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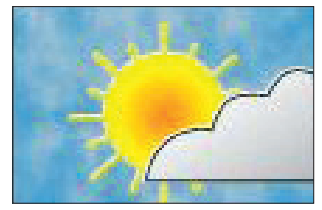
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WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 14, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 37

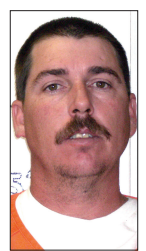
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Plea gets Odessa man 20 years

Guilty of intoxication manslaughter of 56-year-old Big Spring resident

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
An Odessa man indicted for murder and intoxicated manslaughter in connection with the mid-April traffic accident that claimed the life of a local motorcyclist pleaded guilty Tuesday morning.



Henson

Paul Eugene Henson, 36, of 9866 W. 25th St. in Odessa, pleaded guilty to a charge of intoxication manslaughter in 118th District Court, receiving a 20-year

sentence for his part in the death of 56-year-old James Alford Simmons Jr. "It's the maximum sentence allowed by law for intoxication manslaughter," said District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson. "We're pleased with the plea agreement and that it

will keep Mr. Henson off the streets for quite some time." According to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety's regional office in Midland, Simmons was traveling west in the outside lane on I-20 — near the 165 mile marker — on a 2008 Harley

Davidson motorcycle during the early morning hours of April 19 when he was struck from behind by a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Henson. Simmons was taken to Uni-

See **PLEA**, Page 3A

BSISD to begin steps toward trustee election

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
It's almost election time again. Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to enter into an agreement with the Howard County election administrator's office to handle the 2009 trustee elections when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.



District 2 Padilla



District 4 Kennedy

UP FOR ELECTION

The last contested BSISD trustee election was in 2007, officials said. Candidates can file at the district's business office, located across the street from Big Spring High School on 11th Place, during normal business hours from Feb. 9 to March 9. Prospective

See **BSISD**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

D'Amberly Averette readies her animal for showing at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show, which begins today at the county fairbarns. Lambs will be judged beginning at 3 p.m., followed by goats immediately afterward.

Superintendent evaluation on CISD board agenda

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
COAHOMA — School trustees here will evaluate their superintendent's job performance when they hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

Thursday in the administration building board room. January is traditionally the time area school districts hold superintendent evaluations, followed by administrators in February and teachers in March.

Superintendent Randy Brown, who was hired by the board last summer after a stint as CEO of Motley County ISD, currently earns a base salary of \$80,000 on his contract, which runs through June 2011.

Trustees could give Brown a raise and extend his contract at the end of the evaluation, a practice followed by many area school boards. Also Thursday, trustees will select a firm to handle delinquent tax collections for

the district. Lineberger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, an Odessa law firm, currently holds the delinquent tax collections contract for Coahoma ISD. Also

See **CISD**, Page 3A

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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.

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Council firms utility service to sports complex; OKs sale of property to Settles Hotel renovators

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Land issues were at the heart of the Big Spring City Council's Tuesday night meeting, as the group advanced utility services to the Roy Anderson Sports Complex currently under construction and made way to transfer some lots to the Settles Hotel Development Company. The council approved a trio of easements and property deeds that will allow utility services to reach the complex, which is expected to be completed sometime in or close to September. "The state had a sewer line that ran from U.S. Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20 out to their property. Over the years, the city has been maintaining that property," said Darden. "As we got into the development stages of the Roy



Darden

Anderson Complex, we had originally anticipated putting in a septic system. However, because of new regulations governing parks and recreation, we had to get on the sewer. The state agreed to convey that portion of the property to the city, and we would maintain thereafter. That way we can get this sports complex tied onto sanitary sewer. "Also part of this project, Oncor will be providing us with power service from the east of the complex. The power lines run across private property owned by a local merchant. He has agreed to convey an easement for that to the city. Also, Oncor is needing an easement from the city for the transformer that will supply

the power to the facility." The council approved the measures by a unanimous vote. Also during the meeting, the council gave the go-ahead for three parcels of land located in downtown Big Spring to be sold to the Settles Hotel Development Company, which is currently in the process of renovating the historic Big Spring landmark. "We're getting ready to finalize the sale of the Settles Hotel to the Settles Hotel Development Company," said Darden. "During the course of their development, they saw it necessary to look at other properties we, the city, own in and around the Settles Hotel, specifically the property to the south, a half-lot between

See **CITY**, Page 3A

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17498

Steers head into district season with win

Herald Staff Report

ANDREWS — Big Spring's Steers closed their pre-district schedule the best way they possible could — with a win.

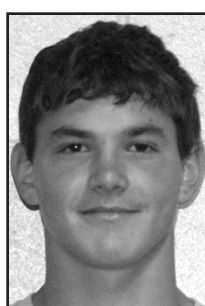
The Steers (7-13) held off rival Andrews, 63-53, giving them some momentum heading into their first District 4-4A game at 7:30 p.m. Friday against the Lake View Chiefs (8-12) in San Angelo.

Big Spring was led by a game-high 28 points from point guard Jerrell Williams, but Williams received some points from a different area than usual Monday.

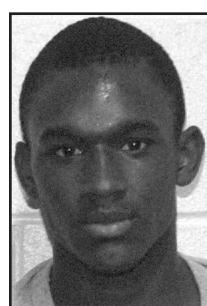
The Steers found its inside game as posts Matt Ritchey and Sidney Parker each scored 11 points. It was a timely appearance by the Big Spring big

men as the Steers played their first of several games without second-leading scorer Tyrone Clemons.

"Tyrone didn't play, we had to go more inside," noted Big Spring Head Coach Marcus Morris. "Sidney and Matt did a nice job moving without the ball and created some nice passing lanes. They had some good looks and made some open shots. Even when Tyrone comes back, we have to get the ball inside. The right way to play basketball is to try to score inside first. We need those guys to continue to be a threat, then



Ritchey



Parker

kick out to one of the guards as defenses adjust to them."

The Steers helped their own cause at the free throw line as well, sinking 16 of 19 attempts at the charity stripe.

The Steers will face a streaking Lake View squad Friday. The Chiefs

have won three consecutive games, including a 72-62 victory over Ballinger Monday. Paul Mesta scored 23 in the game.

The Steers know Mesta all too well, as the senior guard nailed six 3-pointers in a single game against Big Spring last season.

"We've got to make sure we guard that guy. He can really hurt us," said Morris. "This is a big game for us. We're going to be fighting with San Angelo for a playoff spot. We've really struggled down at their place, but we need to put that behind us and come out of there with a win."

Big Spring 14 14 15 18-63
Andrews 10 10 17 16-53

Big Spring (7-13): Sam Segundo 2, Darius McCallister 3, Jerrell Williams 28, Jon Benavides 4, Zamir Linton 2, Matt Ritchey 11, Sidney Parker 11, Jordan Pointon 2.

Andrews: Marquez 3, Bailey 11, Heygood 9, Davis 4, Eggleston 2, Plancarte 9, Santibanez 6, Adamez 2, Rondon 5.

3-point goals: BSHS 5 (Williams 4, McCallister 1), Andrews 5 (Bailey 3). Free throws: BSHS 16-19, Andrews 12-20. Total fouls: BSHS 17, Andrews 13. Fouled out: None.

Lady Steers lose second 4-4A matchup

Plainview blasts scrappy Big Spring squad, 72-26

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

PLAINVIEW — Big Spring's Lady Steers aren't finding offensive production easy to come by early in the District 4-4A girls basketball season.

The Lady Steers mustered just 26 points — just two more than the 24 they posted in the district opener against Frenship Friday — as they fell to defending 4-4A champion Plainview's Lady Bulldogs, 72-26, Tuesday.

However, Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren found plenty to be proud of in the tough loss.

"I am very proud of the effort shown by these girls," said Warren. "Plainview is Plainview. They're going to always be tough. They've got a great program. This was the type of game our girls could have easily quit in, but they never did. They hustled and played hard throughout it. I am very encouraged by the effort I saw tonight."

Big Spring decided to use a matchup 2-3 zone defensively against the Lady Bulldogs, but found Plainview had an easy answer for it.

The Lady Bulldogs simply used superior ball movement around the 3-point line until an open shot was found. The result was 11 of Plainview's 23 made field goals coming from behind the arch.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Valerie Ross (20) is guarded by a Midland Greenwood defender in action from a Lady Steers basketball game earlier this season. The Lady Steers fell to 0-2 in the District 4-4A season Tuesday after suffering a 72-26 loss to Plainview.

Bulldogettes bested by Ballinger, 52-34

By SPRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogettes put up a fight, but it proved to be too little, too late.

The Bulldogettes stumbled out of the gate in their District 7-2A game against the Ballinger Lady Cats, falling behind 25-11 at the half. However, they fought back and got within 5 after three quarters of play, only to see the Lady 'Cats pull away in the final eight minutes to claim a 52-34 victory.

"I was happy with the way the girls played in the middle part of the game," Head Coach Randall Petty said. "The first and fourth quarters really hurt us. We didn't hit a shot from the field in either of those quarters and you can't do that and win."

The third quarter belonged to the Bulldogettes as the trio of Berkley Iden, Kalea Neff and Kylie Gee combined to score 17 of the Bulldogettes' 21 points in the quarter, including consecutive treys by Neff. Jordan Martin buried a trey at the buzzer to cut the Lady Cats lead to 5, 37-32, heading into the final period of play.

However, it was not to be as the Bulldogettes managed only two free throws in the fourth stanza, allowing the Lady Cats to pull away.

"I told the girls that we had them worried at the end of the third," Petty said. "You could see that we had them a bit flustered. Unfortunately, we were just not able to keep it up."

Halfmann lead all scorers with 14 for the Lady Cats while Gee lead the Bulldogettes with 11.

With the loss, the Bulldogettes fall to 0-2 in district play and will next take on the Colorado City Lady Wolves at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Colorado City, in what is quickly becoming a must-win situation for the Bulldogettes.

"I really believe that the third playoff spot is going to be a battle," Petty said. "Ballinger, C-City, Grape Creek and us are all pretty even and I think we can play with any of them. If we are going to make it out of district, we are going to have to start playing more consistently and we have to start Friday night."

Coahoma 1 10 21 2-34
Ballinger 8 17 12 15-52

Coahoma — Gee 11, Neff 8, Iden 5, Shelbi Paige 4, Jordan Martin 3, Alex Moore 1.

Ballinger — Halfmann 14, Lavern Michalewicz 12.

3-Pointers: C — 4 (Neff 2, Paige, J. Martin); B — 6 (Halfmann 3, Michalewicz 2, Matschek).

Robbins leads Buffaloes past Baird, Lady Buffs win late

Herald Staff Report

MERKEL — For the most part, Baird's Bears were able to slow down the Forsan Buffaloes basketball team Tuesday.

Well, that is they were able to slow everybody but senior guard Jeremy Robbins down.

Robbins scored 21 of Forsan's 40 points in a 40-28 victory over Baird in a game that was played at a neutral site in Merkel.

"Baird really tried to slow the game down and we found it hard to get a rhythm going on offense," said Forsan Head Coach Terry McDonald. "I thought defensively we did a good

job of limiting them to only 28 points."

The win improves Forsan's record to 17-2 as the Buffs now prepare for the start of their district season. After having an off day Friday, the Buffs host Iraan at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Buffalo Gym.

Forsan 11 9 8 12-40
Baird 7 5 5 11-28

Forsan (17-2): Jeremy Robbins 21, Tristian Clay 9, Alex Huckabee 6, Evan Burton.

Lady Buffs 52, Baird 50

The Lady Buffs finished their pre-district schedule with a little bit of

drama.

Forsan held off a feisty Baird Lady Bears squad, 52-50, Tuesday at a neutral site in Merkel.

The Lady Buffs sealed the win from the free throw line as they sank two charity shots with three seconds to play.

Amanda Longorio sealed the win with a steal on Bairds' inbounds play.

That opportunity was set up on the defensive end as senior Sandi Golleher drew a charge on the baseline with 10 seconds to play.

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

BSCGA and City of Big Spring hosting Kids Zone golf tourney

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association and City of Big Spring are hosting a tournament in hopes of raising funds to rebuild Kids Zone.

The tourney is set for Saturday with an 11 a.m. shotgun start at the Comanche Trail Park golf course.

It is in a four-man scramble format and players can pick their own team.

The fee is \$100 per team not including a cart. Food will also be available to buy.

All money will go to a fund for helping rebuild Kids Zone, a portion of which was burned in December.

Plaques will be awarded to teams finishing first through fourth place.

Howard College women's basketball hosting Hawks Buddies

The final day of Hawks Buddies, a girls basketball program put on by the Howard College women's basketball team, is set to take place at 9 a.m. Saturday at Dorothy Garratee Coliseum with a pizza party to follow at 11 a.m.

New members are still welcome to sign up for Hawk Buddies and can do so for a late registration fee of \$15.

The program is for girls in kindergarten through eighth grade. Early registration takes place at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Howard College athletic office at 264-5040 and ask for Jamie Fisher or Earl Diddle.

Lady Steers softball team raising funds at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Lady Steers softball team will be having a fundraiser Thursday, Jan. 22, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Pizza Inn.

The Lady Steers will be helping with service and a portion of Pizza Inn's profits during that time will go to the team.

Coahoma softball alumni needed for annual game

The 7th Annual Coahoma Softball Alumni Game has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, and will be played at the Coahoma High School field. Any former player interested in participating should call Amy Dunn at 263-2228 or 394-4323.

Obituaries

LeRoy Nichols

LeRoy Nichols, 89, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Grace Fellowship Church of God with the Rev. Michael Chase and the Rev. Samantha Chase officiating. Burial with military honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

LeRoy was born Oct. 5, 1919, in Alice to Edna and James Nichols. He was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the U. S. Army's 36th Infantry Division in Europe. He was a sergeant and received the European Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars, the American Defense Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart.

LeRoy married Era "Billie" Havner July 26, 1952, in Abilene. She preceded him in death Jan. 9, 2003. In 1965, LeRoy and his partner B.D. Appleton opened West Texas Tool Inc. in Coahoma. LeRoy retired in 1986. He was an active member of Grace Fellowship Church of God for many years, having served on the pastor's counsel, was the church clerk for six years, and usher for many years. He was also active in senior citizen activities where he had many friends. LeRoy was a Cowboy and Longhorn fan, and loved his dogs, Dallas and Austin.

LeRoy is survived by three daughters, Ginny

Byrd of Lubbock, Janece Greco of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Penny Binion and her husband Jimmy of Big Spring; sister, Louise Peavy and her husband Norman of Houston; grandchildren: David Green of Snyder, Denise Jorgensen of Lubbock, Donna Koonce of Snyder, B.J. Greco of Wimberley and Stephen Binion of Big Spring; eight great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and his extended family, B.D. and Peggy Appleton, the James Grimsley Family, J.T. and Linda Boney and his church family.

Pallbearers will be James Ward, Joe Ditto, Cody Ditto, Jason Wilson, Chase Ward and Ricky Grimsley.

The family suggests memorials to the Grace Fellowship Church of God, 603 Tulane, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Carroll Brett Montgomery

Carroll Brett Montgomery, age 63, of Wichita Falls died Jan. 10, 2009, at Hospice of Wichita Falls after a difficult struggle with cancer. Carroll was born in Mangum, Okla., Sept. 7, 1943. He graduated from Duke High School in 1963. He operated heavy machinery in the Altus and Wichita Falls area until his illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and

Marie Montgomery of Duke; a sister, Patricia Mooneyham of Austin; a brother, Dale Montgomery of Altus; and a brother-in-law, August Graumann of Big Spring.

Survivors include Mary Radford of the home; five children, Christie Ward of Cabot, Ark., Randy Montgomery of Vernon, Shelly Morren of Blair, Okla., Carolyn Richardson of Mangum, Okla., and Michael Montgomery of Wichita Falls; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He is also survived by his siblings, Phyllis Graumann of Big Spring, Sherry Blackwell and husband Don of Carson City, Nev., Gary Montgomery and wife Joyce of Friendship, Okla., Neil Montgomery and wife Rhonda of Duke, Okla.; and a sister-in-law, Marietta Montgomery of Altus.

A Memorial Service is planned in Wichita Falls followed by a late spring private service for family members at Riverside Cemetery at Mangum.

Jessie Flores

Jessie Flores, 47, of Garden City died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lucille Moore

Lucille Moore, 75, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday. Places are \$10. Delivery is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be from noon until 3 p.m. at the post, 3202 W. Highway 80. Carry-outs are welcome. Everyone is invited.

Dr. Steven L. Brown will speak on Navigating the Medical Maze during Monday's noon meeting of the Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

at the Howard College Cactus Room. Lunch is \$6. Contact Bo Fryar at jbryar@crcom.net or 399-4510 or Jean Slate at 263-4080 for reservations through Friday. Dr. Brown is a clinical associate professor of internal medicine at Texas Tech University and a cardiologist in private practice in Midland. He has written numerous articles for medical and research journals.

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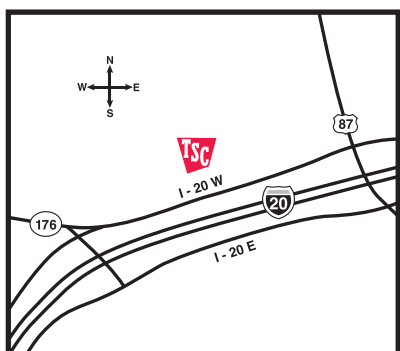
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Area roundup: Bulldogs stop Stanton

Herald Staff Report

STANTON — Two longtime rivals met up on the hardwood in Stanton Monday night and it was the Coahoma Bulldogs, playing their first game as a state-ranked team this season, who came away with a 57-45 victory over Stanton's Buffaloes.

No. 20 Coahoma jumped on Stanton early, outscoring them 15-4 in the first period and simply held onto that lead for the duration of the game.

The Bulldogs were led by Lane Douglass' 14 points, while Cody Sheppard added 12 and Josh Paniagua chipped in 10.

Stanton got 12 points from Tyler Fulton, while Trace Fidle add nine before fouling out of the game.

Coahoma tips off District 7-2A play at 8 p.m. Friday, opening the second

season on the road against rival Colorado City.

Stanton is still a week away from beginning its league play and hosts Wink for one last tuneup at 8 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 15 13 17 12—57

Stanton 4 11 13 17—45

Coahoma (18-4) — Josh Paniagua 10, Mikey Mendoza 5, Lane Douglass 14, Hunter Williams 2, Ray Gutierrez 2, Isaac Garcia 8, Jovi Paniagua 4, Cody Shepard 12.

Stanton (4-12) — Tyler Fulton 12, Trace Fidle 9, Ryan Brantley 7, Jacob Cacaes 2, Ramsey Fleckenstein 3, Nathan Koonce 6, Thomas Ramos 4, Sean Smith 2.

Free Throws — Coahoma 9-18, Stanton 9-19. 3-point goals — Coahoma 3 (Mendoza 1, Garcia 2), Stanton 4 (Fidle 3, Fleckenstein 1). Total Fouls — Coahoma 14, Stanton 18. Fouled Out — Stanton: Fidle.

See **AREA**, Page 3B

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Longorio led all scorers with 19 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Shelby Jones scored a season-high 11 points and also had nine boards.

Tori Gauer added nine and had a big steal with less than a minute to play. Forsan starts district play at 6:30 p.m. Friday, playing host to Iraan, after going 17-6 in pre-league play.

"The girls have played great and we finished our pre-district schedule strong," said Forsan Head Coach Robert Hillger. "Now we start over at 0-0 with a new challenge. Stanton, McCamey and Iraan are all good teams. We're going to have to execute and play well if we want to make the playoffs. I think we're ready and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Forsan 15 11 12 14—52

Baird 9 14 16 11—50

Leading scorers: Forsan (17-6) — Amanda Longorio 19, Shelby Jones 11, Tori Gauer 9.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"Plainview and Frenship are the two best shooting teams we've seen this season," noted Warren. "I think Plainview might have a couple more shooters than Frenship has, though. They were very good from 3-point range."

The Lady Steers threatened the Lady Bulldogs in the second period, when foul trouble caused Plainview to bench some of its players. Twenty-seven total fouls were called on both teams in the first half.

The frequent whistles benefitted Big Spring more in the second period as it slowed the game down some, preventing Plainview from using a full court press. It also allowed the Lady Steers to get to the free throw line, where they converted 10 of 16 charity stripe attempts in the first two periods.

Big Spring was able to put within single digits in the second frame after trailing 20-6 after the opening stanza. However, a Plainview surge late in the first half allowed them to open up a 19-point advantage, 35-16, going into intermission.

Plainview extinguished all hopes of a Big Spring comeback in the third, opening the second half on a 12-0 run.

All 10 players on Plainview's roster scored at least two points. The Lady Bulldogs were led by Lauren Ritter's 13 points off the bench, while starters Laura Castillo and Marisa Gamboa contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Big Spring was led by freshmen Taylor Seaton and Bridgette Tuitt, who scored six apiece. All of Tuitt's

points came from the free throw line in the first half.

Plainview schemed its defense around slowing Tuitt down as she was the lone Big Spring player capable of consistently breaking the Lady Bulldogs' press.

Plainview improves to 2-0 in the district season, while Big Spring falls to 0-2. The Lady Steers next game is Friday as they travel to San Angelo to take on the Lake View Maidens (6-15, 0-2).

Big Spring defeated Lake View in a tournament in Clyde earlier this season and Warren is confident the Lady Steers are capable of doing so again.

"We've already beaten Lake View and I think this girls believe they can do it again," he said. "We match up much better against them than we do Frenship or Plainview. If we play with the same effort we did tonight in San Angelo Friday, then we should be able to come out with a win."

Big Spring 6 10 4 6—26

Plainview 20 15 22 15—72

Big Spring (6-14, 0-2): Linzee Yarbar 1 2-4 4, Taylor Seaton 3 0-0 6, LaShaunte Anderson 0 1-2 1, Valerie Ross 0 4-6 4, Desiree Anderson 1 0-2 2, Bridgette Tuitt 0 6-8 6, Cerbi Ritchey 1 1-2 3, Stormi Smith 0 0-1 0. Totals 6 14-25 26.

Plainview (18-6, 2-0): Emily Welch 2 0-0 5, Lauren Ritter 4 2-2 13, Sandra Delagarza 1 6-10 8, Rebecca Burnett 1 0-0 2, Marisa Gamboa 3 2-2 10, Reneta Glenn 3 1-2 9, Amanda Ramirez 2 0-0 5, Laura Castillo 4 1-1 11, Dylan Chavez 1 0-3 2, Sydney Hearn 2 3-11 7. Totals 23 15-31 72.

3-point goals: BSHS 0, PV 11 (Ritter 3, Castillo 3). Total fouls: BSHS 20, PV 19. Fouled out: None.

Keep up with Steers and Lady Steers basketball daily in the Big Spring Herald.

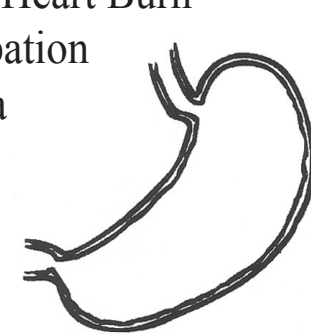
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2007 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT - V-6, Automatic, Local One Owner w/38,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**

2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke Diesel - Black w/Leather, Local One Owner, We Sold It New. **Was \$28,995** **NOW \$23,995**

2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab FX4 4X4 Powerstroke Diesel - White w/Leather, One Owner, Clean Truck. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4 - Stone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner. We Sold It New. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White/Leather, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$21,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/29,000 Miles. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$20,995**

2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch FX4 4X4 Powerstroke Diesel - Dark Copper/Tan w/Leather, Local One Owner. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$27,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Grey, All Power. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$12,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4X4 - Bright Red, Local One Owner, w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**

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2005 Ford Ranger XLT Supercab - Silver, Automatic, 6 Cylinder, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$11,995**

2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - Blue/Silver, Local One Owner. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$18,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Tan w/Cloth, V-8, One Owner w/68,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Maroon, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White w/Cloth, V-8, Local One Owner, w/78,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$10,995**

2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/54,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**

2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$11,995**

2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**

2002 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 4X4 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - Local One Owner w/90,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**

2001 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT 7.3 Powerstroke Diesel - White w/cloth, New Transmission, 132K Miles, Local One Owner. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$12,995**

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2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Crew Cab - V-8, Red w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/73K Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**

2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Crew Cab - Blue w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/28,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$22,995**

2007 Chevrolet Colorado L.S. Crew Cab - White, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/37,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**

2006 GMC Canyon Crew Cab 4X4 SLE - Red, V-6, All Power, One Owner w/27,415 Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$16,995**

2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 H.D./L.S. 4X4 - White, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$19,995**

2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewter, V-6, Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$11,995**

1999 GMC Sierra 1500 Ext. Cab LS - Dark Red, V-6, Local One Owner w/80 Miles. **Was \$10,995** **NOW \$8,995**

1992 Chevrolet S10 Reg. Cab - Teal, Nice Truck, 90K Miles. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**

★★★ DODGE TRUCKS ★★★

2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT - V-8, White, All Power, Local One Owner w/49K Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$14,995**

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Police

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

- JOHN BRECKENRIDGE, 44, of 701 Tubb Loop, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while intoxicated – open container and driving while license suspended.
- DONALD BAKER, 36, of 2303 Cindy, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CLIFFORD QUALLS, 57, of 1214 E. 16th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering the discharge of an officer's official duties.
- KENNETH MACLIN, 51, of 1704 Scurry, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- BRENTON PETTY, 24, of 518 Koberlin, was arrested Tuesday on charges of failure to appear and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- JOSHUA CLARK LAND, 22, of 2106 Carl, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of speeding.
- TRACY LYNN STURGILL, 49, of 538 Westover Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DELEAH TAGGART, 43, of 1214 E. 16th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.
- THEFT was reported:

- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 3200 block of Greenbriar.
- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2500 block of Fisher.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

- CATHERINE MAYBERRY, 38, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- ASHLEY LESHEA STILES, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Sheriff

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 inmates at the time of this report.
- BRADY TIMMINS, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- TRINITY L. OWEN, 29, was arrested

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Nolan. 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 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Bluebird. One person was transported to SMMC.

Local Weather

Thu 1/15 46/29

Sunny along with a few clouds. High 46F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Fri 1/16 58/37

Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

Sat 1/17 66/35

Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Lottery

Mega Millions lottery: 22, 25, 33, 36 and 48. Mega Ball number: 40.

Cash 5: 24-27-3-19-6.

Daily 4: 1-3-2-6. Sum It Up: 12.

Pick 3 night: 4-6-9. Sum It Up: 19.

PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

versity Medical Center in Lubbock, where he died from his injuries April 22 at 9:55 p.m.

According to DPS officials, Henson left the scene of the accident, but was later tracked down in Sweetwater, where he was taken into custody by the Sweetwater

Police Department.

Wilkerson said the original indictment included a murder charge because of the circumstances of the traffic accident.

“Any time someone is in the course of committing another felony offense — in this case it was driving while intoxicated, third or more offense — and causes the death of another, you have the grounds for a felony murder charge,” said Wilkerson.

Wilkerson said he hopes the 20-year sentence serves as a stout reminder to area

motorists.

“If you get behind the wheel intoxicated, this is the chance you're taking,” said Wilkerson. “Not only can you destroy the life of someone else and their loved ones, but you can land yourself behind bars for a very long time.”

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

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LeRoy Nichols, 89, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Grace Fellowship Church of God. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

candidates must be U.S. citizens age 18 or over and live in the area they plan to represent, said Debra Green, BSISD business manager.

Early voting for this year's trustee election will run from April 27 to May 5 at the county courthouse. Voting booths for the May 9 election will be located at Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

Also Thursday, trustees are expected to approve a tax roll in excess of \$1 billion. Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner said the certified roll totals \$1,171,424,629 for the school district.

The certified roll, however, does not reflect the recent settlement between the Big Spring Refinery and the county tax district, meaning that the actual tax roll for the school district will be about \$126 million below the certified level, Waggoner said.

The disparity actually

means little to the school district, she added.

“We'll collect more taxes than we budgeted for this year ... but the state will take (the excess) away from us,” Waggoner said. “Overall, there will be very little impact for us.”

Also Thursday, trustees will consider:

- The district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report for the 2007-2008 school year.

The AEIS report tracks district performance in several areas, including standardized test

scores, graduation and drop-out rates and college preparatory work, and compares how those efforts measure up to other school districts in the state.

“It assesses where you are based on state standards,” said Dr. Michael Stevens, interim superintendent for the district. “It really doesn't tell you how good you're doing in some areas as it tells you how badly you are doing in those areas.”

“We performed comparably to other districts our size,” Stevens

said of the report's conclusions.

“There's definitely room for improvement ... and we'll break down the data from the report and concentrate on those areas we need to improve.”

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

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CISD

Continued from Page 1A

bidding for the work Thursday night will be the Midland firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott.

The delinquent collections con-

tract is renewed on an annual basis, officials said.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- An agreement with West Texas Food Service Co-op.
- A report on the status of construction and renovation projects in the district.

- Reports on enrollment and tax collection.
- Financial statements.
- Superintendent's report.

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

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CITY

Continued from Page 1A

the hotel and the bus barn. There was a sheriff's sale a couple of months ago, and during that sale the Settles Development Company acquired the other half of that property.

“The other two lots are located west of the Settles Hotel, on the southwest quadrant of Third Street and Runnels. This is property we acquired through Main Street Inc. several years ago.”

Darden said Tuesday's agenda item won't give the go ahead to sell the property to the company, but will get the ball rolling on a process that

will allow for it.

“Mr. Ryan and the Settles Hotel development group wanted to have an agreement out there whereby they could acquire that property for their development,” said Darden. “What this agreement will do is allow us to bring back to the council at a later date an entity that we feel can, in turn, give that property to them.”

“We're not selling this property to them through this agreement. I want to make that clear. All this does is say we intend to con-

vey this property to an entity that can, in turn, sell it to them. And then, through an agreement, there will be reimbursement made to the city and the Hotel Settles group through the reinvestment zones.”

Darden told the council the agreement was necessary because the city cannot simply sell a parcel of land to a private individual or corporation.

“To be able to transfer property to an individual, you can only do it through an auction or a sealed bid process,” said

Darden. “Through a 380 agreement, you can give it to a non-profit organization, and they have mechanisms where they can. However, we, as the city, cannot directly convey property to a private individual or corporation. For example, the Big Spring Economic Development Board or Main Street Inc. could convey this property.”

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Nuggets overcome Dirk's 44-point performance

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Nuggets needed two big nights from role players and one veteran move from Chauncey Billups to hold off Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks.

Billups drew a late foul on Jason Terry and made two free throws with 2.2 seconds left, and the Nuggets overcame 44 points from Nowitzki to beat the Mavericks 99-97 on Tuesday night.

Billups scored 23 points and Nene had 20 to lead a balanced attack that helped Denver recover after blowing a 17-point lead.

The Mavericks were upset a foul was called on Terry, who came over to try and block Billups' jumper.

"The guy said I hit him with the body. There was no body at all," said Terry, who had 16 points in the Mavericks' third straight loss. "He kicked his leg out falling down, so I don't see how I could hit him with the body. He saw it different and that happens. Human error."

Billups said there was no question it was a foul.

"When I was up on my shot that's where I felt (the contact)," he said. "A foul's a foul. What can you do? A foul's a foul."

His teammates agreed. "I thought it was a great call," guard Anthony Carter said. "They said he kicked out his leg, but Dirk does it all the time. Things happen, but he still got the contact."

Dahntay Jones had 16 points and Chris Andersen added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Denver. Jones scored seven points in the third quarter, when the Nuggets were trying to hold off the Mavericks, and Andersen had 13 points through three quarters, including a halfcourt buzzer-beater to end the third.

"Those guys won the game for us," Billups said. "It came down to (my) play, but without those guys we don't win this ballgame."

They nearly didn't. Denver led by one when Terry drained a 3-pointer with 2:12 left to give Dallas a 93-91 lead, its first since early in the game, and Nowitzki extended it to four with two free throws.

Billups hit a jumper, Nene tied it with 51 seconds left, and Carter's layup with 28 seconds remaining gave Denver a 97-95 lead. Nowitzki dunked to tie it with 19 seconds to play.

After a timeout, Billups drove to the lane and was fouled by Terry, putting the 90-percent foul shooter at the line.

"I think Jason was right there trying to contest the shot and he kicked his leg out," Nowitzki said. "The league told us that once you kick your leg out this season, it's automatically an offensive foul. It was a tough one to swallow."

The Mavericks trailed by six to start the fourth, and by as many as nine in the final period, before rallying to tie it at 86-all on a 17-foot jumper from Terry with 4:52 left. Billups answered with his second 3-pointer to give Denver the lead again.

The Nuggets took a 64-47 lead in the first minute of the second half but then went cold. After Billups' 11-foot jumper gave Denver a 66-55 lead with 8:27 left, the Nuggets went 6:32 without a field goal.

"Once they made their run and the momentum switched, we got to standing around and jump shooting," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "We had 25 layups in the first half and six in the second half."

The Mavericks tied it at 72 on a free throw by Jose Barea, but Jones converted a three-point play with 1.1 seconds left and Andersen stole Dallas' inbound pass and hit a half-court shot to give Denver a 78-72 lead heading into the fourth.

"I'm not disappointed in the effort," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "I'm disappointed that we couldn't finish it off."

Nene led the Nuggets with 16 points in the first half, nine in the first quarter. Free throws by Billups and Nene and a 3-pointer by Carter pushed the lead to 60-47 at the break.

Billups, who had a season-high 30 against Detroit on Friday, made an impact early. He had eight points and three assists in the first quarter as the Nuggets took a 33-26 lead into the second.

Cowboys LB Spencer arrested after scuffle Sunday

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys linebacker Anthony Spencer was arrested over the weekend after a disturbance outside a downtown Indianapolis nightclub.

Spencer was arrested on preliminary charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct about 3 a.m. Sunday outside the Have a Nice Day Cafe, city police Sgt. Matthew Mount said.

Spencer, 24, was later released without bond. A court appearance was scheduled

for Jan. 15. Police said Spencer and another man were thrown out of the bar when they refused to leave at closing time, then argued with officers and ignored orders to leave.

A bouncer at the nightclub told officers that Spencer had offered to pay for it to stay open past the 3 a.m. closing time set by law and after being told no tried to punch the bouncer, a police report said.

Spencer's agent, Roosevelt Barnes, did not immediately return a call

Monday from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said the team was aware of the arrest but would not comment further until it learned more about what happened.

Spencer, 6-foot-3 and 257 pounds, was the Cowboys' first round draft pick in 2007.

He played at Purdue and is from Fort Wayne, Ind.

He had 34 tackles and two sacks for the Cowboys this season.

AREA

Continued from Page 2B

Garden City 34, Blackwell 24

BLACKWELL — Garden City had a successful start to its district season Monday, fighting back from a 4-point first period deficit for a 34-24 victory over Blackwell.

The Bearkats had tied the score by halftime, but used a dominant fourth period to pull out the win.

Bryan Hirt led all scorers with nine points, while Hayden Halfmann added eight.

Garden City continues district play at 8 p.m. Friday, playing host to Westbrook.

Garden City 3 11 10 10—34
Blackwell 7 7 7 3—24

Garden City (7-8, 1-0) — Bryan Hirt 9, Hayden Hoffmann 8, Cole Schwartz 7, Michael Clarke 4, Brett Chudej 4, Jesse Montes 2.

Blackwell (0-1) — Ware 8, White 6, Stanford 6, Magness 4.
Free throws — GC 4-12, B 7-16. 3-point goals — GC 2 (Hurt 2), B 1 (White). Total fouls — GC 16, B 15. Fouled out — Blackwell: Friar.

Grady 50, Klondike 20

KLONDIKE — Grady's Wildcats improved to 2-0 in district play after putting forth a dominant effort over Klondike Monday.

Grady led by 11 after one stanza and took a 23-7 advantage into the locker rooms at halftime.

Dylan Cox led all scorers with 19 points, while Shane Teague added

13. Defensively, the Wildcats held all but two of Klondike's players scoreless.

No. 19 Grady hosts Borden County at 8 p.m. Friday. Borden County has been ranked as high as 17th.

Grady 14 9 15 12—50
Klondike 3 4 7 6—20

Grady (15-4, 2-0) — Shane Teague 13, Dylan Cox 19, Tyler Matthews 3, Joe Cook 3, Jeffrey Schuette 4, Johan Wiebe 4, Casey Shands 4.

Klondike (0-2) — Ferguson 15, Gregory 5.
Free throws — G 4-10, K 2-4. 3-point goals — G 4 (Teague 2, Cox 2), K 4 (Ferguson 3, Gregory 1). Total fouls — G 4, K 10. Fouled out — K 1 (C. O'Brien).

Sands 75, Dawson 63

DAWSON — The Sands Mustangs picked up their first win of the District 9-IIA season Monday, routing Dawson, 75-63.

Three Mustangs scored in double figures, led by a game-high 27 points from Seth Fry. Xavier Elizondo contributed 17, while Michael Gomez chipped in 10.

Sands 29 13 12 21—75
Dawson 18 16 11 18—63

Leading scorers: Sands (11-7, 1-1) — Seth Fry 27, Xavier Elizondo 17, Michael Gomez 10.
Dawson (8-7, 0-2) — Ramos 25, Brown 14.

Girls Basketball

Sands 63, Dawson 44

DAWSON — Brittnei Blagrave scored an astounding 32 points for the Sands Lady Mustangs Monday night as she led the team past Dawson, 63-44.

The game was in question until the fourth period, when Blagrave and Co. outscored the Lady Dragons 25-13 to pull out the win.

Ashli Stockton complimented Blagrave with 13 points. Sands improved to 1-1 in district play with the win.

Sands 13 14 10 25—63
Dawson 11 12 8 13—44

Leading scorers: Sands (12-10, 1-1) — Brittnei Blagrave 32, Ashli Stockton 13.
Dawson (6-10, 0-2) — Castillo 19, Key 14.

Stanton 41, Trinity 30

MIDLAND — Stanton's Lady Buffaloes pulled out an 11-point victory over the Midland Trinity Lady Chargers Monday, thanks in large part to a 19-point effort from Kelsey Jones.

Jones was complimented by Rachel Fleckenstein, who scored 13.

Stanton led by just 3 points at intermission, but outscored Trinity 13-2 in the third period to pull away.

Stanton 11 11 13 6—41
Trinity 6 13 2 9—30

Stanton — Kelsey Jones 18, Tiffani Saucedo 2, Rachel Fleckenstein 13, Adrian Carrasco 3, Bea Martinez 2, Michelle Graves 3.

Trinity (9-10) — Abby Jones 1, Victoria Olive 7, Elizabeth Midkiff 6, Callie Davenport 8, Sonja Erlandson 6, Kendall Meyers 2.

Free throws — Stanton 10-22, Trinity 4-11. 3-point goals — Stanton 1 (Carrasco). Trinity 4 (Olive 1, Davenport 1, Erlandson 2). Total fouls — Stanton 16, Trinity 18. Fouled out — Trinity: Olive.

Grady 35, Klondike 31

KLONDIKE — Klondike gave

Grady's Lady Wildcats all they could handle Monday night. However, Grady was able to hold on for a 4-point win, 35-31.

Eva Dyck led the Lady 'Cats with nine points, while Julia Schuelke added eight.

Grady hosts No. 19 Borden County (18-6) at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Grady 7 12 6 10—35
Klondike 2 10 10 9—31

Grady (14-7, 2-0) — Eva Dyck 9, Julia Schuelke 8, Kaitlyn Blocker 6, Lauren Robinson 4, Maegan Blocker 4, Katie Meeks 4.

Klondike (1-1) — Maribel Banuelos 11, Kimberly Skiles 8, Torres 6, Kylei Howard 4, Jessica Wiebe 2.

Free throws — Grady 4-7, Klondike 4-4. 3-point goals — Grady 3 (Dyck 1, K. Blocker 2), Klondike 3 (Banuelos). Total fouls — Grady 10, Klondike 12. Fouled out — None.

Garden City 54, Blackwell 15

BLACKWELL — Garden City lived up to its No. 12 ranking in Class A, Division II girls basketball Monday, blasting Blackwell, 54-15.

Paige Niehues scored a game-high 13 points, while Morgan Schwartz chipped in 12. The Lady 'Kats host Westbrook at 6:30 p.m. Friday with hopes of remaining undefeated in district play.

Garden City 18 15 9 12—54
Blackwell 2 2 7 4—15

Garden City (19-3, 2-0) — Melissa Hirt 7, Vikki Garza 6, Macy Schwartz 7, Morgan Schwartz 12, Kate Halfmann 7, Brooke Halfmann 2, Paige Niehues 13.

Blackwell (0-2) — Ware 3, Monroe 2, Bullard 7, Metcalf 3.

Free throws — GC 9-18, B 4-8. 3-point goals — GC 5 (Niehues 3, Macey Schwartz 2), B 1 (Ware). Total fouls — GC 6, B 11. Fouled out — None.



Tuesday, January 20, 2009 Will Be A Special Inaugural Edition

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the time of the ceremony, the paper will be delivered later than normal.

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Burn ban not wanted, but is surely needed

The word came down Monday — Howard County commissioners approved a burn ban at the request of Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan in hopes of staving off wildfires.

While Sullivan didn't use the "C" word — catastrophe — one need only remember the grassfires that turned into far-ranging wildfires a year ago to remember just how catastrophic these fires can be.

Fall has traditionally been wildfire season in West Texas, but any time of year firefighters have to be concerned.

The ban allows county residents to burn trash only if the burn barrel — along with other safety items — meets a strict list of requirements, but Sullivan made it clear he hopes people will "stop burning trash altogether."

"We're strongly suggesting they don't," Sullivan said, and we here at the Herald echo his warning.

Texas Forest Service officials are constantly reminding us that we all need to use extreme caution when it comes to any outdoor burning.

Approximately 90 percent of the wildfires they see are caused by people.

We should all remain vigilant, because here in dry and windy West Texas, it only takes a spark or two to create a serious problem. Simply riding on the rim of a flat tire on your car or pitching a cigarette butt out the window of one's vehicle is enough to create a potential catastrophe.

But many of us would never think about the exhaust pipes and catalytic converters on our vehicles as a potential hazard, but they certainly can be if we're driving over dry brush and grass.

Officials say if you have to pull off the road, be sure to look for a gravel area and stay away from areas where the grass is tall enough to come into contact with your vehicle's exhaust system, because it only takes a few minutes of being parked there to start a small fire that can grow quickly.

That's advice farmers and ranchers obviously need to heed, but also something all of us need to know and remember.

After all, as we've noted before, when it comes to fire in this country, you really can't be too safe.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We have a good vibe and happy attitude, Lord, when we trust in You.

Amen

To Bush: Adios, amigo

President George W. Bush is going out the same way he came in: pretending to be compassionate with illegal immigrants while running an immigrant-bashing administration.

With "amigos" such as Bush, immigrants don't need "enemigos"!

Yet on two separate occasions during the past week, Bush tried to advise his fellow Republicans to be "open-minded" and to avoid being perceived as "anti-immigrant."

Amazingly, the comments came shortly after his Justice Department made yet another ruling that will hurt thousands of illegal immigrants seeking a legal way to stay in the United States.

In a questionable last-minute ruling — only a couple of weeks before the end of the Bush administration — Attorney General Michael Mukasey decided that immigrants facing deportation cannot have their cases reopened when they claim their attorneys made errors. Because illegal immigrants are often victims of fraud by unscrupulous legal advisers and of mistakes by unprepared paper filers, many immigrants with valid reasons for becoming legal could end up being deported.

Just as immigrant rights advocates were blasting the ruling and calling on President-elect

Barack Obama to overturn it, just as it became clear that the Bush administration was trying to diminish yet another constitutional right, Bush was out giving compassion lessons to his fellow Republicans as if he was totally unaware of the outrage over what is happening on his watch.

Could he be so removed from reality that he doesn't realize that while he preaches compassion, his administration often performs with cruelty? Could he be talking from la-la land?

"It's very important for our party not to narrow its focus, not to become so inward-looking that we drive people away from a philosophy that is compassionate and decent," Bush said in a Fox News interview.

"We shouldn't have litmus tests as to whether or not you can be a Republican. And we should be open-minded about big issues, like immigration reform, because if we're viewed as anti-somebody — in other words, if the party is viewed as anti-immigrant — then another fellow may say, 'Well, if they're against the immigrant, they may be against me.'"

On Monday, in his last news conference as president, after recognizing that Republicans "got whipped in 2008," Bush said the GOP must be "compassionate and broad-minded" to be able to make a comeback. He said that conservative opposition to comprehensive immigration reform made it seem as if "Republicans don't like immigrants."

It's true! But you have to wonder why it took him so long to

say that and why he is saying it on his way out. Certainly, he had enough time to lead his party in the direction of the compassion that he preached.

The problem is that he never had the cojones to confront the conservative base of the GOP. You never saw him criticizing their Draconian measures or exerting real pressure on his fellow Republicans to tone down their mean-spirited, xenophobia-mongering rhetoric. He practiced political prostitution, flirting with both immigrants and xenophobes at the same time.

While saying he felt immigration reform needed to be comprehensive, including a legalization plan for illegal immigrants, he kept signing enforcement-only measures into law, and his administration kept setting records for the number of raids and deportations it conducted.

As Bush tries desperately to leave behind some sort of positive legacy amid a multitude of failed policies, we should keep in mind that he failed many pro-immigrant Americans who believed in him and his alleged compassion.

We should note that Bush's approach to immigration was two-faced; he spent the past eight years saying illegal immigrants need to be brought out of the shadows, while his administration kept driving them deeper underground.

This is an amigo who won't be missed.

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From Jack Bauer to Leon Panetta

Sunday's New York Times ran two columns that advocated for investigations into America's use of coercive interrogation techniques — known to editorial writers as "torture" — of enemy combatants, as well as one that opposed a show trial. Also Sunday, television's "24" uber-agent Jack Bauer stood before a U.S. Senate subcommittee investigating intelligence abuses and gave a bombastic Senate inquisitor what-for: "Please do not sit there with that smug look on your face and expect me to regret the decisions that I have made, because, sir, the truth is, I don't."

Asked if he had tortured a suspect, the Kiefer Sutherland character Bauer answered, "According to the Geneva Convention, yes, I did." Actually, according to any standard, Bauer tortured people. He shot and killed suspects, choked his brother and shot a suspect's wife in the leg.

The interrogation methods cited in the New York Times exist in a different universe. Yes, the techniques, which some Bush administration critics want to prosecute, were harsh. But there is strong reason to not call them torture. Grabbing, shaking, open-hand slapping, sleep deprivation, exposure to cold and even the simulated-drowning technique called waterboarding

do not scar. They're not the sort of brutal punishment meted out by Saddam Hussein.

To the contrary, CIA agents have subjected themselves to waterboarding. "It wasn't viewed as ipso facto torture," a former CIA official told me, "because we don't torture our own people."

The harshest methods were not used routinely. The military never authorized harsh techniques, while the CIA used waterboarding — according to CIA Director Michael Hayden and news reports — not widely, but on three high-profile detainees.

Former CIA operative John Kiriakou told ABC's Brian Ross that the waterboarding of Abu Zubaydah "disrupted a number of attacks, maybe dozens of attacks." That's a lot of lives.

Operatives didn't act on impulse, a la Jack Bauer. Kiriakou explained that agents had to ask the deputy director for operations before using any coercive technique.

Democrats in Congress — and a handful of Republicans — have had a fun time trashing the Bush administration for authorizing waterboarding. Senators tried to strong-arm now-Attorney General Michael Mukasey to classify waterboarding as torture during his confirmation hearings, and failed — perhaps because, at the time, despite the rhetoric, Congress itself had failed to ban the practice.

President-elect Barack Obama has said that waterboarding is torture and hence verboten in Obamaland.

But do Democrats really want

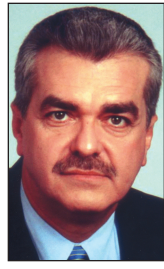
to ban the potential to use waterboarding and other enhanced interrogation techniques? Already news outlets are reporting on the downside to barring these techniques.

The Washington Post ran a story on the "perilous balancing act to fulfill his pledge to make a clean break with the detention and interrogation policies of the Bush administration while still effectively ensuring the nation's security." Newsweek reported on a Senate vote last year to require that CIA use only interrogation methods from the Army Field Manual: "These are extremely restrictive: strictly speaking, the interrogator cannot ever threaten bodily harm or even put a prisoner on cold rations until he talks. Bush vetoed this measure, not unwisely. As president, Obama may want to preserve some flexibility. (Suppose, for instance, that after a big attack the CIA captured the leader who planned it; there would be enormous pressure to make the terrorist divulge what attack is coming next.)"

Suppose? No need. The CIA waterboarded Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

Ah, but that was under Bush. With Obama in the White House, the lexicon will change, from "torture" to "flexibility" to interrogate in the interests of national security.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfcronicle.com.
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Parent's Corner: Art Linkletter revisited

I received a letter the other day that reminded me of the old Art Linkletter Show. As the show progressed, Linkletter would question kids and their reply always brought a laugh from the audience. Such were my thoughts as I enjoyed the following stories and I think Art Linkletter would have enjoyed them too.



DARRELL RYAN

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard

my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

Another was a story about a woman who was trying to get ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

A funny one was the time a little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover.

The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

Then there was the story about a policeman doing a routine vandalism report at an elementary school when he was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at his uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?"

"Yes," he answered and continued writing the report. "My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right," he told her. "Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward him, "would you please tie my shoe?"

There was also the story about a policeman who was at the end of the day parking his police van in front of the station.

His K-9 partner, Jake, was in the back of the car barking. The police-

man said he saw a little boy standing on the corner staring. "Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," the policeman replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at him and then towards the dog in the van and said, "Did he commit a crime?"

The final story I would like to share was about a little girl who had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!" And thus the old saying, "Out of the mouth of babes!"

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

Some help for those with impaired vision

Dear Savvy Senior,

What types of products or technology can you recommend to help people with severe vision impairment? My wife has macular degeneration and I'm looking for some good low vision helpers.

Looking Around

Dear Looking,

With around 14 million Americans living with incurable vision impairment today, more and more low-vision products are being developed that can help with almost any need. Here's what you should know.

Low Vision Aids

There are literally hundreds of products on the market that can help improve the quality of life for the visually impaired. For example, to help with daily living tasks, you can find a wide array of "talking" or "jumbo-sized" products such as clocks, watches, remote controls, thermostats and kitchen aids, as well as a huge variety of magnifiers. There are even home telephone devices that can dial a person by simply saying their name, and drink indicators that you can hook onto your coffee cup that beep when it's almost full.

You can find these products and many others online at sites like www.independentliving.com or call (800) 537-2118, and www.maxiaids.com or (800) 522-6294. Or visit www.abledata.com, a Web portal that lists almost every type of low vision product and where you can buy it.

In addition to daily living helpers, there are some newer high-tech devices you should know about that offer some incredible features. Here are some to check out.

Desktop video magnifiers: Also known as closed circuit TVs, these are devices that help with reading, writing and looking at pictures. While this type of technology has been around for a while, more styles and variations are available today with prices ranging from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Some good places to find these are at: www.enhancedvision.com or (888) 811-3161; www.freedomvision.net, (800) 961-1334; www.humanware.com, (800) 722-3393; www.optelec.com, (800) 826 4200; www.clarityusa.com, (800)-575-1456; and www.freedomscientific.com, (800)-444-4443 — which also sells a machine (called SARA) that can read printed material aloud without a computer.

Portable video magnifiers: While hand-held magnifiers have been around for years, today there's a variety of small, high-tech options that provide much more clarity, contrast and flexibility than an ordinary magnifying glass. Some of these devices can even freeze an image on the screen, allowing you to take the image to another location. Prices range from around \$250 to over \$1,000. You can find these devices at many of the same sites that sell the desktop video magnifiers previously listed, or if you're looking a hands-free magnifier the JORDY glasses (\$2,795; www.enhancedvision.com) are great for reading and watching television.

Mobile reader: Another fantastic device is the KnfbReader (around \$1,500; www.knfbreader.com; (877) 547-1500). This is actually a cell phone with a camera that lets you take a photo of any text, and

THE SAVVY SENIOR

the phone reads it back to you aloud.

Low-vision GPS: At www.humanware.com you can find the Trekker Breeze (\$895), a hand-held global-positioning system that announces the names of streets and intersections as you are walking or riding. With the press of a button, it tells you your location.

Cell phone: The best cell phone on the market for low vision users is the Jitterbug by Samsung (\$147, www.jitterbug.com, (800) 918-8543). It offers extra large buttons and display along with voice dialing, or you can opt for the Jitterbug OneTouch, which has only three buttons — one for 911, one for any number you program in, and one for a dedicated phone operator who will place other calls for you.

Computer aids: If you're looking to customize a computer for low-vision, you'll be happy to know that this can be done for free. You simply turn to your computer's operating system where you can adjust your settings to increase the text and icons size, change colors and add contrast. Microsoft users should go to www.microsoft.com/enable and Apple users to www.apple.com/accessibility for instructions. Another free option that was recently created to enhance Internet viewing is a software program that you download at www.low-browse.org. Created by Lighthouse International, this software lets you customize and increase the size of the Web to make it easier to see. It can even

read text aloud. This software is compatible with Windows, MacOS and Linux, but requires the Firefox browser which can also be downloaded for free.

Savvy Tips: For low vision help and product recommendations I highly recommend seeing a vision rehabilitation professional. To find one in your area visit www.lighthouse.org — click on "Help Near You" or call (800) 829-0500. Also note that neither private insurance nor Medicare cover low-vision products.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvyse-nior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

sudoku

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The One and Only Way

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 2
♥ 10 6 5
♦ A J 3
♣ K 9 8 4 3
WEST
♠ K 9 7 6
♥ Q 9 8 7 4 3
♦ 2
♣ A J
EAST
♠ A Q 10 8 5 4
♥ J 2
♦ Q 6 5
♣ Q 6
SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ A K
♦ K 10 9 8 7 4
♣ 10 7 5 2

The bidding:
East 2♠ South 3♦ West 4♠ North 5♦
Opening lead — six of spades.

In many deals, declarer must base his plays on the assumption that the opposing cards are distributed in a certain way, because if they are not, he cannot succeed. Once the declarer has placed the cards in the position he needs them to be, all that remains is to execute his plan.

Take this case from the 2008 New England Knockout Teams. North-South bid aggressively to reach a very shaky five-diamond contract. North's raise to five diamonds was a two-way action: The contract might

make opposite the right hand, and there was also no assurance that four spades could be defeated.

East won the opening spade lead and continued a spade. South, Martin Fleischer, could see that to have any chance of making the contract, the opposing clubs would have to be divided 2-2, and West would have to have the ace. Then there was also the matter of not losing a trick to the queen of diamonds.

With an eye toward resolving both issues simultaneously, Fleischer ruffed East's spade return, cashed the A-K of hearts and then led a club toward dummy. West rose with the ace and returned the heart queen, ruffed by South after East discarded a spade.

Continuing with his original premise — that the contract could not be made unless the clubs were 2-2 — Fleischer next led a club to the king and was gratified to see both opponents follow suit.

Only one problem remained — how to handle the diamonds — but this was no longer really an issue. East had already turned up with exactly two clubs and two hearts and, presumably, six spades for his weak two opening, so he had to have three diamonds. Fleischer therefore cashed the ace of diamonds and led a diamond to the ten to bring in his game.

Tomorrow: Resolving a difficult guess.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Be careful what you choose to make a big deal over. The Virgo moon, though she's a usually productive and supportive partner, has a tendency to micromanage today.

Those details that ought to be overlooked in the name of social grace may loom larger than necessary in our mind's eye. Resolve to be bigger than your initial reaction to things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Old problems resurface. Make progress in this regard so you can avoid sharing the all-too-familiar chorus of your discontent. That tune is tired and loved ones will thank you for not playing it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Finding a balance between what could be two full-time jobs can seem impossible. Look around. Someone has been desperately waiting to help you satisfy both demands.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A mood of generosity, playfulness and forthrightness fills you. What a fantastic time to express your romantic side! Take your affection, your honesty and your love of life and share them with someone close.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An opportunity to show off your talents arrives and is boosted nicely by a cheerful, light-hearted, generous



HOLIDAY MATHIS

mood. If you can't get noticed with the support of this expressive combination, then you're just not trying. Ham it up!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll muster the ingenuity and direction to make your work tangible, lucrative and enduring. It sounds difficult, but you've got a knack for knowing and providing what people need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The philosophy you share with others will support you. Although it may come in the form of a mild, fleeting thought, the solidarity you feel in that moment will reinforce the knowledge that you are not a lone traveler.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A rare, highly sociable atmosphere offers the opportunity for a lazy day of companionship and fun. Enjoy some leisurely banter with cronies and the exchange of ideas in good conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The questions you ask a cohort might satisfy more than just your curiosity; your interest may be the candor and thoughtfulness he or she has been needing. This is an open door that leads to a surprising place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Regarding your role in a certain group setting, the days of passive involvement are gone. You're ready for the blood, sweat and tears. Keep the inertia going and the tears to a minimum by recruiting loved ones as teammates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Boring, thankless jobs and piddling little annoyances will happen. But from such moments your creativity emerges and shines like a searchlight for solutions. As always, you will surface in much better spirits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The willingness to solicit your partner's opinions will come easily. Clarify each of your perspectives on important issues, keeping in mind that ideas are fluid and in a constant state of flow and change.

COSMIC CAREER SPECIAL: GEMINI AT WORK: Work shmerk. If it's not fun, it's not for Gemini. Does that mean that the twins lack a work ethic? Not at all. Gemini can commit and hang in there until the job is done, so long as Gemini thinks it's a fun job. And what Gemini thinks is fun might surprise others.

Sweeping the floor can be a real riot to this open-minded, upbeat sign. And Gemini can enjoy running the coffee pot as much as he or she enjoys running the company.

Gemini is always looking for the amusements of work and therefore always finds them. For example, if there is a funny monkey website that allows a chimp in a wig to say,

"The board meeting has been changed to 3 o'clock," Gemini is all over it.

But when the work ceases to be fun, Gemini is the first one out the door. So what is Gemini's superpower at work? Salesmanship. Business is about sales, and sales are about communication, which is Gemini's specialty. With focused training Gemini can be sales superstars with the added benefit of not having to run everything in order to feel fulfilled.

In many companies, the top earners are the salespeople and not the CEOs!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jason Bateman was already a Hollywood veteran by the time he played the child antagonist of "Silver Spoons." This Capricorn is busier than ever now, directing and acting in at least five new projects in 2009 including a movie based on the critically acclaimed television series "Arrested Development." His natal Venus in Pisces indicates a highly intuitive approach to choosing projects.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I'm a 15-year-old girl whose family is struggling in today's economy. Not long ago, my mother seemed more and more agitated when she came home from work. Soon I preferred to go to sleep before she came home so I wouldn't have to hear her yell and cry. The other day, I saw a commercial on TV for an antidepressant.

I did some research and took a self-test as if I were in my mother's shoes. She had some symptoms, but I couldn't tell about others. Still, it worries me a lot. Are these signs of clinical depression?

If so, how should I go about talking to my mom about it? Should I wait until my next checkup and ask my doctor in private, mentioning my observations to him? I don't know if I'm overreacting or if she really is depressed. Please help. — *Concerned in Ohio*

Dear Ohio: It sounds more like your mother may be unhappy about something very specific, perhaps her job situation, rather than suffering from clinical depression.

You sound like a caring, sensitive daughter. Instead of talking to your doctor, try talking to your mother. Tell her you've noticed that she seems despondent and you've heard her crying. Let her know it

worries you and ask how you can help. If Mom has close family nearby, you might also confide your concerns to them.

Dear Annie: Two years ago, my husband was in an auto accident and suffered a severe traumatic brain injury. In the beginning, people offered to help. Many sent cards and money. His co-workers moved furniture and mowed my yard.

His best friend helped us build a sunroom with a bath so my husband could return home after six months in the hospital.

I work a full-time job, take care of my husband and am a mother. I want to ask the world to remember the caregiver because we are susceptible to burnout, which leads to anxiety, depression and health problems.

It's sad enough we feel isolated and alone when everyone else's life goes back to normal. My husband has a brother and sister who rarely visit. Early on, I asked them for help and they refused, saying they were "too busy."

I have no family members who can give me a break. Please tell your readers if they can't relieve the caregiver to offer them a meal or a gift certificate to a restaurant with home delivery.

Maybe bring in a cleaning service, offer to wash a load of clothes or run an errand. Sometimes you just need to show up on the doorstep because as caregivers we don't want to appear inept. Anything and everything is appreciated. — *Trying Not To Drown*

Dear Trying: Many people are reluctant to offer help because they aren't sure it's wanted or needed, and they are afraid to be stuck with a long-term commitment they may not be able to fulfill. But, as you've made clear, even a one-time offer is appreciated. Thanks for the good suggestions.

You might also contact the Family Caregiver Alliance (caregiver.org) 1-800-445-8106 for information and assistance.

Dear Annie: "Not the Land of Enchantment" said she was having a hard time finding friends in her new location.

I have a couple of tips for her. I joined a local gym that is for women only. Not only does the exercise make me feel better physically, but it also greatly improves my mood while getting me out of the house.

It has the added benefit of allowing me to meet other women. She also should volunteer at her children's school. There is no other place where you can find people with more in common. She might also consider a part-time job. I think stay-at-home moms especially need that outside contact to help maintain their own identity apart from their family. — *Louisville, KY*

Dear Louisville: Thanks to you and other readers who made some great suggestions. We hope she follows your advice.

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

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News in brief

Nation's 1st execution of 2009 today in Texas

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Even a defense lawyer for convicted murderer Curtis Moore acknowledged the horrific nature of the three slayings that convinced a jury to send Moore to death row.

"Facts-wise, it was difficult because of the nature of how the killings happened and the fact the bodies were burned," George Gallagher recalled. "You have an uphill battle."

Moore, 40, was set for lethal injection Wednesday evening. His execution, the first of the year in the United States, would be the first of six scheduled for this month in Texas, the nation's most active death penalty state.

Moore's appeals in the courts were exhausted. On Monday, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected a clemency request that cited his possible mental retardation as reason to spare him.

Moore already made one trip to the Huntsville death house. In 2002, less than three hours before he was to receive lethal injection, the U.S. Supreme Court stopped his scheduled execution so claims from his attorneys that he was mentally retarded and ineligible for execution could be reviewed. In October, the high court refused his appeal, clearing the way for Wednesday's execution date to be set.

Man sought in Okla. killings arrested in Texas

EL RENO, Okla. (AP) — A man charged with murdering his girlfriend and her four young children was in jail in Texas early Wednesday awaiting extradition to Oklahoma while investigators searched for a motive.

Joshua Steven Durcho, 25, was arrested Tuesday night in Texas' Hamilton County after a one-vehicle crash on state Highway 36, said a Texas Department of Public Safety communications officer in Waco who declined to give his name. Authorities checking Durcho's identity determined he was wanted by Oklahoma authorities.

He was treated for minor injuries at a Hamilton, Texas, hospital and released to a state trooper who took him to the county jail, where he was being held without bail, the DPS officer said. He did not know if Durcho had an attorney.

Prosecutors charged Durcho with five counts of first-degree murder on Tuesday afternoon, a day after an El Reno police officer conducting a welfare check found Summer Garas, 25,

and her children dead in their apartment in the Oklahoma City suburb. The children ranged in age from 3 to 7.

Judge seals psychiatric records of murder suspect

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge has sealed the psychiatric records of a man accused in the deaths of six people in a cross-country killing a day after details from the records were aired on television, according to a newspaper report.

Travis County Assistant District Attorney Dayna Blazey had said two doctors told a judge that Paul Devoe was mentally incompetent. Judge Brenda Kennedy signed a motion last month that Devoe was mentally incompetent to stand trial. He will be sent for treatment to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital in North Texas.

On Tuesday, an Austin American-Statesman reporter tried to get copies of psychiatric reports by the two physicians. Although copies of the reports were in Devoe's case file at the Travis County district clerk's office, the reports were sealed later that evening by Kennedy, the newspaper reported Wednesday for its online edition. Phone messages to Kennedy's office were not returned Tuesday night, the newspaper reported.

Israeli aircraft pound dozens of Gaza targets

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Militants in Lebanon sent rockets crashing into northern Israel on Wednesday, while Israeli aircraft pounded a Gaza cemetery, Hamas weapons positions and tunnels used for smuggling, witnesses and the military said Wednesday.

The rockets from Lebanon landed in open areas near the town of Kiryat Shmona, causing no injuries or damage, Israeli police said. Residents of northern Israel were instructed to head to bomb shelters following the second attack from Lebanon in less than a week.

The rockets have fueled Israel's fears that militants in Lebanon could try to open a second front in solidarity with Gaza's Islamic militant Hamas rulers.

The Israeli air and ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 940 Palestinians, half of them civilians, according to Palestinian hospital officials. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Wednesday in diplomatic efforts to end the vio-

lence, which began 19 days ago.

Thirteen Israelis have also been killed, four of them by rocket fire from Gaza.

Obama faces crucial test in his own party

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama eventually will gain access to the second half of the \$700 billion financial bailout fund — politics notwithstanding and more likely sooner than later.

The test is whether he can persuade enough members of his own party to support an extraordinarily unpopular program and avoid an embarrassing veto fight with a Democratic-led Congress at the outset of his presidency. A critical vote could come as early as Thursday.

Obama faces a handful of freshmen Democrats who opposed the bailout as they campaigned in 2008 and more than a dozen Democratic senators who are up for re-election in 2010, three of whom — Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Russ Feingold of Wisconsin and Ron Wyden of Oregon — voted against the first installment

of the money.

These Democrats certainly are weighing the political implications of their next steps.

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., who supported the bailout last fall and is up for re-election in two years, described himself as "open-minded but skeptical."

Democrats press ahead on Geithner nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Capitol Hill grilling is likely for Timothy Geithner, President-elect Barack Obama's pick to head the Treasury Department, after public revelations he failed to pay \$34,000 in taxes several years ago.

Senate Democrats are pressing to schedule a quick confirmation hearing for Geithner on Friday, hoping to tee up swift approval of his nomination on Inauguration Day. But newly released information about the tax goofs by Geithner, regarded as a brilliant financial markets specialist well-positioned to deal with the nation's considerable economic problems, could complicate the process.

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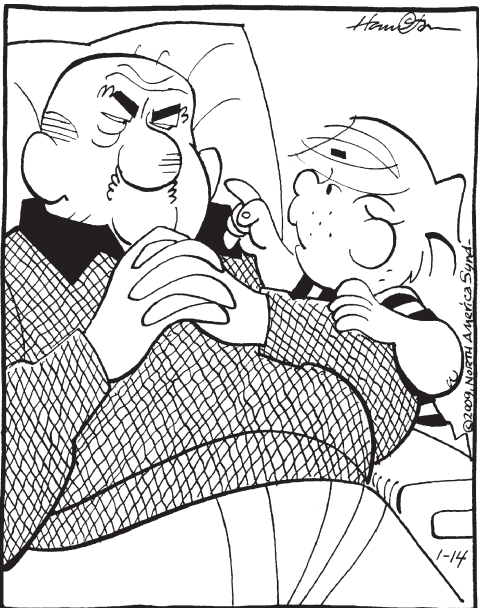
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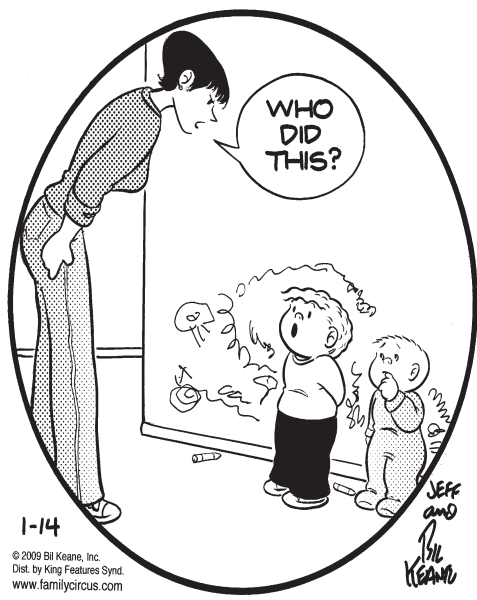
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Israel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Danger, Anne Archer	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	So Raven	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Mark	News-Lehrer	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie Sp.	Montana	NFL Live	College Basketball	College Basketball Tech.
7 :PM :30	Lost	Lost	Cuidado-Angel	American Idol	Christine	Doña Barbara	Knight Rider	Payne	Israel	To Be Announced	Time Wrp	Movie: Wild Bill, John Hurt	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: You Got Served	Movie: Get a Clue		
8 :PM :30			Fuego en la Sangre		Criminal Minds	El Rostro de Analia	Law & Order: SVU	Payne	Light of the Southwest		MythBusters	UFC Un-leashed	Movie: The Rookie, Jay Hernandez			Wizards	College Basketball: Baylor at Texas A&M.	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Spurs
9 :PM :30			Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	Law & Order	Browns			Volcanoes	Movie: Pose, Charles Lane	UFC Un-leashed	(15) Movie: The Rookie, Jay Hernandez		Wizards	College Basketball: Baylor at Texas A&M.	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Spurs
10 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Payne	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	UFC Un-leashed	CSI: NY	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de La Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Sex & CCM	Smiley	Smiley	Time Wrp	Movie: Wild Bill, John Hurt	Disorderly Con.	Amazing Video	Law & Order	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	
12 :AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Clasicos Humor	Friends	Entertain Paid	Rosas	Poker After Dark											
1 :AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Clasicos Humor	Friends	Entertain Paid	Rosas	Poker After Dark											

DENNIS THE MENACE



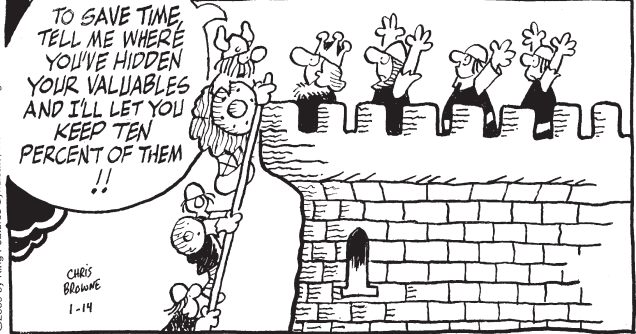
"MY DAD SAID THAT WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING ENERGY... YOU'RE THE CHAMP!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

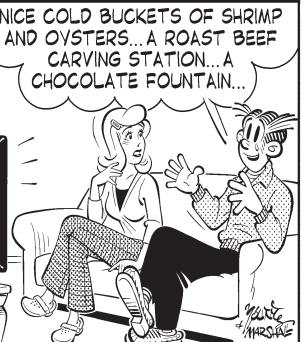


"Which color? The purple or the green?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



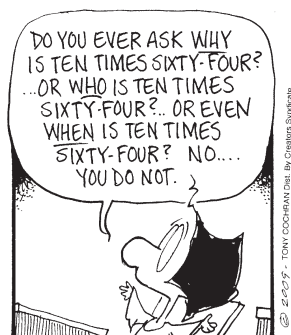
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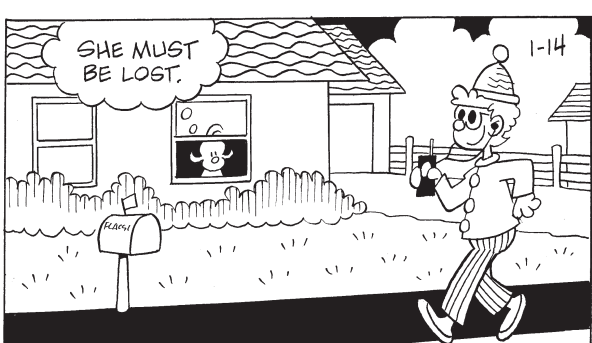
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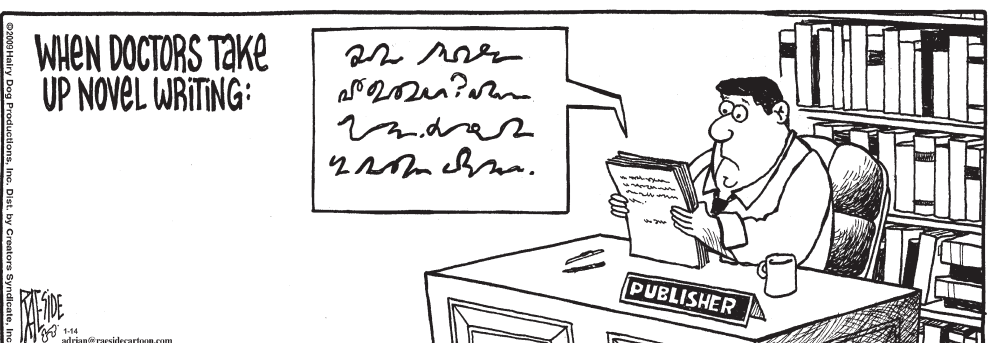
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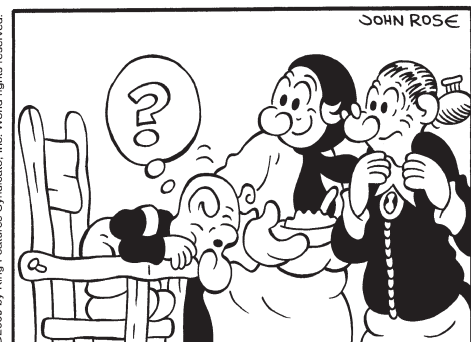
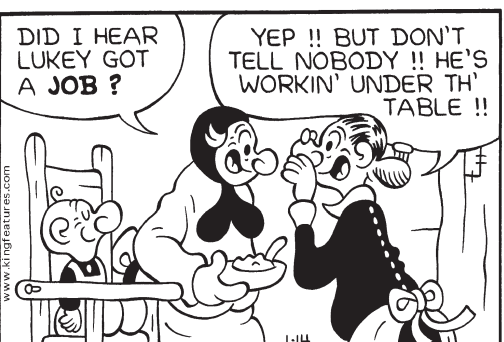
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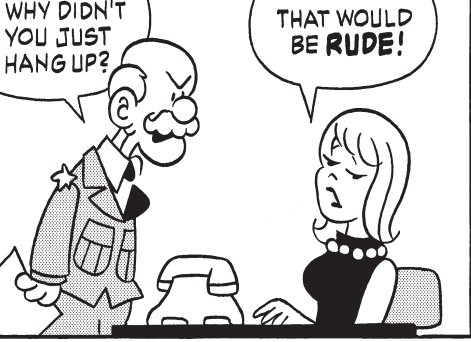
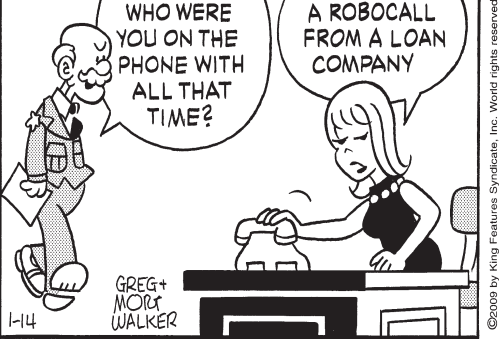
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2009. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 14, 1969, 27 people aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise were killed when a rocket warhead exploded, setting off a fire and additional explosions that ripped through the ship off Hawaii.

On this date: In 1639, the first constitution of Connecticut — the "Fundamental Orders" — was adopted.

In 1784, the United States ratified a peace treaty with England, ending the Revolutionary War.

In 1858, French emperor Napoleon III escaped an attempt on his life.

In 1900, Puccini's opera "Tosca" had its world premiere in Rome.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

and French General Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as the host, or "communicator," as he was officially known.

In 1953, Josip Broz Tito was elected president of Yugoslavia by the country's Parliament.

In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with a pledge of "segregation forever."

In 1970, Diana Ross and the Supremes performed their last concert together, at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

In 1993, talk show host David Letterman announced he was moving from NBC to CBS.

Today's Birthdays: CBS commentator Andy Rooney is 90. Blues singer Clarence Carter is 73. Country singer Billie Jo Spears is 72. Singer Jack Jones is 71. Singer-songwriter Allen Toussaint is 71. NAACP Chairman Julian Bond is 69. Actress Faye Dunaway is 68. Actress Holland Taylor is 66. Actor Carl Weathers is 61. Singer-producer T-Bone Burnett is 61. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is

60. Rock singer Geoff Tate (Queensryche) is 50. Movie writer-director Steven Soderbergh is 46. Actor Mark Addy is 45. Fox News Channel anchorman Shepard Smith is 45. Rapper Slick Rick is 44. Actor Dan Schneider is 43. Actress Emily Watson is 42. Actor-comedian Tom Rhodes is 42. Rock musician Zakk Wylde (Ozzy Osbourne Band) is 42. Rapper-actor LL Cool J is 41. Actor Jason Bateman is 40. Rock singer-musician Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters) is 40. Actress Jordan Ladd is 34. Retro-soul singer-songwriter Marc Broussard is 27. Rock singer-musician Caleb Followill (Kings of Leon) is 27.

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Answer to previous puzzle

AMPS	AVID	STAR
SILO	BODE	TUBAS
ANON	RTEs	PRIZE
PIPS	SQUEAK	ENDOW
	UPS	STEERS
SPIRIT	SPIED	
CARAT	CART	TODD
ALOT	PIXIE	AGED
TENT	ITEM	WIRED
	LINES	OILERS
ACCED	ANT	
TORTE	BIG	CHEESE
OPERA	ASIA	ABEL
PEDAL	SELL	CANS
SOPS	KEEL	HYDE

Newsday Crossword

STEP TO THE REAR by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Request from a photog
- 6 Blunted blade
- 10 British art gallery
- 14 Church law
- 15 ___ Jones' locker
- 16 All fired up
- 17 Creative student's quest
- 19 Like a storied piper
- 20 Stuff on a driveway
- 21 Currier's partner
- 22 Appropriate for a formal dinner
- 24 Goes hungry
- 26 Dracula writer
- 27 Anthem contraction
- 28 Applied the brakes
- 32 Gators' kin
- 35 Show appreciation
- 36 Subtle glow
- 37 Military echelon
- 38 Talks indistinctly
- 39 Former Nintendo rival
- 40 Tippy-top
- 41 Long-eared leaper
- 42 More adorable
- 43 Borscht
- 45 Butter unit
- 46 Some family cars
- 47 Picks out
- 51 Living-room piece
- 54 Leave in stitches
- 55 End of a bray
- 56 Opera piece
- 57 New moon, for one
- 60 Rocky's workplace
- 61 Send out
- 62 With 35 Down, December temp
- 63 Pay to play
- 64 Promgoer's partner
- 65 Water-loving mammal
- DOWN
- 1 Skedaddles
- 2 Corday's victim
- 3 IV part
- 4 ___ Alamos, NM
- 5 Salad greens
- 6 Outer limits
- 7 Links benchmarks
- 8 First wife
- 9 Optometric solution
- 10 Carpentry device
- 11 Alamo rival
- 12 Rail supports
- 13 Whirling water
- 18 "As ___" (letter closing)
- 23 Like a new recruit
- 25 Part of a launch vehicle
- 26 Boom-box sound
- 28 Soup eater's sound
- 29 Four-handed piano tune
- 30 Twist the arm of
- 31 Carson's TV predecessor
- 32 Bellyacher
- 33 10K, for
- 34 Treater's words
- 35 See 62 Across
- 38 Dug a hole
- 42 "Banana Boat Song" genre
- 44 Seek damages from
- 45 Tolerate
- 47 Election Day list
- 48 Protesters' chorus
- 49 Try a tidbit of
- 50 Give an oath
- 51 Author Paretsky
- 52 Green isle of poetry
- 53 Windshield feature
- 54 Peeved state
- 58 Thurman of film
- 59 Thing to tip

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
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Helen Hernandez
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Hillary Edwards
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Kara Freeman
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Kim Howell
SMMC



Linda Kaye Stallings
Saber Petroleum



Maruca Haas
Hillside Properties



Mitzi Knight, R.M.A.
Family Medical Center
Women's Services



Rhonda Hoffman
Ladd Hoffman, M.D.



Shelley Smith
West Texas Centers for MHMR



Trisha Hobdy, R.M.A.
Family Medical Center
Women's Services

Meet Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Healthy Woman Advisory Council. With the leadership and guidance of this amazing group, we introduce a new, free resource designed to empower women with information to maintain a healthy body, mind and spirit for themselves and their loved ones. Join our kickoff event and be part of the fun from the start.

Thursday, January 22

Old Hardware Store • Downtown Big Spring

4:30 p.m. FREE Women's Expo & Health Fair
Health screenings, partner exhibits, giveaways

6 p.m. Main Event/Dinner – \$20/person
Dinner, motivational speaker, giveaways, door prizes

Laugh and learn with Suzanne Metzger, PhD, as she treats us to a thought-provoking talk on the value of a positive attitude on everyday life. Dinner seating is limited, so reserve your space early. **Call 268-4842 or visit www.smmccares.com.** FREE monthly Healthy Woman events will be educational, fun and support a woman's unique role as the family healthcare manager.

To join Healthy Woman, go to www.smmccares.com or call 268-4842. Membership is free, and the benefits last a lifetime.

HEALTHY WOMAN
A SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER RESOURCE

