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BIG SPRING HRALD

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2008



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

'On the cusp of greatness'

Mayor touts city's future during annual address

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 64

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Considering the state of the city, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen chose to be realistic.

And the reality, he said, is that Big Spring's future has rarely been brighter.



McEwen

several recent signs of progress in Big Spring and Howard County during his annual State of the City speech Tuesday in the Dora Roberts Community Center. The mayor usually

McEwen trumpeted

strikes an optimistic tone during the annual address, but he insisted this wasn't a case of donning rose-colored

glasses. "When I came to all of you the first time and started off by saving the state of the city was good, I had to say at the time I was being optimistic," McEwen said. "Today, I can say the state being realistic."



The audience listens as Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen delivers the annual State of the City Address Monday at the Dora Roberts Community Center, part of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Luncheon.

McEwen pointed to several signs of recent progress in the city:

• VA Medical Center — Less than two years after it was threatened with closure, the Backing up his assertion, which will result in a new 40- receive a federal grant to study See STATE OF CITY, Page 3A

bed domicilliary and other new services.

• Big Spring State Hospital is undergoing expansion from 200 beds to 250 beds. McEwen also of the city is great, and I'm VAMC announced it will under-trumpeted that BSSH is one of go a \$21 million expansion four hospitals in the state to

how to reduce restraints in psychiatric care.

• "Cornell Corrections is one of those industries that we don't think about as we should,"

Plea nets 14-year sentence

Defendant's intent difficult to prove, district attorney says

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

On the morning of his trial for murder, Steven Glen Hildebrand instead opted to plea

to a lesser charge. Hildebrand, who was about

to stand trial for the May 31 death of Big Spring resi-James Hildebrand dent David Boet-



tcher, pleaded guilty in 118th District Court Tuesday morning to the lesser charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

As a result of the plea, Hildebrand was sentenced to 14 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and must serve at least a quarter of that time before becoming eligible for parole.

Howard County District Attorney Hardy

See PLEA, Page 3A

BSISD trustees to call for \$34 million bond issue

■ Will convene at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to call for a \$34 million bond election when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

The bond election, scheduled for May 10, will give district garten and first grades.

voters the opportunity to decide whether to finance a bevy of projects within the district, including:

• Construction of a new elementary campus to house all district students in grades 2 through 4. It will be eventually joined by an identical sister campus and both sites will house all BSISD elementary students, officials said.

· Renovation of Kentwood, Moss and Marcy elementaries to house students in kinder-

• A new roof at Big Spring High School.

• Closure of Bauer and Washington elementaries, both of which have been rated obsolete by a pair of outside studies.

For the better part of two years, district officials have been studying ways to improve aging infrastructure. In addition to outside educational and engineering studies, a committee consisting of district residents recommended many of

the current bond proposals. If the bond issue passes, the district's tax rate would increase by a maximum of 33 cents per \$100, although officials said that is a high-end number and will likely be

lower. "The primary driver behind our estimates was limiting the total tax increase to 33 cents," BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said earlier this month. "But we are very confident that the rate will not have to be raised that much ... these are only top-end estimates."

Also Thursday, trustees will

• The 2008-2009 school calendar.

An order calling for a

trustee election on May 10.

· Bids for school bus emission

reduction devices.

· Personnel matters.

· Contracts for administrators, directors and coordina-

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

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Sports

To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Getting off the ground

City council approves runway project

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council gave the go-ahead for an additional four inches of concrete for the runway at the Big Spring Airport Tuesday, solidifying an \$1.6

> **Kelly Myrick** 432-466-1178

432-213-0909

hope will lure new business to Big Spring.

The council, which was expected to approve a seveninch thick concrete runway for the facility, part of the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark

by the Texas Department of Transportation — but accordproject could mean big bucks in the future.

"We were going to put See CITY, Page 3A

million deal city officials — a project primarily funded seven inches of concrete down," said McEwen. "However, now we're putting ing to Mayor Russ McEwen, 11 inches down, which the additional depth on the allows us to bring in larger aircraft, up to a 737-type air-



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Sports

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, February 12, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Lubbock Cooper, 4

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Alpine in Crane, 8 p.m.

Grady girls basketball vs. Paducah at Lubbock Christian University, 6 p.m. Garden City girls

basketball vs. Rankin at Midland Christian, 6 p.m. Sands girls basket-

ball vs. Petersburg in Smyer, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY

Big Spring baseball at San Angelo Central, 4 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Kermit, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Midland Lee, 5:30 p.m.

Forsan softball vs. Grape Creek, 4 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Midland High, 7 p.m.

FEB. 21

Big Spring softball, Forsan softball and Coahoma softball at West Texas Classic in Midland in tournament play through Feb. 23.

Coahoma baseball at Sonora Tournament through Feb. 23.

Big Spring Girls Softball registration held every Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association begins registration for the 2008 youth softball season Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall across from Merle Norman. Girls ages 4 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to play.

Subsequent signup dates will be Feb. 23 and March 1.

Fee is \$45 with a \$5 discount for a second child.

Anyone with questions can call Luci Ramirez at 466-3670 or Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

Big Spring Country Club schedules 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled a 4-person scramble for Feb. 23-

Entry fee is \$75 per player, plus golf cart fees, and includes a barbecue lunch on the course both days, Private carts are welcome.

Practice rounds are available Friday, The Field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Grady gets revenge in bi-district victory

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Revenge is sweet.

Winning a playoff trophy is sweeter.

Grady's Lady Wildcats earned both Tuesday night, opening the Class 1A girls' basketball playoffs with a 50-37 victory over the Southland Lady Eagles in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Senior Linsey Chavez led all scorers for Grady with 18 points, while Eva Dyck and Kenzie Madison added 13 and 10 points, respectively, for the Lady Wildcats, who improved to 23-9 with the victory.

Lauren Arguello had 16 points and Courtney Rackler 10 for Southland, which ended its season with a 16-15 record.

Southland edged Grady 34-29

during the regular season, so revenge was on the Lady Wildcats' mind, but earning a playoff victory was by far the more important accomplishment.

"We played them the first game back from Christmas break and I think we just over-estimated ourselves," senior point guard Kandace Schuelke said. "In a way, they did us a favor. We knew we had to be ready for them and we had to take care of business."

The game opened as if it would be a walk in the park for Grady as its defense pitched a shutout in the first quarter.

Leading 8-0 heading into the second, however, the Lady 'Cats lost their defensive mojo — or perhaps it was simply a matter of

See **GRADY**, Page 2B



Grady's Linsey Chavez (22) pulls up for two points in the Lady Wildcats' 50-37 win over Southland in a Class A, Region II bi-district playoff game played at Dorothy Garret Coliseum Tuesday night.



Big Spring Lady Steers pitcher Kenzie Hunt winds up in the Lady Steers' season opening 2-1 victory over Odessa Permian at Lady Steers Park Tuesday. Hunt had three strikeouts in the win.

Lady Steers open season with 2-1 win

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Five returning starters is all Big Spring's Lady Steers return to the softball field from 2007's area championship team. Only two seniors are on the squad, one of which didn't play varsity last season.

However, the extremely young Lady Steers looked like seasoned veterans in the field Tuesday afternoon at Lady Steer Park.

Big Spring pitcher Kenzie Hunt struck out three and did- team, so hopefully we learn See BSHS, Page 3

as the Lady Steers defeated the Odessa Permian Lady Panthers, 2-1. Hunt had plenty of help, though, as the Lady Steers' defense shined in the victory.

"For the first game of the season, our defense looked good," Lady Steers Head Coach Jennifer Reyes said. "We looked pretty rocky in our scrimmages, but we were making the plays like they were routine in this game. We've got a really young

n't surrender any earned runs from every game we have."

Big Spring took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning when Kelly Sage knocked in Baylea Fox with a single. The Lady Steers tried to pick up two runs on the base hit, but a second Big Spring runner couldn't slide under the tag of Permian's catcher at home.

Permian tied the game in the top of the fifth inning, but the damage could've been far worse than it was. The Lady

Bulldogs stomp Stamford, 69-48

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogs had every intention of dispatching the Stamford Bulldogs quickly and building momentum as they head into the playoffs. For the first eight minutes, it looked as if they would do that, building a 19-8 lead heading into the second quarter.

However, some scrappy play by Stamford and the inability of the "Big Red" to sink its charity shots allowed Stamford to climb back into the contest by the end of the third stanza.

Coahoma was not to be denied, though, ripping off a 25-7 fourth-quarter advantage to win, 69-48.

The third quarter it looked like Coahoma had taken a nap at halftime and was not fully awake as Stamford burst out of the break to outscore the home team 21-8 in the frame, cutting the margin to three, 44-41, heading into the final eight minutes of play.

A key factor in the Stamford run was Coahoma's inability to sink free throws. In the quarter, the Bulldogs went 1-of-9 from the stripe.

Ironically, it was made free throws that played a key part in the final run that put the game away as the Bulldogs hit seven of their final nine free throws.

Josh Paniagua played a key part in the fourth quarter run as the sophomore guard scored seven of his 11 points on the night during the decisive run.

"I thought we played well tonight," Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols said. "If we can play the way we did in the first half and the fourth quarter, we have a chance to go far in the playoffs. On the other hand, if we have too many quarters like the third, we won't be around long."

Stone led the way for Coahoma, scoring a game-high 22. Colter Morgan joined Paniagua with 11 and Tatum also hit dou-

See BULLDOGS, Page 2B

Ropes can't lasso Lady 'Stangs, Sands wins 40-34

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor LAMESA — Take what

they give you. Apparently, the Ropes Lady Eagles were feeling

very charitable Tuesday night as they hand delivered 18 free throws to the Sands Lady Mustangs in the fourth quarter. The Lady Mustangs

drilled 12 of those 18 charity shots, leading them to a 40-34 victory over Ropes in a Class A, Division II bi-district playoff game in Lamesa.

"We haven't been a good free throw shooting team this season, but we were mentally tough tonight and stepped up," Sands Head Coach Ben Connell said. "We've actually struggled quite a bit from the line, so it's nice to see us make those."

11 points in the game, but Ropes closed the gap to 3 late in the final period.

The Lady Eagles struggled from the field for most of the night with several shots finding nothing but air, but Kori Willis and Kiley Coburn each hit 3-pointers with less than a minute left to play.

Coburn's trey came with 19 seconds remaining in regulation and pulled the Lady Eagles within 3, 37-34. However, Ropes struggled to run down a Sands' player in order to execute a foul on the Lady Mustangs' ensuing possession.

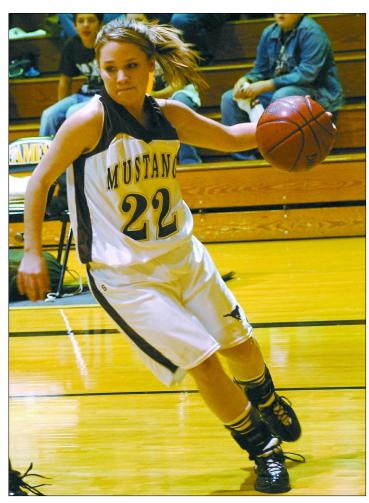
The Lady Eagles finally fouled Sands' Tamara Nichols 15 seconds later, leaving just 4.8 seconds on the clock. Nichols made both free throws See SANDS, Page 2B

Sands led by as many as essentially putting the game out of reach for the Lady Eagles.

Melony Ruiz added another free throw with less than a second remaining to play, giving the Lady Mustangs the 6point victory.

Playing a close game is nothing new to the Lady Mustangs, according to Connell.

"Defense has been our strength all year and we had to rely on it here," he said. "We believed if the game came down to our defense making a stop then we would probably win. These girls have played 12 games that have been decided by four points or less. The pressure didn't bother them and they responded well.'



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull Sands' Tamara Nichols drives the baseline in the Lady Mustangs' 40-34 victory over Ropes in a Class A. Division Il bi-district playoff game Tuesday night in Lamesa.

Obituaries

wednesday page 2a 2/13/08 12:15 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Lucy Dale Bonner

Long-time Big Spring resident Lucy Dale Bonner died Feb. 10, 2008. Funeral services are planned for Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Revs. Walter Reed Jr. and Jim Wright officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive visitors on Wednesday evening, Feb. 13, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Lucy was born in Austin on Nov. 6, 1927, to E.O. and Esther Williams, moving to Dallas at a young age and graduating from Sunset High School.

Her life-long vocation was the care and welfare of her family, followed by a career as an educator -20years in the Big Spring Independent School District as a science teacher. She also taught geology and family science courses at Howard College. Lucy earned her bachelor's degree from North Texas State College (now the University of North Texas) in Denton and a master's degree from Sul Ross University in Alpine.

Lucy leaves a living and loving legacy in her family — husband of 59 years, Dr. Ross Wayne Bonner, whom she married on Aug. 28, 1948; daughter, Gwynn Jump and her husband, Dennis, of Denton; son, Greg Bonner of California; daughter-in-law, Sabrina Bonner of Mineral Wells; and four grandchildren, Meredith Jump of Chicago, Ill., Hilary Jump of McKinney, Sheena Bonner of California and Cody Bonner of Arizona; as well as a myraid of friendships she developed throughout her lifetime. She is also survived by one sister, Mary Ruble of San Antonio.

In recent years, Lucy served on the local board of the American Cancer Society, taking responsibility for acknowledging memorials and honorariums. Locally, she belonged to the Retired Teachers' Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, First United Methodist Church of Big Spring and its Epworth Sunday School Class and the Hyperion Club. Lucy was charter member of the honor society for food science majors at North Texas State College, Phi Upsilon Omicron.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121 or to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Suite A-5, Midland 79701.

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

Paid obituary

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday. Plates are \$8 each. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the post, located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Carryouts will be available.
- Canterbury, Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster and is open to all seniors. Admission is tree. Music will be provided by RC Entertainment. Refreshments will be available.
- · Big Spring Symphony Chorus rehearsals begin Tuesday for "The Best of Broadway" concert featuring Renay Peters Jobert and David Corman. Songs will be from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oklahoma," "Wizard of Oz," "West Side Story," My Fair lady" and many others. Rehearsals will run from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the choral rehearsal room at the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring. Enter from the alley way. Everyone is welcome.
- A fund has been established to help pay expenses for Sean Bailey, 25, who was injured in an oilfield accident Jan. 28. He and his wife are Tressa are currently in Lubbock, where Sean is hospitalized. Donations can be made at Citizens Federal Credit Union to account 930442 to help with expenses. Please keep them in your prayers.



Police blotter

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

- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 2600 block of Dow.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported:
- in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 300 block of Second Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 4000 block of Conally.

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. • CHAD WARREN, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence.

• DAVID ERROL MCGRUDER, 60, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• ALMUS HILL, 64, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

• BETTY JEAN MUNIZ, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid - DWI related.

• CECIL LEE SHERMAN, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• THOMAS OLIVER BRADBERRY, 40, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• GARY ALAN BROWN, 53, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DARRELL SCOTT CANTRELL, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief - destruction of private property.

Fire/EMS

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

TRAUMA was reported in the 8700 block of Gillham Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Conally. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of

Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of

Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block

Princeton. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Windy. Not as cool. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. South winds15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night...Increasing clouds. Windy...Colder. Lows in the upper 20s. Southeast winds 20 to 30 mph shifting to the north after midnight.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a chance of light freezing rain and slight chance of showers or snow showers. Much colder. Highs in the lower 30s. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- 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
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- 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.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-
- 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.

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

MONDAY

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$179 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$150 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 14, 27, 39, 47 and 50. The Mega Ball number was 12.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-10-21-29-33. Number matching five of five: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-7-9-4. Sum It Up: 26

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-8-6. Sum It Up: 19.

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ENDS FEB. 16, 2008

"I didn't play much last

much sweeter," Chavez

said. "It feels great to be

on a team I can compete

with and be part of. It

The victory gives Grady

revenge as they advance

to face Paducah at

University at 6 p.m.

Friday, which knocked

the Lady Wildcats out of

"We only lost three

times last year going into

that game," Schuelke

said. "I think we were

just over-confident in that

game ... but I think we'll

be ready for them this

Southland 0 17 9 11-37

4; Romine 10; Madison 10.

Ja. Zeleznikar 2.

ald.com.

GRADY: Dyck 13; Chavez 18;

SOUTHLAND: Mahanay 3;

Contact Staff Writer

Steve Reagan at 263-7331,

ext. 234 or by e-mail at

reporter@bigspringher-

Arguello 16; Buckner 6; Rackler 10;

Schuelke 3; Robinson 2; Rodriquez

8 10 12 20-50

the postseason in 2007.

chance

Christian

feels like family."

another

Lubbock

time."

Grady

GRADY

Continued from Page 1B

Arguello finally finding her shot.

The junior post player worked her way open inside during the second quarter and sparked a Lady Eagles rally that saw Southland reduce its deficit to a single digit at intermission.

To cut off Arguello from the basket, Grady Head Coach Juan Rios instructed his players to start fronting the Southland star on defense. Then he added a bit of vocal inspiration.

"First of all, he was yelling at us a lot more," Chavez joked. "He kept telling us to pick up our defense some more, so that's what we did."

Putting the defensive clamps on Arguello was the key to the victory, Rios said.

"(Arguello) has really quick feet, so if you don't get in front of her, she'll just slide by you and get to the basket," he said. "In the second half. (Madison) and (Dyck) did

SANDS

Continued from Page 1B

Brittni Blagrave and Ruiz led the Lady Mustangs with eight points apiece. Ruiz scored most of her points from the free throw line in the

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

ble figures with 10.

Nevert and Baily scored 14 for Stamford while Blaine Maestas scored 12. Coahoma, who finished

a great job defending her extra-special. ... Kenzie wore her down and Eva finished her off." year, so this one is just so

wednesday page 2b 2/13/08 12:14 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Despite increased defenattention on Arguello, the Lady 'Cats led by only four points, 30-26, entering the final eight minutes. That's when they apparently decided that the best defense was a good offense.

Their weapon of choice was one of the oldest in the books — the back door play.

Schuelke set up outside the 3-point arc and consistently zipped the ball to one of her teammates cutting to the basket for an easy layup.

The tried-and-true play worked to perfection for Grady in the fourth as the Lady Wildcats scored on their first seven possessions to gain the upper hand for good.

"Kandace sees the floor really well." Rios said. "She's done a good job running the show for us this year and I'm really proud of job she did tonight.

For Grady's seniors, Tuesday's victory was

fourth period where she

connected on six of eight

charity shots. Nichols

and Ashli Stockton each

Willis was Ropes' lead-

ing scorer, putting up a

The Lady Mustangs face

Petersburg in the area

round of the playoffs at

the season with a 21-6

mark going 12-2 in

District 5-2A, now awaits

to find out who the third

place team will be out of

District 6-2A. They will

face either Wall or Bangs

who went into the final

added seven points.

game-high 10 points.

6:30 p.m. Friday in Smyer.

SANDS 6 14 6 14-40 ROPES 6 9 5 14-34

SANDS: Ashli Stockton 7, Crystal Ybarra 3, Kayla Franco 1, Brittni Blagrave 8, Tamara Nichols 7, Mary Rogers 6, Melony Ruiz 8.

ROPES: Kori Willis 10, Morgan Miller 5, Kilee Colburn 7, Melanie Gonzales 3, Hannah Henson 6, Courtney Hill 2, Lexi Rhoades 1, 1

their district.

COAHOMA 19 17 8 25-69 STAMFORD 8 12 21 7-48 COAHOMA (21-6, 12-2): Logan Stone 22, Colter Morgan 11, Josh Paniagua 11, Matthew Tatum 10, Cody Sheppard 8, Ray Gutierrez 3, Mikey Mendoza 2.

STAMFORD: Salazar 2, Bailey 14, Maestas 12, Nevert 14, Martin night tied for third in 2, Prior 4.

Stewart, Busch placed * on six-race probation

By CHRIS JENKINS

AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. It began with crunched fenders, harsh words and maybe even a punch in the face. But the final result was just a slap on the wrist from NASCAR: a six-race probation for Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch.

Heading into Sunday's Daytona 500, it's beginning to look like NASCAR officials were serious when they said they will cut drivers some slack on their bad behavior this year.

"We're still working into letting the drivers develop and vent in proper ways, but we're giving them some more latitude," NASCAR vice pres-

Robin Pemberton said Tuesday. "We said in the offseason we would do that and I think this is another step to letting you know what we mean."

The punishments to Stewart and Busch stem from a confrontation between the two former series champions, who wrecked in practice last week and then carried it into the NASCAR officials' trailer.

While nobody involved in the incident would confirm that Stewart actually punched Busch during the first of their two meetings with officials, as is believed. widely Pemberton inferred that Busch's penalty was for

ident of competition track and Stewart's was for what happened afterward.

"The accident was a racing incident," Pemberton said. "How they conducted themselves after that. after the accident and coming onto pit road and from there through the rest of the evening is why the penalties were equal."

Equally light, that is. However, in granting Busch and Stewart some leniency for their dustup, officials also made it known that the term "probation" will mean more this year than it has in the past.

Probation has been a murky issue NASCAR, as officials haven't necessarily pun-

what happened on the See NASCAR, Page 4B

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wednesday page 3a 2/13/08 12:12 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

News briefs

French energy giant Total

expansion of Texas refinery

of its refinery in Port Arthur.

based in France said Tuesday.

ing base to market demand.

temperatures.

HOUSTON (AP) — Energy giant Total

Up to 2,200 people will be working on the project that is set for commissioning

in 2011, the petrochemical company

The company said the project is in

addition to expansions of a refinery in

France announced in 2006 and new con-

struction at refineries in Great Britain

and Germany as Total adjusts its refin-

Additional details of the Texas project

were to be announced at a news confer-

ence Wednesday in Port Arthur, which

Total's plans for the Port Arthur refin-

ery include construction of a 50,000-bar-

rel-a-day coker, which converts crude

oil to petroleum products. It also plans

to build a desulfurization unit and a

vacuum distillation unit, which allows

for distillation at lower pressures and

The additions will expand heavy and

sour crude oil processing, adding 3 mil-

lion tons per year of low sulfur automo-

tive diesel fuel to the refinery's produc-

tion and raise total output for all prod-

ucts from the refinery to about 12 mil-

is about 90 miles east of Houston.

SA is planning a \$2.2 billion expansion

announces \$2.2 billion



Several Big Spring High School Choir members participated in Solo and Ensemble Contest at Odessa College on Saturday, Feb. 2. Pictured from left to right are Priscilla Avalos, Sophia Gonzalez, Kevin Porras, Hollie Biemeret and Ashley Castillo, who received a Ddivision I and will advance to the State Solo and Ensemble contest to be held at the University of Texas in Austin in May. The others to receive a Division I in solo were freshmen Shelby Crews, Larissa Cordova and Leticia Bazaldua, Krystal Soto, Emily Slape, Jono Smith, Rachel Overby, Willie Alcantar, Randye Phillippe, Nadia Garcia and Seve Rodriguez received a Division II (excellent) on a solo or ensemble. All of the students worked very hard and are to be commended, said Jeanine Fishback, choir director.

craft. And our understanding is there is a great deal of interest in refurbishing and repainting these aircraft, and if we put seven inches down, we could never go back and put down 11 inches.

"There's no guarantee we'll be able to bring these industries in. However, we felt like the opportunity made sense. The

incremental cost between seven inches and 11 inches was like the difference between \$8 million and \$9 million. It was pretty close to a no-brainer."

McEwen said the project was originally expected to cost the city and Moore Development the local economic development firm — \$400,000 each, but to accommodate the additional four inches, both entities doubled their contribution to

"When we began considering

the increase in funding, we talked to a number of different officials — the governor's office, officials formerly with Boeing, an aircraft refinishing company — to see what kind of opportunities they saw in it," said Terry Wegman, executive director for Moore Development. "They all agreed

ketability and could open some doors for us.

the final bill.

lion tons, Total said.

Total, the world's fourth-largest oil and gas company, is the leading refinermarketer in Europe.

It has 7,500 employees in the U.S. at 74 sites in 29 states.

Mexican police officer arrested on drug charges in Texas

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — A Mexican police officer has been arrested on drug charges after authorities found 5 kilograms of cocaine in the vehicle he was driving, police said.

The officer's name was not released, but San Antonio police say he worked for the Tamaulipas State Police.

Three others were traveling with the man when they were pulled over by police narcotics and tactical units Tuesday afternoon. Canine units sniffed drugs in a hidden compartment in the radiator of the Suburban the Mexican officer was driving, San Antonio police spokesman Officer Joe Rios.

The drugs were worth about \$100,000, but could have garnered up to \$1 million on the street, Rios said.

Officers were working from information gathered during an ongoing investigation. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and a multi-department drug trafficking taskforce assisted them, Rios said.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

\$800,000 each.

it would help Big Spring's mar-

"There's no crystal ball here. That's important to remember.

There are no guarantees what this will or will not do for Big Spring. However, opportunities like this don't come along very often. The last time an upgrade was made to the runway was 1985, and it could be another 20 years before TxDOT has funds like these available."

Wegman said the entire project is expected to cost \$7.23 million, with TxDOT paying approximately \$5.63 million of

As for the additional funding,

McEwen said it won't break the

not," "Absolutely McEwen. "We had the reserve fund out at the Airpark, and it's to be used specifically for these types of activities. That's where we're going to draw the money from."

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

STATE OF CITY

Continued from Page 1A

prison's announced \$20 million project that will allow it to house more than 600 additional inmates.

Cornell, along with the Big Spring Federal Corrections Institute, combine to employ more than 1,600 people, he added.

- Increased enrollment and a \$21 million renovation project at Howard College also received notice from McEwen.
- Big Spring Independent School District also has reported increased

enrollment, which McEwen said was both a help and a hurt.

"It's an amazing thing in rural West Texas to see an increase in students," McEwen said. "But it is causing a major problem in that it's placing a strain on faculty and facilities."

McEwen urged residents to back BSISD's planned \$34 million bond issue, which would finance construction of a new elementary campus and other projects to replace aging buildings.

• Within the next 12 months, the city plans to reopen the municipal golf course after a year-long re-design. Other projects include renovation of the elevated water storage tank in north Big Spring, construction of a youth athletic

facility at the Roy Anderson complex, repavement of Main and Scurry streets and construction of a new runway at the Big Spring Airport.

Downtown renovation efforts received a multi-million-dollar shot in the arm when officials with the Settles Hotel Development Company announced renovation plans for the historic building.

McEwen called those efforts a centerpiece of endeavors to revitalize the downtown area.

"In the past, when we would show people around Big Spring, we would avoid downtown," McEwen said. "In the future, downtown will be the first place we show them."

But the city's greatest asset, McEwen said, is the spirit of volunteerism, which has become the driving force behind successful projects like the Festival of Lights and the Relay for Life.

In all, McEwen said the future is very bright for Big Spring.

"What Big Spring will look like in a year will be great," he said. "Look forward three years, and it will be almost beyond imagination ... We are on the cusp of greatness. This is an absolutely phenomenal time.

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

PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

Wilkerson said late-breaking negotiations between him and defense attorney Tim Yeats led to the plea agreement.

Wilkerson stressed two points in expressing satisfaction with the plea.

"First, as the facts developed after Hildebrand was indicted, we began to feel there were legitimate reasons to believe the case was more akin to aggravated assault



to murder," Wilkerson said. "And a lot of that had to do with the mental state of the defendant — did he mean to kill the victim, or did he simply mean to fight him that evening?"

The second reason for agreeing to the plea bargain, Wilkerson said, had to do with weaknesses in the state's case.

"What the defendant has maintained — and what other witnesses would have testified to could have legitimately raised the question of reasonable doubt among the jurors," he said.

"Make no mistake — we believe the defendant caused Mr. Boettcher's death on the night of May 31," Wilkerson added.

"But because of weaknesses in our case and because we felt aggravated assault was a more valid conclusion of what happened that night, we felt comfortable with the

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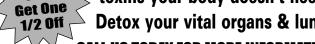


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Elva Olague, 78, died Sunday. Funeral Services were at 10:00 Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Catalina Lomas, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial



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Wednesday, February 13, 2008

BIG SPRING HERALD

wednesday page 3b 2/13/08 12:13 PM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

Billups leads Pistons to ninth straight win

By The Associated Press

Through three quarters, Chauncey Billups hadn't made a shot. So he kept on shooting in the fourth.

It all worked out fine for him and the Detroit Pistons, who have won nine straight after beating the Atlanta Hawks 94-90 Tuesday night.

Billups scored straight points, and saved his biggest shot for last, making a jumper over Anthony Johnson with 22 seconds remaining.

"That's what type of player he is," Atlanta's Josh Smith said. "His nickname is 'Mr. Big Shot.' In the clutch, everybody knows he's going to take the shot."

Rasheed Wallace carried the load in the early going, scoring 15 straight points for the Pistons in the first quarter on his way to a 21-point night. The Hawks lost their third in a row despite 30 points from Smith.

Billups, who scored 12 of his 16 points in the fourth, went into the final quarter at 0-for-8 from the field. He was undaunted.

"You know me, man, you know me," Billups said. "Late in games, if I have an opportunity I'm going to take advantage of that, whether I'm hot or not. I always feel like that fourth quarter is a different game."

After Billups' final basket, Smith was fouled but made only one free throw. Richard Hamilton did what Smith couldn't, hitting both foul shots with 14 seconds left to seal the

Tuesday night, it was: Boston 104, Indianapolis 97; New Jersey 92, Minnesota 88; Denver 114, Miami 113 in overtime; and New Orleans 100, Chicago 86.

The Hawks were held to 3-of-19 shooting in the fourth by the gritty Pistons, who let an early 15-point lead slip away but rebounded at the end. "We had good looks,"

Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "We just couldn't get the ball to go down."

Atlanta closed to 55-48 by halftime, and kept up the momentum in the third as the visitors turned cold.

"If we had played the whole game like we did in the second half, things would have been differ-

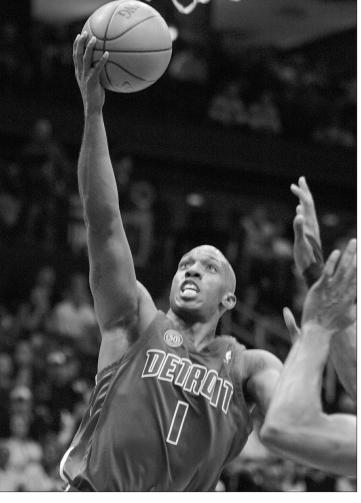
ent," said rookie Horford, who had 16 rebounds to lead the Hawks to a 47-34 lead on the boards.

The Pistons went nearly 6 minutes without a field goal, allowing the Hawks surge ahead on Horford's three-point play midway through the third. The rookie pumped his fist after being fouled, then stepped to the line and swished the free throw.

Celtics 104, Pacers 97

Paul Pierce had 28 points and 12 rebounds, and short-handed Boston won its fourth straight game.

Ray Allen scored 23 and Leon Powe added 16 points and nine rebounds for the visiting Celtics.



Detroit Pistons point guard Chauncey Billups (1) drives to the basket in the fourth quarter in Atlanta, Tuesday. Billups scored 12 of his 16 points in the fourth period to rally the Pistons to their ninth win in a row, 94-90, over the Hawks.

NASCAR

Continued from Page 1B

ished a driver more harshly if he misbehaves while on probation. NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said that's going to

change.

"We're starting the season by putting them on probation and we're also going to redefine what probation means," Hunter said. "And they clearly understand it."

With that in mind, Pemberton

said Stewart and Busch need to give each other some room on the track — but that doesn't Daytona 500s was dominated by mean they can't race each other

"They need to be able to race each other in tight situations, bumper-to-bumper and door-todoor," Pemberton said.

The run-up to the past two cheating crackdowns that between drivers showing their resulted in harsh penalties. By not coming down hard on Stewart and Busch for misbehaving, officials have set a loos-

er tone for Sunday's race.

"That's a part of the fabric of this sport — the fine line emotion and being themselves and NASCAR trying to police the sport," Hunter said. "There is a fine line there."

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

Panthers were able to load the bases with nobody out. However, Permian's lone run came when Megan Hanes scored on a wild pitch.

Senior shortstop Desiree Yanez threw out runners at home and first for the first and third outs of the inning and Hunt struck out a batter inbetween, putting Permian's threat to rest.

The Lady Steers answered in the bottom of the fifth after senior Ashley Ramirez scored from third on an Permian fielding error of a ball hit by Yanez down the first-base line.

Holly Harrinton took the loss

for Permian, giving up 2 runs, 1 unearned.

An opening season win is always welcome, but especially for a team as inexperienced as the Lady Steers.

"We only have two seniors, so our expectations are basically wide open," Reyes said. "These girls played the game growing up, but it's different at this level. As long as we can mesh

as a team, then the sky is the limit."

Reyes, however, isn't using youth as an excuse to not replicate last season's success.

"Our goal right now is to make it to the playoffs and hopefully go further than we did last year," Reyes said. "We don't lower our goals just because we're young."

The Lady Steers play their

first road game Friday at Lubbock Cooper. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Permian 000 001 0—1 3 3 Big Spring 010 001 0—2 5 2

W — Kenzie Hunt (1-0). L — Holly Harrington (0-1).

1B — Big Spring: Linzee Yarbar, Kenzie Hunt, Baylea Fox, Ashley Ramirez, Jaclyn

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"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

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

Ron Midkiff

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Healthy Living program taking on big problem

s parents, none of us wants to think our teenage or young adult children would even find themselves in the position of having to deal with dating violence, but statistics show it is a prevalent problem.

That is why we were extremely pleased to learn that Victim Services of Big Spring is actively working with local schools in an effort to help local teens become part of the solution.

Responding to a mandate by the Texas Legislature, Victim Services of Big Spring is helping to establish a program at Big Spring High School to raise awareness of and find solutions for dating violence.

But does dating violence really happen here in Big Spring and Howard County?

Of course it does.

Dating violence has become a widespread problem in Texas and there's absolutely no doubt in our minds that we here in this community are not immune from problems that affect other parts of

A statewide survey of young Texans between 16 and 24 years of age has revealed that 75 percent of them had either experienced dating violence or knew someone who had; half of them have personally experienced dating violence; and that 60 percent of females and 40 percent of males have experienced dating violence, either as victims or abusers.

What's worse, Victim Services Executive Director Shann Smith says she and her staff believe the problem is more prevalent than reported, because "that's normal for domestic violence situations."

The problem can take several forms, she added, ranging from actual physical and sexual violence to verbal, emotional and psychological abuse.

What's most disturbing, however, is that for many of these teenagers it is a lifestyle they're exposed to at home, Smith noted. And if they've grown up in abusive homes, they may think it is totally normal behavior.

As a result, Victim Services has begun a program called Healthy Living, which seeks to educate young people about taking abuse out of their dating relationships and replacing it with positives like respect, fairness, sharing, accountability and honesty.

The key to the program, according to Victim Services staffer Mindy Partee, is the use of peer sponsors — students who will act as de facto counselors for teens who experience dating violence.

In addition to being able to be a sounding board for their classmates experiencing dating violence, the peer sponsors can act as intermediaries and help direct teens dealing with dating violence get the services they need.

Victim Services hopes to train between 10 and 20 students to become peer sponsors at the high school, then branch out with similar programs in Coahoma and Forsan.

We applaud this cooperative effort between Victim Services and the area's high schools, especially the students who volunteer as peer sponsors, because their importance is nothing short of paramount.

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 emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take the high road with You, Lord.

Amen

McCain's doing a delicate dance

ne step to the right and two steps to the left. Two steps to the left and one step to the right. It's not easy doing the McCain Shuffle.

It's a very delicate dance. One misstep could decide who the next president will be.

Everyone is urging Sen. John McCain to lean much farther to the right and to rest his submissive head on the shoulder of his party's conservative base.



OPINION

Perez

But just how far to the right can McCain afford to lean? If he keeps dancing to the beat of conservative extremists, is he electable in November? In these Bush-battered times when so many Americans are energized by a liberal such as Sen. Barack Obama, isn't the quintessential conservative a sure loser?

McCain always has been a maverick, willing to buck the conservative wing of the GOP. And that is precisely what makes him attractive to the moderate Republicans and independents, who are really his unique base. That is also precisely what makes him the most electable Republican in November. But if he keeps pandering to the extremists, he may lose the moderates without really conquering the conservatives.

After all, no matter what he does 8743-JANSTUDE INCARD MISSEL

now, the conservatives and evangelicals never will forgive him for proposing comprehensive immigration reform that placed illegal immigrants on a path to legalization. To them, proponents of any sort of "amnesty" always will be "the enemy."

And then they call themselves Christians! Go figure!

On immigration, McCain already has been two-stepping to the right. In order to please the zealots, he vowed not to seek a legalization plan until after he secures the borders. But any more steps in that direction may cost him a huge chunk of the Latino vote, which he desperately needs to be competitive in the general election. If he decides to sign a "no-amnesty" pledge or to pick an immigrant basher for a running mate, he can say adios to the support he needs from Latinos.

In presidential elections, Republicans never expect to get a majority of the Latino vote. If they get 40 percent, they're happy. Their goal is to prevent Latinos from voting as an overwhelming bloc that would give Democrats a victory. If they divide the Latino vote, they neutralize it and they

Of all the Republicans who ran for president this year, only McCain was a realist on immigration. He knows that you don't solve the problem by ignoring the 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here or by naively expecting them to return to their

homelands voluntarily. He knows that trying to deport them would be insane, so he tried to fix the broken immigration system by bringing them out of the shadows, making them pay fines and requiring them to wait in line for at least a decade.

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

BIG SPRING HERALD

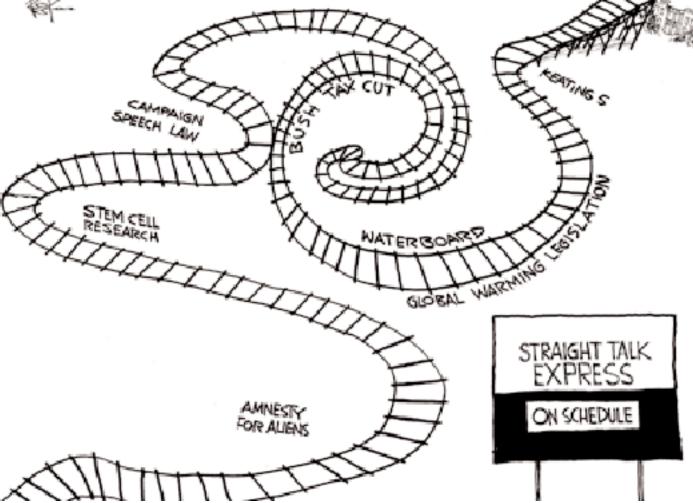
For this reason, of all the GOP candidates, only McCain had the potential of getting a good chunk of the Latino vote. He still does but not if he keeps dancing to the right.

When he spoke to the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington last week, McCain was booed when he mentioned immigration. They treated him as if he once had supported the bubonic plague. Nevertheless, he pledged to "secure our borders first, and only after we achieved widespread consensus that our borders are secure would we address other aspects of the problem in a way that defends the rule of law and does not encourage another wave of illegal immigration."

So, just how long is that going to take? Next summer, when McCain is up against either Sen. Hillary Clinton or Sen. Barack Obama, he will have to define his position in contrast with an opponent who openly favors the comprehensive reforms he originally proposed.

That's when the McCain Shuffle really will get funky.

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McCain has been one lucky fella

enator John McCain is one lucky guy. A funny thing happened to him on the way to the Republican nomination. He was forced to run as himself. He had no choice but to

try to win without the support of the hardcore conservatives he initially set out to court. He was pushed back onto the Straight Talk Express, onto the coach section of the plane, into the endless town halls, where he had no choice but to be himself, say what he thinks, run on his record and leave it at that.

SUSAN **ESTRICH**

And imagine: It's worked. With Mitt Romney's decision, announced Thursday, to "suspend" his presidential campaign ("suspending" means it's all over but for the fundraising — in Romney's case, a largely doomed effort to repay himself for his personal loans to the campaign), McCain is all but assured the Republican presidential nomination. Indeed, easing and shortening McCain's path to the coronation, in the hopes it would allow him more time (and fewer criticisms) to take on Clinton/Obama, was the reason stated for the former Massachusetts governor's withdrawal, although cynics may wonder whether it also had something to do with his wife's desire to end the drain on the family checking account. Money, the usual reason that candidates have to pull out, was not an external

limit on the future of the Romney campaign, but it may well have been an internal one.

Of course, Romney's suspension does not eliminate the friendlier Mike Huckabee as a thorn in McCain's side, but the truth is, he isn't a very big one, and in the weird ways of politics, his involvement may actually help McCain. Huckabee is almost as unpopular with the conservative talking heads who are writhing with discomfort at the prospect of McCain as their standard bearer, as is the Arizona senator and co-sponsor of McCain-Feingold (campaign finance) and McCain-Kennedy (immigration reform).

From the moment he won the Iowa caucuses, Rush et al were after the Arkansas governor for his record of raising taxes for education, pardoning his own versions of Willie Horton and allowing the children of illegal immigrants to attend public universities at in-state tuition rates. Huckabee was definitely on to something in his understanding of the economic anxiety on Main Street, as opposed to so many Republicans who kept telling themselves and each other that all was rosy with the economy. But his connection to small business and dinner table America didn't win him points with the conservative elite.

Even more important, no one who does this professionally gives the cash-strapped, Darwin-doubting former governor a real chance of winning the Republican nomination. Beating him every Tuesday is a little bit like a

Democrat beating Jesse Jackson: It gives McCain the chance to keep looking like a winner. Better yet, it keeps him looking like a moderate defeating the conservative fringe at a time when his eye, rightly, is on the independents who will find that appealing, and who will control the contest in the fall — rather than the ideologues in his own party, who have, in

truth, already lost. It's a little like what happened in 1988: The contest ultimately came down to Dukakis and Jackson, with the result being not only that Dukakis won, but that by the time he won, most of the country assumed he was really more conservative than he was because he was at least more conservative than Jackson. Until the Republicans got their hands on

And the Democrats will get their

hands on McCain. Make no mistake, McCain may have run and won, ultimately, as an independent Republican, as the least conservative of the conservatives, but that is not how he will be positioned by Democrats. Speeches at Liberty University? A hundred-year war? McCain may not have won the support of conservatives in the early days of his campaign, but that will not stop Democrats from reminding voters of how hard he tried to be George Bush's best friend and conservatives' first choice.

Nasty? Just get ready. Luck only protects you for so long.

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McNamee: I injected Clemens more than stated

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writers

WASHINGTON Brian McNamee injected Roger Clemens with performanceenhancing drugs more often than he previously claimed, the pitcher's former personal trainer said in a prepared statement. released Wednesday before the start of their high-stakes testimony before Congress.

"I have helped taint our national pastime," McNamee

Clemens has denied the accusations that became public in December's Mitchell Report. The seven-time Cy Young award winner repeated those denials under oath to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

"I have never used steroids. human growth hormone, or any other type of illegal performance enhancing drugs," Clemens said, also in a prepared statement. "No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored. I know that a lot of people want me to say that I have taken steroids and be done with it. But I cannot in good conscience admit to doing something that I did not do; even if it would be easier to do so."

McNamee told baseball investigator George Mitchell that he injected Clemens 16 to 21 times ment shortly before the hearing with steroids and human started and acknowledged

McNamee also said that Yankees teammates Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch used HGH.

"I have had that opportunity to think about these events and consider the specific drug regimens we used," McNamee said. "As a result, I now believe that the number of times I injected Roger Clemens and Chuck Knoblauch was greater than I initially stated."

McNamee also attacked the credibility of Clemens, with whom he worked closely for many years.

"While I liked and admired Roger Clemens, I don't think that I ever really trusted him," McNamee said.

By denying the accusations under oath, Clemens opened himself up to possible criminal charges if it is determined he made false statements or obstructed Congress.

"Coming into today's hearing, we have before us some very different stories. They're in many ways incompatible," said ranking Republican Tom Davis of Virginia, who presided over the committee's 2005 session with Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro. "Someone is lying in spectacular fashion about the ultimate question."

Pettitte, excused from appearing Wednesday, issued a state-

growth hormone from 1998-01. using human growth hormone HGH came up again in converin 2004, in addition to his December admission that he took it for two days in 2002.

Last week, Pettitte was asked to discuss drug use in a deposition and affidavit before a congressional committee.

"In that affidavit, Andy informed the committee that in addition to the two shots a day of HGH he took for two days in 2002, he also took HGH for a one-day period in 2004, shortly preceding season-ending elbow surgery," his lawyer, Jay Reisinger, said in a statement released to The Associated

"Andy had not previously mentioned this usage because he acquired the substance from his father, who had obtained it without Andy's knowledge in an effort to overcome his very serious health problems, which have included serious cardiac conditions."

In an affidavit for the committee, Pettitte said that Clemens told him nearly 10 years ago that he used HGH, a person familiar with the affidavit told The AP. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the document had not been made public.com

According to the person familiar with the affidavit, who said it was signed Friday night, Pettitte also said Clemens backtracked when the subject of sation in 2005, before the same House committee held the first hearing on steroids in baseball.

Pettitte said in the affidavit that he asked Clemens in 2005 what he would do if asked about performance-enhancing substances, given his admission years earlier.

According to the account told to the AP, the affidavit said Clemens responded by saying Pettitte misunderstood the previous exchange in 1999 or 2000 and that, in fact, Clemens had been talking about HGH use by his wife in the original conver-

The existence of the affidavit first was reported by The New York Times. The details of its contents were first reported by the AP.

On Tuesday, Clemens made the rounds on Capitol Hill one last time, wearing a gray pinstriped suit and squeezing faceto-face meetings into the busy schedules of committee members.

He met with five lawmakers over a four-hour span Tuesday, on top of the 19 he saw Thursday and Friday.

"I enjoyed talking with him," said Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., who said the discussion included baseball stories and personal accounts about the Sept. 11 attacks. "It's always good to meet the person who is in the spotlight. ... I told him,

'This is not a trial.'"

But it might very well feel like one when Clemens and McNamee sit at the witness table and — under oath — offer what will surely be contradictory versions as to whether Clemens used steroids and

"I couldn't tell you who's telling the truth," Watson said.

Before Pettitte's affidavit came to light, Clemens got some help in his public relations push from a different exteammate Tuesday.

"I have never had a conversation with Clemens in which he expressed any interest in using steroids or human growth hormone," Jose Canseco said in a sworn affidavit, dated Jan. 22, that was submitted to the committee. "Clemens has never asked me to give him steroids or human growth hormone, and I have never seen Clemens use, possess or ask for steroids or human growth hormone."

In his affidavit, Canseco disputes various statements of McNamee's in the Mitchell Report. The affidavit also says "neither Senator Mitchell nor anyone working with him" contacted Canseco to attempt to corroborate things McNamee

Canseco's book about steroids in baseball, "Juiced," drew Congress' attention in 2005, leading to that year's hearing.

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wednesday page 5-7b 2/13/08 11:55 AM Page 2 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

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Legals

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Sealed proposals, addressed to Blount, Superintendent, Sands Consolidated Independent School District, P.O. Box 218 Ackerly, Texas 79713, are being received for proposals for a **New Gymnasium** and **Auditorium**.
Proposals will be received in the office of the Construction Manager until 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2008. Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on March 13, 2008 at the Office of the Sands CISD Superintendent at which time the proposals will be opened and read publicly in the Office of Sands CISD Superintendent. All proposals mailed prior to this date and all inquires should be to the Construction Manager.

D.S.A., Inc. P.O. Box 115 741 James Street Hermleigh, Texas 79526 325/863-2489 325/863-2251 Fax

The total budget for the project is \$3,123,800.00

Proposals received after 2:00 p.m., March 13, 2008, closing time will be returned unopened. Separate contracts and purchase orders will be awarded for the various disciplines of work required. Time on this project is of the utmost importance. Each proposal will be considered based on price (30%), contractor's reputation (30%), time schedule (15%), ability to man the project (10%), and quality of contractor's goods or services on each portion of work to be completed (5%). The awarding of proposals will not be made at this time. Bid Security, if bid is greater than

\$25,000, in the form of a surety bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas in the amount of 5% of the total Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance in the Instruction to Bidders. Payment and Performance Bond

sháll be as follows: For a contract price of \$25,000 or more, the Contractor will furnish a Payment bond and a Performance Bond of not less than one hundred (100%) percent of the contract price, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the contract and upon payment of all persons supplying the labor or furnishing the

materials used on this project. Cost

of the bonds shall be paid by the

Contractor.

Plans and specifications may be secured from D.S.A., Inc., 741 James Street, P.O. Box 115, Hermleigh, Texas 79526, 325-863-2489, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday of each week beginning Monday. February 11, 2008.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any formalities or to reject any or all proposals. No proposals may be withdrawn until the expiration of 30 days from the date proposals are opened. Sealed Proposals:

Sands Consolidated Independent School District Wayne Blount, Superintendent c/o D.S.A., Inc., (Construction Manager) 741 James Street P.O. Box 115 Hermleigh, Texas 79526 The Pre-Bid Meeting is set for

#5681 February 13 & 17, 2008

School.

March 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT Premier Natural Resources, LLC, 5727 South Lewis Avenue, Suite 200, Tulsa, OK 74105 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive

of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Seven Rivers-Queen formations, Dora Roberts A & B Lease, Well #B2. The proposed injection well is located 3 miles SE of Forsan in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 1500 to 1930 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section. Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin.

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE February 11, 2008 THE BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AT 5:30 P.M., TUES-DAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4TH, BIG SPRING,

TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOL-

78711

#5682 February 13, 2008

(Telephone

Texas

LOWING:

512/463-6792).

A Zone Change for 100 E 18th St. described ad N/35 of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12, of Block 4, College Heights Addition, Howard County, Big Spring, Texas, from Single Family-2 (SF-2) to Neighborhood Service (NS).

#5684 February 13 & 17, 2008

Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's first-quarter moon in Taurus and sun in Aquarius give us a head-in-the-clouds, feet on the ground feel. The strength of this planetary pair is the fortitude of seeding our vision with persistent, steady efforts. Try not to think of it as simply plodding along. Have the attitude that life is a pleasurable power stroll in the sunshine.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're learning to get comfortable in a wider variety of situations. Ask yourself frequently throughout the day, "Am I at ease with this?" Then observe your intuitive response. TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

An ex could throw a wrench in your new romantic works. Channel positive energy toward your old flame. Just the power of your thoughts causes the ex to simmer down.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Not everyone shares your work ethic. You'll feel the need to lay down the law. Your assertiveness pays off in the world, but your business life requires a personal different strategy. diplomacy

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you and a partner disagree about how money should be spent, a short-term bargain could turn into a long-term mess. Detailed communication prevents conflict.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When a relationship is not as smooth as you would like, you really do try to see life the way the other person is seeing it. You make headway by offering reassurance rather than logical insights.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Impulsive moves are not necessarily in your best interest. Be cool, think it through. Recognize the difference between action by ego motivated inspiration that comes from LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In

compelled together people who on the surface would seem quite mismatched. We humans have more in common with one another than not. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're sensitive to the energy output of people, especially in

a group scenario. You can

the service of unity, you may

raise the energy of those around you too. Adopt rousing stance toward life and you motivate the troops. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't give orders unless you know how to receive them. Comply easily and freely to the leadership of one you respect. As you do

you will be learning the best

way to take charge when it's your turn. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a long list of tasks that need handling. Assume full responsibility. Ultimately, you will be the one accountable for the outcome, and you will also be the one to

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have extraordinary insights while accomplishing ordinary tasks, like cleaning up, making phone calls and clearing your desk. Your luck is uncanny. You could even win a raffle or lottery.

enjoy the reward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Outer conflict can only be as real as your inner conflict. Be vigilant. March forward with the choices that will bring you want you want, keeping your inner opponent in constant

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Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE

February 11, 2008 THE BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AT 5:30 P.M., TUES-DAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 307 EAST 4th, BIG SPRING, TEXAS TO CONSIDER THE FOL-

ZONE CHANGE: DESCRIBED AS ALL OF 1515 E FM 700 (1.79 ACRES WITHIN BLK 1, HLH SUB-DIVISION AND .802 ACRES WITHIN LOT 1, BLOCK 1, SPRING CREEK SUBDIVISION), 1509 E FM 700 (1.75 ACRES WITHIN LOT 1, BLOCK 1, SPRING CREEK SUBDIVISION), AND 1513 E FM 700 (.505 ACRES WITHIN SW PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK 1, SPRING CREEK SUB-DIVISION) HOWARD COUNTY, BIG SPRING, TEXAS FROM OF-FICE (0) AND SUP-8 TO HEAVY COMMÉRCIAL (HC). #5683 February 13 & 17, 2008

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4 6 8 9 1 3

Why not check this out? At the library

The library will be closed Saturday and Monday for President's Day and reopen Tuesday at our regular time.

The AARP Tax Service will be here Monday. Remember, every Monday, the AARP-spon-

sored tax preparing service is at the library from 8 a.m. until noon.

Please be aware the event takes place in the basement; you enter at the glass door to the



McCright

right of the main entrance. There is an elevator for those who need to take it down to

the basement.

New Fiction

I am now just getting to some new fiction that came in last week. With the large number of books the library receives from time to time, I don't have time to read and write about each one. Also, I rely on reviews from various sources.

A complete list of new books the library receives can be found in the new book binder at the front desk.

• "Bridge of Sighs" by Richard Russo. Russo is already the patron saint of small-town fiction, but with his new novel — his first since the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Empire Falls" — he's produced his most American story.

Once again he places us in a finely drawn community that's unable to adjust to economic changes, and with insight and sensitivity he describes ordinary people struggling to get by. But more than ever before, Russo ties this novel to the oldest preoccupations of our national consciousness by focusing on the nature of optimism and the limits of self-invention. — review from the Washington

Post's Book World. · "The Scandal of the Season" is a witty debut novel by Sophie Gee that does not read like a debut. Its seasoning is due to Gee's erudition she is an assistant professor in the Department of English at Princeton and her sophisticated

approach to the story she Lock) was concerned has to tell.

Set in 1711 London, when beautiful wealthy people spend their time at masquerade balls, levées, assignations and evening performances in the endless pursuit of pleasure, gossip, political and social advantage.

Peopled with characters like Alexander Pope poet of some repute who leaves his country home to spend "the season" in London.

In language and cadences reserved for 16th century novels, Gee has created a delightful and plausible romp through the practices, plots, romances, posturing and superficiality of Pope's time.

It is known that his epic poem (Rape of the

with the three families aforementioned; the rest might also be true, but almost 300 years later what really matters is how much fun this is to read! — *Review from* Amazon.Com, written by

Valerie Ryan. • "The Star Garden" by Nancy E. Turner. Third in a series (Library only has this volume), Turner's books is another novel-writtenas-a-diary chronicling the

turn-of-the-century exploits of Arizona pioneer Sarah Agnes Prine.

Basing Sarah on her own great-grandmother, the author's personal connection to the main character authenticates this tale of courage, determination and audacious will on the frontier.

As Sarah struggles to keep both her ranch and her extended family afloat amid hard times,

See LIBRARY, Page 6A

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A matter of perspective?

was reading a story the other day called 'A letter from a farm kid." I have not yet determined which of the following quotes best describe this letter. Could it be: "We do not see things as they are; we see them as we are" or "Everything is relative; it's all a matter of perspec-

tive." As you read the letter please keep in mind these two quotes. Dear Ma

and Pa, Hope you are. I'll write this

I am well.

because I know you can't read fast. The weather ain't bad here. It only rained twice last week; the first time for three days and the second time for four days. Did sister Sue have that baby yet? I was jest wonderin' cause I wanted to know whether I was an aunt or an uncle.

DARRELL

RYAN

About that coat you wanted me to send; I decided it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so I cut them off and put them in the pockets.

Let me tell you, this place is really nice. It even has a washing machine but I'm not exactly sure how to use it. I put my shirt in it and pressed that little lever and I haven't seen it since!

Oh, tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer that I love being in the Marine Corps. It's a whole lot easier than working for old man Smith. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled. I was really restless here at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 5 a.m. but now I am getting so I like to sleep late.

Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, shine your boots and go outside and look for trash. No hogs to slop, cows to milk, chickens to feed, fences to mend, wood to split or fire to make. You do practically nothing. Men do have to shave but it is not so bad; we got warm water.

Breakfast is strong on the trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, you can always sit by them two city boys that live on coffee. Their food

plus yours holds you til noon when you get fed again.

It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route marches," which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

Three of my friends went off a bridge in a pickup truck the other day. Sarg was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. The other two were in the backend of the truck. They drowned because they couldn't get the tail-

Parent's Corner

gate down.

This will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the McCoy boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they

break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home.

I'm about the best they got in this unit except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds soakin' wet and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Ernestine

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



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Barack Obama sweeps 3 Democratic primaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama, already claiming "new a American majority," is focusing more and more on the likely Republican candidate in the November presidential election as he continues to rack up big victories over Hillary Rodham Clinton in their race for the Democratic nomination.

Obama surged to the fore in the delegate race for the party prize with resounding primary vic-Tuesday tories Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. On the GOP side, John McCain took another step in shoring up his credentials as the runaway Republican front-runner despite lukewarm support from the party's conservative base.

Clinton, considered the overwhelming Democratic favorite just a few weeks, was left to turn her attention to Texas and Ohio in an attempt to pump new life into her suddenly stumbling campaign.

"There's a great saying in Texas, all hat and no cattle," she told a boisterous crowd of about 12,000 at a college basketball arena in El Paso Tuesday evening as the shape of the latest Obama ballot victories were unfolding.

> Contact the Herald at 263-7331

"Well, after seven years of George Bush, we need a lot less hat and lot more cattle."

flying into Before Texas, told a she Cincinnati television station that "Ohio is really going to count in determining who Democratic nominee is going to be." She also declared herself the "underdog candidate" in the Wisconsin primary next Tuesday, the same day Obama's birthplace Hawaii holds its primary.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 5A

she is pressed by one neighbor to marry him while another neighbor plots to gain control of her land.

When she is offered the chance to realize a longheld dream, she must reevaluate what is truly important in her life. The matter-of-fact tone of Sarah's diary entries underscores her amazing resilience in the face of everyday hardship and extraordinary adversity. Review for Margaret Flanagan on Booklist.

Mysteries

New mysteries have iust come in include: "Dark Tort" by Diane Mott Davidson; "Heartsick" by Chelsea Cain and from William G. Tapply, "**One-Way Ticket."** From a couple of new authors come

"High Season" by Jon Loomis and "Terminal" by Andrew Vachss.

Biographies

• "Claytie" by Mike Cochran is the story of Fort Stockton and Midland's own Clayton W. Williams.

For football fans, we have "Tiki: The Game and Beyond;" "The Bus: My Life In and Out of a **Helmet**" by Jerome

Bettis; and "Inside the Helmet: Life as a **Sunday Afternoon** Warrior" by Michael Strahan.

• "Public Cowboy No. 1: The Life and Times of Gene Autry" by Holly George-Warren is the latest biography of Gene Autry, the singing cowboy and owner of the Los Angeles Angels. And who won't remember that memorable song "I'm Back in the Saddle Again?"

Meticulously researched, it is an excellent biography of Gene Autry.

We also have "Celebrity Detox" by Rosie O'Donnell; "One **Drop: My Father's**

Hidden Life" by Bliss Broyard and "Things I **Overheard While** Talking to Myself" by Alan Alda.

Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. Monday to Friday and it will close 1/2 hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. and our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howardcounty.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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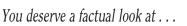




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Peace in the Middle East (1)

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Can it be achieved under the present circumstances?

After almost sixty years of the bizarre notion of not recognizing the "existence" of the State of Israel, after many years after the Oslo Accord "peace process", and after being offered unbelievably generous conditions to bring an end to the long and bloody conflict, the Palestinians have rejected those terms and have instead chosen to continue on their path of violence and confrontation. They have erupted in the bloody Al-Aksa Intifada, which so far has caused hundreds of dead and thousands of injured. The question can be raised whether peace with the Palestinians is possible at all.

through a complete change of

What are the facts?

The Root of the Middle East Conflict. Many observers of the Middle East scene seem to believe that the root of the Middle East conflict lies in the dispute between the Palestinians and the Israeli Jews — that peace could come to the area if that conflict could be resolved. And the way it should be resolved, these observers believe, is by Israel's yielding its heartland, Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank"), in addition to the already

yielded Gaza Strip, for the creation of a Palestinian state and by returning the "Real peace . . . can only happen Golan Heights to Syria. But after the late Hafez Assad's brusque refusal to accept the return of the Golan (because it would mentality, policies, and historical Real Peace Must Be Global. The not include the shores of the Sea of ambitions in the Muslim block." current upheavals in Israel, in its Galilee), and after the late and -

unlamented Arafat's contemptuous refusal of Ehud Barak's generous offer, it is clear that the Arabs do not want peace they want confrontation and the destruction of Israel.

People also overlook that the conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Jews long predates Israel's control over the administered territories, that Arab-Arab wars are endemic in the area, and that Israel would be defenseless and at the mercy of its implacable enemies if it were to yield control of these strategic territories without a full peace — not just with the Palestinians, but with all the Arabs and Muslims.

The Menace of Islamic Fundamentalism. The clamor for yielding strategic territories to the Arabs is the first step in the immutable Arab attempt to liquidate Israel altogether. Because, certainly, Israel, with its fewer than 6 million inhabitants, compared to almost 300 million Arabs, and with its less than 10,000 square miles, compared to almost 5 million square miles of the Arab countries, cannot possibly be a threat to peace or a menace to the Arabs. And reducing the territory of Israel from 10,000 square miles to 7,000 square miles would not seem likely to bring peace one step closer. The main reason that real peace is so difficult to attain is the political and cultural context of the Middle East, which is

dominated by the menace of Islamic fundamentalism. By the tenets of this fundamentalism, Israel's size is not of importance; it is the very existence of Israel that, to fundamentalist believers, is an intolerable offense, an unacceptable insult to Islam. The fundamentalist Muslims — Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and all the others — do not aim at peace with Israel or the recovery of some territory. Their publicly declared aim is the destruction of the Jewish

> State. On more than one occasion, the Islamic Jihad has stated: "[This is] irrevocable . . . We will be satisfied with nothing but the destruction of Israel."

> administered territories, and in the areas

that Israel has transferred to the Palestinian Authority, may give the impression that peace would come to the region if Israel would come to terms with the aspirations of the Palestinians. But that is impossible, because the destruction of Israel — its disappearance from the map — is the stated purpose of the Palestinians, as embedded in their neverrevoked Covenant. But even if it were achievable, peace would not come about, because such a peace would be a non-global one. The most fervent enemies of Israel — Iran, Syria, and including even Egypt (with which Israel is technically at peace) — have as their principal foreign policy goal the destruction of Israel, a goal that would not be altered even if Israel acceded to every wish of the Palestinians. Those Arab statesmen who have tried to come to terms with the Jewish State have invariably found a terrible end. King Abdullah of Transjordan was assassinated by the rejectionists, so was President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and so was President Bashir Gemayel of Lebanon, all of whom envisioned peaceful cooperation and co-existence with Israel. Every Arab leader knows that any overt declaration of wishing to make real peace and to co-exist and to cooperate with Israel is a suicidal death sentence.

We all want peace, of course, especially the Israelis, who, five wars having been imposed on them, have been almost constantly embattled since the foundation of their state. But because of Arab-Islamic fundamentalism that cannot tolerate a Jewish presence on any part of "Arab territory." And because any peace arrived at would be non-global, such real peace would seem difficult or impossible to attain at this time. One hopes that real peace — the Arabs' acceptance of a Jewish State and peaceful co-existence and cooperation with it — will come eventually. But it can only happen through a complete change of mentality, policies and ambitions in the Muslim block, abandonment of fanatic fundamentalism, and change in governance from despotism to genuine democracy. And that may well take a very long time. In the meantime, Israel must keep up its guard and cannot afford — not even to please its friends, including the United States — to yield strategic territory, without which it would be mortally

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P.O. Box 590359 San Francisco, CA 94159 Gerardo Joffe, President

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FLAME is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational 501 (c)(3) organization. Its purpose is the research and publication of the facts regarding developments in the Middle East and exposing false propaganda that might harm the interests of the United States and its allies in that area of the world. Your taxdeductible contributions are welcome. They enable us to pursue these goals and to publish these messages in national newspapers and magazines. We have virtually no overhead. Almost all of our revenue pays for our educational work, for these clarifying messages, and for related direct mail.

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Teen Dating Violence

No relationship is perfect. However, watch for some of the warning signs of a violent relationship.

- Do you feel powerless in the relationship?
- Are you afraid of your partner's temper?
- Are you afraid to disagree?
- Are you being told what to do?
- Are you forced or pressured to have sex?
- Are you afraid to break up?
- Is your partner jealous or possessive?
- Does your partner try to control you?
- Does your partner hit, kick, shove you or throw things at you?

KEEP SAFE IN DATING SITUATIONS:

Know thyself - Have alone time explore your own interests, desires and beliefs

Consider Expectations and boundaries - Decide what to expect and what behaviors you will not tolerate.

Communicate expectations - Talk things out regarding sexual issues. Miscommunication, guessing or making assumptions can be dangerous and extremely hurtful. Avoid these situations by talking things out.

Pay attention to your feelings - If a situation feels wrong or scary, you may be in **Danger**, trust your feelings and get out of that situation.

Notice changes in your relationship - If someone stops respecting you and your boundaries, this person may end up taking advantage of you. Believe that it can happen to you.

TRUE LOVE / HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP means

- No threatening behavior
- Respect
- Trust and support
- Gender equality
- Honesty and Accountability

GET HELP

Get help immediate - Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counsel or nurse.

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If you want help deciding whom to talk to call our national crime victim helpline at 1-880-FYI-CALL OR LOCALLY CALL Victim Services of Big Spring at 263-3312.

Filing for school board races begins

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Persons interested in running for area school board elections have a month to announce their candidacies.

Filing for the May 10 school board elections began Monday in every area school district except Garden City and Grady, which will hold their elections in November.

Prospective candidates have until March 10 to file for the respective elections.

Big Spring Independent School District will elect two trustees this year. The District 1 seat currently held by Irene Galan, and the District 6 seat held by Board President Alan Partee are up for election, BSISD Business Manager Debbie Green said.

Galan has filed for reelection, while Partee has indicated he will do so within the next few days. Both seats will be for three-year terms.

Candidates can file for the election from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the district business office on 11th Place.

Two of three incumbents have filed for re-

election to the Howard by Beckie Wash, Marty County Junior College District Board Trustees, officials said.

At-large seats currently held by Dr. Charles Warren, John Freeman and Marie Ethridge are expected to be contested this year. Warren and Freeman have filed for additional three-year terms, officials said.

Candidates for the HC board may file for the election between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the college president's office in the administration building.

In Coahoma, three atlarge seats are up for election, said Administration Secretary Judy Dobbs.

Three-year seats currently held by Dale Coates and Mike Blissard will be contested. In addition, an election will be held to fill the unexpired term of the seat vacated by John Wayne Metcalf, who recently resigned.

No candidates have filed Coahoma as of Tuesday, Dobbs said, adding that they may do so from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the administration building.

Forsan ISD will elect three trustees in May. Atlarge seats currently held Blount said.

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Whetsel and Dale Humphreys will be decided, although no candidates have filed as of Tuesday.

Administration Secretary Judy Park said candidates may file at the administration building between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Stanton ISD voters will elect three trustees this spring — three-year terms in Districts 3 (currently held by Valerie Smith) and 4 (in which Todd Smith is the incumbent) and a one-year term in District 7, currently held by Reggie Franklin.

Persons interested in the election may file between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the business office, Business Manager Brad Holland said.

Two trustees will be elected by Sands CISD voters in May. At-large seats currently held by Martin Nichols and Robin Barraza will be decided, although no candidates have filed as of Tuesday, Superintendent Wayne Blount said.

Filing hours are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday in the school's business office,

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Council formally takes reins [®] of Spring City Senior Center

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer The Spring City Senior

Citizens Center will now find itself under the auspices of the city of Big Spring, as the council unanimously approved several measures Tuesday night that finalize its transition from Howard County to the municipality.

The council approved final reading of several items that will transfer responsibility for the facility to the city and the necessary state and federal grants, bringing several months of negotiations between the two governments to a close.

According to Mayor Russ McEwen, the transfer signals a new era in the city's efforts to provide services and activities to its senior citizens.

"We're going to do our best to give seniors a place they can be proud of, and we're going to do the best we can to give them the services they need," said McEwen. "We're going to continue doing what we're doing right now, which is mov-

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ing to give them the best services and the best location for their activities."

One of the biggest questions facing the city now is whether to keep the facility at its current location — on Simler in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — or begin looking for a new, more up-todate building.

"At least for the time being, it's going to stav where it is right now," said McEwen. "It only makes sense. We have some studies going on to find out if the current location is a usable building, and if so, what we need to do to bring it up to the standards we need. We know there are problems in certain areas of the building and we need to address those.'

McEwen said Tuesday's approval of the transfer will also signal the beginning of evaluations of the center and its current

ing in a direction and try-staff, which will determine what changes the city will make to the operation of the center.

> "We don't have a goal that we want to do it by a certain date," McEwen. "What's going to happen is the program will fall under the city's finance department and Peggy Walker, and she will be doing evaluations and trying to decide exactly what we need to do. We haven't been running (the center) up until now. There will be a time frame to figure out where all of these people fit into our pay scale and what they are going to be doing. We're at the beginning of the evaluation process, rather than at the end of it.'

The transfer approved by the Howard County Commissioners Court several weeks ago. Councilwoman Gloria

See COUNCIL, page 9A



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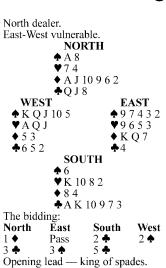
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By Steve Becker

A Challenging Situation



The most interesting hands to play are those where the outcome is in doubt. Contracts that are laydown are not particularly exciting, nor are those where defeat is certain

The hands of real interest are like this one, where declarer sees at once that there's a battle ahead. His first reaction should be that he must lose a diamond trick as well as one, two or even three heart tricks, depending on which defender has the ace

South's next reaction should be to seek the line of play that offers the

best chance of success. In so doing, he gives heavy weight to the probability that West has the ace of hearts for his vulnerable two-spade over-

This should focus declarer's attention on the need to establish dummy's diamonds for discards However, since East is likely to gain the lead in diamonds and shift to a heart before the diamonds can be established, this method of play is rather unappealing

Along about this time it should occur to declarer that there is an excellent chance the diamonds can be established without allowing East to gain the lead! It is only then that the best line of play emerges.

Accordingly, declarer plays low

from dummy on West's king-ofspades lead at trick one! This allows the diamonds to be established without losing a trick to East, and does so without costing South a trick, since it merely exchanges his diamond loser for a spade loser.

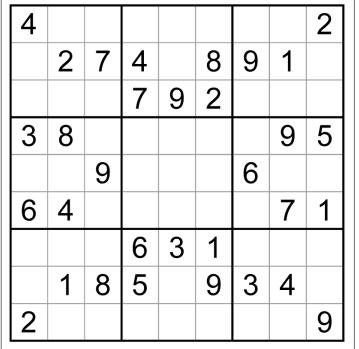
Let's say West continues with another spade (his play doesn't really matter). South discards a diamond, cashes the ace of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. He then enters dummy with a trump, ruffs another diamond, draws trumps ending in dummy and discards three hearts on the established diamonds to make the con-

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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



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Trivial pursuit

American voters will go to the polls the first Tuesday in November to elect the nation's 44th president. How much do you know about those that have held our country's highest office? Plus, Our Picks and chicken tortilla soup.



8A

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Comics

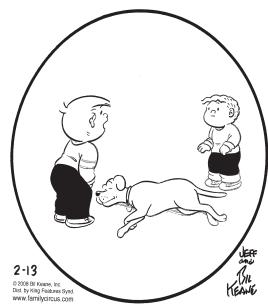
WEDNESDAY 4 KPEJ 5 KOSA 7 KTLE 8 KWES 9 WTBS 11 KMLM 12 WFAA 2 KMID 3 UNI KPBT 13 DISC 20 AMC 21 SPIKE 22 TNT 23 BET 26 DISN 27 ESPN2 28 ESPN 29 SCIFI 64 Midland Spanish Odessa Odessa Telemundo Midland Atlanta Odessa Odessa Discovery Classics Spike TV Atlanta Black Ent. Disney Science Fic. How It's Made Law & Order ews (CC) Raymond r. Swallow ive (CC) ollege 6 :30 Zack & Cody Scene Invstgtn Entertainmen Wheel-Fortune Two/Half Men Be a Millionai Raymond John Hagee How It's Made (CC) (DVS) Movie: First Basketball (CC) American Idol Bia Brother 9 Jpdate Israel t. John's at Al Diablo con La Traicion eal or No Movie: Death CSI: Crime Time Felon 15 Movie: Maryland at Ghost Hunters Futurecar 7 :30 Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS) (CC) (CC) (CC) (CC) Los Guapos eal (CC) (CC) Mulan (CC) (CC) (CC) Family Guy Rico Cortes incinnati Duke (CC) Ghost Hunters upernanny Supernanny Pasion The Moment of Criminal Minds √ictoria _aw & Order House-Payne Liaht of the frican MvthBusters Movie: Sev College 3asketball (CC) (CC) Truth (CC) riminal Intent House-Payne merican Lives (CC) Jnleashed (CC) Southwest TMZ (CC) Smash Lab Don Francisco ecados .aw & Order House-Payne 2 (CC) (DVS) Kansas State Phoenix Suns Ghost Hunters Cashmere Pros vs. Joes :30 Mafia (CC) Mafia (CC) Raymond (CC) (CC) House-Payne (CC) Gangster Life Derek t Texas Tech at Golden (CC) Ajenos Cold Case Vews (CC) Two/Half Men News Noticias Sex and-City Update Israe Charlie Rose MythBuster Movie: Death Movie Specia Zack & Cody SportsCente Ghost Hunters :30 Tonight Show Unleashed (CC) Nightline Nightline Noticiero Univ. Raymond Late Show Titulares v Ma Sex and-City Dr. Young (CC) (CC) Wish II Hell Date Han, Montana ameniaht SportsCenter International NASCAR Now (CC) Jimmy Kimmel II a Hora de la CCM Ministrie CSI: Crime The Insider Law & Order: Letterman Decisiones 10 Items-Less Tavis Smilev uturecar Without a Jamie Foxx Replacements Ghost Hunters Jimmy Kimm :30 (CC) Live (CC) Criminal Intent | Late Late Charles Scott Tavis Smiley Trace (CC) Jamie Foxx Kim Possible (CC) Movie: Turner Scene Invstgt (CC) Extra (CC) Salome (SS) Sign Off Without a **Emperor New** Twilight Zone Reno 911! Conan O'Brie & Hooch Update Israel Star Trek Live (CC) Breaking Bad ormula [George Lopez | The Insider Dell Sanchez (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I WAS GOOD TODAY ... WELL, MAY BE NOT CHRISTMAS GOOD, BUT PRETTY GOOD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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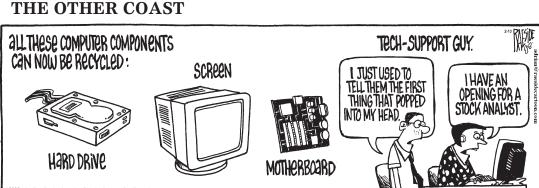


HI AND LOIS









SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2008. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 13, 1935, a jury in Flemington, N.J., found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

On this date:

In 1542, the fifth wife of England's King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery.

In 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James. who was the only student on campus for two weeks.

In 1914, the American of Composers, Authors and Publishers, known as ASCAP, was founded in New York. In 1920, the League of

petual neutrality Switzerland. In 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of

Nations recognized the per-

Dresden. In 1945, the Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

In 1960, France exploded its first atomic bomb, in the Sahara Desert.

In 1980, the 13th Winter Olympics opened in Lake Placid, N.Y.

In 1984, Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

In 1988, the 15th winter Olympics opened Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Today's Birthdays: Former pilot Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager is Actress Kim Novak is 75. Actor George Segal is 74. Actress Carol Lynley is 66. Singer-musician Peter Tork (The Monkees) is 66. Actress Stockard Channing is 64. Talk show host Jerry

Springer is 64. Actor Bo Svenson is 64. Singer Peter Gabriel is 58. Actor David Naughton is 57. Rock musician Peter Hook is 52. Actor Matt Salinger is 48. Singer Henry Rollins is 47. Actor Neal McDonough is 42. Singer Freedom Williams is 42. Actress Kelly Hu is 40. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 36. Singer Robbie Williams is 34. Rhythm-and-blues Natalie Stewart former (Floetry) is 29. Actress Mena Suvari is 29.

Thought for Today: "An explanation of cause is not a justification by reason.", C.S. Lewis, English author (1898-1963).

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS 1 Kids around

6 Fight-card

entry 10 Moby Dick's

17 St. Pete

18 The other side

Korbut

20 "Excuse me?"

23 Cheers setting

25 Bard's

27 Chicken

29 Focal points

32 Deficit color

33 Dress of India

speak

36 Take unnecessary

41 Dog Star

44 Grammy

47 11/11 honorees

offering

53 Word of

54 Be hammy

figurine

masterwork

65 Arduous

66 Form an

journey

alliance

68 Sicilian peak

69 Is overrun

DOWN

2 Time-line

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3 Mariachi's

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6 Back with

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5 Rocket

4 Dash

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1 Where rds.

pursuer **14** Zagreb native

15 Lighten up on

16 Parcel (out)

neighbor

19 Gymnast

nightfall 26 Tractor name

serving

34 Rug, so to

risks

42 Fair feature

category

48 Like angel-food

cake 50 La Scala

52 Sculler's tool

amazement

59 7 Down

60 Verdi

61 Reef material 64 "You said it!"

ANY WHICH WAY by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman

8 Tech's

customer

9 Short-term helper

10 Really go for **67** Disney pooch

11 LP sleeve, for example

12 2007 Peace

Nobelist 13 Conked

21 To this day 22 Parting word

23 Air-gun ammo

24 Graceful steed 28 Runs on TV

29 Aquatic plant

30 What we own 31 USN rank

34 Poke fun at

35 River of Spain

37 Adversary

7 Diamond Head 38 Source of iron

www.stanxwords.com 40 Add fringe to

43 Needle feature

44 USPS part 45 Ideal results

46 Snuck a look

48 Cul-de-_ 49 Like parts in

a kit **51** Frequent

Seattle

forecast **52** Honshu port

55 London gallery **56** "Java"

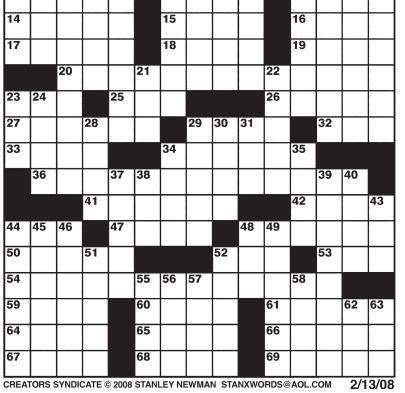
trumpeter

57 Blissful spot **58** of the

above 62 Drive-thru

convenience

39 Slips and such 63 French article



Several city council slots up for grabs in election

wednesday page 9a 2/13/08 11:00 AM Page 1 Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Whether there is a changing of the guard or city representatives stay the same depends on who runs for office and gets the most votes. That process began Monday in Howard County.

Filing is under way in the May 10 elections. Those seeking a seat on the city council in Big Spring, Forsan Coahoma have until March 10 to fill out the proper papers.

Seats up for election on the Big Spring City

Council are District 1, residing within the city held by Stephanie Horton, limits of Coahoma and and District 3, held by Jo Ann Staulcup.

There are three seats up for election on the Coahoma City Council. All at-large seats, they are currently held by Ronnie Dodson, Paulette Lindsey and Dan Shelburne.

Forsan also has three posts up for election. Those are occupied by Mayor Roger Hudgins and council members Rusty Baker and Allie Lansford. They are also all at-large seats.

Forsan can run for office and can vote.

That's not quite the case in the city of Big Spring election. While any eligible person living within the city limits can be a candidate to represent District 1 or District 3, only residents living in those districts will be allowed to vote.

Anyone interested in filing should do so at city hall in Coahoma, Forsan or Big Spring during normal business hours Any eligible person Monday through Friday.

Continued from page 7A

McDonald, who has been a staunch supporter of the transfer since its inception, said she believes area seniors are in for a pleasant surprise.

"I feel like the city is going to do an excellent job with the Senior Center," said McDonald. "We have the background and staff for it. We already own the building. I think it's a natural fit with the city's senior programs, like RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). I feel like we can offer more and have the staff to offer more to the seniors.

"I think the seniors are going to be pleasantly surprised at the care and the increase of activities they are going to see at the center. Things are going to start happening out ing any new claims pre-

Also during the meet-

ing, the council approved:

 Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an election services contract with the Howard County Elections Administrator and a joint election agreement with Big Spring Independent School District.

• Final reading of an ordinance amending ordinance No. 28-2007 providing for increasing the Motel Tax Fund budget for the purpose of funding the construction and resurfacing of the Rose Magers Walking Trail at the Comanche Trail Park.

• Final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Code of Ordinances entitled "In General" by amending Section 1-22 entitled "Report to Council Required" to provide the city attorney shall report quarterly to the city council concernsented during the preceding quarter and any

change in status of pending claims.

• Final reading of an ordinance approving the petition of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC to modify its lighting service tariff pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

• First reading of a resolution allowing the Big Spring Fire Department to offer an education reimbursement package to recently hired employees, part of a package currently being used to recruit new firefighters.

· First reading of an ordinance calling for an election to be held for the District 1 and District 3 seats on the city council and designating one central polling place.

 An ordinance updating the city's building and electrical codes to current standards.

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

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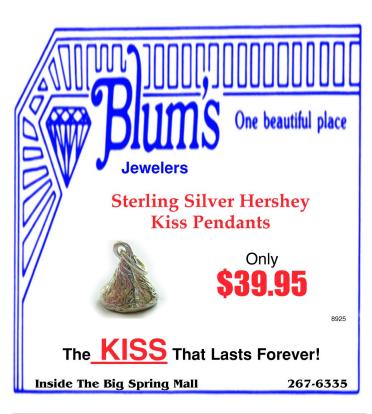
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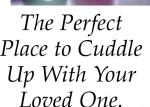




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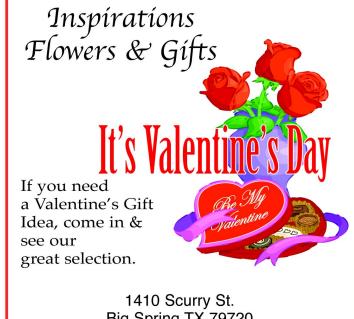
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