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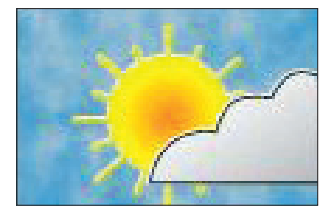
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 16, 2010



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CISD smiles over student head count

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Enrollment at Coahoma public schools is pretty much where officials expected it to be — and that's good news.

Coahoma ISD trustees will hear the latest enrollment news for the district when they hold their monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the administration board room.



Brown

"There's not a whole lot to this meeting," Superintendent Randy Brown said. "It's probably the last board meeting of the year and it's a fairly light agenda."

Highlighting the routine agenda will be an enrollment report that will indicate that a drastic drop in enrollment suffered during the 2009-2010 school year may have just been a one-year bump in the road.

Enrollment has increased steadily since

See **CISD**, Page 3A

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The Festival of Lights is in its 14th year at Comanche Trail Park and will continue this season through Dec. 31. Admission is free though donations are accepted. More than 1 million lights are featured in various displays, which are best accessed off U.S. Highway 87 at Whipkey Drive.



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring resident Karen Oliver, left, cashes in on some of her collectibles while Linda Hall and Randy Daniel, representatives of the Treasure Hunters Roadshow, examine the antiques. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow will be at the Holiday Inn Express from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. through Friday and 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information call (217) 726-7590.

FAST track very good for Forsan

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — School officials here are pointing with pride to a state report that indicates the district is getting a bang for its educational bucks.

As part of the state-mandated Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST), Forsan Independent School District's expenditures were compared to those of similarly sized districts across the state, and FISD came out the the highest-rated district of the group.

"This report was required by the 2009 Texas Legislature as a way for the comptroller's office to identify schools and campuses that use ... allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations," FISD

See **FISD**, Page 3A

Reception planned Friday for retiring district judge

A reception for retiring 118th District Judge Robert H. Moore III is slated for Friday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the District Court Building, located at 312 Scurry, adjacent to the Howard County Courthouse.

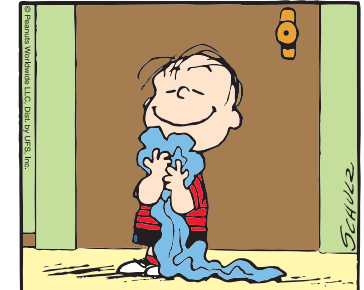


Moore

Moore is retiring after more than 20 years of service to the citizens of the 118th District. Newly elected judge Tim Yeats is set to succeed Moore in the

position in January. Moore, who has overseen some of the most controversial cases in Howard County during his tenure, announced in November 2009 he would bring his more than 20-year run as district judge to a close.

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Heather Leiphart/Odessa American

Marc Segundo (3) and Devante Lloyd (44) hawk down a Monahans player in the Big Spring Steers' game against the Lobos in the Sandhills Tournament. Defense is one of the focuses for the Steers as district play approaches.

Defense focus for Thompson as Steers continue trek

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers don't play horrible defense. In some cases, they're far from it.

But to first-year head coach Cliff Thompson, they can never be too good on the defensive side of the ball.

That's one focus — among many — for the Steers as their third home game this season approaches. Thompson said the focus is starting to shift toward what the Steers have to do to get ready for District 5-3A play in January and at the top of his list is defense.

"We play great defense at times, but we just have to get going," Thompson said. "Our goal is to try to keep them under 40 points a game. I think that's 10 points a quarter. I think that's a realistic goal. We haven't gotten there for a couple games. That's just my focus. You can never play good enough defense."

The Steers have actually held an opponent under 40 points five times this season. They did it against Midland Christian twice — once at 31 and another at 21. They held Fort Stockton to 35 points, Midland Classical to 33 and Monahans to 35.

"Our goal is to try to keep them under 40 points a game. ... I think that's a realistic goal. We haven't gotten there for a couple of games."

Cliff Thompson,
BSHS boys basketball coach

It's not something Thompson is fretting over right now, but he knows the Steers are going to have to win some games with defense eventually.

Rebounding is something Thompson wants to focus on as well.

In Wednesday's practice, the Steers put a blockade over the basket in order to practice rebounding the ball. He said not being able to get boards has led to a few losses.

"We've got to get a little bit better at that," Thompson said. "There's been a couple of games — Abilene Cooper and San Angelo Central both kind of outrebounded us a lot. Those were games we lost. I think that was the deciding factor. They got too many second chance points."

That's, though, it's been a little bit of everything that's gotten Big Spring through at 9-5, especially

the likes of Tristian Clay and Luke Adams.

Thompson is counting down the days until district play begins, too. What is about a month away seems like it's around the corner for the first-year coach.

After Merkel at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Steer Gym, Thompson noted the Steers have the Fredricksburg tournament and games against Lubbock Cooper, Levelland and Andrews left before they open district on the road against Brownwood.

What Thompson is pleased about is how much his players have been exposed to before that point in the season. He said the Steers have seen an array of defenses — the triangle-and-two and box-and-one to name a few. Adams and Clay are getting double teamed, too, so it's vital that players like Devante Lloyd, Mike Menefield and Marc Segundo continue to score.

"Our focus is to improve every game and keeping eyes on district, not so much our win-loss record," Thompson said. "It's about learning something from every game and improving. We're not that far away, we only have one tournament and three games before we start district. It's time we start thinking about it."

Cowboys allow twice as many 200-yard receivers

The Associated Press

IRVING — Before this month, the Dallas Cowboys had allowed only two receivers to gain 200 yards in a game in their 50-season history. That total has doubled in two games.

Philadelphia's DeSean Jackson and Indianapolis' Reggie Wayne hit the 200-yard mark in December.

"There's no secret, let's run over here and do this different or play this different coverage," cornerback Orlando Scandrick said Wednesday. "We just need to play better."

Along with consecutive 200-yard receivers, the Cowboys have given up at least 30 yards in their last three games — one more than all of last season.

The Cowboys (4-9), already guaranteed their first losing record in six seasons, are ranked 27th in the NFL in pass defense, and 25th overall on defense going into the home finale Sunday against Washington (5-8).

Wayne had 14 catches for 200 yards in the Colts' 38-35 home loss to the Cowboys. His longest catch was for 40 yards.

Jackson needed only four recep-

tions to gain 210 yards last week against Dallas in Philadelphia's 30-27 victory. He had a 60-yard catch on the first play of the game, then turned a short pass into a game-clinching 91-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter Sunday night.

"You're behind the eight-ball when you give up a 90- and a 60-yarder," Scandrick said. "Stop giving up big plays."

Before Wayne, it had been 37 years since Dallas allowed a 200-yard receiver.

"We've just got to eliminate some critical errors that we had, that's it," safety Gerald Sensabaugh said.

"Obviously, we don't want a receiver catching 200 yards worth of passes. We know that," safety Alan Ball said. "There's no magic to it, we've just got to execute."

Harold Jackson had 238 yards receiving for the Los Angeles Rams against the Cowboys on Oct. 14, 1973. The other 200-yard receiver before this month was Chicago's Johnny Morris with 201 on Nov. 18, 1962.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 3B

Durant, Thunder top Houston 117-105

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — With the way the Oklahoma City Thunder are clicking right now, even losing Kevin Durant to foul trouble couldn't knock them off track.

Durant scored 32 points but was on the bench with four fouls when the Thunder took control late in the third quarter on their way to a 117-105 win against the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

Oklahoma City won its fourth straight game, shooting better than 50 percent each time. And this time, the Thunder hit a season-high 57.7 percent of their shots.

"The shots are just falling for us," Jeff Green said. "We're getting great open looks."

Green scored the first six points in an 8-0 run to finish the third quarter for the Thunder, and Eric Maynor's jumper in the final 2 seconds made it 87-76 before Durant returned to start the fourth. James Harden tacked on a 3-pointer to open the fourth and push Oklahoma City's lead to 14, and the Rockets were never closer than a dozen points after that.

The Thunder had been up six when Durant went to the bench with 6:45 left in the third quarter.

"We just had to make a run," Green

said. "We knew our guy was out and we just had to pull it together."

Green finished with 21 points, Russell Westbrook scored 17 and Harden had 16. Thabo Sefolosha added a season-high 15 points and nine rebounds as Oklahoma City moved to 8-0 this season when he scores 10 points or more.

Kevin Martin scored 22 points and Luis Scola added 18 for Houston, which added swingman Terrence Williams from New Jersey and traded Jermaine Taylor to Sacramento in separate deals before the game.

The Rockets had won five of their previous seven games and were trying to win three games in a row for the first time this season. They started the season 0-5 and have been trying to dig out of the hole ever since, all the while playing without starters Aaron Brooks and Yao Ming.

"We are playing better and have a better rhythm as a team," Shane Battier said. "I think we are 10-10 the last 20, which is a vast improvement from where we started. We still have a ways to go."

Kyle Lowry added 15 points for Houston. Patrick Patterson, the 14th overall pick in this year's draft, made

See **ROCKETS**, Page 3B