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BIG SPRING

HERALD

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 4, 2008



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New warden pleased with job

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
 Managing Editor

Rodney W. Chandler has taken over the duties as warden of the Federal Correctional Institution of Big Spring, replacing former warden, David G. Justice, who recently retired from the Bureau of Prisons to become Senior Warden at Cornell Corrections. Chandler has been employed



CHANDLER

by the Federal Bureau of Prisons since 1985, and now holds the top position as Big Spring FCI's chief executive officer. As the federal prison's CEO, Chandler maintains oversight responsibility for the low security level facility and its adjacent satellite camp,

housing approximately 1,800 male offenders and employing approximately 280 staff. He is responsible for an annual operating budget of \$25 million.

Chandler began his career in 1985 at the Federal Correctional Institution in El Reno, Okla., as a correctional officer. He then continued to serve in positions of increasing responsibility, such as assistant administrator and administrator at the

Management and Specialty Training Center in Colorado; executive assistant to the warden and associate warden in Seagoville; and associate warden at the United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo. In all, Chandler has worked at seven different facilities, including three in Texas.

Chandler officially took over his responsibilities in Big

Spring in November of last year and said he was extremely pleased with the facility once he arrived.

"Things are going extremely well here at the institution," he said. "We have a wonderful staff, great people with a lot of West Texas pride and dedication."

In fact, Chandler said several See **WARDEN**, Page 3A

FUND DONATION



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Hayes Stripling Jr., left, accepts a check for more than \$1,700 for the Howard County Bible Class Fund from Jaunell Roever of the St. Paul Lutheran Women's Missionary League while Doris Hicks and Rose Stukel, also of the League, and Bible Fund President Murray Murphy look on.

Primaries' candidate field large

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Area voters looking for choices in the Republican and Democratic primaries won't be disappointed this year, as both parties have several contested races going into the March contest.

One of the most anticipated contests in Howard County will be the race for sheriff.

Incumbent Sheriff Dale Walker filed to run for re-election on the Republican ticket, bringing his eight-year run with the Democratic Party to a close. Walker will face Charles Morgan and Stan Parker in the March contest, with former HCSO deputy Pat Carter the lone candidate on the Democratic ticket.

In the race for the Precinct 3 seat on the commissioners court, nearly a half-dozen hopefuls have thrown their hats into the ring. Dick Dubose, who ran for the seat four years ago, is the lone Democratic candidate, automatically earning him a place on the November ballot.

However, Steve Gray, Winston Paschal Odom, Jimmie Wayne Long and

Fred Green will have to duke it out in March in hopes of winning the Republican nomination.

Incumbent William Crooker announced in late 2007 he would not seek re-election.

Edwin O. Ware will be able to quietly cruise through the primaries as the lone Republican candidate seeking the Precinct 1 seat on the commissioners court, while incumbent Emma Brown and challenger Yolanda Mendoza will try to win the Democratic nomination. Brown defeated Mendoza in her last bid for re-election approximately four years ago.

Howard County Constable Bill Holden will run for re-election on the Democratic ticket, and while he failed to draw a party opponent, Kneel B. Stallings has filed to challenge on the Republican card, forcing the contest to a November resolution.

Also in Howard County contests, County Attorney Mike Thomas will run for re-election with the Democratic Party, drawing his only opponent in

See **RACES**, Page 3A

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Bush sends Congress \$3 trillion budget

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush is sending Congress a \$3 trillion spending blueprint that would provide a big boost to defense and protect his signature tax cuts.

It seeks sizable savings in government health care programs and puts the squeeze on much of the rest of government, but it would still generate near-record budget deficits over the next two years.

Democrats attacked Bush's final spending plan as a continuation of what

they contend are seven years of failed policies by the Bush administration.

"Today's budget bears all the hallmarks of the Bush legacy — it leads to more deficits, more debt, more tax cuts, more cutbacks in critical services," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C.

For his last budget, Bush stopped the practice of providing 3,000 paper copies of the budget to members of Congress and the media as a moneysaving measure. Democrats joked that Bush had run out of red ink.

"We have seen this script before. The president proposes more of the same

failed policies he has embraced throughout his time in office — more deficit-financed war spending, more deficit-financed tax cuts tilted to benefit the wealthiest and more borrowing from foreign nations like China and Japan," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

Democrats said the big jump in deficits for this year and 2009 continued an era under Bush in which the national debt has exploded. A projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion when Bush took office was wiped out by the 2001 recession.

See **BUDGET**, 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
Monday, February 4, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

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

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.

FRIDAY

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 Tennis Boosters meeting today at ATC

The Big Spring High School Tennis Booster Club is meeting at 6 p.m. today at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Big Spring tennis players from the junior high to the high school are encouraged to attend.

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.

BSHS 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.

Hawks complete series sweep of Barton

By ERIC RODEWALD

Special to the Herald
The Howard College baseball team had a little tougher time Saturday disposing of Barton County Community College, but was able to complete a sweep of a pair of doubleheaders, starting the season 4-0.

Friday, Howard defeated Barton County 10-0 and 16-2, but it was a tougher task Saturday with the Hawks winning Game 1 8-4 and holding on for a 5-3 Game 2 victory.

According to Howard Head Coach Britt Smith, the games were more competitive Saturday

based on baseball being a percentage game.

"They pitched it a little better Saturday where as on Friday if they made a mistake we banded them," Smith said. "Percentages eventually catch up with you. We hit .530 as a team Friday and that's not true baseball. The law of average is going to catch up to you."

Combine the math with early leads in both contests Saturday and Smith felt Howard might have not been as focused in its first back-to-back doubleheader of the season.

"We were kind of our own

worst enemy as we got up early again and somewhat got complacent," Smith said. "Some of that is this is the first time some of these kids have played a four game series with doubleheaders back-to-back."

In Game 1, Howard right-hander Chase Adams earned the win, pitching in relief of starter Anthony Collazo. Kane Kimrey closed the contest as the Hawks won 8-4 in seven innings.

The Hawks won Game 2, 5-3, as Danny Gidora picked up the win in 4 1/3-innings of work. Gidora struck out two. Ray Martin finished the fifth inning, recording

the final two outs, but not before Barton County scored all three of their runs. Evan Blakeley pitched the sixth and one out in the seventh, before Pedro Villareal came in to close the door on Barton County, earning the save.

"Overall we're pretty pleased with the weekend," Smith said. "I thought we pitched it really well for the entire series."

It was a big day at the plate for sophomore shortstop Tyler Ladendorf. He had three home-runs that got out of the park in a

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Nobody's perfect

Giants upset unbeaten Pats in Super Bowl

By BEN WALKER

AP Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — One perfect spiral and it was over for the New England Patriots. Forever, fans would remember who lost this Super Bowl, as much as who won.

Eli Manning looked every bit like his older brother, throwing that beautiful fade route. Plaxico Burress backed up his brazen prediction, catching the 13-yard touchdown pass with 35 seconds left.

And with that thunderbolt, the New York Giants became NFL champions Sunday night. With the crowd standing and roaring for the entire fourth quarter, they startled the heavily favored Patriots — and themselves, a bit — with a 17-14 victory.

"Even when my parents were telling me, 'You're going to win,' I don't know if I believed them," said defensive end Michael Strahan, who postponed retirement in late August to try for this trophy.

The previously unbeaten Pats? They finally felt the pressure. Not from their gaudy record, but from the kind applied by the Giants' relentless pass rush.

"Tonight doesn't take away from anything we have done over the course of the season," New

England quarterback Tom Brady said. "We had a great year. It's just unfortunate that tonight turned out the way it did."

The 1972 Miami Dolphins didn't seem to mind too much. They're protective of their 17-0 mark that season and don't want anyone to match their unblemished record.

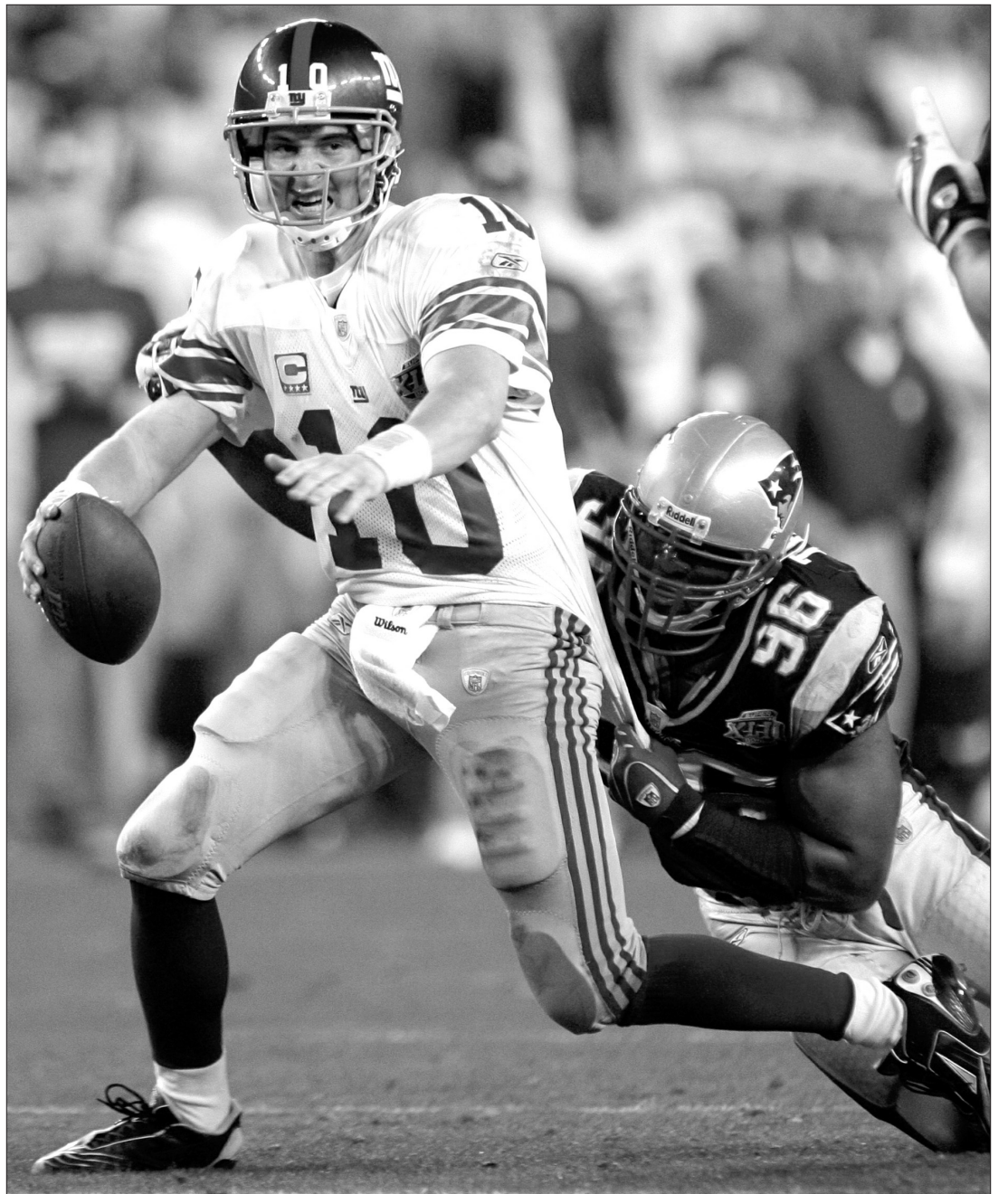
"The Patriots had a great season, but it shows just how difficult it is to go undefeated," said then-coach Don Shula, who was in attendance. "Our players and our fans feel that much more proud of our accomplishment."

Gone was the Patriots' chance to be the first team to finish 19-0. Also lost was their chance to win their fourth title in seven seasons. Instead, they found another way to be marked.

While many Super Bowl losers simply are forgotten, a few are destined to be a part of NFL lore. Almost 40 years ago, the mighty Baltimore Colts fell victim to that other New York team and its poolside prognosticator, the Jets and Joe Namath.

"We had an opportunity to be special, and we let it slip away," Patriots defensive lineman Richard Seymour said. "We came so close to being special. Now, we're second class."

See **GIANTS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Paul Sancya

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) escapes the grasp of the New England Patriots' Adalius Thomas in the fourth quarter during Super Bowl XLII at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday in Glendale, Ariz. Manning garnered MVP honors in the Giants' 17-14 upset victory over the Patriots.



AP photo/Duane Bureson

Detroit Pistons center Rasheed Wallace (36) drives against Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki in the first half Sunday in Auburn Hills, Mich. Wallace led all players with 21 points in the Pistons' 90-67 win.

Wallace, Pistons shut down Dirk, Mavericks

By LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Rasheed Wallace can be one of the NBA's most complete players at times, making life miserable for opponents at both ends of the court.

The Dallas Mavericks saw that up close Sunday against the Detroit Pistons.

Wallace scored 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds, blocked four shots, made three assists and had a steal in Detroit's 90-67 over Dallas.

The bombastic center scored over Dirk Nowitzki on a fade-away late in the third quarter as Detroit pulled away, then taunted the Mavericks as he backpedaled.

"He can't guard me!" Wallace screamed toward Dallas' bench.

Pistons coach Flip Saunders isn't sure anybody in the league can effectively defend Wallace under some conditions.

"When Rasheed is ready, motivated and focused, he can domi-

nate anyone he plays," Saunders said. "He's that good."

The 6-foot-11 Wallace made a trio of 3-pointers, an array of low-post moves and set up teammates with crisp passes. Wallace's long arms, quick feet and savvy contributed to the Mavericks having their worst game of the season offensively.

Most importantly for the Pistons, he was inspired to help the Pistons win after getting routed by the Mavericks a month ago.

"It was real important because they did a number on us down there in Dallas," Wallace said. "That could possibly be a team that we face in the finals so we've just got to go out and set the tone, set the mark, knowing that it's possibility we could meet them in June."

In the only other NBA game on Sunday, the Los Angeles Lakers beat Washington 103-91.

Detroit has won five straight to quietly pull within 3 games of

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Police blotter

Susana Moreno



Susana Moreno, 62, of Big Spring died on Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, in a local nursing home. A vigil service will be 7 p.m. Monday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, at the Coahoma Cemetery with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating.

She was born on June 20, 1945, in Ozona.

Mrs. Moreno was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and was a housekeeper. She was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include two sons, Augustine Moreno and Paul Moreno, both of Big Spring; five daughters, Mary Rodriguez, Frances Rodriguez, Irene Alvarez, Adela Deanda and Terry Moreno, all of Big Spring; 25 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Santos Mendez and David Mendez.

She was preceded in death by two sons, her parents, and several brothers and sisters.

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

Omega Smith



Omega Smith, 94, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, Feb. 1, 2008. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Myers & Smith Chapel in Big Spring with Ralph Anderson, minister of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating.

Omega was born July 13, 1913, in Mable Dean, Texas, to Mack and Florence Thompson. She married M.C. (Jack) Smith in 1931 in Stamford. They

raised their children in Jones and Borden counties. After retirement in 1981, they moved to Big Spring. Although she left Big Spring in 1998, she always said it was her favorite place to live. She was a nurse and even after her retirement always found a way to take care of others. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She survived by sons, Mike Smith and wife, Judy, of Tucson, Ariz., and Paul Smith of Austin; daughter, Arba Pennington and husband, Michael, of Maringouin, La.; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, M.C. (Jack) Smith; daughter, Patsy Applegate; grandchildren Dusty Smith and Linda Jordan; twin sister, Alpha; sisters Lois, Eunice (Pete) and Oma; and brothers, Burton, Clyde and Claude (Coon).

Memorials may be made in Omega's name to The Children's Home of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2824, Lubbock 79408 or to your favorite charity. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Carl Ford



Carl Ford, 92, died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Eddy Pitchford and Ralph Anderson officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Feb. 9, 1915, in Nolan County. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He retired from civil service from Webb Air Force Base. He married Tomilee Coates on Feb. 9, 1978. She preceded him in death on April 12, 2005. He was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ.

He is survived by two daughters, Paula Henry and her husband, Neal, and Lana Henderson and her husband, Eddie, all of Big Spring; one brother, Leon Ford and his wife, Evelyn, of Arlington; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

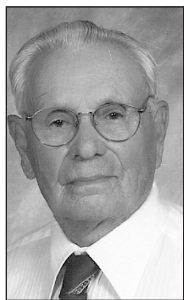
In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

The family will be at 209 Ramsey in Coahoma. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Kathryn Grantham

Kathryn Grantham, 91, of Knott died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008, in a local care facility. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Henry Mexia Jr.



Longtime Big Spring resident Henry Mexia Jr. died in Arlington Jan. 30, 2008. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Waco with the Rev. Don Loftin officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation with family will be Sunday, Feb. 3, at Connally/Compton Funeral Directors from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with Rosary recited at 5 p.m.

Henry was born Feb. 23, 1921, the son of Genaro and Augustina Mejia in Sherman. He graduated from Sherman High School, and later served in the U.S. Army, stationed in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. While in the service, he met and married Louise Perez on Nov. 1, 1945. Their marriage of 62 years served as an example of their love and devotion, not only to each other, but to their family.

An electrician by trade, he later was employed by the U.S. Civil Service, assigned to Perrin AFB near Sherman, and later transferred to Big Spring in 1971, where he retired and then pursued his passion for golf. A regular player at Comanche Trail, he met and enjoyed the friendship of many men and many rounds of golf. His time spent on the course, and conversations with his friends, revealed that he was an honest, and true friend. He always found time to lend a helping hand when needed, and somehow managed to work in those "help others chores" at times that would still allow him to keep his "tee time." His acts of generosity were only known to those he helped and to the Lord above. He was also a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife Louise; son, Louis and wife Laura of Hewitt; daughter, Lucille Rogers of Arlington; daughter, Christine Scott and husband Bill of Astoria, Ore.; daughter, Capt. Laura Lewis and husband John of Colorado Springs, Colo.; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He held a special place in his heart for his pet, Spanky.

Henry, on the celebration of his 80th birthday, said that he was a wealthy man. His wealth did not lie in money or material things, but the joy and love that he derived from his family. The love for his family will remain forever etched in the hearts and souls of those who knew and loved him. May God grant him eternal peace.

Pallbearers will be Louis Mexia Jr., James Roland, Kyle Rogers, John Lewis, Bill Scott and Marcus Mexia. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, Tenn. 38101.

Paid obituary

Harold David Berry

Services for Harold David Berry, 77 of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, in Resthaven's Abbey Chapel. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock, under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Denton. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Settles. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Union. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Rocco Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- STONEY CASSELMAN, 45, of 106 E. 22nd Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ARTURO ACEVEDO, 48, of 1511 S. Runnels, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID SILAS, 40, transient, was arrested Saturday on a local citation and a charge of public intoxication.
- TAMMY DICKSON, 24, of 2402 S. Main Street, was arrested Saturday on a local warrant.
- ERNEST CLARK, 67, transient, was arrested Saturday on charges of public intoxication and criminal trespass.
- MANUEL MATA, 21, of 700 N. Moss Lake Road, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL SMITH, 29, of 1425 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ENRIQUE CALDERON, 30, of 2600 Chanute, was arrested Sunday on three local warrants.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 47 inmates at the time of this report.

- ARNULFO ERNIE GRANADOS, 55, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 67, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- MORGAN LOPEZ, 26, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- BILLIE JEAN JAMES, 45, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- TINA ANN HILARIO, 31, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of allowing a child age 5-17 to ride unsecured by safety belt and violation of a promise to appear.
- KENETRA MOZELLE JAMES, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- PRISCILLA GRACE LOVE, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- HEATHER GRIGG, 33, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.
- LOGAN JAKE FURLONG, 19, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.
- GARY DEAN WATKINS, 35, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ROMAN ORTEGA, 35, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.
- CHAUNCEY LAVAR FORD, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than two ounces less than four ounces.
- LAURA MCCALLAY, 35, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.
- RAMIRO VALENCIA MARQUEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- DARIN SEAN TUCKER, 49, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- DANYA LEE HOPE, 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- NATALIE DAWN JOHNSON, 39, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of no valid driver's license.
- JIMMY JUAREZ, 38, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- TERENCE A. YOUNG, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on motions to revoke probation for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of marijuana and a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

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BirthPlace Tour:
Monday, February 4 at 7:00pm

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MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Celtics.

The Mavericks, who missed a chance to pull into a first-place tie with New Orleans in the Southwest Division, have lost two in a row after winning 12 of 14.

They were held to their

lowest scoring game while shooting a season-low 30 percent, a percentage set up by missing 16 straight shots in the first half.

Dallas struggled in part because starting point guard Devin Harris (left ankle) and key reserve Jerry Stackhouse (right hamstring) are out with injuries.

"We know what we are facing — we're under-

manned right now — but we have to get things done," Jason Terry said.

The Mavericks needed reigning NBA MVP Dirk Nowitzki to carry them, but Wallace and Co. made sure he couldn't deliver. Nowitzki missed 15 of 18 shots, was shut down in the third quarter and finished with 15 points.

Despite Dallas' awful start, Detroit led just 20-14 after the first quarter and

44-38 at halftime.

While Wallace scored seven and Nowitzki was scoreless in the third, Detroit took control by outscoring the Mavericks 22-13 and holding them to their lowest scoring quarter of the season.

"We aren't making great decisions with the ball right now," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said. "Scoring 67 points is just not good enough."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

hurry.

"What I was most impressed with is his (Ladendorf) clutch hits came with two strikes. He had a couple of two-strike homeruns." Smith said.

Matt Curry had three hits, including a home run and a double. Travis

Sample also homered for the Hawks. Josh Riley and Cameron Monger each had a double and Nathan Bryan hit for a triple.

The Hawks begin the season undefeated and continue their month long home stand Friday and Saturday vs. Vernon College with a pair of seven-inning doubleheaders beginning each day at noon.

GIANTS

Continued from Page 1B

Burress saw the Giants' third Super Bowl title coming.

Last week, he predicted New York would win 23-17. That guess drew Brady's attention.

"We're only going to score 17 points?" he said then. "OK. Is Plax playing defense? I wish he had said 45-42 and gave us a little credit for scoring more points."

Manning and the wildcard Giants (14-6) knocked off the Brady bunch, pulling off a frenzied, 12-play drive that covered 83 yards in the last 2 minutes. Included was Brandon Jacobs' plunge on fourth-and-1, plus a circus catch by David Tyree.

Tyree, who began the game with more special teams tackles than catches this season, outjumped Rodney Harrison for a 32-yard grab on third-and-5 to the Patriots' 24 with 59 seconds left.

Harrison tried to pull the ball free and at one point had it pinned to Tyree's helmet.

"I don't know that

there's ever been a bigger play in the Super Bowl than that play," praised Giants coach Tom Coughlin.

Early in the fourth quarter, Tyree caught a 5-yard strike from Manning for his first TD of the season and a 10-7 lead.

"I am a man that really has to capitalize on his few opportunities," Tyree said. "Some things just don't make sense and I guess you can just put that catch there with them."

Amazing, for more than one reason.

"Unbelievable," Giants receiver Amani Toomer said. "In Friday's practice, he was dropping everything."

When this game ended, the Giants had their 11th straight road win and Manning was the MVP, the same award brother Peyton earned last year by leading Indianapolis over Chicago.

"That's a position you want to be in," Eli said. "You want to have the ball in your hands ... down, where you've got to score a touchdown."

Maybe easier to do than watch.

Peyton was in a private box and punctuated each

key play by his kid brother with a clap, shout or a wave of his arms.

"You are pulling so hard for Eli," he said. "I guarantee you I am more involved in the game he is playing than any other NFL game. I was pumped, and I got a lot of messages telling me to calm down because I was excited."

Brady, Patriots coach Bill Belichick and several others on the New England side were gone by the very end. Brady's last pass fell incomplete with 1 second left, and Belichick ran across the field to congratulate Coughlin.

The officials determined there was one more play left. With many Patriots off to the locker room, Manning took a final kneeldown in New England territory.

As for how difficult the loss was, Belichick said: "I don't rank them. It's disappointing."

Fined for spying on the Jets' coaches in the season opener, Belichick and the Patriots had every right to believe they would win this time. Even though the Giants played them tough in a 38-35 loss at the Meadowlands in their last

game of the regular season, New England was a two-touchdown favorite.

But Brady, a two-time Super Bowl MVP, never quite got into a rhythm. With girlfriend Gisele Bundchen tucked away in a suite, Brady went 29-for-48 and 266 yards. He was under pressure all game, as Strahan, Osi Umenyiora and Justin Tuck kept pounding him. "There is a way to get to anybody," Strahan said. "And for us today, the way to win this game was to get to Tom Brady. Stop the run and get to Brady."

"As Mike Tyson would say, 'Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the face.' And today, we wanted to punch them in the face." Brady was sacked five times and the highest-scoring team in league history was held to its lowest point total of the season. He did not show any ill effects from a sprained ankle that recently put him in a protective boot.

Manning's 5-yard pass to Tyree — it was his first TD catch of the season — put the Giants ahead 10-7 earlier in the fourth quarter.

Brady later hit Randy

Moss for a 6-yard touchdown with 2:42 to go that gave the Pats a 14-10 edge.

Four plays after Tyree's acrobatics, Manning found Burress alone in

the left side of the end zone.

"It's the greatest feeling in professional sports," Burress said before bursting into tears.

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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

Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 2, 7, 3, 1, 5, 8, 9, 4, 8, 5, 2, 8, 7, 6, 3, 7, 8, 6, 1, 1, 6, 5, 9, 7, 8, 7, 5, 9, 4, 6, 9, 2, 5

Contract Bridge Famous Hand By Steve Becker. Includes hand diagrams for North, South, West, and East, and a detailed text explanation of the bidding and play.

West Texas Living Health and Medical Guide. Includes a photo of a doctor and patient, and text about the guide's purpose, rates for advertising, and contact information for the Big Spring Herald.

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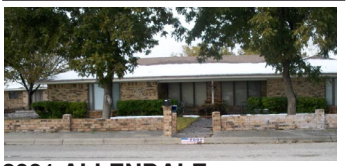
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The continued precession of the sun through Aquarius puts a sparkle in our eye and hope in our hearts. Past dreams may change, but life remains infinitely possible. As the water bearer fills her jug with clear water, she winks. Knowledge is the elixir we seek, informing our spiritual insights and prophetic glimpses of the future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some friendships are life-long; others are a few hours of kinship. You let relationships develop naturally toward whatever form they want to take. Tonight, start a positive Karmic cycle, and it will continue rolling.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Important meetings come to those who are well informed. Join the "now" crowd. Read everything you can get your hands on. Move and shake with the movers and shakers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not quite time to lay down the law in a relationship, ask for a raise or put the down payment on a new property. But the research you do will help you immensely when it is that time — and you won't have long to wait!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be careful when you say "X would never happen" This is the kind of day when all the

"nevers" come to roost. Singles find love by being content and letting it come to them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A bout of self-doubt isn't pleasant by any stretch, but it is a good sign. Only a fool or a fanatic is sure of himself all of the time. Your insecurities prove that you are wise. That said, to overcome them is wiser still.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A reasonable reaction to what happens today might be comforting to those around you, but if you can't be reasonable, don't worry. A bit of madness will be refreshingly interesting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your upbeat style will get you hired or will make shut doors swing open for you. Trivial matters and useless knowledge are the delights of this evening. See, no idea is small when your mind is big.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Relationships are tricky now, and you feel like it's time you made important decisions. Should you cross the bridge or burn it? Likely, the best answer is neither. Take a boat underneath it while you think it over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Do you feel magnetic? Your AQ is strong now — that's your "attraction quotient. You can use your influence to finagle a date with that hard-to-reach someone or close a business deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your support network is even more supportive than usual. Through them, you have the resources needed to

bring your fantasy down from the sky and onto paper.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You wouldn't hang a picture in bad light, and you treat your friendships with the same reverence. By seeing the good in others, you bring out the very best in even morally challenged individuals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Remember that life is cyclical. There's a time to strive for self-improvement and a time to accept yourself, faults and all. You can actually foil yourself up by trying to fix yourself.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm an artistic Aquarius (born Jan. 30, 1978, at 11:50 a.m. in Brooklyn, N.Y.) looking to launch my career as a fine-art photographer. I've created a Web site showcasing my work and sent the link out to my network. Do you have any tips on how to get my work out there and up in a gallery?"

How will we get recognized? Where will we shine our brightest? Will anyone even notice? Our sun signs elegantly and simply answer these questions. The Internet has an affinity with Aquarians, so publish and market online — you're on the right track. Social networks and friends play a big role in your career success, especially with your Aquarian sun and Venus in your career sector. Cultivate your friendships, even the casual ones. Explore the not-so-mainstream cooperative galleries that

favor fresh, young, inventive minds like yours. This week's new-moon solar eclipse in Aquarius sends a jolt of electricity to your sector of public standing — you've already experienced a stroke of career luck. Next month, develop your public presence. Make your Web site even more fabulous. As Jupiter begins a yearlong transit through your house of self-promotion in March, put the word out to your friends, and the universe, that you're poised and ready.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Anyone can be a social commentator or critic, but when Aquarian Chris Rock speaks, he kicks up controversy with his jokes or starts a revolution with his politics — often both. If Chris's edginess attracts some and repels others, it's the price of a life lived on the planet of edge: Uranus. This year, Saturn transits his Virgo moon, making him sensitive to public criticism, only to discover he's his own worst critic.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: We are moving soon and our new home is less than two miles from my sister, "Celia." Celia is newly divorced after 49 years of marriage. The problem? She has a gentleman friend and the two of them are all over each other all the time, whether in our house, her house or out in public. She also discusses intimate details of the relationship with our adult daughter. Celia is in her late 60s and her boyfriend is 72. You would think they'd know better.

around Celia and her beau, and I worry it will cause a major problem now that we will be living closer to her. Should I discuss it with my sister? Our daughter already said something to her aunt about not liking this behavior and Celia's response was, "It shouldn't bother you." Celia also drinks a bit. Please advise soon. The movers are coming. — Too Much PDA



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

three or four years, someone in his family (mainly his mother and one of his sisters) can't stand that everyone is getting along and decides to create a mess, and it's always somehow my fault.

Four days before Christmas, my in-laws stopped speaking to us because of something I supposedly said three years ago. I have no idea what they are talking about but apologized anyway. By their own choice, they will be out of my children's lives for the moment. I offered to overlook this behavior again, even though my children are sad, but my husband insists we are all better off without them. We still are in contact with his brother and his family.

How many times do I have to endure this ridicule before I can say I've tried my best? — Irritated

Dear Irritated: You're done. Your in-laws thrive on drama because it brings them attention. They like to see you grovel, but you don't need to keep apologizing over and over. It helps enormously that your husband is supportive, so just ride this one out. If they want to see the grandchildren, they know how to reach you.

Dear Annie: I would like to respond to readers who believe divorce always leaves children bitter and hating one parent or both. My parents have fought ever since I can remember. They even separated for a few years, filed for divorce, and my mother had an affair. They eventually got back together and it took me a very long time to forgive them both — for not getting divorced. They were both happier and more fun to be around when they were apart. My sister and I spent more time with Dad when he didn't live in the same house.

Ten years later, I have a distant relationship with both parents. When I talk to them, they complain about each other. I'm sure there are other children out there who, like me, are — Wishing They Got a Divorce

Dear Wishing: It's true that in some cases, the children are better off when they are no longer living through the unhappy marriage of their parents.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Galveston police in Philadelphia to question man in baby's death

GALVESTON (AP) — Texas investigators are in Philadelphia to question a man in custody after confessing to killing his infant son, whose body was found last week tossed onto the side of a Galveston road near his child safety seat.

Galveston Police spokesman Lt. Jorge Trevino said Sunday that two detectives and two crime scene investigators flew to Philadelphia earlier in the day.

The detectives were going to talk with anybody who had contact with Travis Mullis, the baby's father. The crime scene investigators were

going to look for any possible evidence in Mullis' car, Trevino said.

Mullis, 21, known as "T.J.," surrendered to Philadelphia police Friday, telling them he placed the 3-month-old baby on the ground and then stomped on his head three or four times until he felt the skull collapsing, Trevino said.

"We have a pretty clear picture of what happened based on (Mullis') statements. But I can't release those details without risking hurting the case," Trevino said.

Mullis has been charged with capital murder in Galveston and his bond

has been set at \$1 million. He also has a felony charge out of nearby Brazoria County of enticing a child. Alvin police are investigating an allegation that Mullis took an 8-year-old girl from her bed in January, took her to a school or park and asked her to remove her pants.

Investigators still have more questions for the infant's mother, who spoke with them after the baby's body was found. But a family representative has stated she will not be talking to police after getting an attorney, Trevino said.

"We have more ques-

tions for her in order to wrap up the investigation," he said. "But she is not cooperating with that."

He said Sunday that he couldn't comment on whether she's considered a suspect.

After attending a memorial service on Saturday for her son, the woman left the church, declining to talk to the reporters.

During the service, Caren Kohberger, 27, read from a letter she wrote to her son Alijah, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

"Mommy loves you so much," she said. "Thank you so much for giving

me the best three months of my life."

Neighbors of the family, who were living in a trailer with friends in Alvin, told the newspaper they had many unanswered questions about what happened.

"The same question probably thousands of people got — Why? No matter how much anger you have for somebody, you don't go to the point of doing that, especially to a baby," said neighbor James Robertson.

The couple apparently were having financial and relationship problems and often argued, said Robertson's wife, Lisa.

Trevino said the couple had argued Monday night before the infant's death but that it had not carried over to the next morning, when Mullis left with the baby.

A Galveston couple found the body Tuesday morning as they drove slowly along a road looking for wildlife. DNA tests are pending to positively identify the infant.

Galveston detectives planned to return on Tuesday.

But Mullis' return to Texas, according to Sgt. Ray Evers, a spokesman with the Philadelphia Police Department, could take several weeks.

RACES

Continued from Page 1A

local attorney Joshua Hamby, who will run on the Republican ticket, setting up a November showdown.

Voters in Martin County will also have plenty of races to decide during the March primaries, as several seats currently up for grabs have drawn both Republican and Democrat candidates.

The race for Martin County Sheriff has drawn a trio of candidates, with John Woodward II and

Teddy H. Smith both running on the Republican ticket, and lone Democrat Jerry Heflin failing to draw a challenger for the primaries.

Heflin is expected to face the winner of the Woodward/Smith race in November.

Current Sheriff Randy Cozart opted not to run for re-election.

The race for the Precinct 1 seat on the Martin County Commissioners Court may very well be decided in March, as Jesus "Sonny" Garza will take on Bruce Jeffcoat in the Democratic Primary. The

winner of the race is expected to go unopposed in November.

The Precinct 3 seat on the commissioners court managed to draw a trio of candidates. Morgan Cox and Jim Smith will square-off for the Democratic nomination for the position, while Republican candidate Bobby Holland should automatically advance to the November election.

County Attorney James L. McGilvray and Tax Assessor-Collector Kathy Hull, both incumbents, failed to draw opponents for the impending elections, and will be re-elect-

ed by default.

According to Glasscock County Clerk Rebecca Batla, all candidates filing to run in the March political party primaries signed up to run on the Republican ticket, making a November contest highly unlikely.

Glasscock County Commissioner for Precinct 1 Jimmy Strube made it through the filing period without drawing a challenger, and is expected to reach the November ballot uncontested.

Fellow incumbent Commissioner Marck Schaefer, who currently represents Precinct 3,

decided not to run for re-election this year. Schaefer's decision has drawn Dalem Schwartz and Gary W. Jones, both Republican candidates, into the race, with the winner of the primary expected to go unchallenged in November.

Like Strube, County Tax Collector and Assessor Nancy Hillger also made it out of the filing period without drawing an opponent.

Voters in Glasscock County will, however, be asked to elect a new sheriff, as Royce "Booger" Pruitt announced he would not be running for

re-election after nearly 50 years in office.

Keith Burnett and Kenneth W. Zunker have both filed with the Republican Party to run for sheriff, with the winner expected to be unopposed in the November election.

The office of constable, currently held by Mark L. Frysak, will also go unchallenged in both the primaries and November election, as Frysak failed to draw an opponent.

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

sion, the increased spending to fight terrorism and, Democrats contend, Bush's costly tax cuts.

Bush's spending blueprint sets the stage for what will probably be epic battles in the president's last year in office, as both parties seek to gain advantages with voters heading into the November elections.

Bush, who was the first president to propose a \$2 trillion budget, back in 2002, will leave office as the first president to hit \$3 trillion with a spending plan.

His blueprint for the budget year that begins next October projects huge deficits, around \$400 billion for this year and next, more than double the 2007 deficit of \$163 billion. Private economists believe the deficit could easily surpass the previous record in dollar terms of \$413 billion set in 2004, especially if the country does go into a recession.

The sharp jump in the deficits reflects, in part, a proposed economic stimulus plan of around \$145 billion. Bush is urging Congress to pass it quick-

ly as a way of getting tax rebates to households this summer in hopes of preventing a full-blown recession.

As in past years, Bush's biggest proposed increases are in national security. Defense spending is projected to rise by about 7 percent, to \$515 billion, and homeland security money by almost 11 percent, with a big gain for border security. Details on the budget were obtained through interviews with administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity until the budget's release.

The bulk of government programs for which Congress sets annual spending levels would remain essentially frozen at current levels. The president does shower extra money on some favored programs in education and to bolster inspections of imported food, following last year's high-profile recalls of tainted products coming from China.

Bush's spending proposal would achieve sizable savings by slowing the growth in the major health programs — Medicare for retirees and Medicaid for the poor.

There the president will be asking for almost \$200 billion in cuts over five years, about three times the savings he proposed last year. The savings would come from freezing payments for hospitals and other health care providers.

Congress rejected last year's effort and Democrats are predicting Bush's new proposal will meet the same fate.

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other so-called entitlement programs — where the government is obligated to pay benefits to all who are eligible — now account for half of the total budget, with the costs expected to continue rising rapidly in coming years as 78 million baby boomers reach retirement.

Bush had hoped to make overhaul of Social Security a top goal of his second term but his plan to introduce individual investment accounts went nowhere.

Bush's five-year blueprint makes his first-term tax cuts permanent while still claiming to get the budget into balance by 2012, three years after he leaves office. While Republicans are pledging

to protect the tax cuts, Democrats, including the party's presidential candidates, want to roll back the tax relief provided the wealthy.

Democrats say Bush's budget is built on flawed math. Beyond 2009, the budget plan does not include any money to keep the alternative minimum tax, which was aimed at the wealthy, from ensnaring millions of middle-income people. It also includes only \$70

billion to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2009, just a fraction of the \$200 billion those wars are expected to cost this year.

Bush proposes boosting spending to hire more diplomats at the State Department and in some areas of education such as Title I grants, the main source of federal support for poor students.

But at the same time, Bush seeks to eliminate 47 other education pro-

grams that are seen as unnecessary, part of 151 programs Bush is targeting to either eliminate or sharply scale back. A similar effort last year met with little success.

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Carl Ford, 92, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Omega Smith, 94, died Friday. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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WARDEN

Continued from Page 1A

inspections and assessments of the facility and its operations have been conducted since he took the reins in November and that Big Spring FCI has "consistently received outstanding ratings."

Chandler is a graduate of the University of Phoenix and holds a bachelor of science degree in Business Management, where he achieved a 3.92 GPA and graduated summa cum laude. Chandler has received numerous awards, special recognition and has participated in a wide variety of management and executive development programs. These include the Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Program, Executive Leadership Forum, Winners Edge, Leadership is a Choice, Leadership Competencies

for Associate Wardens, correctional leadership development, coaching skills, team building, public and media relations and associate warden training.

Chandler said he and his family are delighted to be back in Texas, looking forward to his new responsibilities and meeting the people of Howard County and the surrounding area. He is excited about being a part of the West Texas hospitality and culture.

"We're really enjoying being here in Big Spring," he said. "We look forward to being a part of the community and getting

involved with different projects and organizations. We're very happy being here.

"My experience with West Texas had been fairly limited," Chandler added, noting that he had been to Big Spring several years ago for a conference. "But I'm extremely excited about the prospect of being able to promote a positive relationship between the institution and the community."

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

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1. High School Diploma or Equivalency (GED) 45 college hours
2. Complete application packet in the personnel office
3. Submit all documents required with application, i.e., copies of driver's license and social security card.
4. Submit a transcript of college work.
5. Have a criminal records check by the district (paid by the substitute)
6. Attend the on-line substitute training regarding the automated substitute system, Aesop, at the personnel office.

Substitutes for para-professional positions are also needed.

For more information, please call Terri Martin at the BSISD Central Administration Office at **264-3600**

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Spelling it out: College freshmen must know more

Write it down on paper. It's only logical that if colleges are telling high-school graduates they're under-educated, then somebody has to determine what, then, is an educated graduate.

Something is being done about that. To be college-ready, a high-school graduate should know this, this and that. So will say a printed 104-page packet approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

It's new college readiness standards so everyone from teachers to students to parents know what high-school graduates need to know.

Actually, it's a little scary. The "this, this and that" includes a student's need to understand such subjects as quadratic equations, the laws of thermodynamics and the ability to identify words based on the Greek or Latin roots. There is some social studies in there, too.

That's what colleges want incoming students to know — more about English, math, science and social studies.

About half of incoming freshmen are now being funneled off to remedial classrooms, each spending a semester or more just catching up on what they didn't learn in high school.

The booklet is the combined effort of high-school teachers, university professors and experts in education. It comes after the Texas Legislature ordered new standards in education in 2006 when it continued to be apparent that Texas ranks low in data showing who's educated and who is not.

The Associated Press in Austin quotes Evelyn Hiatt, senior director of college-readiness initiatives for the coordinating board: "We wanted to spell out clearly what colleges expect," she said.

The new standards seem ... Well, as Mercedes Guzman of the El Paso School District said, "They're up there."

Mercedes helped lead one of the teams that developed the science standards. "I think a lot of teachers are going to be surprised by this," she told the AP.

The next step is for the state Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency to mandate changes in the state's curriculum so as to meet the pepped-up standards. It's noted that these are not standards for a student being graduated from high school, but standards students should meet if they are college bound.

The coordinating board said it hopes the standards are in place by 2012. Reading, writing, arithmetic ... thermodynamics and more.

Now Texas students will know what they need to know in order to take a seat in a college classroom and be ready to take on a college-level education.

THE TIMES
EL PASO

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we talk with You, Lord when we're making a decision.

Amen

Another conservative mistake

The world's financial markets have reacted to the bursting of the U.S. housing bubble with the quiet, calm confidence of 14-year-olds fleeing a burning building. Make that 10-year-olds.

From Hong Kong to London, from Tokyo to Paris and back to Frankfurt, the world's financiers are trembling in their custom-made boots. Markets plunged as investors rushed to dump stocks.

The spectacle so unnerved Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, that he called his board members together and lowered the Fed's benchmark interest rates by *three-quarters of a percent*. (This is a group that normally treats a one-quarter rate-drop as surrender to licentious urges.)

The cutting of interest rates seemed to help some and congressional leaders quickly gathered to promise a "stimulus package" (which the Democrats define as giving cash to working stiffs and Republicans as tax cuts for people who are having trouble financing their third homes) but the situation remains muddled.

Some say we're headed for a recession. Some say we're in one already. Others favor the "don't just do something, stand there" approach.

I don't know what to think. I just know that if God really did make George W. Bush president, as Mr. Bush claims, He's got a lot

to answer for. At everything the president has tried his hand at — foreign affairs, domestic affairs, environmental affairs, energy policy, economic policy, administration of justice — he's been a disaster.

If he were a boat he'd be the Titanic; a car, the Edsel. It's not just that he's gotten us in this hole, he and his gang have used the available ladders for kindling.

Any stimulus package will increase the budget deficit, already huge, which will require us to go begging to Japan and China to bail us out, which they might not want to do because the dollar keeps getting weaker because we're running so large a budget deficit.

And don't forget, we've got a war to pay for.

So the next president will come into office facing a huge deficit, a staggering economy, an endless war, an empty treasury and bad credit.

Not only that, if he or she is a Democrat, he or she will have promised to give health care and a variety of other goodies to the masses — if a Republican, big tax cuts — with no way to pay for it.

It kind of makes you wonder why anyone would want to be president doesn't it?

The situation reminds me of an old baseball joke.

A rookie in spring training takes the field playing third base. A batter hits the ball to him; he boots it. A second batter hits the ball to him; he boots it again.

Improbably, a third batter finds him with a grounder. It goes through his legs.

The manager yanks the kid and puts in his veteran third-base man. The next batter hits the ball to him and [begin ital] he [end ital] boots it.

At which point the old third-baseman throws down his glove and storms off the field, saying:

"That kid's got the position so screwed up, can't nobody play it."

Which is pretty much the situation with George W. Bush and the presidency.

To be fair, however, (and there's no reason to be fair; I'm doing it out of the goodness of my heart) Mr. Bush had help — principally Alan Greenspan, Mr. Bernanke's predecessor as Fed Chairman.

As the housing bubble grew to alarming proportions, Mr. Greenspan refused to be alarmed. Rather than impose lending restrictions on banks, he dismissed the bubble as mere froth, something trivial and of little concern.

This contempt for regulation is part of the laissez faire economic philosophy he shares with President Bush, Milton Friedman and most doctrinaire conservatives.

They hold that all government regulation is bad; that only through the working of free markets can an economy reach its potential. The invisible hand of competition sorts things out.

Well, what we've been seeing of late is that invisible hand at work. How do you like it so far?

Donald Kaul can be e-mailed at dkaul1@verizon.net.
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THE G.O.P. FIELD SO FAR

Surviving the medical system

Doctors, surprising to say, are human. But their education and training make such inhuman demands on them that once they finally emerge from that gantlet, we accord them superhuman deference. That's appropriate. Not only does their ordeal of intellect and stamina call for special recognition but they save lives.

Nor are most doctors in it for the money. Yes, the income is good, but not outlandish. You really have to want to help people. Leaving aside the emotionally ill, docs are a pretty high type.

But human they remain underneath. Once in practice, life settles into a routine. Each patient is surely unique, but the rhythm of daily life soon takes hold. Maybe vigorous hand washing becomes a chore, maybe the detail man from one pharmaceutical company is especially engaging which leads to overuse of his product, maybe the family alcoholism gene finally emerges, or maybe the recreational drug of choice grabs an unexpected hold. Greed, too, is never far below the surface for any of us.

For most mortals, these common failings are not a worrisome dan-

ger to society. We're not entrusted with people's lives, and the community has corrective mechanisms if our weaknesses do get the better of us.

Doctors have corrective mechanisms too. The trouble is that they often fail. Our excessive deference persuades us to give doctors the benefit of too much doubt, and their elevated status tempts them to be unhealthily clubby. Like police, they're not given to ratting on one another, even when the misfeasance gets pretty bad. If you foul up some poor patient's life, would you want a colleague squealing on you? Better to keep quiet.

This personal code of silence is enhanced by the place where many doctors work — the hospital. Hospitals are demons in covering up negligence, sloth and avarice. Aggrieved patients are the enemy.

Even worse are the malpractice insurance companies. They're in cahoots with the doctors and the hospitals if anything goes wrong. According to them, the doctors they cover are never responsible for anything, and if they do have to pay for some injury, they keep the awards as secret as a nuclear weapons formula. Further, if their premiums happen to climb high enough to get the doctors agitated, well it's all due to the cupidity of the trial lawyers.

Lucky is the state fortunate

enough to have a legislature smart enough not to fall for this doctor/insurance/hospital propaganda crusade. Savvy lawmakers refuse to make it harder for victims to sue. And magically, malpractice rates have lately come down anyway.

And to help you put medical shortcomings in still better perspective, know that every state has a confidential addiction treatment program for doctors, allowing them to keep practicing on you and me while trying to kick their habit.

Every state, that is, except California, which cancelled its plan amid much medical wailing because of excessive abuses by physicians. Nationwide there are 8,000 doctors enrolled, and who knows how many more who keep their addictions to themselves.

You and I should be so lucky as to have our profession cover up for us like that.

So as citizens, we'd be smart to minimize the length of our hospital stays; to ask our doctor a lot of questions; to report to the state if he or she screws up; to ask the pharmacist about dangerous prescription interactions; and mostly, to tell him or her to wash their hands.

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

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WILLIAM A.
COLLINS

Tasty turkey tomato soup is easy, good for you

In addition to being hearty and delicious, this week's recipe for turkey soup is loaded with the cancer-fighting phytochemicals found in tomatoes, celery, carrots and onions. It also provides the perfect opportunity to use any turkey you may have left over in the freezer from the holiday season. Easy to make and packed with both flavor and nutrition, it's a recipe that is sure to become a family favorite.

A native of the Americas, the turkey is one of only two domesticated birds originating in the New World. According to historians, European explorers took wild turkeys to Europe from Mexico in the early 1500s. They were so successfully domesticated there that English colonists brought them back to the states when they settled on the Atlantic Coast, establishing the bird as standard American fare.

Although domestic turkeys probably don't have the cunning of their wild cousins, when it comes to nutrition, they are still a smart choice. Turkey is a rich source of protein and is one of the leaner meats available at your supermarket.

Tomatoes, which form the



base of this soup, impart a rich taste and bold color. The red pigment in tomatoes is provided by lycopene, a compound that, according to experts, is probably linked to lower prostate cancer risk. The addition of celery, a member of the carrot family, imparts a subtle aromatic flavor to the soup. Carrots themselves provide

some sweetness along with a hearty dose of beta-carotene.

Barley, which is thought to have been a staple food in the Middle East as long as 5,000 years ago, adds a pleasing consistency to the soup as well as additional fiber. The blend of herbs and spices will wow your palette without the sodium overload that many of today's

soups provide.

Turkey Tomato Soup

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless turkey cutlets
- 3 cups water
- 4 medium-size celery stalks sliced 1/2 inch thick
- 1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped

- 4 medium-size carrots, peeled and sliced 1/2 inch thick
- 1 (28 oz.) can diced, unsalted tomatoes
- 1/3 cup medium pearl barley
- 1 tsp. dried marjoram, crumbled*
- 1 tsp. thyme, crumbled*
- 1 tsp. basil*
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 cup minced parsley
- Pinch of red pepper, optional

* 3 teaspoons of dry Italian spices may be substituted

Cut turkey into bite-sized pieces. Heat oil in large saucepan over moderate heat for 1 minute. Add turkey and brown on all sides. Add water slowly and carefully to avoid oil splatter.

Add celery, onion, carrots, tomatoes with juice, barley and spices. Add red pepper flakes, if desired, for an extra kick. Bring to a boil over high heat. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer until tender, about 90 minutes.

Makes 6 servings.
Per serving: 270 calories, 6 g total fat (1g saturated fat), 21 g carbohydrate, 31g protein, 5 g dietary fiber, 380 mg sodium.

NUTRITION WISE: Is risk of cancer inherited?

Q: Is my cancer risk inherited?

A: According to the latest international report on diet, weight, physical activity and cancer prevention, only about 5 to 10 percent of cancers are linked to a specific inherited gene. More commonly, people may inherit small genetic abnormalities that can trigger cancer if a person is exposed to potential carcinogens in the environment or makes certain lifestyle choices (tobacco use, for example).



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

People with a family history of cancer do face a higher risk of developing cancer themselves, however. It is important to know your family medical history so your health care provider can help advise you on a timeline for appropriate screening tests. Yet those individuals with no family cancer history are not cleared of risk. About 85 percent of cancer patients don't have a family history of the disease. For almost all of us, daily habits like eating healthfully, being physically active, preventing weight gain and avoiding tobacco have a greater effect on our chances of

developing cancer than our family history.

Q: Are avocados really as high-calorie as some people say?

A: Because avocados naturally contain a significant amount of fat, they are indeed much more concentrated in calories than most fruits or vegetables. Avocados provide heart-healthy fat, however, so they are still a highly nutritious choice when eaten in moderation. But eat a whole avocado by yourself and you may get more than you bargained for. One avocado contains roughly 320 calories — more than half the number of calories recommended for an average adult meal. Alternatively, you can enjoy a half-cup of the creamy fruit for 120 calories and still benefit from 5 grams of dietary fiber and more than 10 percent of the Recommended Daily Values for potassium and folate.

Q: Is it true that vinegar helps control blood sugar?

A: Reducing large spikes in blood sugar is an important step in preventing organ damage from diabetes and likely reducing the development of insulin resistance. Evidence from at least six small studies in the last decade suggests that vinegar may improve blood sugar con-

trol in certain situations.

On average, the studies showed that people who consumed about two or three teaspoons of white or cider vinegar with a high-carbohydrate meal had lower blood sugar levels (from 20 to 55 percent lower) than when they ate a similar meal without vinegar. Researchers suggest that the acetic acid in vinegar may decrease the activity of one of the enzymes

central to carbohydrate digestion, thus slowing the release of glucose into the blood stream. Some earlier research suggested that acetic acid might also delay stomach emptying.

Either way, these findings could provide an extra incentive to include a salad with a vinegar-based dressing (or other foods containing vinegar) alongside a meal that is particularly carb-heavy.

Medicinal use of vinegar is not recommended. Because it appears to work only when consumed with a high-carbohydrate meal, vinegar should not be taken to reduce blood sugars that are already elevated. Many blood sugar problems are due to overweight and lack of physical activity. Don't try to make up for overeating with a simple dose of vinegar. In the end, your

greatest ally in blood sugar control is a healthy lifestyle.

AICR's Nutrition Hotline is a free service that allows you to ask a registered dietitian questions about diet, nutrition and cancer. Access it online at www.aicr.org/hotline or by phone (1-800-843-8114) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday-Friday.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Man in Odessa says devil entered his body and caused wife's death

ODESSA (AP) — A man accused of killing his wife says he was trying to exorcise a demon from her when the devil entered his body and caused her to die, according to a police probable cause statement.

Jan David Clark, 60, was arrested Friday after authorities went to his home and found Susan Kay Clark's body wrapped in a bed sheet with a cross and sword on top of it.

Officers had gone to the home after being told that Clark had called a friend and said his 59-year-old wife was dead, said Sgt. Gary Duesler said the Ector County Sheriff's Office.

Clark told investigators he had his wife pinned face down on a carpeted floor when she died.

Clark was charged with murder and remained in the Ector County jail on Sunday in lieu of \$300,000 bail.

He had declined to comment at the jail and it was unclear whether he had an attorney to speak for him.

The woman's body was taken to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

Taryn Beck said the couple had seemed to be close.

"They were like an old married couple," said Beck, 29, whose late grandfather was married to Susan Clark. "They would just roll their eyes at each other, but I never thought something like this would've happened."

Judge to decide today on BP plea

HOUSTON (AP) — After months of debate, a federal judge is set to conduct a hearing on a highly criticized guilty plea resulting from the federal government's probe of BP PLC's deadly 2005 plant explosion.

U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal was originally set in November to accept the oil giant's guilty plea, which would require the company to pay a \$50 million fine and be on probation for three years for its role in the explosion.

But several attorneys for victims of the blast, which killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others, objected to the plea, calling the proposed fine "trivial." They also said the deal doesn't push to improve safety at the plant or fully detail BP's history of safety violations.

The judge agreed to let them voice their complaints and delayed her decision on whether to accept the plea.

Several relatives of workers killed in the accident as well as some injured workers have asked to speak against the

plea during Monday's court hearing.

Authorities renew probe in case of young boy found in trash bin

HOUSTON (AP) — Nearly five years have passed since the malnourished, withered body of a 3- to 6-year-old boy was found in a trash bin at a southeast Houston apartment complex.

All he wore was a disposable diaper decorated with bears. He had been wrapped in an Afghan-like blanket and put inside a checkered red and white bag.

His death, due to dehydration and malnutrition, remains unsolved and now the FBI is joining forces with the Houston Police Department, the lead agency in the case, and the Texas Rangers to try to identify the boy, determine who dumped his body and why.

Officials, who were set to hold a news conference Monday morning, are hoping renewed attention on the case, as well as a \$20,000 reward, will help them finally solve the mystery of the boy's death.

More fire danger as high winds continue to whip across state

AUSTIN (AP) — Continued windy conditions across the Lone Star State on Monday means Texans should stay alert for wildfire danger.

Even if rain falls, grass can quickly dry out and ignite, said Sandra Taylor of the Texas Forest Service.

On Sunday, a massive 19,000-acre fire that had been burning in Cotulla was 97 percent under control, Taylor said. More than 10 homes may have been lost in the blaze, but investigators will know more when they begin taking a closer look on Monday, she said.

On Sunday, firefighters fought fires in Cooke, Martin, Wilson and Palo Pinto counties.

The governor's office said Saturday that 75 wildfires have destroyed 60 homes and structures and burned at least 70,000 acres. More than half the counties in the state have been under recent burn bans.

In a letter to President Bush, Gov. Rick Perry identified 184 Texas counties threatened or impacted by wildfires last week in asking for a presidential disaster declaration for the state.

Suspects arraigned in case of kidnapped McAllen resident

MCALLEN (AP) — Two men have been charged with first-degree felony kidnapping after a McAllen resident was held for \$250,000 ransom last week.

Gilbert Gonzalez Pena, 24, of Alamo, and Domingo Lara, 25, of Mission, were

arraigned Saturday. Both men remained in Hidalgo County jail Sunday in lieu of a \$500,000 bond each.

The men are accused of kidnapping and assaulting a McAllen resident Monday. After authorities paid the money during a drop on the south side of Houston, the kidnapped person was returned home.

McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez has said that the incident is unique because the targeted person has no apparent ties to drugs or crime, and the kidnappers took the person solely for money.

An investigation by the McAllen Police Department, the FBI and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office led to the arrests. But Rodriguez has said that investigators believe that more suspects were involved in the kidnapping.

Kaufman County buying replica of Vietnam veterans memorial

KAUFMAN (AP) — Kaufman County is buying a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall and will install it at a local veterans memorial park, officials said.

County commissioners have agreed to pay \$250,000 for the wall, which is about four-fifths of the size of the original in Washington, D.C.

"In addition to showing our appreciation to our veterans, it seemed to us to be a great addition to our tourism traf-

fic," Commissioner Jerry Rowden said. "That's the secret to our tax base, to get some more people here."

Don Allen, CEO of the company that owns the wall, American Veterans Traveling Tribute, said the aluminum wall has been a traveling exhibit since 1998. It's 370 feet long and 8 1/2 feet tall.

"It's an old soldier, and it needs to be retired," Allen said.

He said it's one of at least four memorial wall replicas in the United States.

County officials have approved a \$50,000 down payment for the wall and plan to raise another \$200,000 through individual and corporate donations.

Deputy shoots, kills man

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man is dead after authorities say he pointed a sawed-off shotgun at deputies investigating a car crash.

Bexar (bayr) County Sheriff Deputy Chief Dale Bennett says a deputy shot and killed the man Sunday afternoon after the man pointed the gun at deputies.

Bennett told the San Antonio Express-News that the shooting by the 18-year veteran appeared to be justified.

Authorities were investigating an accident in which the man drove his car into a guardrail with his ex-wife and two small children in the car. Bennett says the woman told them the man was beating her when the crash occurred.

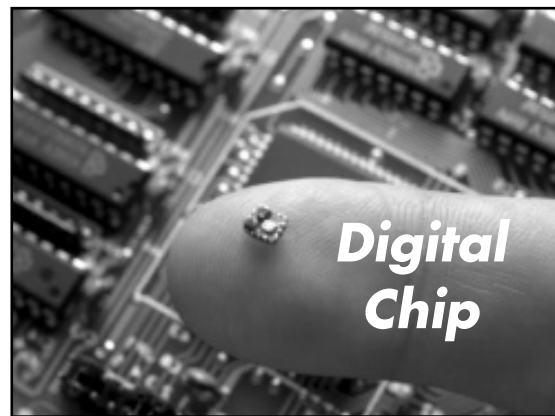


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Illegal immigrants come to Texas as other states pass tough laws

HOUSTON (AP) — Illegal immigrants are coming into Texas, but not from where one might think.

The rush is coming from Oklahoma, Arizona and other states, places that have recently passed tough new anti-illegal immigrant laws.

The two toughest measures are in Oklahoma and Arizona.

Te Oklahoma statute, which took effect in November, makes it a crime to transport, harbor or hire illegal immigrants. Effective Jan. 1, the Arizona law suspends the business license of employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. On a second offense, the license is revoked.

Anecdotal information seems to indicate that illegal immigrants are leaving these states in growing numbers. "They're really tightening the screws," said Mario Ortiz, an undocumented Mexican worker who came to Houston after leaving Phoenix last year. "There have been a lot coming — it could be 100 a day."

In Tulsa, Okla., the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has estimated that 15,000 to 25,000 illegal immigrants have left the area. One builder estimated that 30 percent of the Hispanic work force left Tulsa.

"There's been a tremendous impact in Oklahoma City," said David Castillo, the executive director of the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of

Commerce. "We've had several companies close shop and leave the state. Banks have called us and say they're closing 30 accounts per week."

Enrique Hubbard, Mexico's consul general in Dallas, said a dozen Mexican families from Oklahoma have applied for consular documents listing their new homes in the Dallas area. He expects more to arrive because jobs are available in North Texas.

Texas' reputation as a welcoming destination has experts predicting more immigrants will come to Houston and other cities in the state. Texas has not passed any

statewide law targeting the employment of undocumented workers.

"Texas is still very much an entrepreneurial place, where you can find your place in this economy," said James Hollifield, a Southern Methodist University professor and migration expert. "It's not an immigrant's paradise, but if you work hard and keep your head down you can get ahead."

Ortiz, a native of southern Mexican state of Tabasco, said he left Phoenix eight months ago working 60 to 70 hours a week as a nursery worker.

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