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BIG SPRING

HERALD

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 30, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 52

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

VAMC expansion due

40-bed domiciliary to open in 2009; other services planned, officials say

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Less than two years after it was threatened by closure, the Big Spring VA Medical Center is preparing instead for expansion.

Architects are in the midst of drawing up plans for a new 40-bed domiciliary which will be used to house veterans in need of substance abuse treatment.

Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator for the hospital, said architects with the Tucson firm of Westlake,

Reed & Leskosky have been working on expansion plans for the past several months.

"It will be later this year before bids go out to the contractors," Hanslik said. "We definitely feel that it will be after Oct. 1 before the construction phase begins."

To address immediate treatment needs in this area, renovation is nearing completion on a temporary 10-bed domiciliary, expected to open in late spring.

See **VAMC**, Page 3A



Architects are drawing up plans for a 40-bed domiciliary at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. Construction could start in October. HERALD file photo



Emergency personnel load the driver of this low rider GMC pickup into an ambulance following an accident on N. Highway 87 Tuesday afternoon. According to law enforcement officials at the scene, the truck was traveling south on Highway 87 and was attempting to make a left turn when the driver of a full-size Dodge pickup hit it in the rear. The driver of the GMC pickup was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in serious condition. A passenger was also transported, as was the driver of the Dodge pickup, both with non life threatening injuries. HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Tickets on sale for 'An Evening with Dvorak

Tickets are on sale now for "An Evening of Dvorak," Big Spring Symphony's third concert of the 2007-2008 season.

The concert, featuring the music of Antonin Dvorak, is set for 8

p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and are available at Blum's Jewelers, Faye's Flowers, all of

First Bank of West Texas' locations, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the *Big Spring Herald*.

Tickets will also be available at the concert.

Input sought on local school facilities needs

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials want to build new facilities, but first they want input from the people who would have to foot the bill.

BSISD trustees will hold a public hearing to discuss planned facility improvements at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

What to do about an aging infrastructure has been a major topic of concern for the school district the past two years. Two major studies have concluded that several campuses are obsolete or in danger of becoming so.

To remedy the situation, district officials have devised a three-stage plan that would replace almost every BSISD campus over a 40-year span.

The first stage of that

At a glance

What: Public hearing on planned facility improvements for Big Spring ISD.

Where: Big Spring High School board room.

When: 5:15 p.m. Thursday.

plan will be the topic of conversation at Thursday's hearing.

Officials hope to begin the first stage of construction as soon as late 2008 or 2009. It calls for:

- Closure of Washington and Bauer elementaries, which have been rated obsolete by a pair of outside studies.
- Conversion of Moss, Kentwood and Marcy elementaries into neighborhood campuses for students.

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

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Nebraska man killed in I-20 wreck

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Nebraska man was pronounced dead at the scene of a traffic accident Monday evening approximately four miles east of Big Spring.

James Weidner, 71, of Humphreys, Neb., was pronounced dead at 6:11 p.m. by Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs after the vehicle he was traveling

in was hit head-on by a tractor-trailer, according to law enforcement officials.

Karen Weidner, wife of the deceased, was also injured in the crash — which happened near the 186 mile marker. She was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center in serious condition with injuries to her legs and feet, according to

Department of Public Safety Dispatcher Gilbert Villareal.

"There were three vehicles involved in the accident," said Villareal. "At approximately 5:20 p.m. a 2007 Mercury, driven by Judy Hicks of Odessa, was traveling west on Interstate Highway 20 when she attempted to pass an 18-wheeler, driven by Kinh Huu Le of Garden Grove, Calif.

"As Hicks was passing the 18-wheeler, it drifted into her lane, continuing into the

median and then into the eastbound lane of Interstate Highway 20, where it struck the 2007 Buick by Karen Weidner head-on."

Villareal said the tractor-trailer then rolled onto its side before coming to rest in the median. Both the deceased and his wife were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

See **WRECK**, Page 3A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Wednesday, January 30, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

District play for most girls basketball squads ends Feb. 5.

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

Coahoma boys basketball at Haskell, 6:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

Forsan boys basketball at Hamlin, 8 p.m.

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

Coahoma boys basketball at Anson, 8 p.m.

FEB. 8

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

Coahoma boys basketball at Colorado City, 7:30 p.m.

FEB. 12

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring QB Club electing officers Feb. 11 at ATC

The Big Spring High School Quarterback Club is holding a meeting to elect new officers for the 2008 football season at 6 p.m. Monday Feb. 11 at the Athletic Training Center.

Any parent of a child planning to play football in the seventh through 12th grades are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

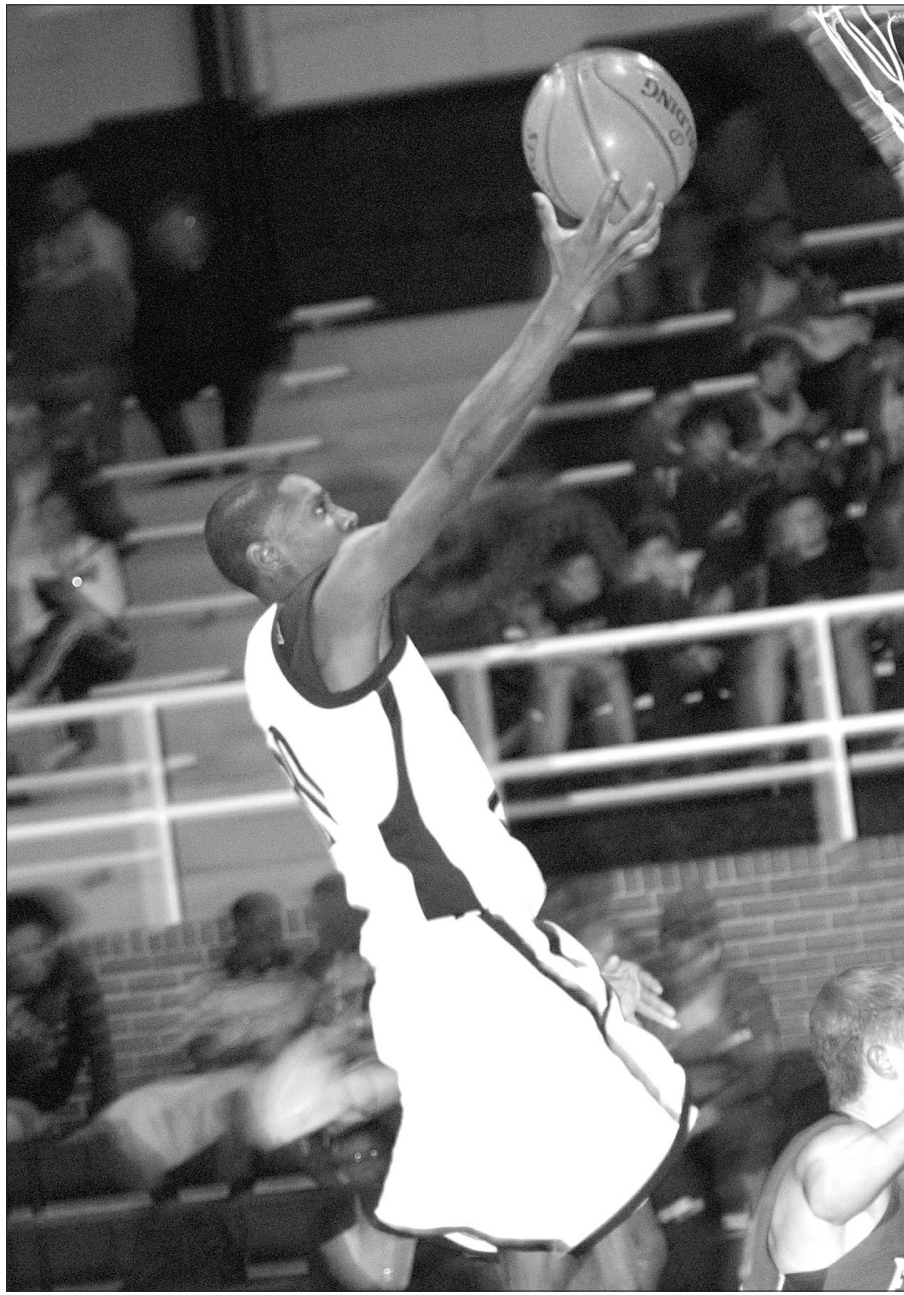
BSSH Baseball Booster Club meeting Feb. 11

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club is meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday Feb. 11 at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of high school baseball players are encouraged to attend.

Contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

Turnovers keep Steers winless in district



Big Spring's Tyrone Clemons flies to the rim in the Steers' 68-57 loss to Frenship Tuesday night in Steer Gym.

Frenship fights off Big Spring, 68-57

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

After an impressive opening to the season, including a 7-game win streak, who would've thought Big Spring's Steers would struggle to find their first district win.

Unfortunately for the Steers, the search continues after falling to Frenship's Tigers Tuesday night in Steer Gym, 68-57. The loss marks the ninth straight for Big Spring.

The Steers led, 5-4, just two minutes into the game, but Frenship rolled off a 13-4 run through the last six minutes of the first period. The Steers never led again.

It was Frenship's defensive and rebounding efforts along with Big Spring's carelessness with the ball keying the Tigers sudden dominance in the game.

"Turnovers and not boxing out. It was like every time Frenship shot, it was like an assist because they'd get the rebound and put it in," Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris said. "The guys played hard, but turnovers and too many second opportunities cost us."

The Tigers' prowess on the offensive boards kept the Steers from gaining any momentum as Big Spring struggled to get consecutive stops on the defensive end of the court.

"Not getting rebounds on the defensive end gives them a second shot," Morris said. "It's

tough to play defense when you're not getting rebounds. Frenship doesn't beat itself."

Offensively, the Steers struggled to get anything going in the second half with only Jason Walker providing a consistent scoring threat.

"Frenship plays good man-to-man defense" Morris noted. "They also went into a zone and sometimes we were standing around too much on offense when they did."

Frenship had four players reach double figures with Lance Ratliff and Jordan Merchant leading the way with 16 points apiece. Brian Matthews added 12 points and Kyler Pool chipped in 10.

Big Spring was led by Walker's game-high 22 points. He also had five steals and five rebounds. Terrance Clemons was the only other Steer to reach double digits in scoring with 10 points.

The loss drops Big Spring to 0-5 in District 4-4A play and leaves them with a slim outside chance of making the postseason. However, winning their last three district contests has to be the Steers' first priority.

"Right now we can't worry about playoffs," Morris said. "We need to work on becoming the best team we possibly can. If we win our last three games, then I'm sure there's some sort of outside chance to make the playoffs."

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Bulldogettes win District 5-2A title; Eighth-ranked Bulldogs upset

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogettes (26-4, 12-0) rolled into their game against the Stanton Lady Buffaloes (8-21, 2-10) looking to take another step towards a perfect district record, but more importantly a win and Coach Chris Sumrall and his ladies can lay claim to the outright district 5-2A championship.

Mission accomplished. The Bulldogettes maintained their perfect record, thanks in large part to a 34-8 run in the second half, for the 60-30 victory over the Lady Buffs.

It looked as if it was to be a trying night for Coahoma, however, as the Lady Buffs refused to lie down for the district front-runners, matching the Bulldogettes score for score until halfway through the second quarter.

Coahoma's Hilary White came to the rescue. The junior reserve pulled up behind the three-point arc and calmly drained it, putting the Bulldogettes up 21-17 with two and a half minutes remaining in the first half.

"I can't say enough about the way that Hilary played tonight," Sumrall said. "She came in and played an excellent game for us off the bench."

After a Laci Luna basket for Stanton cut the Coahoma lead to 23-19, Janice Gonzales hit her third trey of the half only to see Stanton's Angelica Moreno throw in a desperation shot at the buzzer, bringing the Lady Buffs to within four 26-22 going into the second half.

See **CHS**, Page 2B



Big Spring Lady Steers guard Jordan Chesworth sets up a play in the Lady Steers' 73-9 loss to Frenship's Lady Tigers Tuesday night in Steer Gym.

Lady Steers still looking for season's first win

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Time is getting short for Big Spring's Lady Steers to claim their first win of what has been discouraging and trying season.

After Tuesday night's 73-9 home loss to Frenship's Lady Tigers, the Lady Steers have just two more opportunities — Friday at Lubbock Estacado and Tuesday host-

ing San Angelo Lake View — to ensure they don't end the season winless.

"I told the girls that we're going to learn about them in the next two weeks," Lady Steers Head Coach Randal Petty said. "It's been a tough and disappointing year. We have to go to Estacado Friday and we know how tough of a game that's going to be. We get Lake View here for the last game of the season and

that's a very winnable game. We want to keep improving over the next two weeks. Ending the season with a win can give us a lot of motivation going into next year."

Frenship kept the Lady Steers off the scoreboard completely in the second half. Big Spring struggled to get off a shot in the third and fourth periods and found it

See **BSSH**, Page 2B

Forsan avenges lone district loss

Herald Staff Report

Ah, redemption. In the sports world there is nothing like avenging an earlier loss, especially when you do so on your opponent's home court.

That's precisely what the 15th-ranked Forsan Buffalo boys basketball team was able to do on Tuesday night as they knocked off 14th-ranked Roscoe, 67-56.

The win moves the Buffs to 18-3 overall and 3-1 in district.

Cameron Parker came up huge for the Buffs, scoring a game-high 27 points, including four

baskets from beyond the arc.

Adam Bailey also had a big night in both scoring and rebounding as he netted 17 points and hauled in 18 rebounds. Jeremy Robbins added 11 points for Forsan.

"We made great decisions on the offensive end of the floor and moved the ball well," said Buffs Head Coach Terry McDonald. "Defensively, we withstood a run that Roscoe had in the third quarter and never lost our composure."

McDonald said the Buffs' free

throw shooting was crucial down the stretch with Parker and Alex Huckabee combining to hit 8 of 10 from the line in the fourth period.

Forsan will be at home this Friday as they play host to Rotan.

Forsan 15 15 11 26—67
Roscoe 13 8 17 18—56

Forsan: Cameron Parker 27, Adam Bailey 17, Jeremy Robbins 11, Alex Huckabee 8, Blake Grantham 4.

Notes: Zack Dykes led the Forsan boys JV team with 12 points as they remained unde-

feated at 16-0, beating Roscoe, 37-13.

Evan Burton and Riley Wood added to the victory scoring eight each.

The JV girls got back on the winning track by defeating Roscoe, 41-14 and moving their season record to 20-1.

Morgan Forshee paved the way netting 14 points and collecting nine boards. Kelsey Jones added nine points and had six steals while Shelby Jones and Brittney Roemer each added six points for the Lady Buffs.

Obituaries

Martha M. Havlena

Martha M. Havlena, 85, died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

She was born Nov. 3, 1922, at Queens, New York to Martha and Humphrey Henry. She was a retired bookkeeper and office manager. She was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, The Order of the Eastern Star and a volunteer at Big Spring Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1989.

She is survived by her son, David Henry and his wife Becky of Big Spring; one daughter, Lois Gibson of Fairfield, CT; one sister, Charlotte Mulligan of Greenville, S.C.; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Henry Havlena.

The family suggests memorials to Big Spring R.S.V.P., 501 Runnels, Big Spring 79720, or other favorite charity.

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

Tano Chavarria

Tano Chavarria, 59, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.

- **WENDY THOMAS**, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

- **MISTY BOSLEY**, 30, was transferred to the County Jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for theft.

- **DOMONIQUE XAVIER WILLIAMS**, 18, was transferred to the County Jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

- **KEVIN PATRICK THOMAS**, 19, was transferred to the County Jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

- **MICHAEL ALLEN RICHTER**, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a bench warrant.

- **RICHARD ANTHONY LOPEZ**, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of bail jumping - failure to appear.

- **SUSAN DIANE HILLIARD**, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-6-21-22-26

Number matching five of five: 2

Prize per winner: \$12,720.

Winning tickets sold in: Beaumont and Houston.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-8-8. Sum It Up: 34.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-5. Sum It Up: 6

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Windy. Areas of blowing dust in the evening. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the northwest 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph after midnight.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Isolated showers and snow showers in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40.

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

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Police blotter

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

- **REBECCA MORALES**, 23, of 606 Holbert, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.

- **GREGORY LIPP**, 21, of Liberty Hill, was arrested Monday on a charge of assault by contact.

- **DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS**, 18, of 1309 Baylor, was arrested Monday on a local citation and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

- **KEVIN THOMAS**, 19, of 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested Monday on three local warrants and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

- **ALFONSO BARRERAS**, 31, of 2109 S. Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on nine local warrants.

- **AMBER LONG**, 23, of 1004 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.

- **JESSICA GARZA**, age not provided, of 908 W. Fourth Street, was arrested Tuesday on four local warrants.

- **KELLEIGH SMITH**, 25, of 1310 Lexington, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants and three Howard County warrants.

- **MISTY BOSLEY**, 30, of 1310 Lexington, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.

- **BENJAMIN MUNOZ**, 27, of 1311 Mulberry, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.

- **DONNIE ROBERTSON**, 23, of 101 Apache, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.

- **KELLY FORSHEE**, 39, of 1519 Kentucky, was arrested Tuesday on a local capias warrant.

- **ADALBERTO DELEON JR.**, 45, of 312 N.E. Eighth Street, was arrested Tuesday on 14 local warrants.

- **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 800 block of Scurry.

- **FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 400 block of Fifth Street.

- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.

- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.

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.



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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

THURSDAY

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

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

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

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

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

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

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

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2700 block of N. Highway 87. Three people were transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of E. Fifth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the area of S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Pettus Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Courtney Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 2500 block of Randolph.

- **GRASS FIRE** was reported near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and the railroad tracks.

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The Big Spring Herald will be publishing the 2008 Profile Edition

"Look At Us At The Crossroads Of West Texas"

This Section featuring stories about your friends, neighbors, and Business Associates

Publish Date Is Sunday, March 30

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T.O. forced to pay debt

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA

Terrell Owens should set aside part of his roster bonus from Dallas to pay his old team a debt.

An arbitrator ruled in favor of the Philadelphia Eagles on Friday on a grievance that was filed by the NFL players' union on Owens' behalf in 2005.

A team spokesman said the Eagles would not comment. Owens' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, did not return a phone message.

The union disputed the Eagles' effort to recover

\$1.725 million of the \$2.3 million signing bonus the team paid the wide receiver when it signed him to a seven-year, \$48.97 million deal in 2004.

Owens was kicked off the team seven games into the 2005 season for a series of infractions, including repeated criticism of quarterback Donovan McNabb and lashing out against management.

He was suspended four games without pay and the team withheld his

final five paychecks, totaling \$955,880. That means Owens still owes the Eagles \$769,120.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said this month he plans to pay Owens a \$3 million roster bonus, so the All-Pro should have some extra cash to pay the Eagles.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, citing a league source, first reported arbitrator Shyam Das ruled against Owens. An NFL spokesman confirmed the report to The Associated Press.

CHS

Continued from Page 1B

The final 16 minutes, though, belonged to the Bulldogettes as junior Shelbi Page calmly lined up a trey with only ten seconds elapsed in the third quarter, touching off a 16-4 run to put the game away for the Bulldogettes.

"All that kind of play is going to do is help us further down the road," Sumrall said. "If we can get the girls on the bench to play as well as our starters, we are going to be in good shape come playoff time."

"It feels good to win the championship," Sumrall said of winning the district title outright. "That was one of our goals and now we just have to refocus on the task at hand and continue to play good basketball."

Laci Sterling and Heather Sheppard paced the Bulldogettes with 15 points each, while the duo of Gonzales and White each ended with nine.

Moreno led the way for the Lady Buffs with nine.

Stanton 10 12 8 0-30
Coahoma 16 10 22 12-60

Stanton: Salazar 2, Luna 4, Coggin 5, Dilao 2, Beasley 1, Fleckenstein 2, Carrasco 2, Sanchez 3, Moreno 9.

Coahoma (26-4, 12-0): Shelbi Paige 3, Laci Sterling 16, Janice Gonzales 9, Hilary White 9, KaySea Spiller 4, Christie Rich 4, Heather Sheppard 15.

Bufs 64,

Bulldogs 43

"We just got outplayed."

That was all that Coahoma Bulldogs (18-5, 9-1) head coach Kim Nichols was able to say after the Stanton Buffaloes (15-9, 6-4) stomped into Bulldog gymnasium and upset the newly state-ranked Bulldogs, 64-43.

"We were outplayed, outcoached, out hustled," a dejected Nichols said. "We just got beat by a good team."

It looked as if the game would become a classic slugfest with neither team giving an inch, answering score for score.

Coahoma looked as if they were going to get on track late in the second quarter tearing off on an 8-0 run for a 37-22 lead with a little less than two minutes remaining in the first half.

Stanton, however, would have none of that, ripping off a 7-2 run of their own knotting the score at 29 heading into the locker room.

The final 16 minutes, though, became an absolute nightmare for

the Bulldogs. Coahoma shot an anemic 1 for 12 from the field in the third quarter.

Stanton, on the other hand, found the magic touch connecting on 7 of their 10 shots from the field, opening up a 48-31 margin entering the final eight minutes of play.

Stanton kept the pressure on in the final frame outscoring the Bulldogs 16-12 over the span to pull off the upset.

"Maybe this will be a wake up call," Nichols said. "Maybe this will let the boys know that they aren't good enough to not play hard all the time. Hopefully, we can take this lesson to the Haskell game."

Stanton's Garrett Fulton took game-high honors as the senior post scored 25 while teammates Adam Evans and Chase Pinkerton added 15 and 13, respectively.

The Bulldogs were led by Colter Morgan's 10 while the duo of Logan Stone and Matthew Tatum each scored eight.

Stanton 16 13 19 16-64

Coahoma 14 15 2 12-43

Stanton (15-9, 6-4): Garrett Fulton 25, David Erives 4, Tyler Fulton 5, Chase Pinkerton 13, Robbie Noland 2, Adam Evans 15.

Coahoma (18-5, 9-1): Mikey Mendoza 3, Josh Paniagua 7, Ray Gutierrez 4, Colter Morgan 10, Logan Stone 8, Matt Tatum 8, Jovi Paniagua 3.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

The playoffs seem a long way off right now. We just need to try to get better."

Big Spring travels to take on 9th-ranked Lubbock Estacado Friday.

Frenship 17 21 15 15-68
Big Spring 9 19 12 17-57

Frenship: Kyler Pool 10, James Montague 6, Lance Ratliff 16, Brian

Matthews 12, Jordan Merchant 16, Scott McInnes 8.

Big Spring (10-16, 0-5): Terrance Clemons 10, Darius McCallister 2, Lance Gross 5, Jerrell Williams 7, Tyrone Clemons 1, Hadden Phillips 6, Jason Walker 22, Sidney Parker 4.

Notes: Big Spring's junior varsity boys played a thriller Tuesday night, topping Frenship 53-49. Monte Anderson led the Steers with a game-high 18 points. Sammie Segundo added 12 points and Xavian Parnell had

eight.

The JV Steers were down by 3 at halftime, but managed a 1-point advantage heading into the fourth period. From there, the Steers were able to hold on for the 4-point victory.

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

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

more difficult to make a field goal if a player did get open.

One of the factors playing into Big Spring's offensive deficiencies was the committing of 36 turnovers. The Lady Steers had five opportunities to score from the free throw line in the final period, but couldn't get the ball to fall through the net.

Kallina Fletcher led the Lady Steers with four points. Crystal Woodson did a nice job on the boards, pulling down six rebounds.

Meanwhile, every player on Frenship's roster scored. The Lady Tigers were led by Kelsey Miller's 14 points. Whitney Pendergrass put in 11 points and Audrey Sheffield had 10. Frenship got good production off the bench from sisters

Lindsay and Lizzett Palmer, who scored a combined 18 points.

Often, a team accustomed to losing as much as the Lady Steers have this season struggles to keep focus and stops giving as much effort. Petty says that's not the case with the Lady Steers.

"Everyone of these girls doesn't like losing," he said. "They want to win. They're great competitors deep down. They've shown up everyday and gotten after it in practice. I think they'll stay focused. They've got enough passion and pride about the game to try to make something out of the rest of this season."

Tip off for Friday night's game at Lubbock Estacado is set for 6 p.m.

Frenship 30 13 17 13-73

Big Spring 4 5 0 0-9

Frenship: Kelsey Miller 14, Whitney Pendergrass 1, Audrey Sheffield 10, Krista Ford 6, Lexi Phillips 4, Kristen McKay 1, Lindsay Palmer 9, Lizzett Palmer 9, Meagan Chambers 4, Akura Thomas 2,

Kelsie Porter 2.

Big Spring (0-23, 0-6): Kallina Fletcher 4, Katie Tompkins 2, Linzee Yarbar 2, Crystal Woodson 1.

Notes: In junior high girls' basketball action from Jan. 22, the Big Spring Junior High eighth grade A team beat San Angelo Lee, 39-19. Top scorers were Shaunte Anderson with 10 points, Cerbi Ritchey with 12 points and Bridgette Tuitt with nine.

The seventh grade A team lost 34-19 with Logan Yarbar and Vanessa Alvarado leading the way with five points apiece. Tiffani Britten led with 10 rebounds.

The seventh grade B team lost a close game with Lee, 32-25. Tiffany Gonzales led with 10 points.

The eighth grade girls went to San Angelo for a tournament Jan. 19. The A team opened with a loss to Del Rio, 39-33. Ritchey led with 17 points. In the third-place game, the Lady Steers were defeated by Ballinger. Tuitt led with 10 points and Ritchey added nine.

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World briefs

Australia to apologize for past wrongs to Aborigines when Parliament resumes

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia will issue its first formal apology to its indigenous people next month, the government announced Wednesday, a milestone that could ease tensions with a minority whose mixed-blood children were once taken away on the premise that their race was doomed.

The Feb. 13 apology to the so-called "stolen generations" of Aborigines will be the first item of business for the new Parliament, Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin said. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, whose Labor Party won November elections, had promised to push for an apology, an issue that has divided Australians for a decade.

"The apology will be made on behalf of the Australian government and does not attribute guilt to the current generation of Australian people," Macklin said in a statement.

Rudd has refused demands from some Aboriginal leaders to pay compensation for the suffering of broken families. Activist Michael Mansell, who is legal director of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Center, has urged the government to set up an \$882 million compensation fund.

Macklin did not mention compensation Wednesday. But she said she sought broad input on the wording of the apology, which she hoped would signal the beginning of a new relationship between Australia and its original inhabitants, who number about 450,000 among a population of 21 million. Aborigines are the poorest ethnic group in Australia and are most likely to be jailed, unemployed and illiterate.

Attorney General Michael Mukasey refuses to say whether waterboarding is torture or legal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Michael Mukasey still won't say whether waterboarding is torture, a stance that is upsetting Senate Democrats who had threatened to derail his confirmation over the issue.

Mukasey's refusal to define waterboarding as illegal could provoke hostile questioning during a scheduled appearance Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was to be his first appearance there since being sworn in Nov. 9 and comes on the heels of a letter sent to the panel's chairman signaling he will not ever publicly conclude that waterboarding is illegal.

"I understand that you and some other members of the (Judiciary) Committee may feel that I should go further in my review, and answer questions concerning the legality of waterboarding under current law," Mukasey wrote in a three-page letter Tuesday to the

panel's chairman, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "I understand the strong interest in this question, but I do not think it would be responsible for me, as attorney general, to provide an answer."

The letter came as a response to senators' demands for Mukasey to clarify whether the interrogation tactic known as waterboarding should be banned by the United States.

The tactic that involves strapping down a person and pouring water over his cloth-covered face to create the sensation of drowning.

At his confirmation hearings in October, Mukasey refused to define waterboarding as torture because he was unfamiliar with the classified Justice Department memos describing the process and legal arguments surrounding it.

His non-answer reply Tuesday infuriated Democrats who accused the attorney general of being incapable of what they called making a simple legal decision.

Federal Reserve expected to cut a key interest rate for a fifth time

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is likely to follow its bold action last week to battle an economic downturn with further interest rate reductions, although analysts are split on just what size the future cuts will be.

Some believe the Fed will settle into a series of quarter-point moves, especially if upcoming economic reports show the economy is slowing but not toppling into an actual recession.

That would mean the Fed will cut its federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter point at the conclusion of Wednesday's meeting. It would be the fifth rate cut since last September.

Last week, the Fed announced a surprise three-quarter-point cut which drove the funds rate down to 3.5 percent. It was the largest reduction in this rate in more than two decades and the first change in the funds rate between meetings since the immediate aftermath of the September 2001 terrorist attacks.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues held an emergency videoconference call on Jan. 21 after a turbulent day on world markets when investors grew increasingly worried about what a recession in the United States would do to the prospects for global growth.

Critique of war in Lebanon could make Olmert's standing in Israel more tenuous

JERUSALEM (AP) — A report to be released Wednesday about his inconclusive 2006 war in Lebanon could determine whether Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert holds onto his job long enough

to try to make peace with the Palestinians this year.

Olmert and his aides were bracing for a scathing report from the Winograd Commission, which he appointed under pressure after the war ended in a cease-fire with Hezbollah guerrillas without achieving the goals he set out.

The final report was scheduled to be released Wednesday afternoon in Jerusalem.

The report deals with the war's last 28 days. A harsh interim report released in April by the panel headed by a retired judge, Elyahu Winograd, accused Olmert of "severe failures" and hasty decisions at the beginning of the 34-day war against the Hezbollah guerrillas.

Between 1,035 and 1,191 Lebanese civilians and combatants were killed in the war, as were 119 Israeli soldiers and 39 civilians, according to official figures from the two sides.

The report is expected to scrutinize Olmert's controversial decision to send ground troops into a major battle just hours before a cease-fire agreement went into effect. Thirty soldiers died in the offensive, which Olmert contends helped Israel improve its position in the truce.

AP Interview: Military developing plans in case dead satellite hits US

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military is developing contingency plans to deal with the possibility that a large spy satellite expected to fall to Earth in late February or early March could hit North America.

Air Force Gen. Gene Renuart, who heads of U.S. Northern Command, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the size of the satellite suggests that some number of pieces will not burn up as the orbiting vehicle re-enters the Earth's atmosphere and will hit the ground.

"We're aware that this satellite is out there," Renuart said. "We're aware it is a fairly substantial size. And we know there is at least some percentage that it could land on ground as opposed to in the water."

A U.S. official confirmed that the spy satellite is designated by the military as US 193.

It was launched in December 2006 but almost immediately lost power and cannot be controlled. It carried a sophisticated and secret imaging sensor but the satellite's central computer failed shortly after launch. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified as secret.

Renuart added that, "As it looks like it might re-enter into the North American area," then the U.S. military along with the Homeland Security Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will either have to deal with the impact or assist Canadian or Mexican authorities.

VAMC

Continued from Page 1A

Aside from providing treatment to vets, Hanslik envisions the smaller operation as a sort of test bed for the larger domiciliary, which won't be open until some time in 2009.

"We hope to work out the bugs on a small scale before we activate the 40-bed operation," she said.

In addition to assisting

veterans with substance abuse problems, the hospital plans programs designed to assist with work therapy, suicide prevention, "local recovery initiatives" for the severely mentally ill and immediate access to mental health services in the primary care area, which covers a large portion of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

Hanslik said other expansion efforts are ongoing at the hospital.

Plans for a clinical addition, which will house the medical laboratory, dental service and ophthalmology department, are in the works for two or three years from now.

"At this point ... that project is approved, but it is not even in the planning phase yet," she said. "So it could be next year before construction starts there."

Other projects include replacement of outmoded plumbing, upgrades on

the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system and more interior renovations within patient care areas, Hanslik noted.

A final price tag has not been reached, but officials estimate renovations could end up costing more than \$20 million.

This flurry of planned construction stands in stark contrast to earlier this decade, when the fate of the VAMC was very much up in the air.

Federal officials had originally proposed closing the facility before the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) committee decided in April 2006 that the hospital would not only remain open, but expand its services.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

dents in kindergarten and first grade.

Construction of a new elementary campus to handle all BSISD students in grades 2 through 4. This campus would eventually house students in grades K through 5, along with a sister campus to be

built during Phase 2 of the plan, which would be implemented in about 20 years.

Replacement of the roof at Big Spring High School and either constructing a new science wing or bringing in portable science labs at that location.

A rough estimate for Phase One projects is \$34 million, BSISD Superintendent Michael

Downes said.

School Board President Alan Partee said trustees must make a decision within the next six weeks if they are going to put a bond issue on the May 10 ballot, which makes public input on the issue even more important.

"If people have questions about this, we'll answer them. If they have a new idea, we'll listen to it," Partee said. "There's

nothing that's carved in stone at this point.

"Right now, we want input ... to see if we're on the right track, or if we need to change something," he added.

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

WRECK

Continued from Page 1A

"There was some wind at the time of the accident, but no moisture or

anything else that might have contributed to it," said Villareal. "According to the report, no other injuries were reported as a result of the accident."

The accident was inves-

tigated by DPS Trooper Jimmy Matthies.

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

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- RAMBO (R) 4:40 PM 7:10 PM

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Martha M. Havlena, 85, died Saturday. Memorial Service will be at 3:00 PM Friday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Marvin Williams, 74, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Tano Chavarria, 59, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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WEDNESDAY

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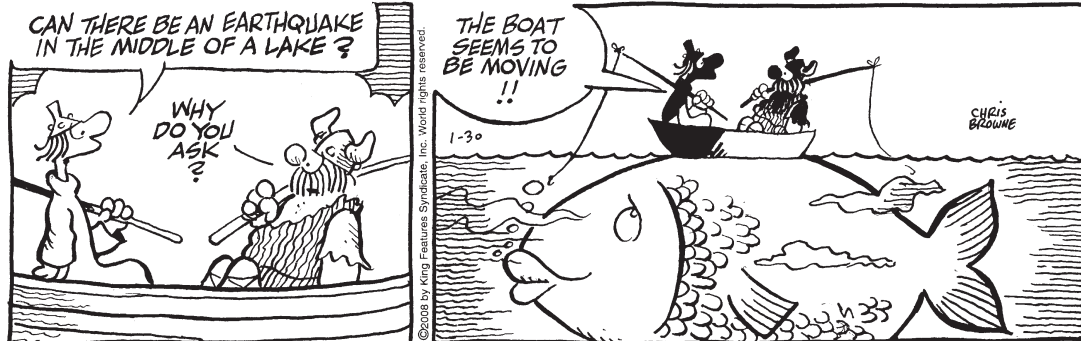
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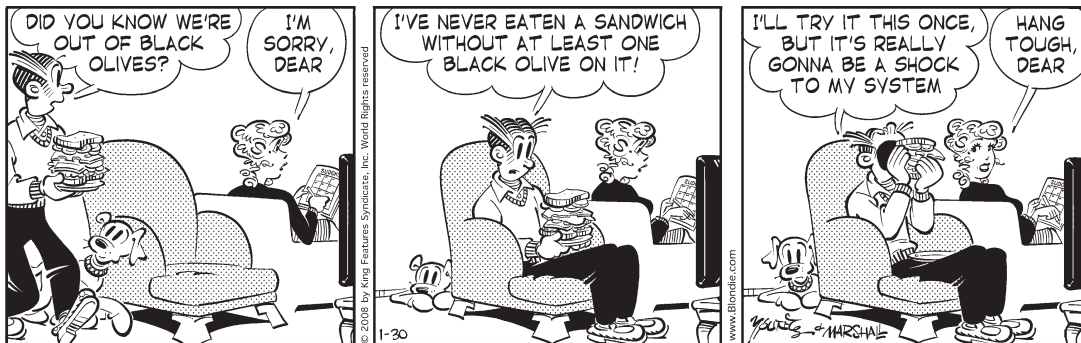
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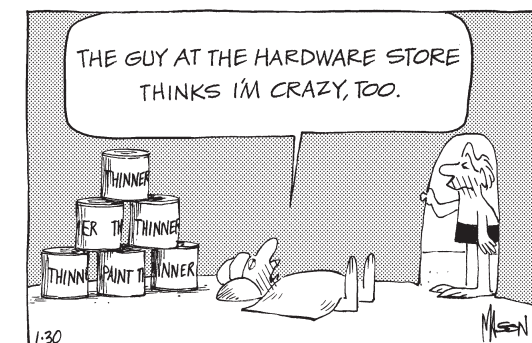
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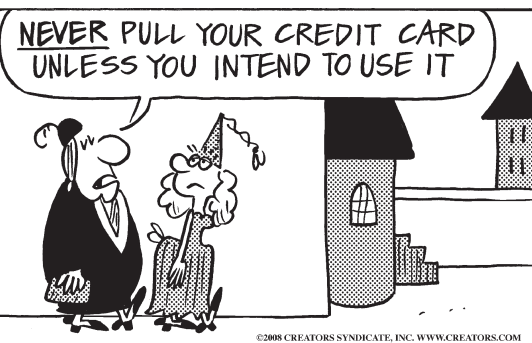
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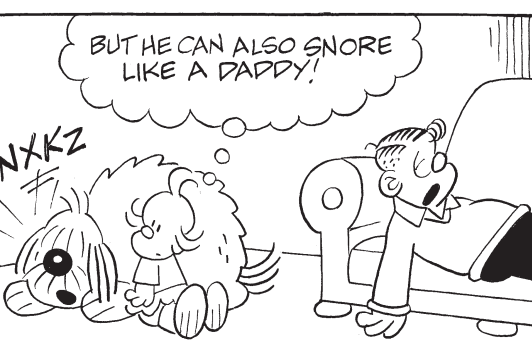
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AGNES



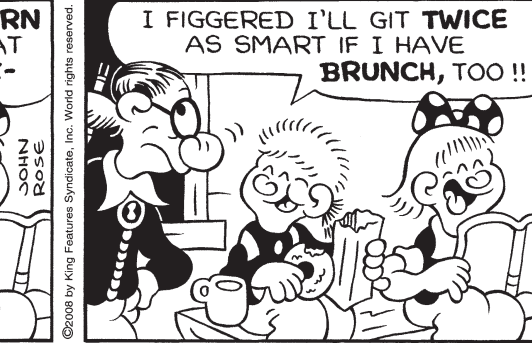
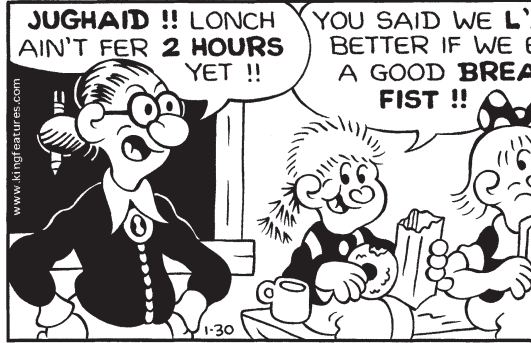
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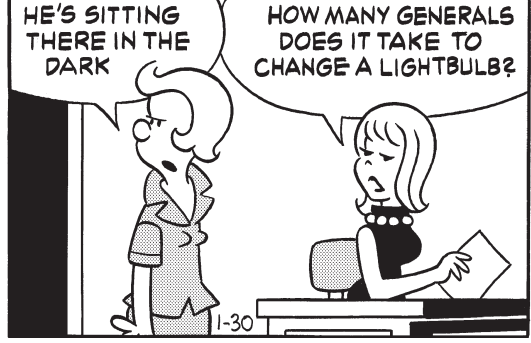
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2008. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded.

In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y.

In 1883, James Ritty and John Birch received a U.S. patent for the first cash register.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

Today's Birthdays:

Germany.

In 1933, the first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi was shot and killed by a Hindu extremist.

In 1958, "Sunrise at Campobello," a play by Dore Schary about Franklin D. Roosevelt's struggle against polio, opened on Broadway with Ralph Bellamy as FDR.

In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance in Detroit.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 2005, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Robert McCartney, 33, was killed after intervening in a pub fight between Irish Republican Army members and a friend of his.

Comedian Dick Martin is 86.

Actress Dorothy Malone is 83. Producer-director Harold Prince is 80. Actor Gene Hackman is 78. Actress Tammy Grimes is 74. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 71. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 71. Country singer Norma Jean is 70. Vice President Dick Cheney is 67. Rock singer Marty Balin is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 59. Singer Phil Collins is 57. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 57. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 50. Singer Jody Watley is 49. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 36. Actor Christian Bale is 34.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like FACE, SHARP, GASP, ERRS, LEVEE, ORO, AGES, AROSE, OINK, SUPERPOWER, DATE, TEESUP, TANG, BELT, TARZAN, TIFF, DAIS, PIECE, ADLIB, IRE, SEATS, CLONE, REEF, FLIT, TLOPEES, SPAN, PRIG, SIESTA, CHAR, GREATLAKES, HIFI, HOUSE, SINK, IRAN, TARTS, ELSE, PERT, SNOOT, SLED

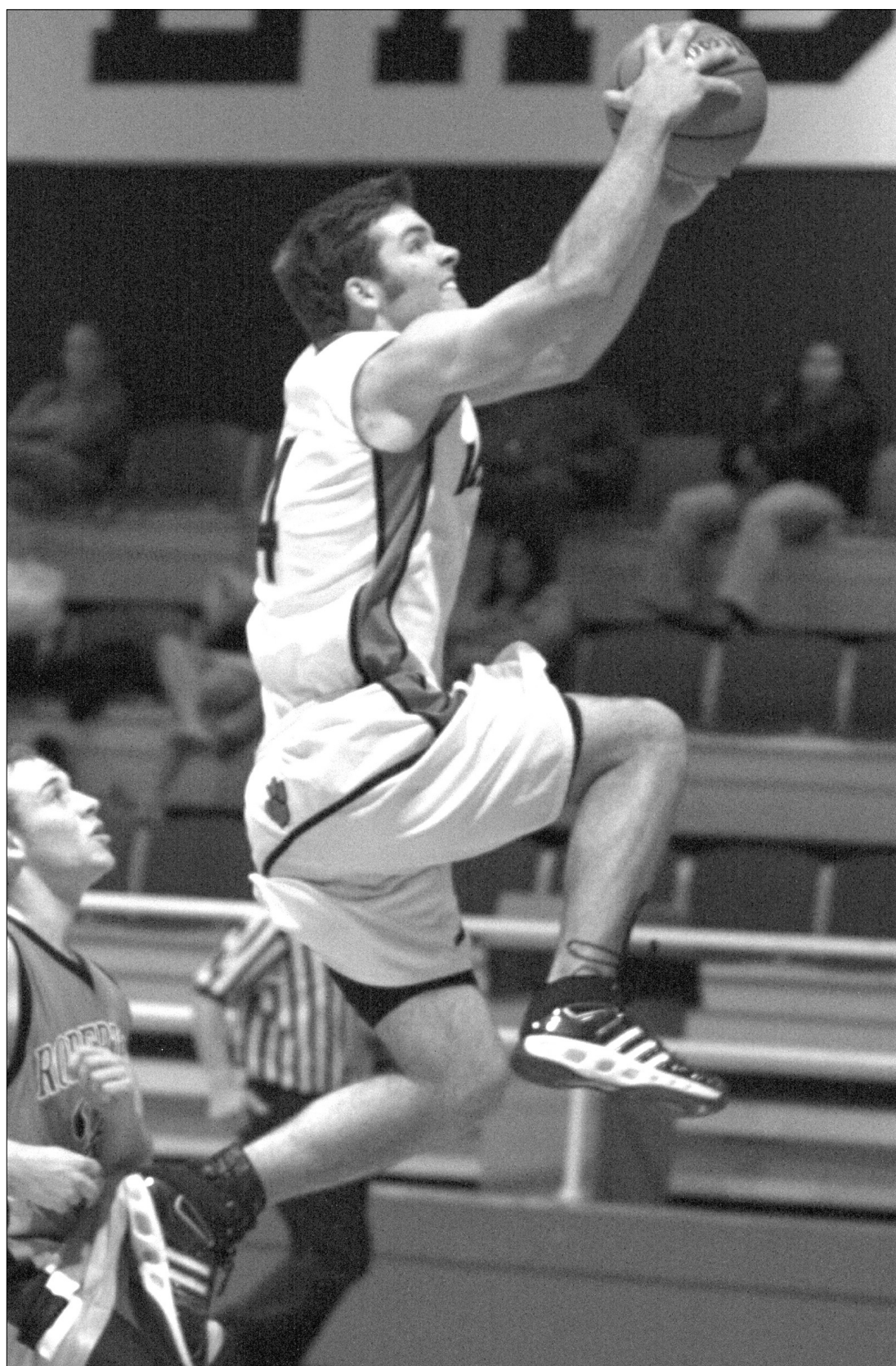
Newsday Crossword

SILENT TREATMENT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Athletic activity, 6 Off-roaders, for short, 10 Soft toss, 13 Spine-chilling, 14 "Dang!", 15 Marx with a manifesto, 16 Skirt style, 18 Hosiery shade, 19 Cushy job, 20 Portends, 21 Bray starter, 22 Rainstorms, 24 Crooner Mel, 28 Place for pupils, 30 Nevertheless, 32 Run smoothly, 33 Swelled heads, 37 Actress Russo, 38 Overused, 40 Two caplets, maybe, 41 Gym event, 42 Koppel or Kennedy, 43 Wine and dine, 45 Brunch dish, 48 Climb aboard, 49 Sights to enjoy, 52 Dust collector, 54 Snake venom, e.g., 55 Hand-held clicker, 60 Grand-scale, 61 Jung's field, 63 November marchers, 64 Laze in the tub, 65 Paradise Lost figure, 66 Squiggly shape, 67 Roadside stops, 68 Nobel or Garbo, 12 Say grace over, 15 28 Across acquisition, 17 Wish undone, 20 Halloween word, 22 Boarded up, 23 Four-bagger, 24 Maryland collegian, 25 More than, 26 Gambling mecca, 27 Memory aids, 29 Say "Tsk!" to, 31 Aquatic mammal, 34 Navy mascot, 35 Scandinavian capital, 36 "As ___ on TV", 39 Depend, 44 Picnic game, 46 Gents, 47 CD divisions, 49 Apple boss Jobs, 50 Manages somehow, 51 Ways out, 53 Hibachi residue, 55 Printer's blue, 56 What "there oughta be", 57 Make mention of, 58 "Zounds!", 59 Newcastle's river, 61 Air-pump letters, 62 Mama's boy

12x12 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.

Area Roundup: Grady squads clinch playoff spots



Garden City's Bo Eggemeyer soars for two points in the Bearkats' 55-40 victory Tuesday night in Garden City.

Herald Staff Reports

LLENORAH — Grady's Wildcats are proving to be one of the top boys' basketball teams in the Crossroads region.

The sixth-ranked Wildcats kept rolling through their district season Tuesday night, pounding the visiting Loop Longhorns, 79-27.

Loop kept within striking distance after one period, but Grady showed why they're so highly ranked in the second, breaking the game wide open with a 25-4 run for a 40-11 halftime advantage.

Loop never recovered and struggled to score into double figures in a given period against Grady's intense defensive pressure.

The Wildcats were led by Justin Tubbs' 19 points. Leighton Fields added 15 and Dylan Cox chipped in 12.

Grady gets ready to play its district-rival Sands Mustangs Friday night at 8 p.m.

Loop 7 4 7 9-27
Grady 15 25 20 19-79

Loop: Armendariz 14, Bratcher 6, Sellers 2, Morgan 3, Bingham 2.

Grady (17-1, 8-0): Tommylee Rivas 5, Dylan Cox 12, Roy Rodriguez 3, Justin Tubbs 19, Jacob Rodriguez 3, Santos Montoya 7, Leighton Fields 15, Casey Shands 4, Lane Shands 9.

No. 19 Lady Wildcats 58, Loop 42

It was a huge second period that essentially clinched the game for Grady's Lady Wildcats as well. The 19th-ranked Lady Wildcats outscored Loop 20-7 in the second stanza, providing just

enough distance from Loop and allowing Grady to defend its home court with a 58-42 victory.

More importantly, the victory clinched a playoff berth for the Lady Wildcats. Now, Grady can turn its attention to winning a district title with games against Sands and Wellman-Union remaining.

Kandace Schuelke was on fire behind the arc, sinking three 3-pointers on her way to a 17-point performance. Eva Dyck added 14.

Loop 8 20 17 13-58

Loop: D. Ramirez 5, Sanderson 7, T. Ramirez 8, Young 20, McKenzie 2.

Grady (21-7, 7-1): Eva Dyck 14, Maegan Blocker 5, Lindsey Chavez 6, Kandace Schuelke 17, Lauren Robinson 6, Sam Rodriguez 4, Kenzie Madison 4, Rachel Romine 2.

Wellman-Union 55, Sands 48

WELLMAN — The Sands Mustangs hit Wellman-Union with all they had, but it just wasn't enough as they fell by 7 points, dropping to 5-3 in district play.

The Mustangs trailed by just 1 point heading into the final period, but Wellman found its shooting touch again, pulling away for the important district victory.

Ethan Zant led the Mustangs with 12 points.

Sands hosts bitter rival Grady Friday.

Sands 13 16 10 9-48
Wellman 16 16 8 15-55

Leading Scorers: Sands (18-5-3) — Ethan Zant 12; Wellman-Union (19-5, 7-1) — Nutt 15.

Wellman-Union 61, Lady Mustangs 50

Once the favorite to win their district, the Sands Lady Mustangs dropped the victory fourth District 8-IIA contest Tuesday night, falling to Wellman-Union by 11 points.

The Lady Mustangs dug a hole for themselves early, allowing Wellman to build a 32-22 lead by intermission. Sands could never make the defensive stops it needed in the second half, letting Wellman build on that lead.

Brittney Blagrove scored 22 points to lead the Lady Mustangs, who now find themselves scrambling for the final playoff spot within the district.

They host No. 19 Grady at 6:30 p.m. Friday night.

Sands 8 14 10 18-50
Wellman 15 17 16 13-61

Leading Scorers: Sands (20-7, 4-4) — Brittney Blagrove 22; Wellman-Union (24-3, 7-1) — J. Tedford 27.

Garden City 55, Robert Lee 40

GARDEN CITY — Last time Garden City's Bearkats faced Robert Lee's Steers, it took a last second shot by Garden City's Wade Jansa to decide the contest. That wasn't the case this time around.

The Bearkats left no doubt they are the class of their district, beating Robert Lee by 15 points.

Garden City trailed after the first period, but took control in the second and entered the intermis-

See AREA, Page 5B

Late shot gives Sonics 88-85 win over Spurs

By GREGG BELL

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Put away the paper bags. Those sad sack SuperSonics can show their faces again.

Kevin Durant scored 26 points, including the go-ahead jump shot with 32.6 seconds remaining and Seattle stunned defending NBA champion San Antonio 88-85 on Tuesday night to finally end its team-record losing streak at 14 games.

"Fourteen games? That's a big number. You kind of don't want to show your face when you're losing like that," said Chris Wilcox, who had 16 points including the basket before Durant's thriller.

After Seattle's Luke Ridnour dribbled away the final seconds, he fired the ball high in the air toward a crowd that was roaring for one of the few times in this dreadful, potentially final season in town for the Sonics.

Wally Szczerbiak thrust both arms skyward, like Rocky. "It was like we won the championship," said Durant, the 19-year-old rookie who was trying to win an NCAA one for Texas this time last year. "It was a big-time win for us."

The Sonics (10-35) won for the first time since Dec. 29, over Minnesota, and for just the sec-

ond time this season against a team with a winning record.

Durant swished an open shot created by a thudding screen from Kurt Thomas, whose consecutive open jumpers had given Seattle an unlikely lead with 90 seconds to go. Ridnour hit a free throw with 12 seconds left before Manu Ginobili, who had 29 points, missed a leaning 3-pointer with 4.9 seconds remaining that would have tied it.

So ended the season-high third consecutive loss for the Spurs, who were playing without Tony Parker. Coach Gregg Popovich surprised the star point guard by making him inactive about an hour before the game. Then he announced Parker will be out indefinitely to rest a bone spur in his left heel.

Parker was to fly back to San Antonio late Tuesday and get an MRI on Wednesday, the team announced.

Since starting 17-3, San Antonio has gone 11-13 while enduring other injuries to Tim Duncan and Ginobili. The Spurs are now 9-9 without any of their Big Three.

"The worst part is ... I don't see that we're playing with a sense of urgency," said Ginobili, who was playing his second game since taking off the protective device he'd been

wearing this month over his sprained left index finger.

Duncan seemed more annoyed than urgent. He scored 27 points but was frustrated for much of the night while missing 11 of 21 shots.

The Spurs are 0-2 on a nine-game trip to both coasts. San Antonio's annual trek while the city's stock show and rodeo take over its home court.

Popovich said this week that his teams have often used the "rodeo trip" to improve focus. The Spurs went 8-1 on it in 2003 before lassoing the NBA title. They went 5-2 on the rodeo trip en route to winning it all in '05.

Then again, the Spurs were only 4-4 on their trek last year — then went 23-6 after the All-Star break and won another league title.

Now, they will have to get along without Parker, their catalyst who is averaging 19.2 points and 6.1 assists per game this season.

"That's irrelevant. That had nothing to do with it. Teams lose guys and have nicks all the time," Popovich said after another loss.

A visibly agitated Duncan got a frustration foul and went to the bench in the final minute of the third quarter after a turnover that he thought was a slap across his wrist by Thomas.

While Duncan sat and stewed, Seattle turned a 64-59 deficit into a 69-66 lead.

Normal NBA hierarchy was soon restored — the Spurs seized back the lead. But only briefly.

Thomas took advantage of Duncan leaving him alone to make consecutive flat-footed shots from 16 feet and 17 feet and give Seattle an 82-81 lead with 90 seconds left. Duncan just grimaced while arriving late to watch Thomas' second, go-ahead basket.

A free throw by Ginobili tied it before Wilcox gave Seattle the lead again with a turnaround shot in the lane with 55.8 seconds left.

Then Ginobili shook off a near steal in the open court by Durant and coldly swished a 24-foot 3-pointer far beyond the top of the key to give San Antonio an 85-84 lead with 43.5 seconds remaining.

Ginobili then fed Fabricio Oberto for a layup attempt, but Oberto rushed and banged that off the glass without hitting the rim with 15 seconds to go. Seattle rebounded and Ridnour made two free throws to put the Sonics ahead 88-85 with 12 seconds remaining.

Ginobili stepped back to try a leaning 3-pointer after pump-faking Earl Watson out of position, but the shot missed off the

right side of the rim.

Rockets 111, Golden State 107

At Houston, Yao Ming scored eight of his 36 points in the final 27 minutes and had 19 rebounds to help the Rockets hold on for the win.

Rafer Alston had 17 points and a season-high 12 assists as Houston overcame the absence of Tracy McGrady to win for the fifth time in six games and snap a four-game losing streak to the Warriors.

Stephen Jackson had 25 points, seven assists and six rebounds for Golden State.

McGrady sat out with flu-like symptoms, the 15th game he's missed this season.

Suns 125, Hawks 92

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 22 of his 24 points in the first half for the Suns.

Stoudemire, who played only 8 minutes in the second half, made 10 of his 11 field-goal attempts and four of his five free throws. He also had a team-high seven rebounds in the Suns' season-best sixth straight home triumph.

Marvin Williams scored 18 points for the Hawks, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Valley Friday night next on the schedule.

Robert Lee 8 8 10 7-33
Garden City 17 19 19 8-63

Robert Lee: Perez 4, Minjarez 11, Hinderliter 4, Burns 4, Perciful 2, Walker 8.
Garden City (21-5, 7-1): Whitney Kellermeier 14, Melissa Hirt 3, Britton Avery 4, Brittney Chudej 10, Macy Schwartz 3, Lyza Lopez 6, Morgan Schwartz 18, Paige Niehues 5.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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OUR VIEWS

Dvorak offerings promise enjoyable symphony concert

The Big Spring Symphony will stage its third concert of its 2007-2008 subscription season Saturday, Feb. 9, with a concert featuring the music of Antonin Dvorak.

The orchestra's performance of "An Evening of Dvorak" will begin at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

Cellist Jeffrey Lastrapes, an professor of music at Oklahoma State University, will be the featured guest artist, and perform the Cello Concerto in B minor with the symphony.

Dr. Keith Graumann, the symphony's music director and conductor, said he is looking forward to Lastrapes' arrival to play with the orchestra, noting that several years ago he had the opportunity to hear him perfume with the Midland-Odesa Symphony.

Graumann said not only the audience, but that symphony's musicians were "extremely moved" by Lastrapes' performance.

What's more, we believe the entire performance will be a real treat for the audience.

Other selections scheduled for concert during the evening include Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 "From the New World," and Slavonic Dance, Op. 46, No. 8.

Graumann said the orchestra will begin the evening with the final dance of the first series of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances. "The Slavonic Dances are inspired by folk song and written as a type of salute to his native Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic)," he explained. "I've selected No. 8 of the first series of dances to serve as an overture for the evening. The dance is very upbeat and lively, and reminiscent of Dvorak's interest in the folk music of his native country."

We encourage our readers to make plans now to attend "An Evening of Dvorak" Feb. 9 beginning at 8 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are just \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and are available at the *Herald*, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, and all First Bank of West Texas locations. They'll also be on sale at the door the night of the performance.

We hope to see you there.

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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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 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We might not have the whole story, Lord, but You do. May we trust always in You.

Amen

Immigrant bashers face backlash

As candidates keep dropping out, or getting trounced, in the race for president, the walls are caving in for those seeking to elect an anti-immigrant zealot. After all, those candidates who have practiced the politics of xenophobia are not doing too well.

Of the three people who have the best shot at becoming our next president — Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain — all are in favor of a legalization plan for the 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here. They all realize that our borders must be secured, but they also know that our broken immigration system cannot be fixed unless the reforms are comprehensive and illegal immigrants are given an opportunity to come out of the shadows.

In spite of all the noise made and venom spewed by those seeking strict immigration enforcement, the candidates who scapegoated illegal immigrants are turning out to be the losers.

I say, God bless America! Could it be that the silent majority of compassionate Americans finally are speaking out at the ballot box against the immigrant bashers? Could we be reaffirming our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants?

I know; after the way illegal immigrants have been vilified during the past couple of years, that sounds too good to be true. But I can dream, can't I?

All along, I've been telling anyone who would listen that immigrant bashing as a campaign tactic is a terrible idea. Throughout history, there are examples of

politicians who have belittled immigrants as a cheap way to seek votes, only to suffer a well-deserved voter backlash. For every xenophobic voter, there are several Americans who are sick and tired of their fear mongering and their whining.

One of the first candidates to withdraw was Rep. Tom Tancredo, the champion of immigrant bashers, who ran a single-issue campaign and proposed, during one of the GOP debates, that we should ban even legal immigration. This is a man who clearly is threatened by the growth of the Latino population and wanted to rally those Americans who also suffer from unfounded Latino-phobia.

He was followed out of the GOP race by Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, who kept promising to build not just one but two walls along the Mexican border, and Fred Thompson, who took up all the extreme anti-immigrant positions only because he was supposed to be the model candidate for ultraconservatives.

That leaves former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney still vying for the anti-immigrant vote among Republicans. Amazingly, all three of these candidates have hardened their positions on illegal immigrants while seeking the support of the ultraconservative wing of their party. The crueller they promise to be, the more electable they think they can become. Stay tuned, and watch them fall — especially when they get to the states where Latinos represent a significant portion of the voters.

And then we have McCain, who has been maligned by members of his own party for being one of the original proponents of comprehensive reform. The man is a national

hero, but he is an enemy of those who suffer from chronic xenophobia.

Although McCain also has modified his position to appease the anti-immigrant GOP extremists (now he is promising to secure the borders before he implements a legalization program), the hardliners won't forgive him. To them, he supported what they call "amnesty," which is like supporting the spread of some terrible disease.

Yet soon even the bashing extremists may have to choose between McCain and one of two Democrats, Clinton or Obama, who have even fewer reservations about supporting a comprehensive immigration reform package. In the end, even the anti-immigrant hardliners may end up having to vote for a candidate who supports the "amnesty" they find so repulsive.

Could this be the beginning of the end of the anti-immigrant wave that has taken this country down the path of intolerance and prejudice? Could we finally fix our broken immigration system with sound and realistic policies that are not based on fear tactics, political expediency and xenophobic stereotypes? Are we about to show majority-shared compassion for the immigrants who already live among us without proper documents, especially those who have worked and raised families here for many years? Are we going to let their foreign-born and yet very American children go to college?

I know; under the recent climate, it sounds like a lot to ask for.

But the weather is changing, and the bashing candidates are losing, and I can dream, can't I?

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Giuliani: GOP's pro-choice wimp

While the rest of punditry dumps on Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani for his Florida strategy — which, to put it mildly, does not seem to be working — I have to wonder if Giuliani's biggest mistake was not touting himself as the only supporter of abortion rights in the Republican primary. I think he'd be faring better today if he had run as a security hawk and a fiscal hawk, but a social moderate.

After all, GOP presidential hopefuls John McCain and Mike Huckabee oppose abortion rights. Ditto Republican candidate Mitt Romney — even if he promised in 2002 that, as Massachusetts governor, he would "protect a woman's right to choose." Giuliani is the only Republican who wants to leave government out of a woman's reproductive decisions.

One year ago, the story line on Giuliani was that he was the GOP front-runner — despite the fact that he disagreed with the GOP base on abortion rights and civil unions. Now, the story line ignores Giuliani's positions completely and focuses on the fact that the former New York mayor has not even been among the top-three finishers in many early state elections.

It's painful to watch. Giuliani finished behind the screwball Ron

Paul — he's against the government requiring immunizations and wants to get rid of the Food and Drug Administration — in Iowa, Michigan, Nevada and South Carolina.

RealClearPolitics.com HorseRace blogger Jay Cost points out that the 2008 primary "schedule was not (Giuliani's) friend." In Iowa, New Hampshire and Michigan, Huckabee, McCain and Romney found a state that offered them "a local niche kind of appeal." When Giuliani pulled major campaigning from those states — and announced he was saving his fire for Florida — hizzoner's support in those key states melted.

It may seem counterintuitive to take a stand that most party members do not embrace. According to a recent AP poll, two-thirds of Democrats — but only one-third of Republicans — believe abortion should be legal.

Nonetheless, a year ago, when GOP voters knew Giuliani's pro-choice position, they liked him the most because they saw him as a strong leader.

After a year of soft-pedaling his abortion position, he doesn't look so strong.

A year ago, some abortion foes respected the fact that Giuliani didn't flip-flop on abortion to win the nomination. They also cared about electability in November 2008 — and realized that they'd be better off with a president who, if he would not try to repeal Roe vs. Wade, at least would support parental notification laws and would not appoint liberal judges.

Meanwhile, Giuliani's failure to

play up his support for abortion rights kept pro-choice Republicans from rallying behind him. Cost noted that exit polls showed that 52 percent of New Hampshire voters believe that abortions should be legal — yet Giuliani was the pick of only 11 percent of those voters. If Giuliani had tried to reach out to the Granite State's pro-choice voters, he could have been a contender.

While there are fewer pro-choice Republicans in Michigan (about 35 percent) and South Carolina (about 25 percent), Cost observed, "In a multi-candidate field, this might have been a missed opportunity for Rudy."

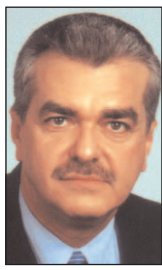
Why didn't Giuliani play up his support for abortion rights? I asked former Gov. Pete Wilson, who won California statewide office as a pro-choice Republican and has endorsed Giuliani.

"It's certainly no secret, where he stands on the issue," Wilson answered. "The economy is a greater issue. The war on terrorism is a greater issue."

Yeah, but: Other candidates are strong on the economy and terrorism, too. Giuliani's appeal was that many Americans saw him as the man you wanted with you if your back is to the wall. Then, as the election wore on, voters saw a candidate who tried to distance himself from his moderate stands on social issues. The firebrand was doused.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Why not check this out? At the library

Please be aware that the AARP-sponsored tax preparing service will be here at Howard County Library starting Monday. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon. Entry to the basement is through the glass to the right of the front doors. There is an elevator for those who require it. The Library is glad to host this very important service.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Michael Connelly's first lawyer thriller is **"The Lincoln Lawyer."** The title refers to a criminal defense lawyer who operates out of the backseat of (you guessed it) his Lincoln Town Car. From an online review service: "Mickey Haller is a criminal defense attorney working in Los Angeles. His clientele is made up of drug dealers, users, prostitutes, internet swindlers and a host of other low-life individuals. Haller doesn't care if they're guilty of not. His goal is to get his clients off on technicalities. The bottom line for Haller is money and he is always in search of a franchise client — they are the rarest and most highly sought beast in the jungle." Connelly will go far with this series.

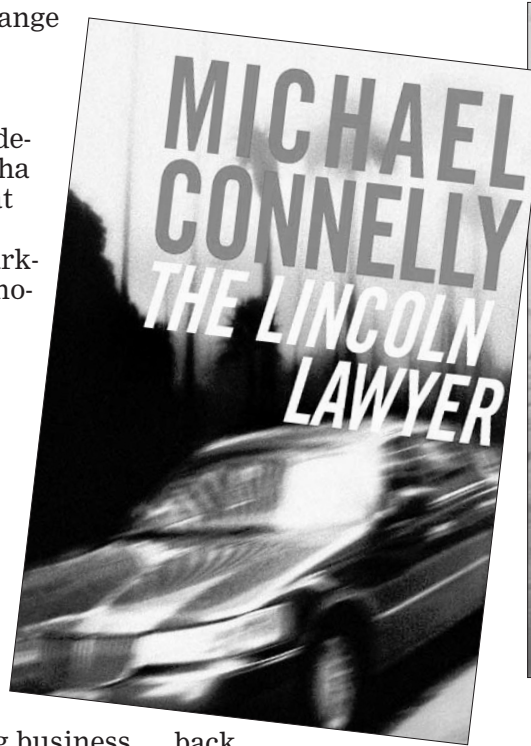
First published in 2003, Robert Ludlum's **"The Tristan Betrayal"** will take you back to World War II and the beginning of the Cold War with Russia. This thriller opens in August 1991 as American ambassador Stephen Metcalfe arrives in Moscow, where Communist hard-liners are attempting to wrest control of Russia from the reform government. The fate of the country will be decided by an official known as the Dirizhor (the Conductor) and Metcalfe is the only man who can convince him to resist the forces of Stalinist darkness. St. Martin's Press is re-printing many of Ludlum's books under new covers, hoping to gain new readers. Ludlum died in 2005.

Try as I may, I cannot bring myself to read an Agatha Raisin mystery. **"Kissing Christmas Goodbye"** by M.C.

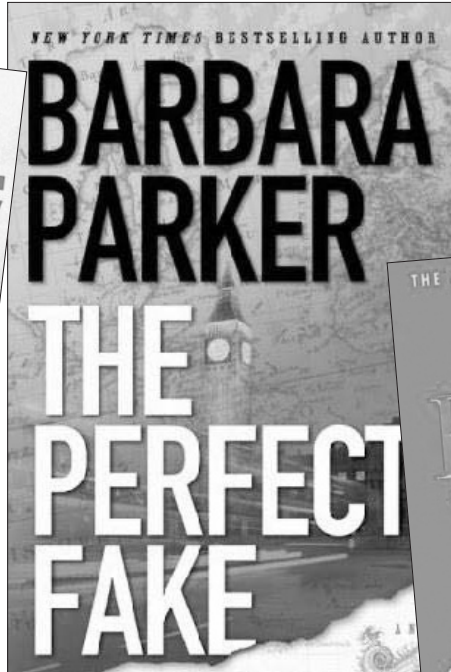
Beaton may change my mind. In a review from Publisher's Weekly, the indestructible Agatha Raisin is still at the top of her game in her darkly droll 17th whodunit. Agatha feels woefully middle-aged after hiring Toni Gilmour, an endearing U.K.-style Nancy Drew full of teen energy and charm. As Toni takes over the pet recovery end of the sleuthing business, Agatha looks into a mysterious letter from Phyllis Tamworthy, the rich matriarch of the Manor House in the idyllic Cotswolds, who suspects family members of plotting to kill her before she can change her will to disinherit them. Agatha and her friend Sir Charles Fraith attend Phyllis's 80th birthday party, only to see the lady keel over, poisoned by hemlock in her salad. Digging into Phyllis's past yields an even darker mystery. Bestseller Beaton's dry wit enhances Agatha's struggles with aging, men and her most challenging case yet.

"The Perfect Fake." Barbara Parker has written an engrossing stand-alone thriller. Tom Fairchild is determined to get his life back in order after spending time in prison for theft. Now on parole, Tom, a would-be graphic artist, is working with his sister at her map shop in Miami. When real-estate developer Stuart Barlowe wants to hire Tom to make an exact copy of a Renaissance map, Tom sees a way of earning the money he needs to make restitution for his role in the theft. But does Barlowe really want a duplicate, or is he asking for a forgery? Parker's villains are stereotypes, but Tom is a sympathetic victim on the run, and the cartography frame story is fresh and compelling. This review is from Booklist.

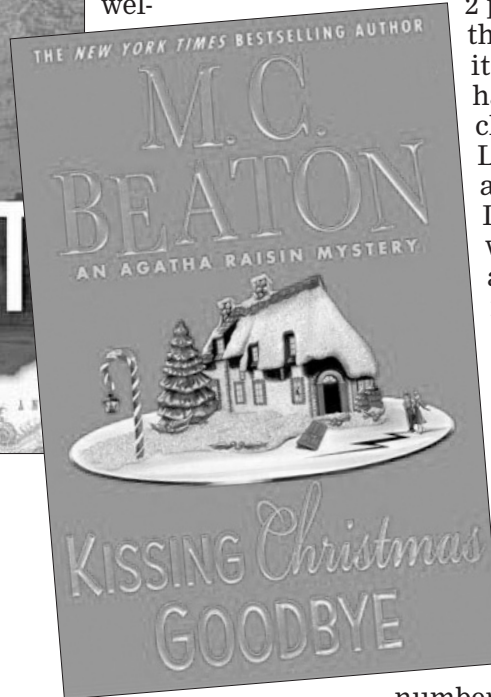
Another couple of mysteries are **"Stalin's Ghost"** by Martin Cruz Smith and Margaret Truman's **"Murder on K Street."** Smith brings



back detective Arkady Renko (of Gorky Park fame). His assignment is to investigate the apparent appearance of Joseph Stalin on the subway platform at the Christy Prudy Metro station. Renko must tie the threads together to solve the mystery. It is filled with dark humor and



action. Margaret Truman has just about placed a murder at all the well-known spots in Washington D.C. "Murder on K Street" is filled with big-time political maneuvering, lobbying and, of course, murder. Filled with topical humor and events, this will substitute for an evening of lousy television watching.




Books are slowly trickling in and we have begun ordering. If you have a suggestion for a new book, please let us know. We wel-

come suggestions from patrons and provided the item requested meets our collection development policy, it will be placed on order.


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Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.




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Part-Time Medication Aide Instructor needed at the Big Spring campus to teach the Medication Aide and Medication Aide renewal courses. Must be a licensed Registered Nurse in the state of Texas and have a minimum of two years experience in caring for individuals in a long-term care setting or be an instructor in a school or nursing. Salary based on Education and or experience.
Please apply to:
Howard County Junior College District Human Resource Office, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720
For complete position notice and application, visit our website at www.howardcollege.edu.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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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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Heavy Equipment Operator
(2) Positions - Landfill & Sanitation
Staff Accountant
\$30,114.24 Annually
Information Tech Specialist I
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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

BUS DRIVER NEEDED:
Sands CISD has a position open for a school bus driver. Morning and /or afternoon route available. Class B CDL with endorsements required. For more information call (432)213-1623 or (432)353-4888.

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.

PHLEBOTOMIST NEEDED for Local Doctor's Office M-F. Full-time. Call 432-230-6717 or fax resume 432-333-1856.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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NEED A job today? Come be a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. We pay competitive hourly wages & put cash in your pocket daily! Working for the other guys? Bring your experience over to Domino's Pizza and get paid top dollar. Part time and full time positions available. Need day hours? Need night hours? We have all shifts available. We work with ALL types of schedules. **Apply now and get hired on the spot (some restrictions apply).**
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Pre employment physical and drug test required.
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Apply to: 2800 Windecker (Midland airport) or call (432)563-5393 or (432)638-2920
Mail resume to:
General Superintendent
PO BOX 60708
MIDLAND, TX 79711

PARK VILLAGE Apartments hiring experienced maintenance supervisor. Must be AC certified and plumbing required. Must be able to pass background check and drug test. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply at 1905 Wasson Rd, 1:00-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

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EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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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.

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.

Help Wanted

WANTED EXPERIENCED Plumbers and Plumber Helpers. Call 806-866-0052.

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@crcom.net

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.

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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EOE/AA employer

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To apply, fax resume to: 432-263-1442, Email: TMajors@border-states.com or apply in person at: 3202 IS-20 E. EOE/Drug Free Workplace



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2004 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab - White w/Gray Cloth, In Dash CD Player, All Power, One Owner, Only 23,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$15,995
1999 Nissan Frontier SE - Green w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, All Power, One Owner, Only 32,000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$7,995
2006 Nissan Xterra 4X2 - Red w/Gray Cloth, Very Nice, SUV, One Owner, CD Player, Automatic. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995
2005 Nissan Quest 3.5S - Blue w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, All Power, Like New, New Car Trade In, Low Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995
2004 Nissan Xterra 4X4 SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Super Clean, Only 19,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$15,995
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2007 Ford Mustang V6 Deluxe - Black w/Dark Charcoal Cloth, 5-Speed, Auto Transmission, AM/FM, CD Player, Audio Input Jack, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Only 17,421 Miles. Was \$23,995 NOW \$19,995
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2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible - Silver w/Black Leather, Loaded, One Owner, 2 Tops, Only 20,800 Miles. Was \$27,995 NOW \$25,995
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2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$8,995
2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car. Was \$9,995 NOW \$7,995
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2006 Ford F150 Supercrew 4X2 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, Long Bed, One Owner, CD Player, Nice Truck, Only 17,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 NOW \$24,995
2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 5.4 - Silver 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 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, CD Player, One Owner, Like New. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995

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2004 Ford Explorer XLT - Silver w/Gray Cloth, Hard Row, All Power, 4-Dr., One Owner, 23,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
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2006 Chevrolet Avalanche LT 4X2 - Black w/Tan Leather, Loaded, One Owner, All Power, OnStar, Only 34,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$27,995
2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995
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2004 Cadillac CTS - Red w/Tan Cloth, 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
2002 Chevrolet Cavalier - Blue w/Gray Cloth, Like New, One Owner, Only 38,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995

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Troop Salute: SSgt. Colvin is on his third tour in the Mideast

SSgt. John Colvin was born on Main Street in Big Spring, where the State National Bank is now. He and his nephew, Chris Hogg (about the same age), shared their early years in Big Spring schools. They also shared Boy Scouts and other boyhood activities. Chris' grandfather, Lee Young, was Scoutmaster for their troop. John's family moved away after his junior high years and Chris got his diploma through the GED program. Chris has supplied me with this story, and



LANE BOND

much of the wording is his. John's family has a history of military service. His father, John Colvin Sr., served in the United States Navy. His older brother, Gregg Hogg, a Big Spring native, served in the Army. Gregg has spent his life in Big Spring except for his military tour, and has worked at Western Container for the last 20 years. John's brother-in-law, Earnest Baker, of Valley Mills also served in the Army. Another brother, Michael, lives in Big Spring, and has spent most of his life here. SSgt. Colvin was in the JROTC program in high school. He attended civilian mechanic school just after graduation in 1991, then enlisted in the Army in February of 1993. He has had two

goals from boyhood — be a mechanic and be in the Army. For the past 14 years he has been a mechanic — in the Army. That spells success. John did his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. He completed his AIT (Advanced individual training) at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in the Edgewood area of Maryland. Some of John's assignments have been with the 77th Maintenance Co., 485th Corps Support

Battalion, 3rd COSCOM in Babenhausen Germany; the 536th Maintenance Co., 17th CSB, 45th Corps support Group in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the 31st Maintenance Co., Brigade Support Battalion, Operations Group in Fort Irwin, Calif. John is on his third tour in the Middle East. His first was in Iraq with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. His second



SSgt. John Colvin

tour was in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is currently with the 4th Brigade combat team, 10th Mountain Division 94th BSB, whose base is Fort Polk, La. The 94th BSB were among the first military units to arrive in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina hit. John is due home about December 2008, and he plans to put in for retirement when he returns. SSgt. Colvin has earned 10 Army achievement medals, four Army commendation medals, four good conduct medals (one for every three years of service), three overseas ribbons, one Army service ribbon, a National Defense ribbon, a Global War on Terrorism expe-

ditionary medal, a Global War on Terrorism campaign medal Iraq, a Global War on Terrorism campaign medal Afghanistan, a NATO forces ribbon, non-commissioned officer education ribbon (primary leadership development course), as well as his Cavalry spurs and his combat spurs with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. *Do you have a story about your family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond at lane@bondwebs.com or call him at (432) 263-4033 or visit his Web site, www.bondwebs.com.*

State Sen. Seliger recognized for leadership in business and education

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) recognized State Sen. Kel Seliger as a "Fighter for Free Enterprise," while the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools (TAMS) honored him with the "Golden Apple" for his work during the 80th Legislative Session.

The Golden Apple is the highest award annually given by the Texas Association of Mid-Sized Schools.

"I am very proud and humbled by these awards. Business and education are two of the most important endeavors in the state of Texas, and if my efforts have helped in these areas, I feel it is a worthwhile contribution," Seliger said.

Senator Seliger was honored as a "Fighter for Free Enterprise" for his continued efforts to preserve and enhance the positive business climate in Texas.

Lawmakers were scored based on their votes on key business legislation during the 80th Regular Session.

"Senator Seliger has one of the best pro-business, pro-jobs records in the Texas Senate, and we are proud to present him with this award," said Bill Hammond, TAB president and CEO. The Texas Association of Business represents more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce.

In the area of public education, Seliger worked to ensure continued support for the unique financial needs and educational resources of mid-size school districts, 12 of which lie in Senate District 31.

"This award is in recognition of Senator Seliger's efforts in filing legislation during the 80th Legislature to ensure that all mid-size schools are able to apply school funding formulas that will benefit them. While his bill did not pass, we are grateful that he has raised awareness of these funding issues on behalf of mid-size schools," said Larry Appel, outgoing president of TAMS and current superintendent of Dumas Independent School District.

The Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools advocates on behalf 195 school districts with an average daily attendance of up to 5,000 students.

"An award given by educators for efforts on behalf of public education

"I am very proud and humbled by these awards. Business and education are two of the most important endeavors in the state of Texas, and if my efforts have helped in these areas, I feel it is a worthwhile contribution."




Seliger

is valuable and meaningful, and I look forward to working with the school districts of District 31 in the 81st Legislature," Seliger stated.

Seliger was sworn in to the Texas Senate to serve the citizens of Senate District 31 on March 2, 2004, to complete the term

of former Senator Teel Bivins of Amarillo. He was re-elected to serve a full, four-year term on Nov. 4, 2004.

The district spans 26 counties from the Panhandle to the Permian Basin and includes Amarillo, Midland, Odessa and Big Spring.



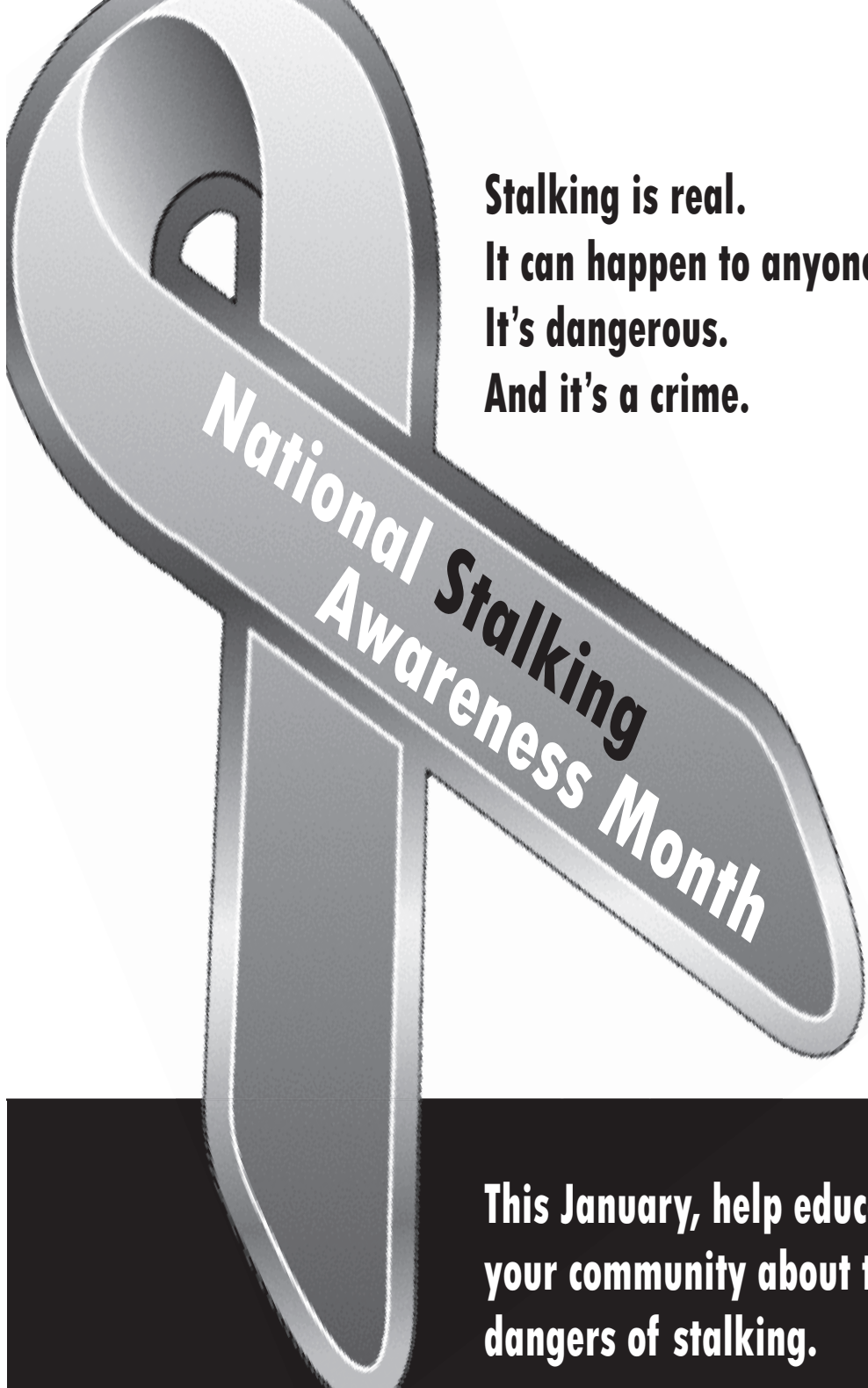
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Punxsutawney who?

I know. I know. Some folk around here do not care for the cold weather. I love the cold weather but my poor old bones do not! I was just sitting here thinking about the cold weather today. I think our high today is around 34 degrees. Perhaps by the time this comes to print it will be better.

Some of us are anxiously waiting for the weather report from that famous place up north in Pennsylvania. Oh, you know, each year we look forward to what Punxsutawney Phil has to report, whether we have another six weeks of winter or not.



BURR LEA SETTLES

For about 10 years now I have been going by another report. Can't say exactly how accurate it is, but did you know we have our own weather prognosticator? Yep, we do! And I have wondered of late, after all these years, why our local paper, news stations and weather stations have not taken the opportunity to search out this wonderful tool.

When the fire department moved its Central Station from downtown to the Airpark, I came across Airpark Bob! Those little critters known as prairie dogs to most folk. Each year, on Feb. 2, I would drive up to my office and there he would be. Airpark Bob. It was just Airpark Bob and his family at the time, but his kids have grown and theirs too, and well dang if I can tell which one of them is Airpark Bob!

It's just like Punxsutawney Phil, except he is a lot smaller. You have to get there early in the morning and because there is such a large community you have to hope you can find Airpark Bob. Unusually he is the first one to come out of his hole to check the weather to see if it is sunny or cloudy. The rules are the same. Sunny, and it's a early spring, and cloudy and it's another six weeks of winter.

Now, up north they have a "Punxsutawney Phil Club," whereas the head whatchamacallhim talks with Phil to see what the outcome of the prediction will be. Here, in the great state of Texas, we do things simpler. First off, it's a Texas prairie dog, and when he comes out he does not need to speak to anyone. Just like a Texan, his actions speak volumes. It either is or it ain't gonna be winter or early spring.

So if'n you've a mind to, you may want to go out and check it out for your own self. Or check the paper or radio and see if they mention it. Keep your fingers crossed for an early spring!

Burr Lea Settles Jr. is a retired Big Spring Fire Department fire marshal who occasionally writes a column for the Herald.

Australian retiree wins, then loses, then wins \$1.8 million lottery prize

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — An Australian retiree won a \$1.8 million lottery prize, then lost it, and then won it again Wednesday through a court ruling.

Werner Reinhold bought the lottery ticket at a newsstand in Australia's largest city of Sydney on Sept. 19, 1995. His original ticket did not print correctly, so he asked for a new one, which turned out to be the winner.

But when Reinhold, now 73, went back to claim the \$1.8 million jackpot, he discovered that the replacement ticket had been canceled, not the misprinted original, and was unable to claim the prize.

He sued NSW Lotteries, which oversees lottery tickets in New South Wales state, and the newsstand which sold him the ticket.

Supreme Court Judge Reginald Barrett awarded Reinhold \$1.8 million in damages, citing negligence and breach of contract by the newsstand and the state lottery company. Barrett had not yet ruled on what portion of the award each party should pay.

Texas news in brief



AP Photo/The Dallas Morning News, Jim Mahoney

Firefighters monitor a grass fire Tuesday near Highway 377 south of Denton. Fast-moving wildfires driven by strong, gusty winds chased some people from their homes. No injuries or deaths had been reported.

Parts of Texas still face wildfire threat

FORT WORTH (AP) — The threat of wildfires was expected to diminish with climbing humidity levels, but parts of Texas still faced dangerous conditions through the end of the work week, the National Weather Service said.

Fire dangers Wednesday were predicted to be greatest from El Paso to Lubbock, and in north-central Texas.

Roger Erickson of the weather service's Fort Worth office said conditions were still ripe for wildfires but higher humidity "will get us a little bit of relief."

On Tuesday, low humidity trailing a fast-moving cold front created an extreme threat of wildfires.

Homes were evacuated in Tarrant, Wise, Parker, Burnet, Nolan and Callahan counties. At least two dozen buildings were destroyed.

In South Texas, firefighters planned to work overnight to contain a 9,000-acre brush fire that broke out in Duval County and spread to Brooks County.

Baby's body found in Galveston, child safety seat nearby

GALVESTON (AP) — An Alvin woman has tentatively identified the body of a 3-month-old boy found near a child safety seat by the side of a road in Galveston on Tuesday as her missing son, police said.

Galveston police Lt. Jorge Trevino said officers were searching for the child's father, who was the last person seen with the infant.

Trevino said the woman told authorities that the child's father had left their home in Alvin about 5 a.m. with the baby to get a car repaired. Trevino said she began calling hospitals hours later when she became concerned about the baby because the father hadn't left with a "lot of provisions for the baby."

A hospital called the Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office, which called police. Police then contacted her.

Texans remain optimistic about clean coal technology

LUBBOCK (AP) — Officials who had been pushing for Texas to be selected as the home for a prototype near-zero emissions coal powered plant weren't surprised Tuesday at news that the U.S. Department of Energy wanted out of the project.

In the days leading up to its announcement on a site in December, the FutureGen Alliance took heat from the department, which wanted the alliance to slow down.

The project's steadily increasing cost and the alliance making its announcement despite DOE's advice, caused friction, Texas officials said.

The FutureGen Alliance had selected Mattoon, Ill., as the site for the next-generation power plant.

Mexican rights official says Juarez killings continue

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Women are still being killed in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's top human rights official said on Tuesday, calling investigations into their deaths "terrible."

An estimated 423 women have been murdered since 1993 in the city of 1.3 million, across the border from El Paso, Texas, said Jose Luis Soberanes, president of the government's National Human Rights Commission. About 89 of the deaths have occurred since 2004.

A series of eerily similar killings of more than 100 mainly young women began in Ciudad Juarez in 1993, but appeared to have tapered off by late 2004.

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Steppingstone to Success

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 7 6
♥ 10 7 2
♦ K Q 3
♣ A Q 4

WEST
♠ J 10 8
♥ A K J 9 5 4
♦ A 6
♣ 10 5

EAST
♠ 5
♥ 8 3
♦ 9 8 7 5 2
♣ 9 7 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 4 3 2
♥ Q 6
♦ J 10 4
♣ K J 8

The bidding:
South 1♠ West 2♥ North 3♠ East Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The most innocent-looking cards sometimes prove to be worth their weight in gold. For example, if you study the East hand — and we hope you won't have occasion to study many like it — you wouldn't think that this motley collection could contribute anything of significant value to the defense against four spades. But it did, as we shall presently see.

At first blush, when you look at all four hands, it might seem that four spades is laydown. But declarer failed to make the contract, and, what's more, there was nothing he

could do about it. When you run into the kind of defense he encountered, you just have to tip your hat and let it go at that.

West led the heart king, East signaling with the eight to begin a high-low, and continued with the ace. East playing the three. West now studied the situation at length and concluded that in view of South's opening bid, plus what he could see in his own hand and dummy, there was no chance East could come up with a defensive trick of his own.

However, West also realized that if his partner held just the five of spades, the contract could be beaten. Accordingly, he led a low heart (instead of the jack) at trick three! East ruffed with his one and only trump, the five, forcing declarer to overruff with the queen. As a result, South had to go down one, since he could not avoid losing a trump trick to West as well as the ace of diamonds.

Good defense by West, you might say, because if he had led the heart jack at trick three, East might not have bothered to ruff his partner's high heart. At the same time, though, it cannot be denied that East's lowly five struck the really decisive blow. It just goes to show that even the sorriest of hands may occasionally perform a function that almost defies credulity.

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In **Sunday's** Big Spring Herald

Changing gears

From teaching to truck driving, Americans of the baby boomer generation are shifting gears and making midlife career changes to pursue work that is either more exciting, more meaningful or more financially rewarding. Plus, Locks of Love and black bean soup.

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'America's Mayor' set to drop out of race

By **DEVLIN BARRETT**

Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — In the end, 9/11 wasn't enough.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, once the Republican presidential front-runner thanks to his status as "America's Mayor," suffered a debilitating defeat in Tuesday's Florida primary. He prepared Wednesday to quit the race and endorse his friendliest rival, John McCain.

Giuliani stopped short of announcing he was stepping down, but delivered a valedictory speech that was more farewell than fight-on.

The former mayor finished a distant third to the winner, McCain, and close second-place finisher Mitt Romney. Republican officials said Giuliani would endorse McCain on Wednesday in California. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of the public announcement.

"I'm proud that we chose to stay positive and to run a campaign of ideas in an era of personal attacks, negative ads and cynical spin," Giuliani said as supporters with tight smiles

crowded behind him. "You don't always win, but you can always try to do it right, and you did."

Asked directly whether he was dropping out of the race, Giuliani said only: "I'm going to California."

Republican presidential candidates were scheduled to debate at the Reagan presidential library in Simi Valley on Wednesday night.

"I haven't talked to him," McCain said as he boarded a campaign charter plane Wednesday morning.

"I'm going to talk to him today when we meet."

Separately, Giuliani said as he prepared to leave Florida for California Wednesday he was "not yet" ready to announce his intentions.

Tuesday's result was a remarkable collapse for Giuliani.

Last year, he occupied the top of national polls and seemed destined to turn conventional wisdom on end by running as a moderate Republican who supported abortion rights, gay rights and gun control.

The results seriously decimated Giuliani's unconventional strategy, which relied heavily on Florida to launch him into the coast-to-coast Feb. 5 nominating contests.

But Florida proved to be less than hospitable. His poll numbers dropped and key endorsements went to McCain.

Surveys of voters leaving polling places Tuesday showed that Giuliani was getting backing from some Hispanics, abortion rights supporters and people worried about terrorism, but was not dominating

in any area.

McCain, addressing his own supporters moments later in Miami, gave Giuliani a warm rhetorical embrace, a possible prologue to accepting Giuliani's expected support.

"I want to thank my dear friend, my dear friend Rudy Giuliani, who invested his heart and soul in this primary and who conducted himself with all the qualities of the exceptional American leader he truly is," McCain said. "Thank you, Rudy, for all you have added to this race and for being an inspiration to me and millions of Americans."

Giuliani hung his bid

for the Republican presidential nomination on his leadership. His stalwart performance as New York mayor in the tense days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington earned him national magazine covers, international accolades and wide-

spread praise.

A moderate-to-liberal New Yorker who backed abortion rights, gay rights and gun control in a party dominated by Southern conservatives, Giuliani became a Republican mayor of an overwhelmingly Democratic city.

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 "Se Habla Espanol"

Clinton wins campaign-free Florida vote

By MIKE GLOVER

Associated Press Writer

DAVIE, Fla. —

Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton claimed victory in a campaign-free Florida presidential primary while rival Barack Obama sketched a personal story that he argues can bring the nation together.

Both candidates moved quickly to shore up backing in states with looming contests as the potential for a protracted competition for the party's nomination grew ever more likely, making for a bitter battle over delegates to the summer's national convention.

For her part, Clinton was traveling Wednesday to Arkansas, where she served as first lady, before flying to Atlanta for the Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. Both of those states vote next Tuesday as part of a mega-primary

day. Obama was heading for Denver and then Phoenix for campaign rallies in states with big Hispanic populations, an important constituency and one for which the two are competing hard.

Clinton appeared in this south Florida city Tuesday night for a campaign event before about 1,000 backers, touting a victory in a race in which all the candidates had signed pledges not to compete.

With her lopsided loss to Obama last weekend in the South Carolina primary, Clinton was shopping for a place to claim a win in an effort to break his momentum.

"I could not come here in person to ask for your vote, but I am here today to thank you for your votes today," Clinton declared at the kind of noisy rally that Florida Democrats have missed this election season.

Flanked by prominent Florida backers like Sen. Bill Nelson, she did her best to push her message on a night when the spotlight was on the Republicans and their tight race.

"I'm thrilled to have the vote of confidence you gave me today," Clinton said. "I am convinced that with this record vote, with the millions of Americans who will vote next Tuesday, we'll send a message that America is back and we will take charge of our destiny once again."

Citing the record turnout of 1.5 million Democrats, Clinton strategist Mark Penn called the results "significant" and "far more than symbolic." Whatever the case, Clinton won 50 percent of the vote, Obama 33 percent. John Edwards got 14 percent.

Obama, meanwhile, was in Kansas collecting the backing of Gov. Kathleen

Sebelius and talking in more detail about his personal story. The son of a white mother from Kansas and a black father from Kenya, he was raised largely in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia.

Obama said his life has given him the depth to understand the various streams running through the nation, an understanding he believes could ease its cultural divisions.

"It's a varied and unlikely journey, but one that's held together by the same simple dream," he said. "And that is why it is an American story. That's why I can stand here and talk about how this country is more than

a collection of red states and blue states because my story could have only happened in the United States of America."

That was the theme of the speech that electrified many Democrats at their 2004 national convention and propelled Obama to a U.S. Senate seat from Illinois.

Florida got less attention from Democrats this year because the national party stripped the state of its delegates as punishment for moving its primary ahead of Feb. 5. It is expected that the eventual nominee will try to seat delegates from Florida and Michigan, which violated party rules.

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Inmate who hanged self used friend's name, officials say

Believed to be Cody Blair Green of Big Spring

From staff and wire reports

GULFPORT, Miss. — An inmate who hanged himself in a Mississippi jail had been going by a fake name and is now believed to be a Texas man, officials said.

Harrison County authorities initially said a man identified as Timothy Shane Haynie was found dead Monday night, a day after being recaptured following a jail escape. But now officials and attorneys in the case say the man actually was Cody Blair Green of Big Spring.

Green, 24, was facing three felony indictments in Howard County for offenses allegedly committed in 2002 — two for aggravated robbery, a first degree felony, and one for the state jail offense of forgery.

Another felony charge — fraudulent use of identifying information — was pending with the Howard County District Attorney's Office, DA Hardy Wilkerson confirmed today.

Green was previously convicted in 118th District Court of burglary of a building in 1999. His probation for that offense was revoked in 2001 and he was sentenced to a year in a state jail facility.

Prosecutors said Green grew up with Haynie and has used his name since at least 2002, when Biloxi police arrested him on an armed robbery charge.

The inmate's death was ruled a suicide. Coroner Gary Hargrove said he will verify the inmate's identity.

Sheriff Melvin Brisolara said the inmate was in an isolation cell and was not held in a section for a suicide watch, which requires frequent checks.

"We had no reason to believe he was suicidal," the sheriff said.

The District Attorney's Office and the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation are conducting an independent investigation.

The inmate was arrested in 2002 and accused of robbing a Biloxi hotel clerk with a broken beer bottle. He pleaded guilty in 2003 and was sentenced to 12 years. He was returned to the Harrison County jail Jan. 11 for a hearing to determine his identity.

Assistant District Attorney Beth McFadyen said a Texas attorney recently contacted her office and claimed the real Haynie was registering for college when he learned he was listed as incarcerated in a Mississippi prison.

"I've got copies of Mr. Haynie's driver's license and Social Security card," said McFadyen.

Biloxi police and state prison officials were trying to verify the prisoner's identity when they learned of his death, she said.

Attorney Tim Holleman was representing Green.

"Mr. Haynie is Mr. Green, the man who hung himself at the jail, unfortunately," said Holleman. "He didn't sound suicidal. Not at all."

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