEGASUS® COLONNADE CHAIR HEIGHT ELONGATED TOILET
White. (160406, 152143)

\$99
GLACIER BAY™ 1.28 HET CHAIR HEIGHT ELONGATED ALL-IN-ONE TOILET
Uses 60% less water. Includes tank, bowl, seat, wax ring and bolt caps. (331725)
*Uses 20% less water than a 1.6 GPF toilet and 60% less water than a 3.5 GPF toilet.



LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$9.99 WAS \$12.99
AQUADYNE® HANDHELD SHOWER HEAD WITH 5' HOSE
Chrome. Shower mounting arm bracket included. (640333)

\$69 UP TO **\$150 SAVINGS**
TOILET INSTALLATION**
ON ALL TOILETS

BASIC LABOR ONLY.
SAVINGS VARY BY MARKET.
VALID 1/24/08 - 1/30/08.

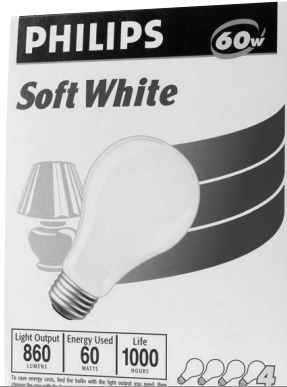


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\$19 WAS \$29
36" MOLDED 6-PANEL SLAB INTERIOR DOOR
Textured wood grain surface primed and ready to paint. (837318)
24" (837261)
28" (929794)
30" (837288)
32" (837296)

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\$7.93 WAS \$9.93
PHILIPS 3-PACK BR30 FLOOD BULBS
65 watt. Long life 1-1/2 years. (272840)

LIMITED TIME OFFER
94¢ WAS \$1.04
PHILIPS 4-PACK SOFT WHITE LIGHT BULBS
60-watt. Lasts 750 hours. (235482)



LIMITED TIME OFFER

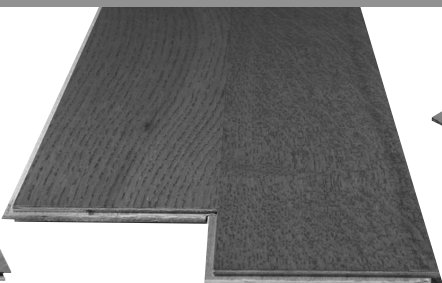
\$12.97 WAS \$14.97
2-5/32" WHITE PRIMED FINGER JOINT FLUTED CASING SET (691783)

plus, smart flooring choices for your home



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NEW DUPONT™ REAL TOUCH® ELITE CAMBRIDGE OAK LAMINATE
Case covers 18.52 sq. ft. (406501)



LIMITED TIME OFFER

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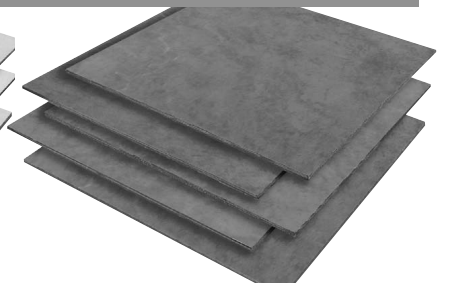
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Case covers 15 sq. ft. (642939, 642934)



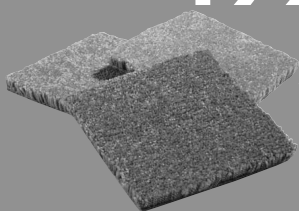
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THURSDAY

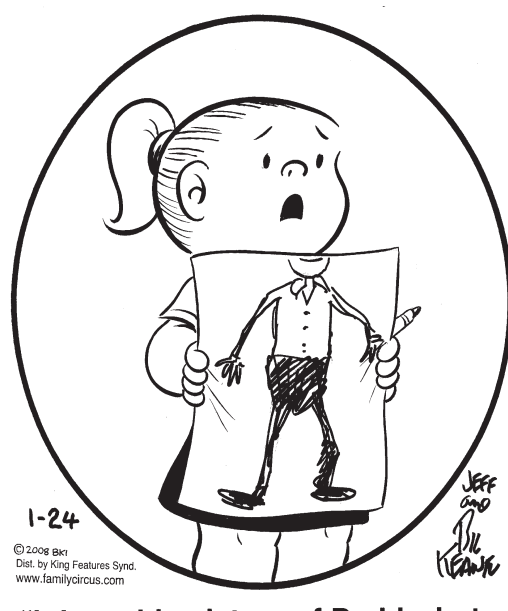
Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



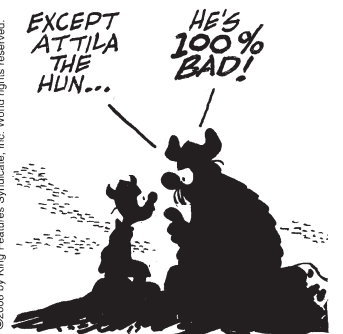
"How could I give you a DIRTY LOOK? I JUST WASHED MY FACE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I drew this picture of Daddy, but he was taller than I thought."

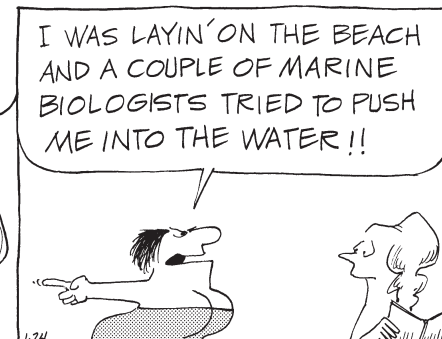
HAGAR



BLONDIE



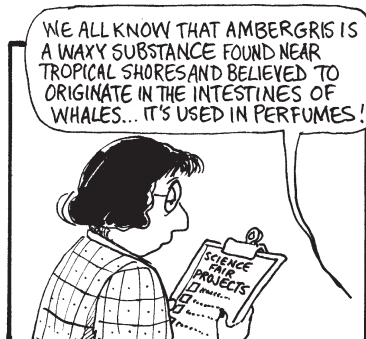
BC



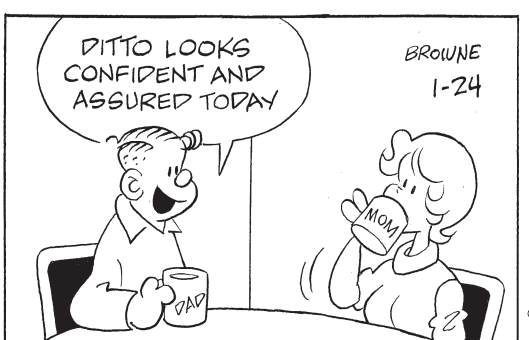
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



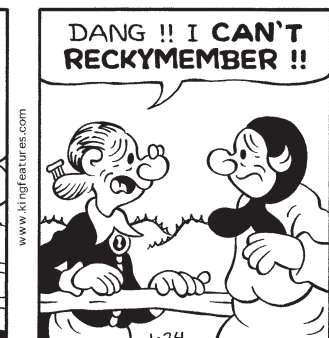
HI AND LOIS



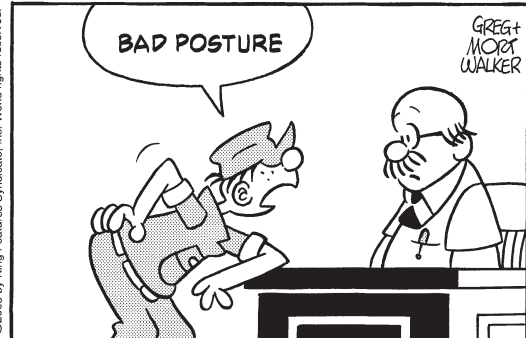
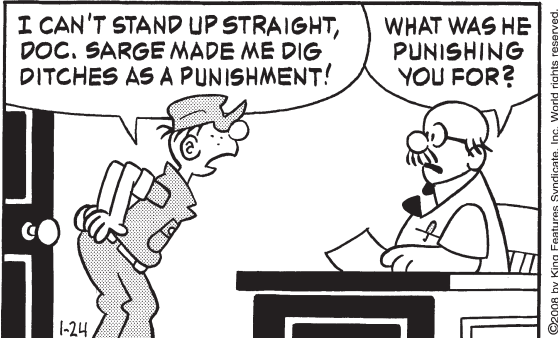
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2008. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Jan. 24, 1908, is considered the starting date of the Boy Scouts movement in England, under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

On this date: In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1922, Christian K. Nelson of Onawa, Iowa, patented the Eskimo Pie.

In 1924, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader.

(However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg).

In 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1987, gunmen in Lebanon kidnapped educators Alann Steen, Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill and Mitheleshwar Singh. (All were eventually released).

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was put to death in Florida's electric chair.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ernest Borgnine is 91. Evangelist Oral Roberts is 90. Actor Jerry Maren ("The Wizard of Oz") is 89. Actor Marvin Kaplan ("Top Cat") is 81. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 72. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 69. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 67. Singer Aaron

Neville is 67. Actor Michael Ontkean is 62. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 58. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 58. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 57. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 50. Actress Nastassja Kinski is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Theo Peoples is 47. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 45. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 41. Olympic gold-medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 38. Actor Matthew Lillard is 38. Actress Merrilee McCommas is 37.

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like CAPE, SPEW, SHORE, ORAL, TELE, TODAY, MOVIE, REEL, ELITE, ESE, REPEL, IDEAS, RESCUES, TENT, APT, WON, HARE, ADAPTS, ODD, ELIA, DOLTS, COO, PLOTS, AREA, SOD, GLITZ, MAXI, PLY, RUN, NEAL, VINEGAR, BATHS, ACING, ADA, ADIOS, GOLDENROD, GENOA, ELLE, ABBA, SINAKY, NEAR, BOER.

Newsday Crossword

GREEK TO ME by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Voting group, 5 Flat formations, 10 '70s tennis star, 14 Subtle glow, 15 Deliver a keynote, 16 Lowly laborer, 17 Cereal sound, 18 Oscar de la __, 19 Dragnet org., 20 Closest star system, 23 Cardinal point, 24 Range units: Abbr., 25 Those of age, 28 Links hazard, 30 Bit of encouragement, 33 Round ender, 34 Michelangelo masterpiece, 35 "The odds __...", 36 Pre-release software, 40 Blow it, 41 Locket shapes, 42 "My treat!", 43 Roll-call vote, 44 London gallery, 45 Microwave, maybe, 47 Division: Abbr., 48 Show up, 49 Blood-serum protein, 55 Big bash, 56 Kentucky trailblazer, 57 Make ready, 59 Finito, 60 Obvious flirt, 61 NYC cultural institution, 62 Printed words, 63 Friars' affair, 64 Son of Seth, 9 Bus-ride companion, 10 High grade, 11 Burn the surface of, 12 Pueblo Indian, 13 Phase out, 21 Something to check, 22 Brokerage phrase, 25 Monk's home, 26 Tractor name, 27 Sound starter, 28 Sir or Dame, 29 Guns, as an engine, 30 Common Sense author, 31 Bakery attraction, 32 Basic principle, 34 HS test, 37 Tribal symbol, 38 Green Acres actress, 39 "No kidding!" guy, 45 Rules of Order, 46 Outback bird, 47 Sting some, 48 Ice-cream orders, 49 Sagged, 50 Author Haley, 51 Full of energy, 52 It's short for Dolores, 53 Work on laundry, 54 Title fish in an '03 film, 55 Understood, 58 Faux __

A crossword grid with numbers 1-64 indicating starting positions for the words in the list.

Troop Salute: Israel Martinez comes from a military family

Marine Sgt. Israel Martinez is now serving out his second tour in Iraq. Born in Fort Worth on Feb. 21, 1974, Israel graduated from Big Spring High School in 1993.

Israel, 33, comes from a military family. His mother, Anita Massey, was a Marine in Vietnam. His inspiration to join the Marines was his step-father, Hugh Massey, also a Marine in Vietnam. Hugh is now deceased. His brother, Santos, Martinez III, was an Army MP. Anita's brother, Juan Flores, was a Marine in Vietnam, and Juan's son, Jonah Flores, is currently serving in Kuwait. His uncle, Marcy Lopez, is an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, and is now deceased (the husband of Anita's sister.)

Israel and Santos III have been pictured on the board at the Big Spring Mall since the board was first displayed



LANE BOND

in 2003.

Unlike several of the subjects of these Troop Salutes, Israel did not immediately enter military service upon graduation. He enlisted in the Marines in May 2001, eight years after graduation. Israel had his ticket to fly to San Diego to begin his basic training Sept. 11, 2001, the fateful day of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Needless to say, his flight to San Diego was delayed a few days, as all flights were grounded nationwide.

Israel is an artilleryman, currently assigned to "C" Battery 1/11th 2nd Plt.

This family also has many Big Spring connections. Anita, Israel, and Santos III all graduated from Big Spring High School. Manuel Flores was Israel's and Santos III's grandfather, a longtime resident of Big Spring, now deceased. Their grandmother, Ofelia Flores, turned 84 years old Dec. 22, 2007, and lives in Canterbury, an assisted-living home in Big Spring.

Santos Martinez Jr. is the father of the two brothers, who lives in Dallas.

Israel's wife is Lucinda



Israel Martinez



Martinez, Santos III Army

Valencia, who currently lives with their son, Austin Presley, in Fallbrook Calif. Austin Presley is age 10, born Sept. 9, 1997. At the time of their marriage, she lived with her mom and dad in Big Spring. Valencia worked at the VA Hospital. The Valentias now live in Mertzon.

Anita Massey was born in Taft, Jan. 14, 1947. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1965 and served in the Women's Army Corps from shortly after graduation to her discharge in 1967. She was a clerk-typist in Vietnam and worked in telecommunications.

She is now an LVN at the VA Medical Center in Big Spring. She is a lifetime member of the VFW in Big Spring, where she also serves as Junior Vice-Commander. Israel

and Santos III have joined their mother as lifetime members of VFW here.

Santos Martinez III was born in Fort Worth on Sept 9, 1972, and graduated from BSHS in 1991. He married Melissa Garcia of Lubbock, who is also an Army veteran. Santos was in the Army from 1996 until 2004, serving in the Military Police (4th MP Co 4th Infantry Division). He served one year of this duty in Iraq in 2003. He now works as a civilian for the Department of the Army, as a police officer at Fort Hood, near Killeen. He is a member of their Swat Team. This is a good and natural use of his military training.

Being very curious as to how Israel's stepfather became such an influence in his life, I emailed him that ques-

tion. Here is his answer:

"I decided I would go live with him (Hugh Massey) in Albuquerque, N.M. I lived with him for about six months. I was a laborer in the shop he worked at, and then I returned to Big Spring for a couple of months and then returned back to Albuquerque in early 1995.

"I always knew he was a former Marine. He had a tattoo of a bulldog with a helmet and cigar on his lower left arm and I always thought that was cool. He did have a K-bar (a Marine knife) and when I saw that, I wanted one. He told me Marines earned it. He never really did talk about being a Marine. Me being young, just seeing the tattoo and the K bar was an impression enough.

"He did his best with being a step dad. He was not afraid to stand his ground or to speak his mind. He would talk and it would make sense, and to the point ... Hugh was a good man. He took time to show me about fishing, camping and even Nascar and Indy racing ...

"Being a Marine, we have a history of where

we come from and who we are; as a regular person, we also have history of where we come from and who we are.

"Being on deployment is the hardest part of being in the military (separated from the family). My wife Lucinda has been the foundation in the marriage. I appreciate her in so many ways ... Without my step dad or Austin I wouldn't have left Big Spring. I was in Hong Kong in January 2005 and I thought to myself, I come from Big Spring, Texas, and I was speechless. I never dreamt of being in Hong Kong when I was in high school.

"Coming from a military family is wonderful, but being a Marine is great! Me and my brother still have arguments about who is better at wars, Marines or Army."

Do you have a story about your own family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond at lane@bondwebs.com or call him at (432) 263-4033 or visit his Web site, www.bondwebs.com.

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