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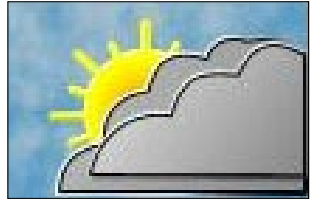
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HERALD

FRIDAY
JANUARY 25, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 48

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Above and beyond



Stripling, Bond named Man and Woman of Year

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The spotlight shined brightest on Hayes Stripling and Janice Bond at Thursday night's annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

Stripling and Bond were named man and woman of the year for 2007, respectively, at the banquet, which drew a large crowd despite the threat of ice and snow in the weather forecast.

"Despite our knack for annually picking the cold-

"This is a quite an honor and I will sincerely cherish it."

—Janice Bond on being named Woman of the Year

est night in January to hold our banquet, we had a very good turnout," incoming Chamber President Linda Elrod said.

And the highlight of the evening was the selection of Stripling and Bond for the top awards.

Stripling was described as a man with the "gift of graceful eloquence" by presenter Jim Little, the 2006 man of the year.

"Eloquence is 'vivid or moving expression,' and this Big Spring native is a speaker of unparalleled eloquence," Little said. "And if you pay attention, you will certainly learn something, because he is intelligent and insightful."

But Stripling was lauded for more than just the

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3A

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Hayes Stripling, left, receives the Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year for 2007 award from 2006 honoree Jim Little during the annual Chamber Banquet Thursday night in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Janice Bond, right, is escorted by her husband Lane as she receives the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year for 2007 award from 2006 honoree JoBeth Corwin during the chamber's annual banquet Thursday in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

City bond projects are on schedule, officials convey

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Officials with the Parkhill, Smith and Cooper engineering firm say all four bond-funded projects currently in the works for the city of Big Spring are on schedule, with the first completion expected to come in late May.

According to Butch Davis, a representative from Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, efforts to refurbish the Northside Elevated Reservoir should begin in the next few days.

"We held a pre-construction meeting Jan. 10, and the project is expected to come in approximately \$123,000 under

budget," said Davis. "The project was awarded for \$385,000, considerably lower than expected, and the notice to proceed is set for Monday. Construction is expected to be completed within 120 days of the project start, or around May 28."

Davis said a logo for the reservoir has not yet been established. According to Mayor Russ McEwen, two ideas that are being considered are the city's current sunset logo and possibly the Big Spring High School Steers logo.

See **PROJECTS**, Page 3A

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FITTING PUNISHMENT

PAINESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A judge on Thursday ordered a Salvation Army worker who stole a holiday kettle containing about \$250 to spend the night homeless.

Nathen Smith, 28, was to spend the night anywhere but a house, said Municipal Judge Michael Cicconetti. Smith was fitted with a GPS device to track his moves.

"My initial reaction was, 'Wow.' But I don't think the sentence is too harsh," said Smith, who expected to spend the night in a homeless shelter. "I can see the judge's point because what I did, I shouldn't have done. Now I've got to pay the consequences."

CLOSE PASS BY EARTH

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An asteroid at least 500 feet long will make a rare close pass by Earth next week, but there is no chance of an impact, scientists reported Thursday.

The object, known as 2007 TU24, is expected to whiz by Earth on Tuesday with its closest approach at 334,000 miles, or about 1.4 times the distance of Earth to the moon. The nighttime encounter should be bright enough for medium-sized telescopes to get a glimpse, said Don Yeomans, manager of the Near-Earth Object Program Office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which tracks potentially dangerous space rocks.

HAWKS FALL IN 5 OT



See Page 1B



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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
Friday, January 25, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

Due to inclement weather in the Abilene area, Coahoma's boys and girls basketball games have again been rescheduled.

SATURDAY

Coahoma girls basketball at Merkel, 6 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Merkel, 7:30 p.m.

Free junior tennis league playing every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

Howard College presenting the Harlem Starz

The Howard College athletic department will present the Harlem Starz at 7:00 p.m. Jan. 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.

Clemens' meeting with Congressional staff postponed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Clemens' meeting with a congressional committee investigating steroids in baseball was pushed back until Feb. 5.

Clemens originally was asked to appear Saturday for a deposition or transcribed interview with staff members from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. That panel has called a Feb. 13 hearing where Clemens and his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, are among five witnesses slated to appear.

The committee announced a new schedule Thursday of pre-hearing meetings with those witnesses.

Chuck Knoblauch, a former teammate of Clemens' with the New York Yankees,

See CLEMENS, Page 2B

Hawks come up short in 5 OTs

Fall out of conference lead with loss to South Plains

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

LEVELLAND — Take five.

While Howard College's Hawks and No. 5-ranked South Plains College's Texans deserve some well-earned time off, the connotation doesn't refer to the two men's basketball teams taking a break.

Instead, it refers to the amount of overtime periods the Hawks and Texans played through in order to decide the victor of Thursday night's Western Junior College Athletic Conference battle for first place.

In the end, South Plains prevailed 108-106 after an extra 25 minutes of playing time.

"I don't know that I've ever been involved in a five-overtime game before," Hawks Head Coach Mark Adams said. "We had our chances to win. I just hope we learn from it."

Trailing 106-103 with 14 seconds left in the final OT, Howard came up the court looking for a 3-point shot to tie the game. Corey Allmond, who had already made six shots behind the arch on the night, fired from NBA 3-pointer range, but the rim didn't take kindly to his attempt. The ball rattled off, icing the victory for the Texans.

"We had a lot of effort and I'm proud of the way we fought," Adams said. "It came down to free throws and rebounding. I think those will be the two most glaring statistics."

Adams was right. The Hawks were 24 of 45 from the charity stripe, equaling 53 percent. Several times in the five overtime periods, Howard had the opportunity to either tie the score or take the lead at the free throw line. However, the Hawks were unable to take advantage of the uncontested shots.

South Plains collected 30 offensive boards and outrebounded Howard overall, 65-51. The game witnessed 10 lead changes and 12 ties.

The Hawks grabbed the early advantage, jumping out to a 22-9 lead in the first half. Howard led 32-21 at intermission.

However, that lead evaporated within the first seven minutes of the second half. South Plains came out of the locker room to the tune of an 18-2 run, overtaking Howard for a lead the Texans would carry through most of the second half.

After Corteze Isaac brought Howard within 1 point with 25 seconds left in regulation, the Hawks' defense forced a traveling violation. DeMarcus Richard, who saw an increase in his minutes due to an injury to starter Denzel Barnes, drove to the lane, but was fouled in the process.

Richard sank one of two baskets, tying the game at 60. The Texans couldn't get off a clean shot, sending the game into extra frames.

The Hawks led 66-64 in the first overtime period with less than a minute

See HAWKS, Page 2B



Howard's Corey Allmond streaks to the basket for two points in the Hawks' 108-106 loss to South Plains in five overtimes Thursday night in Levelland. HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull



Howard's Aqueelah Watkins is double-teamed by South Plains defenders in the Hawks' 63-54 loss Thursday night in Levelland. HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

HC's women rally, but still fall to Texans

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

LEVELLAND —

Everything was finally starting to mesh on the court. The Howard College women's basketball team finally had its offense functioning late in the second half.

Sadly, it was too little, too late. South Plains College's Lady Texans stood tall and had an answer for everything Howard tried to accomplish. The Lady Texans won, 63-54.

"We knew South Plains was quick coming into the game, but they made some athletic plays and made some big shots," Hawks Head Coach Earl Diddle said. "They have the best guards in the country. That doesn't mean we can't beat them. It means we have to play smarter."

South Plains led by as many as 20 points in the second half. The Lady Texans led 51-31 with 10:05 left to play. That's when Howard tried to answer.

The Hawks went on a 12-3 run, trimming the margin to 54-43 with 5:23 left in the game.

However, every time it appeared the Hawks had broken through and were ready to make a run at

memorable comeback, the Lady Texans thwarted the attempt by sinking game-altering shots.

"They stepped up when they had to. They played big and made the shots they had to have," said Diddle. "I was very happy with how we clawed our way back into this game, though."

Howard fell behind early with South Plains, giving up a 17-4 run to trail 27-8 with 5:57 left in the first half. It was a margin the Hawks could never overcome.

Mariame Djoura, who hit many crucial shots in the closing moments of the game for South Plains, finished with 15 points along with teammate Brittany Blackmon. Chasity Workman finished with 10 points and pulled down nine boards.

Howard was led by Danielle Cota and Deandra Thomas, each scoring 10 points. Monica Jones finished with nine points and eight rebounds. Howard shot a dismal 21.4 percent in the first half and just 33.9 percent for the entire game.

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

Obituaries

Dorothy Martin



Dorothy Martin, 81, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Lynn Robertson, of Compass Hospice, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 19, 1926, in Waco to Jessie and Charles Brown. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a Baptist and a homemaker.

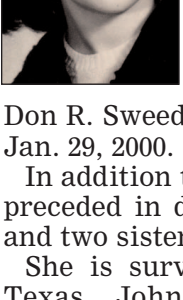
She is survived by four sons, Ricky Martin and Larry Martin, both of Big Spring, Gary Martin of Beaumont, and Darrell Martin and his wife Lori of Illinois; three daughters, Vickie McNutt and her husband Darryl, and Sandra Milton, all of Big Spring, and Debra Turner and her husband Larry of Sweetwater; three sisters, Rosezina Cass of Odessa, Joyce Howell of Big Spring and Ella Faye Edens of Lubbock; a brother, L. J. Brown of Big Spring; 19 grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, A. D. Parker Martin in 1964; a daughter, Cathy Martin Ferguson in 1989; four brothers and a sister.

The family will be at 1423 Hilltop.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Sandra J. "Thompson" Sweeden



Sandra J. "Thompson" Sweeden, 64, of Midland died Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, at her residence. The family will receive friends Saturday from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery with Rick Denson officiating.

Sandra was born July 30, 1943, to Johnny and Violet "Bobbie" Thompson in Gatesville. June 19, 1976, she married Don R. Sweeden in Mexico. He preceded her in death Jan. 29, 2000.

In addition to her parents and husband, Sandra was preceded in death by two brothers, Ray and Buddy; and two sisters, Carolyn and Ann.

She is survived by five children, Joe Osborn of Texas, Johnny Osborn and his wife Cindy of Breckenridge, Shane Osborn of Malone, Jimmy Osborn of Midland and Sheila Bentley and her husband Douglas of Midland; 17 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; four brothers and four sisters.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

James C. Polk

James C. Polk, 47, of Andrews, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, at a Lubbock medical center. Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Faith, located at 5701 Hwy 277 South in Abilene. Burial will be in Buffalo Gap Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday prior to the service.

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.
- 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).

Police blotter

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

- **TERRY SHIRLEY**, 44, transient, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1000 block of Fourth Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

Fire/EMS

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.
- **JEFFREY MICHAEL HAGGARD**, 33, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOSEPHINE VALE**, 49, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear - failure to stop and render aid and no driver's license.
- **JUAN RAMEO PADILLA**, 33, was arrested Thursday by DPE on a charge of false application on driver's license.
- **EDUARDO PEREZ MOLINA**, 30, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **SHAWNA GRAYSON**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft with two or more previous convictions,

Sheriff's report

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Hacks Valley Road. Service refused.

Support Groups

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

MONDAY
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

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

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 in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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

Weather

Tonight...Decreasing clouds. Lows in the lower 30s. SouthwestWinds around 10 mph becoming light and variable.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. West winds around 10 mph.
Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. SouthWinds around 10 mph becoming light and variable.
Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds10 to 15 mph.
Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.
Monday night...Mostly clear. Colder. Lows in the upper 30s.
Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the lower 60s.
Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.
Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 50.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-8-31-35-37
Number matching five of five: none.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-13-24-25. Bonus Ball: 26
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-3-4-0. Sum It Up: 8.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-0-0. Sum It Up: 5.

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BOKER YOUR KNIVES MADE IN SOLINGEN **MAGNUM** KNIVES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Buffs continue winning ways; girls fall to Hamlin

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

HAMLIN — The 17th-ranked Forsan Buffaloes boys' basketball team continued district play Thursday night, defeating the Hamlin Pied Pipers, 48-24, in a make-up game from Tuesday.

The win helped the Buffs extend their overall mark to 17-3 and 2-1 in district.

Adam Bailey led the way, scoring 13 points and hauling in 10 boards, while Jeremy

Robbins posted his own double-double, netting 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"We played with a lot of intensity and came out early and hit some shots," said Forsan head coach Terry McDonald. "That really helped set the tempo for the game. Defensively we kept Hamlin to one shot and were able to get the transition game going."

The Buffs had six players score and helped themselves at the free throw line, going 9-of-12 at the charity stripe. The Buffs

will travel to Roscoe Tuesday in hopes of avenging an earlier loss to the 15th-ranked Plowboys.

Lady Pipers 48

Lady Buffs 42

The Lady Buffs continued with their string of strong play, coming up just a little shy, losing to Hamlin, 48-42.

Freshman Miranda Park led the Lady Buffs with 12 points while collecting 7 rebounds. Amanda Longorio also scored in double figures, netting 11

points. "We had contributions from all over the place and we needed them being short one of our starting guards," said head coach Robert Hillger, "The girls really stepped it up, we just fell a little short."

Notes: The Forsan JV boys' basketball team defeated Kermit and Midland Classical to advance to the championship game of the Rankin tournament set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday... In the first game

against Kermit, Evan Burton led the way with 24 points... In the second game against Midland Classical, Riley Wood led the way with 23 points, including seven 3-pointers.

BOYS' GAME
FORSAN 15 10 15 8 — 48
HAMLIN 4 2 6 12 — 24
Jeremy Robbins, 10; Adam Bailey, 13; Cameron Parker, 9; Tristan Clay, 8; Alex Huckabee, 6; Nathan Atkerson, 2.

GIRLS' GAME
FORSAN 10 14 6 12 — 42
HAMLIN 15 7 15 11 — 48
Miranda Park, 12; Amanda Longorio, 11; Faith Belew, 8; Sandi Golleher, 6; Shelby McDonald, 3; Alyx Pappajohn 2.

CLEMENS

Continued from Page 1b

was subpoenaed to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview on Tuesday, although the committee said he has yet to be served.

Andy Pettitte, Clemens' longtime teammate and workout partner, has been asked to appear Jan. 30, with McNamee down for Feb. 7.

The fifth witness, former New York Mets club-

house employee Kirk Radomski, originally was invited to meet with committee staff on Feb. 1, but his deposition or interview was given Thursday as "TBD" — to be determined.

"The committee changed the dates to accommodate the schedules of the witnesses and lawyers involved," panel chairman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, said in a statement relayed by a staff member.

Lawyers for Clemens and McNamee have said their clients will appear.

Joe Householder, a spokesman for Rusty Hardin, Clemens' primary lawyer, said the pitcher's legal team would defer all comment on scheduling to the committee.

The committee is reviewing transcripts of three conversations in which McNamee participated, The New York Times reported on its Web site Thursday, citing

a congressional staff person with direct knowledge of the matter who was granted anonymity because the committee work had not been made public. According to the paper, the transcripts were provided by Clemens' lawyer and include a Dec. 5 telephone call with an employee of Clemens' agent, a Dec. 12 interview with investigators for Clemens' lawyer and a Jan. 4 telephone call with Clemens.

The committee's rank-

ing minority member, Virginia Republican Tom Davis, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Jan. 15 that the committee had in its possession a Jan. 4 telephone conversation between Clemens and McNamee, secretly recorded at the player's end and played during Clemens' news conference Jan. 7.

The congressman also said at the time the committee was working to get a recording of the conversation between McNamee

and investigators who work for Clemens' law firm on Dec. 12.

In the Mitchell Report on doping in baseball, McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone, accusations the pitcher with the eighth-most wins in major league history has denied repeatedly.

Pettitte acknowledged McNamee injected him twice with HGH while the left-hander was recovering from an injury.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

remaining. However, Richard made a costly mistake by not getting the ball across the mid-court line within 10 seconds.

South Plains took advantage of Richard's miscue and David Tairu nailed a pull-up jumper with three seconds remaining, forcing a second extra period.

Richard made up for his mistake, though, by getting to the free throw line and nailing both charity attempts. He nailed two

free throws late in the second overtime, tying the game at 69.

Howard appeared to be running away with the game in the third overtime, scoring the first four points of the half. But, the Texans made another comeback bid. Eventually, Jonathan Hall broke through for two points for the Hawks, tying the contest at 88.

Howard had the ball with 25 seconds remaining. Sean Watson took too long to set up the play, finally making a move with a mere six seconds remaining. His 3-point

attempt fell short, forcing a fourth overtime.

The score ended up tied at the end of quadruple OT with Markeys Deans using his power to grab an offensive board and putting the points back.

South Plains' Nick

Okorie finished with 33 points and Hall added 30 points and 13 rebounds. Tairu had 17, including eight straight in the overtime periods.

Almond and Watson each had 27 points apiece. Watson actually fell one

assist short of a triple-double, finishing with 13 rebounds and nine assists.

Deans posted a double-double, registering 21 points and battling for 13 boards. Richard drove at will in the overtime peri-

ods and picked up 15 points in the process.

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



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2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless. **WAS \$16,995 NOW \$13,995**

2007 Ford Focus SE - Gray w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power, Nice Car, Only 19,000 Miles. **WAS \$16,995 NOW \$13,995**

2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. **WAS \$16,995 NOW \$15,995**

2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Dark Cherry w/Lt. Camel Leather, 3.0, V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870. **WAS \$19,995 NOW \$12,995**

2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles. **WAS \$14,995 NOW \$12,995**

2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Like New, One Owner, Only 19,685 Miles. **WAS \$18,995 NOW \$14,995**

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2004 Ford Taurus LX - Tan w/Tan Cloth, All Power, Nice Clean Car, Local Owner. **WAS \$9,995 NOW \$6,995**

2004 Ford Focus SE - Green w/Tan Cloth, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **WAS \$10,995 NOW \$9,995**

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2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 5.4L - White w/Gray Cloth, Running Boards, Captain Chairs, Bedliner, All Power, Nice Truck. **WAS \$26,995 NOW \$24,995**

2007 Ford Ranger XLT - Red w/Cloth Seats, All Power, Automatic, One Owner, Only 17,000 Miles. **WAS \$18,995 NOW \$17,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew 4X2 - White w/Gray Cloth, Long Bed, One Owner, CD Player, Nice Truck, Only 12,000 Miles. **WAS \$26,995 NOW \$24,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White w/Gray Cloth, Running Board, All Power, Like New, Local One Owner, Low Miles. **WAS \$24,995 NOW \$23,995**

2005 Ford F-150 Supercrew XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. **WAS \$20,995 NOW \$16,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner. **MSRP \$18,995 NOW \$14,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, CD Player, One Owner, Like New. **WAS \$17,995 NOW \$16,995**

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2004 Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab Diesel - Blue w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, Short Bed, Great Truck. **WAS \$23,995 NOW \$22,995**

2003 Ford Supercrew XLT - Red w/Gray Cloth All Power, Power Seat, CD Player, Low Miles. **MSRP \$15,995 NOW \$14,995**

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2002 Ford F150 Supercab Sport V6 - White w/Gray Cloth, 5-Speed, CD Player, Like New, Bedliner. **WAS \$12,995 NOW \$11,995**

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2002 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Tan/Black w/Tan Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Very Nice, SUV, Low Miles. **WAS \$17,995 NOW \$12,995**

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2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power. **WAS \$25,995 NOW \$23,995**

2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71 - Gold w/Tan Cloth Seats, OnStar, All Power, Like New, One owner, Only 16,000 Miles. **WAS \$26,995 NOW \$25,995**

★★★ ALL OTHERS ★★★

2006 Jeep Wrangler SE - Tan w/Tan Cloth, 5 Speed, CD Player, AC, Nice Unit, Only 14,000 Miles. **WAS \$18,995 NOW \$17,995**

2004 Cadillac CTS - Red w/Tan Leather, Fully Loaded, Moon Roof, One Owner, Only 34,000 Miles. **WAS \$22,995 NOW \$20,995**

2004 Oldsmobile Alero - Silver w/Gray Cloth, Low Miles, All Power, Local One Owner. **WAS \$10,995 NOW \$7,995**

2003 Cadillac Deville - Gold w/Tan Cloth Leather, Like New, Very Nice Car, All Power, Low Miles. **WAS \$15,995 NOW \$14,995**

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BANQUET PERFORMERS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The Coahoma Choir Kids doff their collective hats while performing for the audience at Thursday night's annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

ability to spin a yarn. Little noted Stripling's many community activities, including directorship positions with the North Side Community Center, Boy Scouts, Howard County Appraisal District and Howard County Bible Class and being active in his church and the local Rotary Club. True to his nature, Stripling had little trouble composing some remarks after receiving

his award. "I promise I'll hold my closing remarks — and opening remarks, for that matter — to under 25 minutes," he cracked. After several minutes of jokes, however, Stripling, turned serious. "On this floor are literally legions of men who I couldn't bring their sneakers to the tennis court," he said. "That is my way of saying that I don't feel like I honestly deserve this award. "May God bless you, may you mount on wings of eagles ... may he make you to shine like the

morning star and may he hold you in the palm of his almighty hand," Stripling concluded. Bond was comparatively close-mouthed in accepting her award, leaving 2006 woman of the year JoBeth Corwin to speak for her. "She has touched the lives of so many through her contributions," Corwin said in her presentation. "Contributions to the Heritage Museum, Salvation Army, CASA, the Big Spring Rotary Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, the Big Spring Education Employees

Federal Credit Union, Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Symphony Guild."

Bond also was lauded for her activities in her church and as a member of the state board of directors for the Retired Teachers Association. "This is a quite an honor and I will sincerely cherish it," Bond said.

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

PROJECTS

Continued from Page 1A

The effort to construct a sports complex at the Roy Anderson Softball Park, however, is going to take considerably longer, according to Davis.

"We expect to have the plans and specification ready for the city to review by Jan. 31," said Davis. "Once we have the final plans and specifications, we're looking at March 11 to authorize bidding on the project.

"Construction is expected to begin April 21 and take approximately 17 months to complete, with a completion date around September 2009. The construction won't take nearly that long, but it's necessary for us to allow a grow-in period for the grass on the fields. That one should come in at budget for \$4.32 million."

As for the design and construction of a new annex for the city's animal shelter, Davis said work has already begun.

"The foundation work is under way," said Davis. "We expect to have preliminary and final plans and specifications ready for review by Feb. 25 and be ready to authorize bidding by March 25. Construction on the project should begin April 28 and take approximately eight months to complete, having the annex finished in December. The budget for this project is \$325,000."

Davis said the city's effort to make major renovations to roadways mainly located in the downtown area is being divided into two parts.

"The utility upgrades ahead of the street reconstruction project is the first step in this," said Davis. "This is expected to cost \$1.23 million, with the preliminary engineering report ready by Feb. 11. Final plans should be completed by March 10, with bidding expected to begin April 22. This part of the project should take approximately eight months to finish, with completion in January 2009.

"The second part of the project — the street reconstruction itself — has a budget of \$5.86 million for the streets and

\$429,000 for streetscaping. These aren't hard numbers yet, but we'll be working with the city staff on these in the coming months. Preliminary reports should be ready by Feb. 11, with final plans in by April 14. We'll authorize for bidding May 20, with construction expected to begin June 23 and lasting approximately 13 months. It should be completed by May 2009."

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

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World news

Egyptians use riot shields, form human chains to seal border

RAFAH, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian border guards with riot shields formed human chains Friday in an apparent attempt to gradually reseal Egypt's breached border with Gaza, but thousands of Palestinians still managed to sneak through.

The attempt to hinder the flow came after Egyptian officials rejected notions of Israel relinquishing responsibility for the impoverished Gaza Strip, which has been deprived of normal trade and commerce and faced blockades.

The Egyptian guards were posted along the main border breach, where a crowd quickly grew into the thousands, frustrated at no longer being let in. Some threw stones at the Egyptians, but quickly stopped after being booed.

At other checkpoints, Palestinians continued to pour into Egyptian territory, carrying canisters to fill with fuel sold in the border town of Rafah.

Yousef Mohammed, 17, of Gaza, said he had waited until Friday to make the trip because he was trying to get together enough money first to shop in Egypt. "They don't want us to go in," he said, pointing at the riot police.

ther he is. But the 69-year-old retired police chief of this small Missouri town cuts a credible figure as a 13-year-old girl surfing the Web, looking for friends. He knows all the instant-messaging shorthand, the emoticons.

Murray's retirement job from a rural home office has netted 20 arrests since he started in 2002. His latest catch was the biggest: four felony enticement charges against a town mayor, who after his arrest called Murray up and begged him to make the case go away.

Nineteen other defendants have included a Missouri furniture company executive, an Arkansas professor and a Tulsa, Okla., school security guard. Ten of those men have been convicted and sent to prison. One was deported. The other cases are still pending.

The defendants ranged in age from 24 to 62, with an average age of 39.4 years, and mainly come from Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, Diamond police said.

Internet child safety experts say police officers like Murray are heroes who do good work at the cost of wading through the muck of online pedophile fantasies.

Retired Missouri police chief, 69, nabs online predators by posing as 13-year-old

DIAMOND, Mo. (AP) — No one will ever confuse Jim Murray with a teenager. His tall frame, broad shoulders and clipped gray hair give him away for the grandfa-

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Sandra Sweeden, 64, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 1:00 PM Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 10:00 until 11:30 AM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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.

Dorothy Martin, 81, died Wednesday. Funeral Service will be at 3:00 PM Saturday with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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Sat. 2:20 PM 4:50 PM 7:20 PM 9:50 PM

• MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13) Fri. 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM
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• RAMBO (R) Fri. 4:40 PM 7:10 PM 9:40 PM
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Teammates say Brady will be ready to play in Super Bowl

By **HOWARD ULMAN**

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady was nowhere to be found by reporters and cameraman waiting eagerly for the star quarterback, with or without his famous boot.

His teammates are certain where to find him on Feb. 3 — on a Super Bowl field for the fourth time in his career and leading his heavily favored New England Patriots against the New York Giants.

"I know he'll be ready to play. He always is," running back Heath Evans said Thursday. "He looks fine to me."

On Monday, Brady was photographed in Manhattan with a walking boot on his right foot, a protective device he had removed before going to a club that night with his girlfriend Gisele Bündchen. The much-publicized boot didn't turn up in any pictures or video taken of him Tuesday by celebrity chasers.

Yet it gained celebrity status itself.

"Well, considering the fact that he always has cameras in his face, I guess it was only a matter of time," Evans said of the superstar who squires a supermodel around New York City.

The fact he walked with the boot with only a slight

limp that wasn't evident later was a sign that his injury wasn't serious. It turned out to be a minor high ankle sprain, according to published reports.

The NFL MVP apparently sustained it in Sunday's 21-12 win over the San Diego Chargers in the AFC championship game. He had two weeks for it to heal before the Super Bowl.

"I don't foresee him not being in this game," defensive end Richard Seymour said.

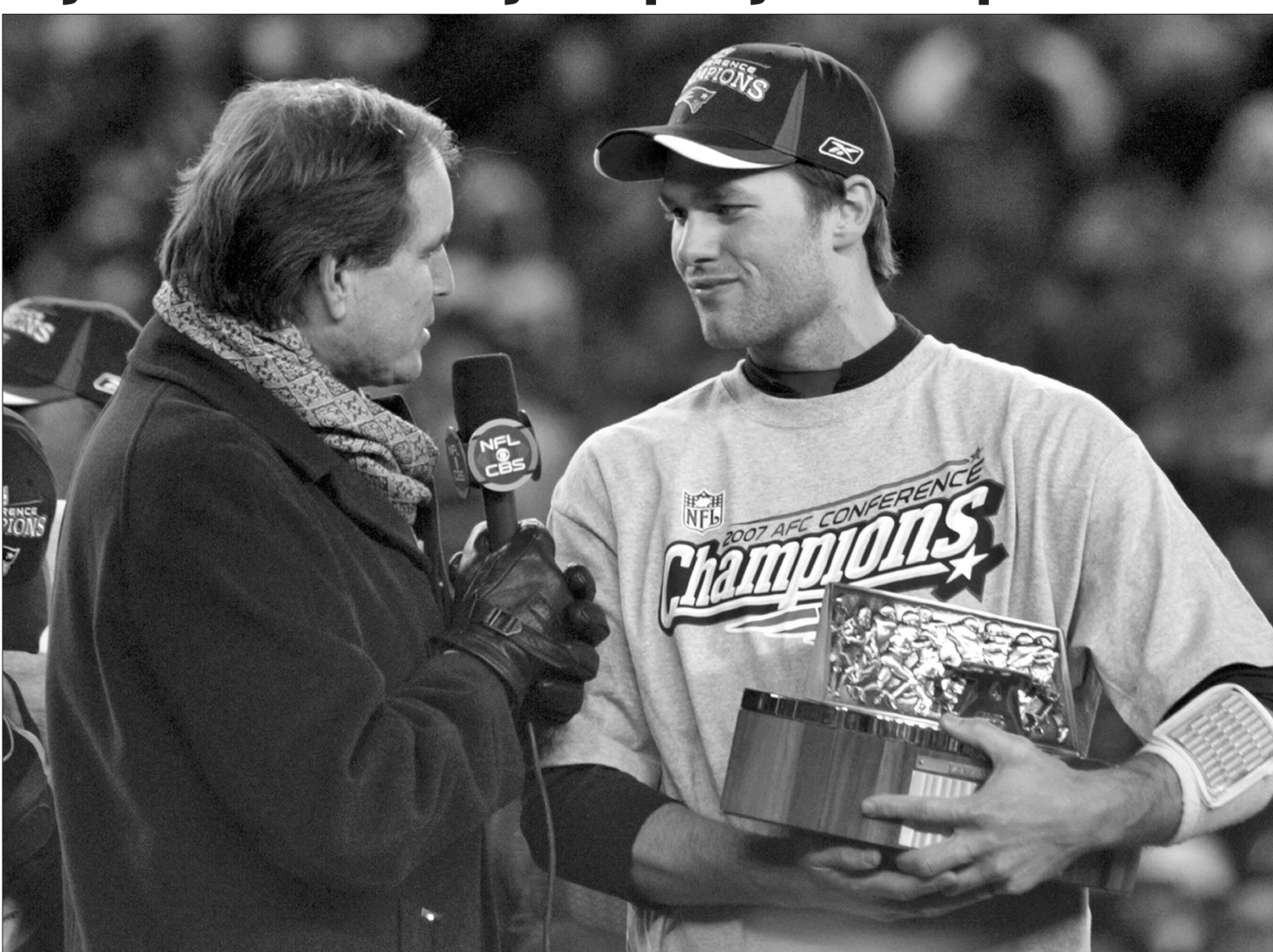
Brady has been in the Patriots' past 126 games, the third-longest current starting streak among active quarterbacks behind Brett Favre and Peyton Manning.

Teammates praise his dedication in the weight room that helps him remain durable.

"He puts in the work to be one of the elite players because when Tom first got here, he was a slim, skinny kid," Seymour said, "and now you kind of look at him and he has legs, chest."

"He's in there doing Olympic lifts and working out in the offseason just like he was an offensive or defensive lineman. He's a part of us and that's the way he carries himself."

The Patriots returned to practice Thursday after three days off.



MCT photo/Steven Frischling
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds the Lamar Hunt Trophy during an interview following a 21-12 victory over the San Diego Chargers in the AFC Championship game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday.

Photographers and reporters waited for Brady to walk, limp or even crawl in. They didn't see any of that.

Brady never showed up in the locker room for the 45 minutes in which the

media were allowed inside. Then he was a no-show for the 15-minute media access period at practice. Seldom-used backups Matt Cassel and Matt Gutierrez never had so many cameras focused

on them as photographers waited in vain for the leader of the quarterbacks to start stretching beside them.

That was quite a change from early in the week when Brady walked

through a bunch of scampering videographers and photographers near Bündchen's home, an obstacle that could be as intimidating as the

See **BRADY**, Page 4B

Despite some errant shots, Tiger just off lead

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO — The score would suggest nothing has changed since Tiger Woods last played the PGA Tour four months ago.

On the South Course at Torrey Pines, which stretches 7,569 yards and played every bit of that length in the chilly, coastal air along the Pacific Ocean, the world's No. 1 player picked off enough birdies to put his name near the top of the leaderboard and finished with a 5-under 67 on the tougher of the two courses at the Buick Invitational.

Noting that the U.S. Open will be held at Torrey Pines in June, one caddie watched Woods complete his round and

remarked, "He might have just won two tournaments with one round."

Woods was far from pleased, however.

And he wasn't even in the lead. That belonged to Troy Matteson, who was two shots better than Woods on the South Course with a 65, making him the first player since 2000 to be atop the leaderboard after one round while playing the South.

"I won't top that for a while," Matteson said.

Separating them was Brad Adamonis, who shot a 66 on the North, which is where low scores usually are shot. The North is 600 yards shorter with minimal rough, and it played 21/2 strokes easier Thursday in the first round.

The attention thrust on Woods is that he has won

the Buick Invitational five times, including the last three years. And he piled on the pressure of having a historic year by saying the Grand Slam is "easily within reason."

What surprised Woods is how he arrived at this 67.

His opening tee shot of his 2008 season sailed into a bunker. Another shot left him stymied behind a tree. Yet another was so far left that it cleared the cart path, and Woods had to hook his second shot so severely on the par-5 sixth that he started it out toward the right rough and ended up in the left rough.

All those led to par.

The times he managed to find the fairway, such as No. 4, led to birdie. Two more came on par 3s, and he only played the

four par 5s in a 1 under par. But there he was, two shots out of the lead, already getting everyone's attention.

"It wasn't pretty off the tee, but I hung in there," Woods said. "Shooting 67

See **BUICK**, Page 4B

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EDITORIAL

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-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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Everyone involved in the Howard County and Martin County junior livestock shows, from the students to the parents, instructors, volunteers, stock show boards and buyers. Great job, everyone.
- Hayes Stripling and Janice Bond, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Man and Woman of the Year for 2007.
- Local organizers and participants in the Martin Luther King Jr. program held Monday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. The move indoors seemed to be a huge success.

- Volunteers from the city who installed a new dance floor at the Senior Center last week. What a wonderful surprise.
- Big Spring City Council, on agreeing that the city will take over operations of the Senior Center. It's a win-win situation, in our view for the city — which has more available resources — and the county — which is strapped financially.

- The Settles Hotel Development Company, on having the old Greyhound Bus Station torn down. For those who remember arriving or departing Big Spring on the bus, demolition of the facility may evoke a lot of memories. But what the building's removal means for tomorrow is what we're excited about — new growth in Big Spring.
- Winners in this week's Big Spring Independent School District Science Fair. Hats off to winners Hannah Weber, Brady Weber, Ryane Colette, Shilow Creswell, Ethan Morelion, Bailee Allen, Kaitlin Aaron, Faith Norman, Dustin Garcia and Brycen Kiker, as well as all of those who participated.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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
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 - By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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- 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**

Wherever we go, Lord, may we trust in Your direction.
Amen

What the Heavens are declaring

Way back in 1897, a good six years before the Wright Brothers took flight, C.L.

McIlhany was tending to the cows on his farm near Stephenville. He told Texas newspapers he and more than 20 others had seen an "aerial monster" at least 60 feet long land in his pasture.

Once more, he said the craft was piloted by a feller he thought was from New York and apparently was testing his invention for investors. The alien New Yorker and a copilot "engineer" had landed to make repairs before taking off again and disappearing in the clouds, he reported.

"What you reckon is going to happen when dynamiters go to riding in airships and dropping down bombs on folks in cities?" asked McIlhany. "Is the world ready for airships?"

Apparently Not

That same year people in Aurora, about 100 miles north of Stephenville, made national news by claiming they too had seen "A great airship." This one hit a windmill and crashed.

Newspapers reported, "About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing around the country. It was traveling due north and much nearer the earth than before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour, and gradually settling toward the earth."

The legend says there is an authentic space-man buried in the cemetery up there. The State of Texas even designated the grave-

yard a "historical site." Now, 111 years later, the lights have returned to North Texas and this time they are not New Yorkers.

On Jan. 8 Steve Allen, a pilot himself and a greeter at a Baptist church near Chalk Mountain, saw strange lights in the sky near Stephenville. Since then a wave of sightings have occurred all over the area and UFO investigators are booking hotel rooms.

Media frenzy has ensued that include coast to coast radio interviews, international phone calls and even a sit down with Larry King. Unexplainable lights and mile-long objects with military jets chasing them are just part of the stories pouring out of Erath County.

A big part of rural North Central Texas is camped out on their tailgates looking to the sky. The obvious and inescapable conclusion to unknown objects has to be extra terrestrial beings looking to abduct and probe. Why is that?

The Brewer himself has seen something like a triangle in the night sky with my then 16-year-old son. We watched it for a good three minutes or so and never put our thumb on exactly what it was. The conclusion I came to was that I actually wasn't able to recognize what it was.

Unidentified Serving Object

I had a waiter in California that I never could tag his or her gender. It was a great waiter, a very nice person and got a great tip, but for the life of me, I don't know what it was. Sometimes I thought it was a him and sometimes I thought it was a her but I never thought it was an alien. Just unidentifiable. He or she had the body of a woman, the face of a man, and beautiful lips with a little mustache over them. Nothing about that person made me assume it came from Mars or Venus.

If we are going to jump to conclusions as to what these strange lights are, let the Brewer throw his eccentric hat into the ring.

What if these lights are not extraterrestrial but supernatural?

Signs in the Heavens

On Dec. 11, Scottish evangelist Catherine Brown posted a prophecy on Elijahlist.com saying, "Watch for cosmic signs over Texas that will make front page news."

"I hear the Lord saying to watch for cosmic signs and wonders over Texas. There will be a cosmological phenomenon that scientists cannot explain and the media will carry in front line news. People will begin to ask about the light ... for a period of four months — from Christmas to Easter."

She said this a month before all the mess started. She also went on to say that it was a "sign" of a window of opportunity for salvations, healings and signs and wonders in North Texas. Her ministry is called Gatekeepers Global Ministries and, according to newspapers, she also predicted the 2008 earthquake in the Netherlands.

Hogwash you say? Go to Elijahlist.com and read it for yourself. Hey, I'll take a word like that any day. I don't mind believing for great things to happen and lives to be changed. I would much rather believe in God than fear a big-eyed boogity that doesn't have enough sense to avoid a windmill in Aurora.

Meanwhile, I wait for a call from Larry King.

Daniel 6:27

"He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. He can be e-mailed at troy@OpenDoorMinistries.org.

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Airwaves aren't for you and me

While the current administration suffers no shortfall of agencies favoring big business, none is more blatant than the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It heeds faithfully to the belief that big is good, bigger is better and humongous is heavenly.

Presumably, this philosophy stems straight from the White House, since we are now on our second consecutive presidentially appointed chairman who is an apostle of enormity. Kevin Martin follows in the footsteps of Michael Powell, who eventually was forced to resign when his disdain for the public became unsustainable. Martin is on the same track.

So who are the beneficiaries of all this bureaucratic largess as it filters down from Washington to the states and into our living rooms? Cable companies, for one. They initially were granted regulated monopoly status, and then in time the regulatory part withered. This has thrust them into the role of robber barons.

AT&T as technology has advanced. AT&T can suddenly provide TV through a phone wire, bringing hysteria to cable giants like Comcast, Cox, Cablevision and the rest of the cable fat cats. Like the dodo bird, they have evolved into

non-competitive money guzzlers. In some states last year, this competition brought forth full-page ads as both cable and telephone giants tried to influence state regulators. In the end, telephone won out, as did the lucky newspapers when all those ads got them briefly off their deathbeds. Now for a brief time, those lucky states have dreamy competition. It's a rare moment.

More recently still, the FCC has unfortunately softened its wise old rules prohibiting newspapers from owning TV stations. Such cross ownership is now allowed in large markets. Thus handsome profits await the big guys as they combine newsrooms and other expensive facilities. The quality of the news may suffer further, but in our current cartel environment, who'll be able to tell?

Then there is the sale of all those newly available public airwaves. The switch from analog to digital broadcasting has freed up scads of expensive bandwidths that communications giants have been salivating over for years. It should be an auction for the ages. But FCC regulations prohibit advance disclosure of any of the rules governing that auction. Loose-lipped employees face termination plus probable dismemberment if they tattle. So guess who benefits most from all this cloak and dagger? Surprise, it's not the small entrepreneurs. It's the corporations with wealth and influence.

Nor is even the Internet free

from manipulation. It isn't only in China where providers engage in censorship and anti-competitive jiggering. We still have competition to be sure, but as with any cartel, the industry's first job is to make sure that no new aggressive players get into the mix. As giants, they can always guess how their familiar behemoth competitors will behave. They can deal with that. It's the quirky little guys that are scary. Keep them out!

Likewise with phone companies. The bigger they grow the more likely they are to cave when the White House seeks phone records of whom you and I have called overseas.

Of course, all that recent spying was totally illegal, so the administration sought a law to retroactively protect its friendly culprit companies from prosecution after the beans got spilled. So far, Congress has wisely refused.

All in all, communications may be the government's biggest boondoggle, after oil. Not only are the profits that grow from this special privilege immense, but government control over the information we receive and the conversations we share is truly frightening. The worst part is that we often don't even realize that it's going on.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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BUICK

Continued from Page 3B

is always going to feel pretty good on the South Course."

Imagine how it felt for Matteson.

He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch on the back nine, then finished his round with consecutive birdies to become the first player since Davis Love III in 2000 to have the first-round lead while playing the South. Before that, it was in 1991 when

someone starting on the South was in the lead after the first round.

"It's typically a golf course where most guys are just thinking, 'If I can shoot even, 1-under, 2-under and then go to the North Course and really make up my numbers there,' that's kind of your tournament. Guys can shoot 8-, 9-, 10-under on the North Course and then shoot 6-under for the week. So we're looking forward to going to that North Course after playing this one."

Rory Sabbatini, Stuart

Appleby and Kevin Streelman, who began the day as the third alternate, were in the group at 67 with Woods. They all played on the North, which is where Matteson and Woods play on Friday.

Phil Mickelson opened his season with a 70 on the North.

Matteson was 11 shots better than his last trip around the South Course. That was the final round a year ago, when he played alongside Woods and watched the world's No. 1 player turn an ordi-

nary round into a winner. Maybe someone of that rubbed off on Matteson.

"That's an experience that any player would remember," Matteson said. "Anytime you get paired with Tiger, it's very interesting from a crowd standpoint, from a what-he-does standpoint. It's just pretty neat to see the guy shoot 66 on Sunday to win."

Woods wasn't the only person returning to work.

Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman was back in the booth after a two-week suspension for jok-

ingly suggesting young players wanting to take on Woods should "lynch him in a back alley." She recorded an apology that opened the telecast.

That seemed to end a month's worth of troublesome news in golf outside the ropes — Tilghman's suspension, the firing of a magazine editor for putting a noose on the cover, and the death of popular caddie Steve Duplantis in Del Mar early Tuesday.

But maybe there's more news to follow.

Woods and Sabbatini

were next to each other on the leaderboard for most of the round. They have not spoken since Sabbatini withdrew from the final round of the Woods' charity tournament for what his agent described as shin splints. Sabbatini still got \$170,000.

"I haven't talked to him about any of it," Woods said. "It is what it is."

Sabbatini donated the money Tuesday to the United Through Reading Military program at a ceremony for sailors at the USS Boxer.

BRADY

Continued from Page 3B

Giants' fierce pass rush.

But he handled it with poise, neither smiling nor frowning much, if at all, and not responding to comments from the paparazzi.

"I think Tom's one of the toughest players on our team, mentally and physically," coach Bill Belichick said at his news conference Thursday. "He works hard and he can be focused on his job regardless of what's going on in all of the surroundings — the crowd, the game, the whatever it is, stuff flying around him — but he's very calm. He's a great competitor, but he's very calm."

Belichick said he had no comment on Brady's injury.

Then he showed a spark of wit that has turned up more frequently in recent weeks.

"The injury report will be out next Wednesday and we're excited to give that to you. That form will be filled out completely and I can't wait to give that to everybody," Belichick said with a grin. "I know you're anx-

ious for it, so when it's due on Wednesday, we'll have it for you. Don't worry about that."

Several players brushed off questions about Brady.

Running back Kevin Faulk said he "changed the channel" when the boot came on his TV.

Wide receiver Randy Moss must have been happy that Brady, accidentally or intentionally, took the spotlight off the potential distraction of the previous week, a temporary restraining order against Moss obtained by a longtime girlfriend. Moss didn't talk to reporters Thursday.

Seymour said he paid more attention to the bouquet of white flowers Brady was toting in his hand than the white boot on his foot.

"Every channel I turned to, there it was, magnifying in on the boot," he said, smiling. "To me, the good part was the flowers."

To most other people, the focus was on a simple piece of overexposed footwear similar to that worn by thousands of other athletes with minor injuries, an object that generated so many pictures and headlines and so much worry by

Patriots fans.


Now that the paparazzi have moved on to other targets, would Belichick portray the boot flap as a

non-issue?

"Portray it however you want," the coach said.

And wait for the injury report.

Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Partner bids One Spade, and the next player passes. Neither side is vulnerable, and you have a partscore of 60. What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠KQ54 ♥9 ♦AJ652 ♣K63
2. ♠Q97 ♥K8 ♦AJ6 ♣AK954
3. ♠J82 ♥AJ3 ♦KJ8 ♣KQ76
4. ♠K54 ♥AJ6 ♦AQ72 ♣K98
5. ♠7 ♥J9743 ♦K62 ♣AQ85

1. Three spades. Many bids take on a new meaning when a side has a partscore. For example, a response of two diamonds to an opening one-spade bid would ordinarily be forcing, so opener could not pass. But when the same bid is made with a partscore of 60, opener is allowed to pass. Similarly, a response of two spades, which would ordinarily indicate six to 10 points, might be made with, say, a 12-point hand in the presence of a partscore.

Here, the raise to three spades, which overbids the score, represents a slam try. It alerts partner to the possibility of a slam, but does not compel him to bid again.

2. Three clubs. The jump-shift, as opposed to a jump-raise, does compel opener to bid again. Partner needs little more than a minimum opening bid for a slam to be made, and the jump-shift appraises him of that fact. The jump-shift does not

commit the partnership to a slam; it merely initiates an exploration of that possibility.

3. Two notrump. Since a response of one notrump would constitute a game contract, the jump to two notrump implies interest in a slam. It is strictly a limit bid, however, indicating a balanced hand of at most 16 points. The jump is invitational only, and can be passed by opener if he has minimum values and a hand suitable for notrump play.

4. Three notrump. This response is likewise only invitational, and partner is permitted to pass, but it suggests even more strongly the potential for slam. The difference between this bid and the preceding one is only one of degree in that it shows a balanced hand of 17 or 18 points.

5. One notrump. Great care is taken in partner situations to avoid winding up in a suit contract with a bad trump suit. For this reason, a response of two hearts with this hand should be avoided. Partner, who is not obligated to bid again, might pass with a doubleton heart and no convenient rebid.

With 10 high-card points facing an opening bid, the odds strongly favor making one notrump if partner passes. There is no need to risk a shaky suit contract at a higher level.

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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

						6	1	8
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	3		4				6	
	1	8	5	6	3			
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			1		9			
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For complete position notice and application, visit our website at www.howardcollege.edu.



NURSES UNLIMITED INC. is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing CNA's to assist in the home with personal care, meal prep, light house keeping. P-T. E.O.E. Call Maria @ 1-800-458-3257.

Help Wanted

ATTENTION POLICE OFFICERS & FIRE FIGHTERS Are you the Best? Can you make the top 10%? If so.....

Apply for these positions today:
Fire Fighters \$27,31.15-\$36,202.28 DOE
Deadline for applications is Wednesday, January 30th, 5:00 p.m.
Testing begins 9:00 a.m., Sat, February 2nd, 2008

Police Officers Cert. & Non \$32,427.20 Cert. - \$29,966.56 Non-Cert. Test date to be announced
Communications Officer
Wastewater Plant Operator
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(2) Positions- Landfill & Sanitation
Staff Accountant \$30,114.24 Annually
Information Tech Specialist I \$30,114.24

We offer EXCELLENT BENEFITS including 100% paid Employee Health Ins.

Inquire to: Human Resources City of Big Spring, Texas Phone: (432)264-2346 Fax: (432)264-2387 For more details go to www.ci.big-spring.tx.us EOE

COME JOIN our friendly team at Kate's Fina Mart. Good benefits. Now hiring full & part time. Must be 18 yrs. old. Apply at 1100 N. Lamesa Hwy.

NEED EXPERIENCED Lube Tech/Porter. Apply in person only at Service Department Pollard Chevrolet, Buick & Cadillac, 1501 East 4th.

Help Wanted

Dr Pepper/ Pepsi Now Hiring Career oriented person for Sales/Merchandiser position. Candidate should have experience selling and merchandising products preferably in the beverage industry. Responsible for selling, ordering, stocking and inventory control for stores in the Big Spring area. Clean driving record. Drug Screen and work assessment testing required. Comprehensive benefit program including, 401K, Major medical and dental and Flex program.

Apply in person at: Ab-Tex Dr Pepper/Pepsi 3611 HWY 87 North Big Spring, TX 79720

Water Quality Specialist

Full time position requires Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or natural resources. Minimum 3 years work experience, self starter, ability to multi-task. Salary DOE, Vacation, Health, 457B, Defined Benefits Plan, Educational Benefits, EOE. Send resume to: CRMWD, PO Box 869, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon- Fri., with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please Call Arthur 432-770-3966.

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home We recognize that our employees are our greatest asset, providing flexible schedules and one of the most attractive benefits packet: **Currently hiring the following positions:**

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Candidate Requirements:
High School Education or equivalent required
Previous office experience/bookkeeping required
Typing, 10-key, and computer skills necessary
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Morrison offers competitive pay and benefits!

To inquire, please call Scott at (432) 263-8411 or apply in person at: 3200 E I-20 Big Spring, TX. 9686

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Position requires computer experience, customer service and general office skills.

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2004 E. 42nd St., Odessa
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3111 Cuthbert, Midland

All positions require some nights and weekends. Bilingual a plus. Drug free environment. All open positions have a benefit package which includes: Medical Coverage, Free Life Insurance, Paid Vacation & Sick leave, Profit Sharing / 401(k) Retirement and more.

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Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

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Prices Include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date _____ **Classification:** _____

DEADLINES:
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

CLASSIFICATIONS:
Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals

Enclosed is \$ _____ ___ Cash ___ Money Order ___ Check
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Electrician/ Meter Technician Positions
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for an Industrial Electrician. Electrical experience and training required. A Meter Technician position is also available. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. Will work out of Big Spring, TX. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling 432-267-6341.

Help Wanted
EXPERIENCED DRIVER NEEDED!! We have developed a new compensation structure and are willing to pay for your experience. Our drivers are important to us. In addition to competitive pay you will also receive an excellent benefit package. Apply at 3112 N Hwy 87 or call: 432-267-9434.
FULL TIME Accounting Position Available. Requirements include Accounting Degree or equivalent of 10 yrs. experience in accounting/bookkeeping. Tax preparation experience a plus. Please send resume to PO Box 949, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

Help Wanted
MEDICAL OFFICE needs billing clerk for front desk. Send resume to P.O. Box 150, Big Spring, Texas 79721.
METER READING position now available. Please apply at txucorp.com
MIDWAY BAPTIST Church is looking for a responsible individual to work in the nursery on Sundays during the morning and evening services. You must have good references to be considered for the position. Please apply in person at 6200 S Service Rd. Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM.
NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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PAID DAILY!!!! P/T in home phone screeners needed with some phone sales experience. Top Commission/PAID DAILY! Call 1-800-480-2096 Code: paid daily.

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PAINTER'S ASSISTANT needed. Salary DOE, Health insurance, 401k plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to 432-236-6012. EOE
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RAINBOW CHRISTIAN Pre-school in need of a Van Driver/Child Care Worker. Applicant should be older, mature individual with child care experience and good driving record. Come by 409 Goliad to apply.

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED. Qualifications: Mature individual, basic computer skills & phone personality. Monday-Saturday. Preferred Non-Smoker. Send resume: c/o Big Spring Herald, PO Box 1431/221, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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

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

WANTED: ENTRY level mechanic and field position for natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Excellent salary and benefits. Mail resume to Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax to 432-399-4290 or email mwcol@circ.com.net

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

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ADJUSTABLE BED base and mattress, list \$2770, sell \$1290, NEW..... 100% Bonded microfiber sofa/love, brand new, lifetime warranty. \$540. 806-549-3110.

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Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE
January 24, 2008

The city of Big Spring water system collected (3) water samples during November, 2007, that contained coliform bacteria. This water system is required to submit a minimum of 30 routine water samples each month for bacteriological analysis. One routine sample was coliform-found and two repeat samples were coliform-found for the month and year indicated above.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets drinking water standards in Texas and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern. Coliform are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliform were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

For water systems analyzing at least 40 samples per month, no more than five (5) percent of the monthly samples may be positive for total coliform. For systems analyzing fewer than 40 samples per month, such as the City of Big Spring, no more than one (1) sample per month may be positive for total coliform.

We have determined the cause of the problem and have taken action to correct the cause of the problem.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact Kenny Scott at 432-264-2393 or Todd Darden at 264-2500. #5662 January 25, 2008

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
Help STOP Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Today, Pluto makes a monumental shift into Capricorn. Over the next 16 years,



HOLIDAY MATHIS

we'll collectively face the hard edges and sharp corners of responsibility inherent in power, especially involving Earth's exhaustible resources. We're beginning to understand, as John F. Kennedy said, that "of those to whom much is given, much is required."

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may be feeling a bit closed in, but it's only an illusion. You're never really trapped as long as you have the power to fly as fast as a thought to anywhere there is interest for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have the opportunity to applaud others in their achievements and also to receive congratulations. Don't hold back. Your loved ones need your enthusiasm, and you need to give it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). All people have policies by which to run their lives. However, many of those rules are unconscious and therefore difficult to change. You'll become aware of one of your policies and resolve an issue overnight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your innate sense of timing is terrific. Be sure of yourself. When you're inspired to take action, do it in that moment.

Sagittarius and **Libra** are among those most impressed by your gusto. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not sure how much work it will take to bring a project to completion. But don't let that question mark keep you from forward movement. Only when you have the desired result will you know how much work it takes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want so much to have faith in a certain person. But how can you be sure how he or she will act in the future? You don't have to see to believe. Believe first, and then you'll start to see.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Go through your address book to re-establish contact with terrific people. Friends help you circulate your best work and ideas. Tonight, emotionally charged issues require great objectivity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your leadership potential is great. What you deliver is well received. Resolve the past so you can move boldly into the future. Tonight, when you're with family, really be there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're ready to make a big move. Arranging exciting plans takes up most of your time and thoughts. At work, a friendly competition boosts your productivity and increases your fun too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Action and success go hand in hand. Hesitation and failure do too. People respond to your enthusiasm and want to be convinced of your point of view. So be bold — you're as attractive as you are sure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do you feel like you're waiting around for the right person to give you permission to move up? Well, you can stop waiting. There is no right person. So just head on up and see what happens.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Rather than avoiding the pressure, seek it out and meet the challenge. Sizzling connections happen when you do. Tonight, the social swirl revolves around you.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: When you think you've given your all, love's growing pains stretch your heart wider.

TAURUS: A romantic trip makes you feel like a million bucks and provides a refreshing new perspective on your relationship. **GEMINI:** You make a substantial commitment. The ties that bind you together make keeping a promise that much sweeter.

CANCER: A profound relationship stimulates internal processes that keep you busily engaged the entire weekend. **LEO:** On matters big and small, take your cue from your partner and grow in expertise. **VIRGO:** Having someone special to grow old with is fabulous, especially when your partner keeps you feeling young.

LIBRA: You're realizing that investing in yourself allows you to fully show up for the ones you love. **SCORPIO:** Love may economize on words, but it never skimps on heartfelt gestures. "I love you" is less a phrase than an expression.

SAGITTARIUS: You're wising up about the price of living your dream, and a partner's support makes owning it real.

CAPRICORN: Your steady heart and classy countenance are courted by at least one paramour. **AQUARIUS:** Love quietly blooms in reverent moments of shared stillness. **PISCES:** Release the one you love and he or she comes back to you.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: A couple of flirts? No sun-sign pairing withstands constant flirting better than the charmed twins, who elevate flirtation to an art form, a way of life. Gemini/Gemini lives to look, touch, taste, experience everything — a feat unachievable by any other twosome. Or foursome. Or but who's counting? Not the twins. They're interested and looking. Distractions keep these restless hearts constant.

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.

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Church News

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. St. Mary's Annual Meeting will be held this Sunday and therefore, Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. only. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall after the morning service.

The Planning Committee will meet Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the church offices. All new officers will need to participate in order to get their organizational meeting on the church calendar.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship services are at 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes begin at 10:15 a.m. There will be a congregational potluck dinner at 6 p.m., sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Bring food to share and enjoy the fellowship with other believers. Scripture reader will be David Duncel.

Don't forget to have your picture made for the congregational picture board. This board is so nice. We get to know names and how someone looks, so no one is a stranger. Bruce Schooler is set up to take your picture as you come to church.

Sign up for the 2008 Flower chart and the Eternal Light. You can do this to honor someone or in memorial of a loved one. Flowers are only \$20 per week and the Eternal Light is \$10 per month.

Operation On Going Support for January are these items: Foil pack tuna and chicken, blank CDs (RW) and/or jewel cases and Pringles (small cans) any flavor. The AT&T phone card fund is most appreciated.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The congregation extends an invitation to you to visit with us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. A nursery is provided. Children's Church is during the morning services for ages 4-9. For a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

The Senior Saints will have their game night and fellowship next Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

First United Methodist Church

First Methodist welcomes guest preacher Sandy Sandlin this Sunday at both services of worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. The Sandlins, who are former members of our church, now live in Muleshoe.

We want to welcome our mission crew back to the United States, and especially to Big Spring. They are scheduled to arrive back in Texas from Matagalpa, Nicaragua, Saturday. We are anxious to hear reports from this very important spiritual and medical journey.

Miz Stacy reminds that kids Children's Choir

practice is Sunday at 4 p.m. This is a fun time rehearsal for their spring concert, "Simon Says," for ages 4 through the sixth grade. For more information, contact Stacy at 517-0708.

Be sure to sign up for the Valentine Banquet scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9, sponsored by our youth under the direction of Brent Williams. This is a service project and a gift from the youth of our church as they strive to make a difference.

Perhaps it's the best kept secret in Big Spring — our mid-week Bible study and luncheon. Join us each Wednesday at noon in Garrett Hall; we start and finish in time for you to get back to work. And, it's a great time to see you through the week. Remember, our church buildings are located at the corner of Fourth and Scurry streets in the heart of downtown Big Spring. We welcome you to any and all of our many activities.

First Presbyterian Church

Midweek Bible study is at 5:17 p.m., youth at 6 p.m. and choir practice at 6 p.m.

The children's Sunday school classes began a new unit Jan. 13 titled "Boy Jesus at the Temple." This Sunday, the lesson will be presented on new computer software called "Cal and Marty's Scripture Memory," featuring John Calvin and Martin Luther as guides through the Bible verses.

Following Sunday school classes, everyone is invited to gather in the church parlor to enjoy the fellowship and food during the "Take Ten" minutes before worship service at 11 a.m.

The Session will meet in the library at 10:45 a.m. for a called meeting prior to the ordination and

installation service during worship. There will also be a brief Session meeting after the service to receive new members.

The Cents-Ability program, which has been an ongoing project of the Service Committee, will continue with another "Noisy Offering" during Sunday morning worship. Everyone is invited to donate all the spare change in their pockets to help provide food for those in need in our community.

Filling the pulpit Sunday will be the associate pastor from First Presbyterian Church in Midland, Mary Beth Anton. We are pleased to welcome back this excellent neighboring preacher. During the worship service, new elders Weldon Jones and Baylor Walker will be ordained and installed and Helen Glass and Mark Morgan will be installed as the Class of Elders for 2010.

Lectinary for this Sunday is Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18; and Matthew 4:12-23.

First Baptist Church

This evening at 7 p.m., the Stamps Quartet will be in concert at the First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700. This is going to be a great evening of gospel music and we invite you to come and join us as we lift up the name of the Lord. You do not need a ticket. A love offering will be taken.

Sunday, we will have a "Unity Conference." This conference for adults and youth will direct the church in dealing with conflict and disagreements that arise in today's church.

We'll begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium and continue throughout the day with breaks and a noon meal. It will be led by Blake Coffee from San Antonio, who is our pastor's son. The children

will be involved with their own activities.

First Baptist Church is having a DiscipleNow Weekend for youth Feb. 8-10. If you have youth who would like to come to this life-changing experience, call us. We'll give you information.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

This Sunday, designated as the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the lectionary is Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18; and Matthew 4:12-23. The Sunday worship service begins at 11 a.m.

Feb. 3, Linda Berry and Merlene Brown will be ordained and installed as elders for the Class of 2010 and the congregation will observe the Lord's Supper during the worship service. Following worship, everyone is invited to share the regular First Sunday meal in the fellowship hall.

College Baptist Church

The SBTC State VBS Team traveled to Goriotta last week for three days training in Vacation Bible School instruction. College Baptist Church members, who make up the team for West Texas, include Bro. Ken and Elisha McMeans, Sammy and

Debra Lewis, Sandy Samuels, Penny Evans, Gina Kimberly, Monica Carroll, Tamera Sneed and Janet Scott. They will be involved in VBS clinics for area churches in the future.

Men and boys participating in the "Faith Nights" will meet at the church Friday at 5:30 p.m. to travel to Odessa to see the Jackalopes vs. New Mexico Scorpions game.

CBC youth are already making plans for the Spring Break Mission Trip to New Orleans during the week of March 16-22. According to youth minister Bobby Floyd, the trip will be through Operation Noah Rebuild, a North American Mission Board program. Major emphasis will be construction.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church

Angel Food delivery date for January orders will be Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Order forms for February will also be available at this time.

We at North Birdwell Church appreciate all the community volunteers who come out to help unload the truck, take food inventory, distribute the food orders and carry out the boxes to the cars.

Without the help of the volunteers, there would

be no way our small church could be a host sight for this non-qualifying food program to help persons lower their food bills. The food menu changes each month and is available for \$30 cash or money order. For more information on this community service project, please call 267-3241 or 267-2203. This is not a fundraiser.

A Senior Defensive Driving Course will be held Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with 30 minutes for lunch. Lunch is being furnished by the ladies of the church. Paul Smith will be the instructor and the cost is \$10.

Sunday worship services are held at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and Sunday school immediately following. Sunday night worship is held at 5 p.m. Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and the United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

If you do not have a church home, we welcome you to join us, not only for worship but in a loving Christian fellowship.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell. Services are led by Certified Lay Speaker Jacque Mauch.

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7A

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News in brief

In President Bush's final State of the Union address, the familiar will trump the bold

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a bow to political reality, President Bush's final State of the Union speech will skip bold proposals in favor of ones the country has heard before, a modest approach for a White House that prides itself on big ideas.

Bush's strategy reflects what he is up against: little time left in office, confrontational relations with a Democratic Congress and a diminishing role on the national stage. White House aides say there is not much point in unveiling grand ideas sure to go nowhere.

So don't expect anything Monday on the scale of overhauling Social Security or immigration policy, two earlier initiatives that died on Capitol Hill.

"It's just not realistic," acknowledged White House press secretary Dana Perino on Thursday.

Senate under pressure to approve stimulus deal to get tax rebates to workers in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — A much-anticipated deal between the White House and once-warring House leaders to speed tax rebate checks to workers starting in May has the Senate in a bind over whether to try to add to the measure.

Few public developments were expected Friday as lawmakers digest Thursday's announcement of a hard-won agreement between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Republican leader John Boehner and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson that would pump about \$150 billion into the economy this year and perhaps stave off the first recession since 2001.

The Senate very often wins its battles with the House. But now, with the power of the Bush administration behind them, House leaders are optimistic that their simply drawn measure — providing rebate checks to 117 million families and \$50 billion in incentives for businesses to invest in new plants and equip-

ment — would prevent the Senate from making significant changes such as extending unemployment benefits.

Under the agreement announced by the White House, Boehner and Pelosi, individual taxpayers would get up to \$600 in rebates, working couples \$1,200 and those with children an additional \$300 per child. In a key concession to Democrats, 35 million families who make at least \$3,000 but don't pay taxes would get \$300 rebates.

Iraqi prime minister announces major offensive against al-Qaida in Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister announced Friday that the government was launching a major offensive against al-Qaida in the northern city of Mosul after two deadly blasts that killed 34 people and a provincial police chief.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the government was sending troops to Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, to fight the insurgents who have taken refuge there following operations in Baghdad and surrounding areas.

"Today, the troops have moved to Mosul ... and the fight there will be decisive," al-Maliki said during an address in the Shiite holy city of Karbala.

The pledge came after an apartment believed to be a bomb-making factory exploded in Mosul on Wednesday, killing at least 34 people and wounding 224, most in nearby houses.

A suicide bomber then killed an Iraqi police chief and two other officers Thursday as they surveyed the site of the wreckage of the initial blast.

Republicans candidates depict Hillary Rodham Clinton as weak on Iraq, certain to raise taxes

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Republican presidential contenders depicted Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as weak on Iraq and certain to raise taxes Thursday night, setting aside their own campaign debate squab-

bles long enough to agree that she is unworthy of the White House.

"She is so out of step with the American people," said former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, joined by Sen. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani in criticizing the former first lady.

The chorus of criticism came as Republicans strived to present their credentials as advocates of tax cuts, particularly to head off the threat of recession. They generally agreed that the newly minted, bipartisan economic stimulus package was a good start but did not go far enough.

"I will vote for it," said McCain, the only contender on stage with a Senate seat. He quickly added he wants the tax cuts President Bush won from Congress in 2001 and 2003 to be made permanent.

Some gay activists frustrated as their issues linger on sideline of 2008 campaign

NEW YORK (AP) — Few constituencies are as eager for the Republican Party to falter this political season as gay-rights activists. Yet as they observe the Democratic presidential campaign and the rest of the electoral landscape, their high hopes often are mixed with frustration.

Even as they expect to support whichever Democrat gets the presidential nomination, many activists are disappointed that the three leading contenders rarely mention gay-rights topics unless responding to a question.

"They don't want to broach civil unions, marriage, equalizing benefits for same-sex couples," said Jennifer Chrisler, head of the Family Equality Council, which supports gay and lesbian families. "The vast majority of politicians don't lead, they follow."

There are other frustrations as well. Activists were dismayed that the Democratic-led Congress failed to approve two much-anticipated bills late last year — one defining anti-gay assaults as a federal hate crime.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Sunday school teachers and workers are urged to attend "A Conversation with Ken," Sunday school and small group ministries, being held at First Baptist Church in Midland, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Breakfast will be served. Meet on East Fourth's parking lot as church vans will leave at 7:30 a.m.

Attention to our Senior

Adults. Make plans to attend the Valentine Banquet being hosted by College Baptist Church, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m.

If you are a newcomer to Big Spring and looking for a place to worship, come visit us at 401 E. Fourth St. You will receive a blessing from the word of God shared by our pastor Keith Weaver and through the music directed by Joe Whitten.

Sunday school for all ages is from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Worship service is from 11 a.m. to noon. On Sunday evenings, RA's, GA's and

youth meet from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Evening worship is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adult prayer, Bible study, youth Bible study, youth choir, children's Bible study and choir meet. For more information, call the church office at 267-2291

Chapel of Faith

The Chapel of Faith at 14th and Goliad would like to invite you to attend Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. each week. The service is informal and we designed to show our love for God.

Pastor Joel Miller brings a message from the Bible to encourage all to live a life to show others that wonderful love God has for each person.

The congregation has a work day scheduled Saturday, weather permitting, to clean and do some minor repair work around the church property. Anyone who can, be there about 10:30 a.m. and we will serve sandwiches at noon. Plans will be put in place for future improvements.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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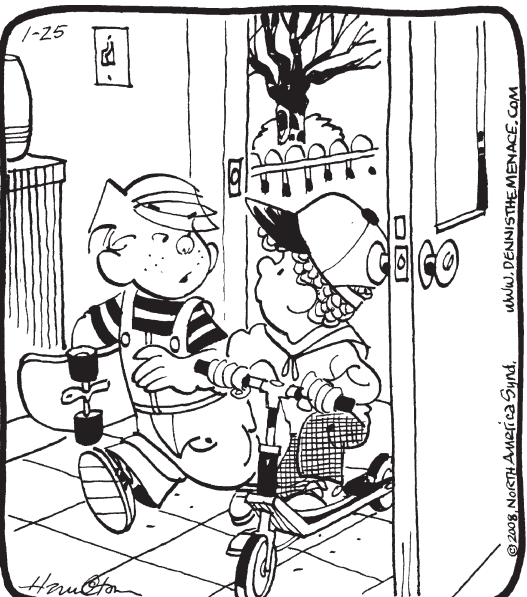
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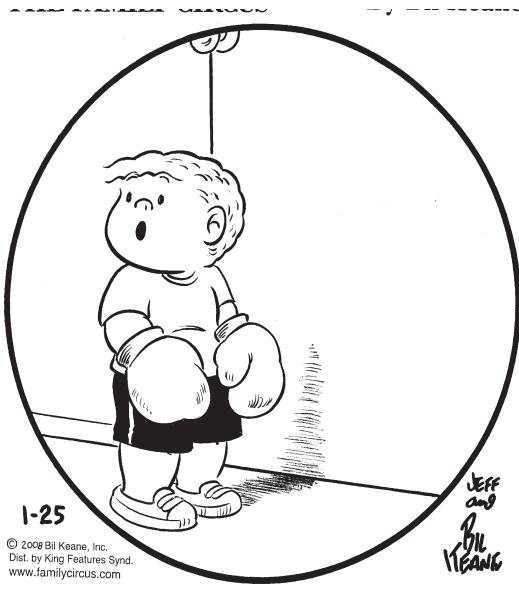
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6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two/Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Movie: Brown	Cory in House Cory in House	NFL Live Boxing	NBA Basketball:	Haunted (CC)
7:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	Bones (CC)	Ghost Whisperer	Madre Luna	1 vs. 100 (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update Review Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW on PBS	Survivorman (CC)	Movie: Top Gun	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Sugar (CC)	Movie: Minutemen	Boxing	Orlando Magic at Detroit	Flash Gordon (CC)
8:PM :30	Desperate Housewives	Desperate Housewives	Pasion	House (CC)	Garth Brooks Live! (CC)	Victoria	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Movie: The Longest Yard	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal (CC)	Man vs. Wild (CC)		Shocking Moments	Movie: The Longest Yard		Cory in House	Tennis:	Pistons (CC)	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
9:PM :30	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Familia-Luche Retro P. Luche	TMZ (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Las Vegas (CC)			Slavery and America	Fight Quest	Breaking Bad	Most Amazing Videos		Girlfriends Girlfriends	Cory in House Cory in House	Australian Open --	Games (CC)	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two/Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show		J.R. Church Rico Cortes	Charlie Rose (CC)	Fight Quest	Movie: (CC)	Disorderly Con.		Hell Date Hell Date	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	Women's Final Super Bowl	SportsCenter (CC)	Flash Gordon (CC)
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Fabrica de Risas	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-	Sex and-City Movie: The	In Touch-Dr	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Survivorman (CC)	Halloween	MXC MXC	the Dead (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	X Center (CC)		Stargate Atlantis (CC)
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	Salome (SS)	Reno 911! George Lopez	The Insider	Just Laugh Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Update Review CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Man vs. Wild (CC)	Breaking Bad	GameTrailers Game Head	12:15 Movie: Mimic (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	Winter X- Games (CC)	NFL Live NBA Fastbreak	Stargate SG-1 (CC)	

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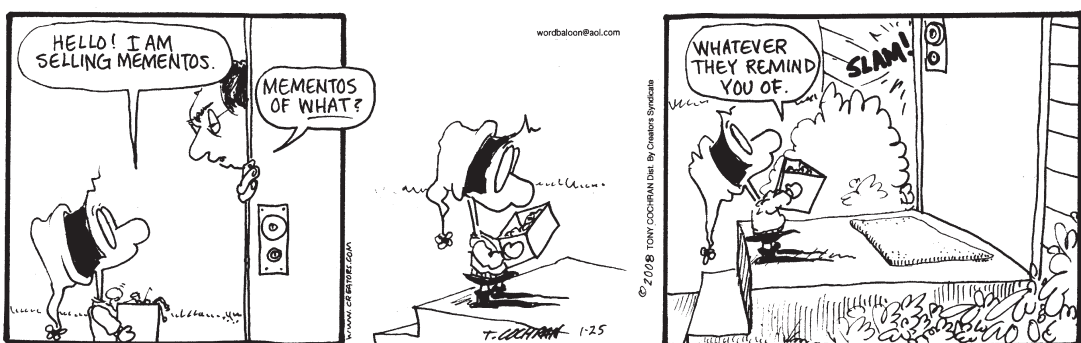
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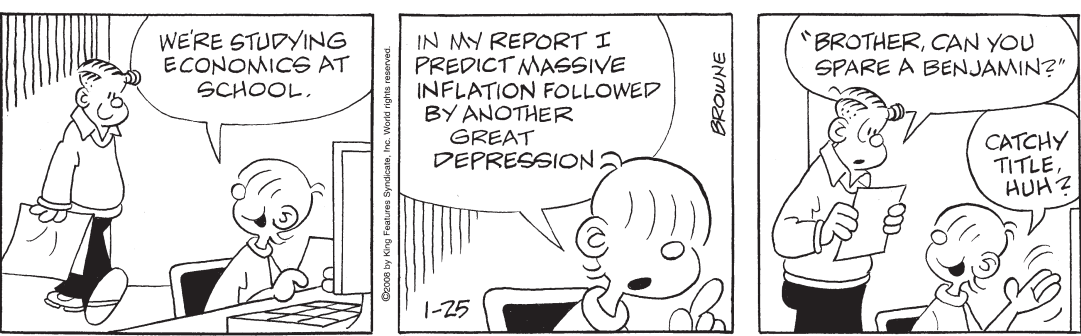
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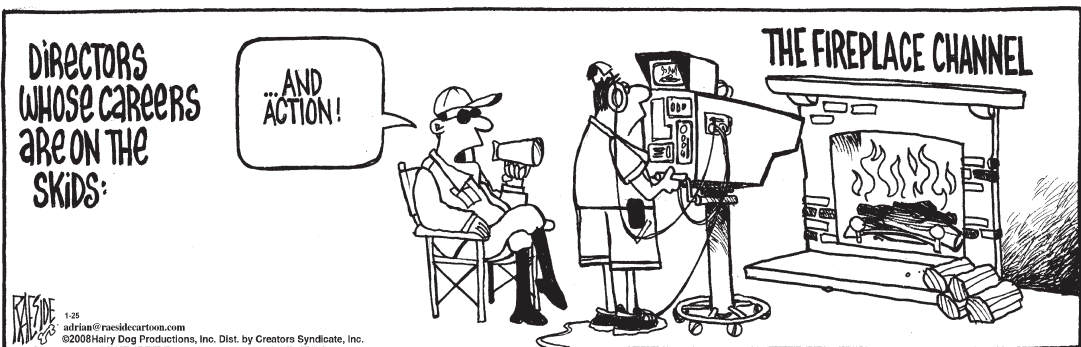
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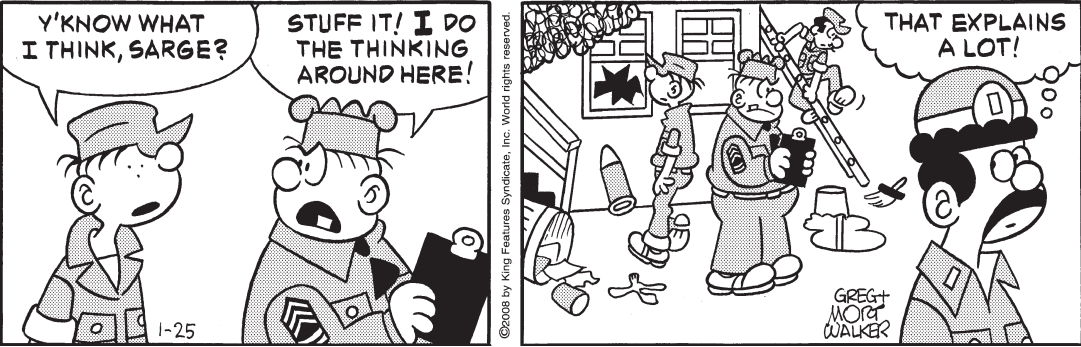
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2008. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 25, 1858, Britain's Princess Victoria (the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert), married Crown Prince Frederick William (the future German Emperor and King of Prussia) at St. James's Palace. (The ceremony's tradition-setting music, personally selected by the Princess Royal, included the "Bridal Chorus" from Richard Wagner's "Lohengrin" and the "Wedding March" by Felix Mendelssohn.)
On this date:
In 1787, Shays's Rebellion suffered a setback when debt-ridden farmers led by Capt. Daniel Shays failed to capture an arsenal at Springfield, Mass.
In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed

a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes.
In 1890, the United Mine Workers of America was founded.
In 1915, Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service.
In 1946, the United Mine Workers rejoined the American Federation of Labor.
In 1959, American Airlines began jet flights between New York and Los Angeles on the Boeing 707.
In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate.
In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

is 76. The former president of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino, is 75. Blues singer Etta James is 70. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 65. Actress Jenifer Lewis is 51. Actress Dinah Manoff is 50. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 39. Actress China Kantner is 37. Actress Ana Ortiz is 37. Musician Matt Omark (Jars of Clay) is 34. Actress Mia Kirshner is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia Keys is 27.
Thought for Today: "The price of justice is eternal publicity." — Arnold Bennett, English poet, author and critic (1867-1931).

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Birthdays:
Journalist-author Edwin Newman is 89. Actor Gregg Palmer is 81. The former president of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, is 80. Actor Dean Jones is 77. Country singer Claude Gray

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| 24 Dairy dweller | 12 Place for notes |
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| 29 Not very much | 18 Honshu city |
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| 47 Resemble | |
| 49 French soul | |
| 50 Name that means "life" | |
| 51 Sergio Mendes & Brasil '66 tune | |
| 54 A Room with — | |
| 56 Alert | |
| 57 <i>The Green Berets</i> author | |

