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'Whatever it takes'

BSISD superintendent pledges to shed unacceptable rating

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

No one likes being labeled "unacceptable," and that applies to school districts as well as individuals. Big Spring Independent School District has been saddled with an "academically unacceptable" rating ever since the Texas Education Agency school accountability ratings were released July

29. Thursday, school officials briefed trustees on how they intend to shed that label.

The reason BSISD received the "unacceptable" tag from TEA was student scores on the science and math portions of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test. Scores in those test areas from minority and economically disadvantaged students were below the cutoff level to

"As superintendent, it is my responsibility to make sure our students are learning and we will take whatever steps need to be taken to improve our rating."

—BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar



earn an "academically acceptable" rating, officials said. "TEA evaluated us in 24

seven of those areas, we were unacceptable."

Passing standards on the science and math portions of the TAKS were raised this year, which contributed to the lower rating. Other factors, Saldivar said, were the elimination of the Texas Performance Measures (TPM), which allowed school

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Trustee search continues

Still no takers for Dist. 3 on Big Spring ISD board

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

The search for a new school trustee continues at Big Spring Independent School District. Officials have been unsuccessful in their efforts to find a replacement for District 3 trustee Alan Partee, who declined to seek re-election in May.

District 3 covers an area which includes the Coronado Hills and Indian Hills subdivisions, as well as homes in the general vicinity of the VA Medical Center.

"We're actively looking (for a new trustee)," BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said, "But we've been unable to fill the position. We just haven't had any luck finding anybody."

To be a school board member, applicants must be a U.S. and Texas citizen, 18 years of age or older, live within the district they will represent and be a registered voter. Once appointed, the new trustee would agree to serve until the next general election, scheduled for May 2012. At that time, they could run for the remainder of the district's unexpired term, School Board President Jeff Borman said.

Since he has not been officially replaced, Partee is still considered trustee for District 3 and Saldivar said he has taken an active behind-the-scenes role in several areas, including the

See **TRUSTEE**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

The U.S. Hang Gliding Association National Championship Competition begins Sunday in Big Spring with opening ceremonies set Saturday evening.

Glider pilots donating funds to several children's causes

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

It's perfect weather ... well, at least for the 2011 United States Hang Gliding Association National Championship Competition.

More than 30 hang gliders will take to the Big Spring sky, but before that happens, some of the hang gliders will give back to the community.

The CloudBase Foundation will donate funds to Big Spring Inde-

pendent School District School Supply Fund, Howard Cottage and Howard County Child Welfare Board at opening ceremonies Saturday. The ceremony will take place at the Hog Heaven Party Barn at 7 p.m.

"We hope what we do will make a positive impact on a number of children's lives," said Ricker Goldborough, president of The CloudBase Foundation.

Monies donated have been raised throughout the year through different fundraisers

and other projects. Big Spring is one of many locations where the foundation makes donations. Recently, the foundation purchased water filters, storage tanks, school supplies and more for projects in Ghana, West Africa, according to Goldborough.

"We are proud to host the USHGA competition and it is very heartwarming they are wanting to give back to the community," said Debbie Wegman, director of

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Chaplain Corps fundraiser continues

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

Emergency Service Chaplain Corps is at it again.

The program designed to offer support for citizens and visitors of Howard County

who are in need is asking for your help for their annual fundraiser.

This year, the chaplains are offering community residents an opportunity to take home a stainless steel Jenn-Aire grill. It has four burners, one

warmer and closed door storage.

"We operate on contributions and grants," Joel Miller, chaplain, said. "This is the only fundraiser we do."

See **CORPS**, Page 3A

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Police

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

- TYRE COLE WATTS, 26, of 5101 Fisher, was arrested Thursday on charges of criminal mischief more than \$50 and less than \$500 and criminal trespass/habitation/shelter.
- CIERRA KASHA BUTLER, 25, of 1425 E. Sixth 19, was arrested Thursday on warrants for expired registration and failure to appear.
- CALVIN GEORGE BUTLER III, 24, of 1606 E. Sixth St., was arrested Thursday on a warrant for driving while license invalid
- RICHARD LEVI HERNANDEZ, 21, of 1002 N. Main St. 66, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces, evading arrest/detention, failure to identify — fugitive give false information and theft less than \$50/shoplifting.
- ESTER GUTIERREZ, 19, of 1002 N. Main St. 66, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces, hindering apprehension/prosecution and abandon/endan-

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 8/13	Sun 8/14	Mon 8/15	Tue 8/16	Wed 8/17
101/78 Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible.	100/77 Partly cloudy. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the upper 70s.	103/77 Partly cloudy. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the upper 70s.	104/78 Sunny. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the upper 70s.	104/77 Sunshine. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the upper 70s.
Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 8:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 8:28 PM

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Texas At A Glance



City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	100	77	t-storm	Kingsville	101	77	pt sunny
Amarillo	95	68	t-storm	Livingston	102	75	pt sunny
Austin	101	75	pt sunny	Longview	102	78	t-storm
Beaumont	97	76	pt sunny	Lubbock	97	73	t-storm
Brownsville	97	77	sunny	Lufkin	102	77	t-storm
Brownwood	101	76	t-storm	Midland	99	79	t-storm
Corpus Christi	98	78	mst sunny	Raymondville	101	77	sunny
Corsicana	103	78	t-storm	Rosenberg	100	76	pt sunny
Dallas	104	80	t-storm	San Antonio	104	79	pt sunny
Del Rio	102	80	t-storm	San Marcos	102	76	pt sunny
El Paso	97	75	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	103	78	t-storm
Fort Stockton	98	74	t-storm	Sweetwater	98	76	t-storm
Gainesville	101	77	t-storm	Tyler	102	76	t-storm
Greenville	103	76	t-storm	Weatherford	102	77	t-storm
Houston	100	77	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	103	78	t-storm

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- ger child criminal negligence.
- RONALD STANLEY HASLEBY, 60, of 1402 Tucson, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
 - JOHN EDWIN SANDERS, 33, of 705 Lorilla, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for theft more than or equal to \$50 and less than \$500/all other.
 - LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 22, of 2911 W. Hwy 80 141, was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.
 - KODY CHANCE JACKSON, 25, of 3217 Fenn St., was arrested Friday on charges of possession of controlled substance less than one gram, expired motor vehicle inspection certification, failure to appear (five counts), speeding, expired drivers license, driving while license invalid and failed to maintain financial responsibility.
 - RUBEN ROJAS JR., 37, of 800 S. Nolan St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
 - MICHAEL BRANDON FOSSEE, 27, of 2508 Albrook Dr., was arrested Thursday on charges of violation protective order—goes to or near residence/employment/school.
 - DAVID ORTIZ, 42, of 105 NE 10th, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated-open container (second offense).
 - JAMES JOSEPH ATTEBERRY, 32, of 200 Willow, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
 - RAFAEL VASQUEZ ORTIZ JR., 47, of 2202 Williams Rd., was arrested Friday on warrants for safety seat system-child older than 8 years old or less than 4'9" tall.
 - ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

Sheriff

- The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:
- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.
- CALVIN GEORGE BUTLER III, 24, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
 - CIERRA KASHA BUTLER, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by BSPD on charges of display expired registration and violate promise to appear.
 - TIFFNEY TINDOL, 32, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on charges of sentencing/DWI open container and sentencing/criminal mischief impair/interrupt public service.
 - ESTER LETICIA GUITERREZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by BSPD on charges of hindering apprehension or prosecution and abandon/endorse child criminal negligence and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
 - RICHARD LEVI HERNANDEZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana less than two ounces and evading arrest detention/failure to identify fugitive intent give false information, theft.
 - JOHNATHAN DEWAYNE MCKIBBEN, 22, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of resisting arrest and criminal mischief.
 - RUBEN JAMES GONZALES, 24, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana less than two ounces (two counts), failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violate promise to appear, driving while license invalid, failure to maintain financial responsibility and speeding 61 mph in a 45 mph zone.
 - MARTIN ALVARADO, 30, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on a charge of failure to identify/giving false or fictitious information.
 - JOHN EDWIN SANDERS, 33, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Thursday on a charge of

- theft of property more than or equal to \$50 and less than \$500.
- WELDON RAY RUNKLES, 32, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- MICHAEL BRANDON FOSSEE, 27, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of violate protective order bias/prejudice.
- KODY CHANCE JACKSON, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, expired motor vehicle inspection, violate promise to appear (four counts), speeding 47 mph in a 30 mph zone, expired drivers license, driving while license invalid, and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- RUBEN ROJAS JR., 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
- JAMES JOSEPH ATTEBERRY, 32, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID ORTIZ, 42, was transferred to the county jail Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated (second offense).
- RONALD STANLEY HASLEBY SR., 60, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- RAFAEL VASQUEZ ORTIZ JR., 47, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on charges of no driver's license and unrestrained child under five years of age.
- CARLOS NOEL APONTE, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire & EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported at Hwy 350 and Post Rd. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- PUBLIC SERVICE was reported in the 1700 block of Settles. Service refused.

What's Happening

Aug. 12
Scenic Mountain Moonlight Rave Run
Big Spring State Park
Registration is \$20 for each run/walk, \$35 for two run/walk, or \$40 for all three
For more info go to timingspecialist.com

Aug. 14-20
USHGA Hang Gliding Championships
McMahon Wrinkle Airport
For more info contact **432-264-2362**

Aug. 20
United Way Kickoff "BOOTS & BLING" Dinner and Dance
For more info contact **Jeanie Coor or Sandy Stewart at 432-267-2501**

Aug. 27
Firemen Benefit Auction and Dance
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 5 pm
Honoring Howard, Glasscock, Martin and Mitchell Co. Firemen
For food donation, please contact **Rob Dalsing at 973-714-4572**.
For auction call **Iva Jo Hanslik at 432-466-1496** or **Debra Wallace at 417-274-0473**

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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Take Note

- Spring Creek Fellowship will sponsor a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the facility fellowship hall. Contact Angela Pope at 270-0892 to sign up or go to www.unitedbloodservices.org and use sponsor code W5083. Pizza will be provided for donors.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.
- A benefit fund has been established at Western

- Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide

- counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.
- Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.
- A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.
- Big Spring High School Class of 1981 will have its 30-year reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact Mark Warren at 903-283-3326 or 903-843-5927, or e-mail mwarren@etex.net

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

districts to account for a student's academic progress after they took the TAKS (and count them as having passed the test) and the inclusion of modified TAKS scores from special education and special needs students.

The result of these changes were reflected in statewide ratings, he noted. The number of academically unacceptable districts in Texas quadrupled from 22 in 2010 to 88 this year, while the number of highest-rated ("exemplary") districts shrank from 241 to 61.

"This is very telling," Saldivar said. "We weren't the only ones who felt the effects of

these changes." While Saldivar has long believed that too much emphasis has been put on state standardized tests, he conceded it is a fact of life for school districts and promised to do "whatever it takes" to bring those scores up in the future.

"Labels don't always tell the whole story, but that label is something that is part of this school district now," Saldivar said. "As superintendent, it is my responsibility to make sure our students are learning and we will take whatever steps need to be taken to improve our rating."

For the past three years, BSISD has been gradually implementing a district-wide change in the entire approach

on how students are taught and what they are taught.

Part of those changes involve state-mandated changes to the district's curriculum. Called CSCOPE, this curriculum guide sets out what children are taught in grades kindergarten through 12 in Texas public schools.

As for how the students are taught, Saldivar and other administrators are changing the philosophical approach toward classroom instruction.

Those changes are centered on six "beliefs" that will shape future instruction.

- Saldivar envisions students as customers, volunteers and "knowledge workers."
- "What they volunteer is their attention and

commitment," he said.

- A teacher's primary role is that of designing engaging work for students and guiding them to those sources of instruction they need to successfully do this work.
- "They need to get to know the student and his or her individual strengths and weaknesses," Saldivar said. "That way, they can design work that best matches that particular student."
- Differences in the level and type of student engagement directly affect a student's efforts in the classroom.
- "There has been a huge disconnect in schools," Saldivar said. "Students don't drop out of school just to drop out ... The major reason is they've never been

properly engaged in the classroom."

- Effort affects learning at least as much as intellectual ability.
- "If you properly engage a student in the classroom, his or her effort will increase dramatically," Saldivar said. "And they will become more successful."
- The level and type of student engagement will vary depending on qualities teachers build into the work they provide students.
- Therefore, teachers can directly affect student learning through the creation of work that most engages students.
- "Students still have a responsibility to learn in the classroom," Saldivar said. "But there's all kinds of kids that come through the classroom and we need to design

work that engages them on a personal level."

To bring those beliefs to reality, the district has instituted a number of policy changes, including upgrading standards at the school and classroom level, designation of "design teams" at the campus and district level to help institute changes, redesigning the campus curriculum director's role and the formation of an academy for first and second-year teachers at BSISD.

If all these steps are successful, "test scores will take care of themselves," Saldivar said.

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

TRUSTEE

Continued from Page 1A

search for his replacement.

Several people have been approached about the position, but have declined, citing a variety of reasons, Saldivar said.

"It's surprising we haven't found any-

one," Saldivar said. "We want someone who wants to serve and be part of a team. We think we're on a journey that's both very exciting and challenging at the same time, and we'd love to have someone join us.

"We want someone who's service-minded and cares about kids," he added. "When you think about a community, the school is at the epicenter. How better to serve

your community than serve on the school board?"

Persons interested in the position are urged to contact any school board member or the BSISD central office at 264-3600.

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

where and everywhere, but also in helping children around the world along the way.

"We love the town of Big Spring and look forward each year to returning," Goldsborough said.

The hang gliding competition will take place Sunday through Aug. 20 at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. There is no cost for spectators and there will be an opportunity for those who want to try out hang gliding for a cost.

"Come watch us fly, go for a tandem ride and receive a special CloudBase Foundation sticker," said Goldsborough.

There will be tents and bleachers set up for spectators and concessions will be available. For more information, call the airpark at 264-2362.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Elsie Pearl Nobles, 90, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

PILOTS

Continued from Page 1A

the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

According to Goldsborough, monetary donations are not the only way for people to support the cause. People can submit projects or fundraising ideas as well. The foundation focuses not only on flying any-

where and everywhere, but also in helping children around the world along the way.

"We love the town of Big Spring and look forward each year to returning," Goldsborough said.

The hang gliding competition will take place Sunday through Aug. 20 at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. There is no cost for spectators and there will be an opportunity for those who want to try out hang gliding for a cost.

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How to Train Your Dragon (PG-13) Fri: 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00 Sat: 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00	Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 3D Fri: 4:30 10:20 Sat: 4:30 10:20
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CORPS

Continued from Page 1A

The chaplain corps will be at this year's Howard County Fair and will announce the new owner of the Jenn-Aire at the end of the fair Oct. 1.

For \$2 tickets can be purchased from the chaplains, at KBST, which is located at 608 Johnson, or at the Heritage Museum, located at 510 Scurry.

"We have been helping the community for seven years and are comprised of highly trained professionals," Miller said.

The program works through the police department, sheriff's office, hospital, DPS and other agencies. According to the Chaplains Corps information page, the chaplains are inspired to serve those who serve. They provide family support and counseling, spiritual guidance and prayer support, home and hospital visits, stress management counseling, assist agencies with death notifications and Bible presentations by agency request.

For anyone needing assistance from the Emergency Services Chaplain Corps, contact

the police department at 264-2550 or the sheriff's office at 264-2231.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer		Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- John and Cynthia Scott for living up to and demonstrating the principles scouting teaches to its youth members and for being recognized with the Good Scout Award.

- Al Alton for being named as August 2011 Veteran of the Month at Hangar 25 Air Museum. He was part of the U.S. Army Air Force and served as an instructor at the bombardier school in Big Spring.

- All residents who are doing their part to conserve energy during these times of high temperatures and helping to reduce the load on the ERCOT system.

- City employees who took part and worked on this year's city budget work sessions. Also, for finding a way to cut taxes.

- This year's students of Leadership Big Spring for taking the time and initiative to learn more and get involved in the community.

- Salvation Army for noticing a need in the community at back to school time and providing assistance. Also to those who donated to this year's Back to School Drive at the Salvation Army.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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 Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, we can put a positive spin on all our situations.

Amen

The life of heroes and family

I had dinner last week with a friend whose name, for reasons that will be obvious, I can't say. I can't say exactly where he works or what he does. When I ask his wife about him, she usually tells me that he is on his way from a place he can't tell us to another place he can't tell us.

He is a little more forthcoming: He spends most of his time in the most dangerous places in the world. War zones are a particular specialty. He gets shot at: There is one bullet wound that I know of, in his stomach. Lucky. He tries to avoid suicide bombers and explosive devices, although he's come close to both (about a dozen times) in the past year.

His job, for which he is paid \$154,000 a year, is to put his life on the line to save ours and those of our children. Kids right out of law school make more than he does to review documents and prepare more senior lawyers to prepare witnesses. (He went to law school 20-plus years ago.) While he jokes about that, he doesn't think they get the satisfaction from their work that he does. They also don't read intelligence reports every morning at 5 a.m. that often make (even) his hair stand on end.

We talk about his work, as much as we can, and what he always tells me about are the unbelievable people he works with — their smarts and courage and determination and abil-

ity. He sings the praises of the retired Navy SEALs who have gone from risking their lives on the front lines to risking their lives on whatever lines need attending.

The hardest parts of this "job" of his (he never tells me exactly what his title is or who he works for), he says, are the challenges of fighting an enemy who doesn't wear a uniform and looks like anyone else in the community, as well as the special challenges brought on by American values, which (admirably, but still) so value the lives of innocent women and children that we can't or don't take the aggressive action many in the field consider essential to our safety.

We talk about the benefits, but mostly the drawbacks, of civilian/political control.

I tell him about a line in one of my favorite Daniel Silva spy novels, about how the Americans know everything and do nothing. He just laughs. We don't do nothing, he explains, but we also don't do what many foreign operatives with fewer moral and political constraints would do.

I ask his wife how she deals with the worry. (I worry when my loved ones get on planes, let alone go back and forth to countries that cannot be named.) She tells me that, over the years, she has just learned not to think about it. Actually, technology has made things a little better. He tries to call her every day on his encrypted satphone so that, even though she doesn't know where he is, she at least knows he is alive.

When I express my admiration and thanks, he waves it away, pointing out that he is one of so

many and, because he is fairly senior, faces fewer threats than so many others. Then he goes back to extolling his nameless colleagues.

Whenever I see a man or woman in uniform, I thank them for what they are doing for me, for my family, for my country. But guys and gals in short-sleeve shirts who look like your average Joe or Jane are much harder to thank. They don't talk about what they do; their business cards say almost nothing (is that a real phone number, I wonder) or less than nothing; they don't tell you where they've been or where they're headed except in the most off-handed way. How is the weather in Afghanistan, I ask, and he just laughs.

The world is a very, very dangerous place. There are many people out there who would like to hurt us; who value their own lives and those of their children so little that every day they are trying to figure out ways to sacrifice them in order to harm us; who, frankly, I'm just as happy to know nothing about, because the more I know the more terrified I get. We Americans are the luckiest people on the face of the globe.

My friend and his colleagues put their lives on the line to save ours. I don't know how to thank these brave men and women. I don't know how to express my admiration and gratitude, when the whole point is that we don't know who they are. This is the best I can do: Thank you. God bless you and keep you safe.

Find out more about Susan Estrich at www.creators.com.

A lesson in GOP hypocrisy

Their TV commercials will undoubtedly insult our intelligence. The issues they will try to sell us are not really our issues. The topics we want to discuss will mostly be ignored, but Republican politicians still will try to woo Latino voters in the next 14 months — quite hypocritically, of course.

It's going to take a lot of magic — wizardry of the kind that only Harry Potter and his clan could deliver.

You can expect to hear politicians saying a few words in Spanish, or trying to roll their R's when pronouncing Hispanic names. They might even march in the local Hispanic parade, or bring mariachis to perform at one of their campaign events. But if they have spent years bashing immigrants -- or even looking the other way while the extremists in their ranks behave like fire-breathing bigots -- Latino voters are not likely to sing along with their mariachis.

Nevertheless, GOP strategists apparently believe they can cast a spell over Latinos so they forget the draconian measures, heartless comments, racial profiling and xenophobia-mongering initiated almost exclusively by GOP leaders during the past few years.

They think they can make Latinos forget Republican offenses by recruiting a few Latino Uncle Toms to run for public office as Republicans. These would have to be Latinos who agree with their many anti-Latino policies, of course, but they do exist. We see them constantly squirming on Spanish-language television, as they are placed in the difficult position of justifying policies they know will be detrimental to their own people. And we almost feel like voting for their opponents -- just to relieve them of the misery of being Republican apologists.

In Florida, Latinos voters are predicted to top 1.6 million in 2012, a 34 percent increase in four years. This is where Latino voters could end up determining

who will be our next president, and where the battle for our vote already has begun. GOP TV commercials are already insulting our intelligence, appealing to our worst fears about the economy and attempting to scare Latinos into voting for Republicans.

GOP leaders are apparently convinced that Latino voters can be brainwashed into believing that GOP issues are also the most important Latino issues. They believe we are stupid enough to let them set our priorities.

Isn't it amazing how some politicians pretend to tell Latinos what the real Latino issues should be? Republicans do this all the time. They tell us that Latinos stand for strong national defense and family values — as if that is all we care about — and that this is why we should fall in line with the GOP.

They stand on the extreme opposite side of the Hispanic community on many other important issues -- education, immigration, healthcare, multilingualism, diversity, affirmative action, equal rights -- but they don't want us to think about that.

In the poor and middle class Hispanic community, fighting for tax breaks for billionaires (as Republicans have) is never a good idea, but they don't want us to think about that either.

Some Republicans are realizing that they have been bullying a community that is becoming big enough to strike back. With 50 million people -- and more than 21 million voters -- Latinos are in a position to retaliate against those who have used them as punching bags for so long.

Some of the GOP presidential candidates are already avoiding the issues that could alienate the nation's fastest growing demographic group. When they talk about the Latino vote, you see them trying to steer the conversation away from immigration reform.

"I think we do the debate a great service by making sure it's not just about immigration but also about the broader issues facing the country because Hispanic and Latino voters care equally about those issues as

well," Republican presidential candidate Tim Pawlenty told the St. Petersburg Times.

Surely, avoiding Latino issues could be a "great service" for anti-immigrant Republicans, including Pawlenty, but not for Latinos.

Unfortunately, because Republicans have offered no hope and Democrats have offered no help, both sides may try to avoid debating immigration during the next election cycle. But the topic Pawlenty wants to censor is still one of the most important issues that will determine how Latinos vote in 2012.

So when Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus asserts that immigration would not hurt the GOP "one bit," and when White House senior aide David Plouffe ignores President Obama's 2008 campaign promise to reform immigration and says the president's reelection campaign among Latinos "can improve over what we did in 2008 in turnout," you know they are either dreaming or spinning.

Both sides will be hurt by immigration in 2012 -- for different reasons. For Republicans, there's nothing to be gained from discussing an issue that reminds Latinos why they should vote for Democrats. For Democrats, little can be gained from reminding voters about a broken promise.

Of course Obama and the Democrats are also trying to woo Latino voters. They keep hosting White House summits for Hispanic community leaders and entertainers -- making a lot excuses for failing to at least change some immigration policies by executive order.

Unfortunately, the Democrats have been so busy playing defense and caving-in to Republican xenophobic-extremists that they have lost the respect and faithful following they once commanded among Latinos.

The polls say Latino support for Obama has plummeted by about 30 points since he became president. And that's not because we feel Republicans are better; it's because we feel Obama has not fought them hard enough.

Find out more about Miguel Perez at www.creators.com.



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ESTRICH



MIGUEL
PEREZ

FUMC hosts youth concert

First United Methodist will be hosting FADE — a praise and worship band — Aug. 21 at the First United Methodist Church.

FADE is in their sixth year of ministry together and come from the Amarillo area. The concert is open to the public and is a free event which will begin at 5 p.m.

"This is to get all the kids excited for the new launch of the youth department in the upcoming year," Beau Niewoehner, FUMC youth director, said.

According to Niewoehner the concert is going to be a high energy praise time of intimate worship. The original target is the youth, but adults are welcome.

"Just be aware the volume of the music will be a little on the loud side," Niewoehner said.

Donations will be accepted at the concert and any money raised will benefit the FADE ministry.

Those attending are encouraged to show up around 4:30 p.m. and parking can be found at 400 Scurry and at the Wells Fargo



Courtesy photo

FADE is a praise and worship band from the Amarillo area. They will be performing at First United Methodist Church on Aug. 21 at 5 p.m.

bank across the street. The concert will take place in Garrett Hall. This is a concert for those who enjoy listening to David Crowder, Chris Tomlin and Charlie Hall.

"We are very excited about moving the youth service times to Wednesday nights and this is a great way to kick this off," Niewoehner said.

After the concert, there will be a youth gathering in the youth room which will include a game trailer, small meal and fellowship.

<p>What: FADE concert When: 5 p.m. Where: First United Methodist 400 Scurry Cost: FREE</p>
--

Forsan Superintendent's Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Aug. 19

Forsan Superintendent's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Aug. 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Forsan Jr/Sr High Cafeteria.

"This event is a great way to kick off a new school year. I can't think of anything more important than asking God to provide safety, wisdom and peace for the upcoming school year."

The prayer breakfast will be at the high school cafeteria. Pastor Ken Freeman will give a 15 to 20-minute talk. Pastor Derrick Looney and Pastor Craig Felty will lead the group in

prayer and Randy Johnson will act as the emcee.

The meal and program is scheduled to last one hour in order to allow those attending to get to work.

Tickets may be purchased at Elbow Elementary, Forsan Jr/Sr High School or the Superintendent's Office. Tickets must be purchased or reserved by phone ahead of time to assist with meal planning. Tickets are \$4. The ticket sales cover the expenses of the meal and related costs and no public monies are used for this event.

Catholic parish changes mass service times

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish is changing mass time effective Sunday, officials announced.

Saturday mass time will remain at 5 p.m. Sunday mass times will now be 8:30 a.m. for a bi-

lingual mass service and 11 a.m. for the English-speaking mass service, officials said.

Spokesperson: Perry running for president

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry is running for president, a spokesman confirmed Thursday, a move certain to shake up the race for the GOP nomination much to the delight of conservatives looking for a candidate to embrace.

Perry spokesman Mark Miner said the governor would make his intentions known on Saturday while visiting South Carolina and New Hampshire just as most of his presidential rivals compete in a test vote in Iowa.

Official word of Perry's entrance into the race came just hours before eight candidates, including GOP front-runner Mitt Romney, were to appear on stage during a nationally televised debate.

It wasn't much of a surprise. The longest-serving governor in Texas history has flirted with a presidential run since spring and has spent the past few months courting Republicans in early voting states and laying the groundwork for a campaign. He met privately with potential donors from California to New York and gave rousing speeches to party faithful, casting himself as a fiscally responsible social conservative.

His intentions became even clearer over the past few days when officials disclosed that he would visit an important trio of states, a campaign-like schedule timed to overshadow the debate and the Iowa straw poll and, perhaps, wreak havoc on a field led by Romney.

Perry's nascent presidential campaign is not expected to rest after this weekend's launch. Rep. Frank Guinta, R-N.H., confirmed that he's scheduled to meet privately with Perry next Wednesday. He also confirmed a separate meeting with the first-in-the-nation primary state's only Republican senator, Kelly Ayotte.

Neither has decided whom to endorse, but both have been courted heavily by the presidential field.

Unlike others in the race, Perry has credibility with the at-times warring camps of the GOP's primary electorate. The pro-business tax-cutter who has presided over Texas' recent economic growth also is a devout social conservative with deep ties to some of the nation's evangelical leaders and Christians who dominate the pivotal Iowa caucuses.

But Perry also has never run a national campaign before, and it's unclear whether his Texas swagger and sometimes unorthodox policy

positions will sit well with GOP primary voters outside his state. Another open question is whether he can raise the money necessary to mount a strong campaign against those who have been in the race for months or more.

He may face fierce opposition from secular groups and progressives who argue that his religious rhetoric violates the separation of church and state and that his belief that some groups, such as the Boy Scouts of America, should be allowed to discriminate against gays is bigoted.

Within the Republican Party, Perry has opponents among moderates who question his understanding of national and international policy, including Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who ran against him for governor in a bitter 2010 primary race.

An early adopter of tea party rhetoric, Perry even has some opponents in the movement. They complain he hasn't taken strong enough stances on state spending and illegal immigration, in part because as governor Perry signed a law making Texas the first state to offer in-state tuition to illegal immigrants and blasted a proposed border fence as "idiocy."

But before he starts pumping up supporters and wooing detractors, Perry will need to raise name recognition outside of Texas and conservative circles along with funds to fill a presidential campaign coffers. None of the money he's raised for Texas elections can be used in a national race, so he is starting from scratch.

The governor lags well behind previously announced candidates in both campaign workers and fundraising, mostly because he denied any interest in the presidency until late May. But the story he tells of having no interest in higher office until friends and family persuaded him to join the race adds to his carefully cultivated image as a Texas cowboy reluctantly riding into Washington to save the day.

The campaign will attempt to position Perry between Romney and Rep. Michele Bachmann.

Perry, who has been governor for 11 years, has touted his business-friendly job-creation skills in Texas as evidence of fiscal wisdom, giving him a chance to drain support from Romney, whose conservative record is burdened by the health care plan he implemented as governor of Massachusetts.

Tibetan monks leery of China-backed lama's visit

BEIJING (AP) — An expected visit by a Chinese-appointed Tibetan Buddhist leader to a prominent monastery has raised new fears of repression among monks loyal to another person named by the Dalai Lama, overseas activists say.

The anticipated trip by a Beijing-chosen Panchen Lama to the Labrang Monastery in

the northwest is seen as an attempt by China to boost his credibility among Tibetans over the original boy selected by the Dalai Lama. That child disappeared at age 6.

The Panchen Lama is the second-highest religious leader for Tibetans after the Dalai Lama, and traditionally has a role in both the identification and edu-

cation of any new Dalai Lama after the current one dies.

The U.S.-based International Campaign for Tibet said its contacts around the Labrang Monastery, one of the most important monasteries outside Tibet, say troops have been stationed outside and foreigners have been barred from visiting the area in Gansu prov-

ince ahead of a visit by the Chinese-selected Panchen Lama.

Any visit by him to Labrang is likely to lead to an increase in "patriotic education" for monks still loyal to the Dalai Lama and his choice for the Panchen Lama, the group said.

Many Tibetans do not accept the Chinese candidate for Panchen Lama, Gyaltzen Norbu,

now 21. They still view the Dalai Lama as their rightful supreme leader under Tibet's centuries-old system of being ruled by reincarnated lamas, or holy men.

No information has been released by China's government about a possible visit by its Panchen Lama to Labrang. Calls to local government and police offices were not answered Friday.

However, hotels in Xiahe county in Gansu province near the monastery confirmed they were instructed this

week not to accept foreign visitors.

Parts of Gansu are heavily populated with Tibetans and were part of a traditional Tibetan region before modern China was formed.

"We received notices from the county public security bureau and tourism bureau saying that we should not receive foreign guests in our hotel," a receptionist at the Labrang Minhang Hotel told The Associated Press. She would not give her name, as is common among Chinese.

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Lesser-known candidates working hard

AMES, Iowa (AP) — While most of the attention heading into this weekend's Iowa straw poll is on Michele Bachmann and Tim Pawlenty, lesser-known Republican presidential candidates are working equally as hard to pull off a surprise.

It may be possible. "At this point, the straw poll is a wide-open situation," said Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, who warned against buying into the conventional wisdom that there are any front-run-

ners for the nonbinding vote.

The outcome can indicate both the popularity of the candidates as well as which campaign has the strongest organization in Iowa, the state that launches the presidential nominating season.

Often, overlooked candidates like businessman Herman Cain, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Texas Rep. Ron Paul have focused for months on the quiet business of grass-roots organizing.

That could pay some dividends in an organization-driven event like Saturday's test vote, where the challenge is delivering backers to an event.

Any one of the lesser-known candidates presumably could end up being spoilers by siphoning away supporters who otherwise would go to Bachmann, who is looking to keep her momentum going with a victory Saturday, or Pawlenty, who is languishing in polls and hoping for a boost with a strong showing.

At the same time, the outcome could be skewed by votes cast for others who aren't aggressively competing but who still are on the ballot — namely GOP front-runner Mitt Rom-

ney — as well as for Republicans who could be written in by backers, like Texas Gov. Rick Perry or former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who was to visit the Iowa State Fair on Friday.

"There is a deep level of activity from candidates who are going to have a presence at the straw poll," said Matt Strawn, chairman of the Iowa GOP, which puts on the straw poll to raise money. "There's more uncertainty about the results of this straw poll than any in recent history and that tells me there are a lot of candidates out there hustling."

Of the lesser-knowns, Paul is clearly among those banking on the power of quiet organizing to engineer a sur-

prise. He's brought on respected Republican strategist Drew Ivers to head his Iowa effort and he's shelled out \$31,000 for the prime spot for his tent to entertain backers during the day-long event.

"Paul supporters are exceptionally loyal to him," said GOP strategist Bob Haus.

All candidates are out to earn respect for their grass-roots organizing.

"We have three campaigns that have spent well over a million dollars each," said Santorum. "We are not one of those campaigns."

He added: "If we can be in the top five, it shows that our grass-roots effort is really working."

Santorum spent Thursday eating breakfast with activists, and

he said he sees plenty of evidence that his grass-roots campaign is making gains.

"They've kicked the tires and they feel comfortable with me," he said.

Regardless of the outcome, Santorum said, he's in the race until next winter's precinct caucuses.

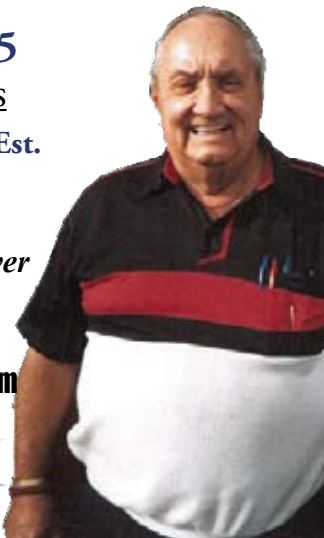
Cain, who has some support within the tea party, has said he needs to finish in the top three in the straw poll.

Strategist Danny Diaz said the lesser-knowns are out to prove to the Republican electorate that they are worth giving consideration. "They can maintain some relevance," he said, "and they need to demonstrate to donors that they are viable."

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Bachmann presses faith issue

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The surest place to find Michele Bachmann on Sundays this summer is at a worship service somewhere in Iowa, offering the testimony of a Republican presidential candidate who has long tied her political beliefs to her faith.

While she isn't the only conservative Christian in the field, Bachmann has vaulted into the top tier of candidates seeking the GOP nomination in no small part by tapping the enthusiastic

support of evangelicals and social conservatives in the early voting states of Iowa and South Carolina.

But a new spiritual primary looms. Texas Gov. Rick Perry is entering the race and, like Bachmann, he is a devout Christian whose faith defines his politics. Perry's well-publicized appearance at a Houston prayer rally attended by 30,000 people last weekend won strong reviews, and there are already signs that Bachmann is starting to take steps to protect her early hold on the party's base of faith-driven voters.

"For that group of voters, they will be battling it out," said David Roederer, who held top Iowa posts in John McCain's 2008 campaign and George W. Bush's 2000 bid.

Bachmann's campaign won't discuss how Perry's entry into the race affects their strategy. But on the eve of the Texas prayer rally, her team sent reporters a roster of supporters containing more than 100 pastors and spiritual leaders in Iowa.

She has been highlighting her faith-based backers more heavily and swapped out a planned trip to New Hampshire for one to South Carolina, a state where she and Perry would likely compete directly for votes among social conservatives.

Perry makes his debut trip to Iowa on Sunday for an event in Bach-

mann's birthplace of Waterloo; Bachmann said Thursday she would appear at the same party fundraiser that night.

Along with Perry, Bachmann is competing with former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty for votes among faith-driven voters. The race is the first in Bachmann's political career in which she's been forced to compete for such support; her Minnesota campaigns regularly mixed faith and policy, and social conservatives were always a crucial part of her base.

"We are in the last days," Bachmann prayed from a Minnesota stage in 2006, the year she was first elected to Congress. She asked God during that appearance to help foster the success of You Can Run But You Can't Hide, a Minnesota ministry led by Bradlee Dean, a pastor who has been repudiated even by Republicans for calling gays "predators," among other things.

In that appearance, Bachmann praised the ministry's outreach to public schools and its attempt to explode notions about the separation of church and state, which she called "a myth."

This summer, while aggressively chasing support from Iowa voters who put a premium on social issues such as fighting abortion and gay marriage, Bachmann has also tried to guard against being cast as someone with limited appeal.

In Council Bluffs this week, she portrayed herself as a candidate who can stitch varied GOP constituencies — not just those driven by faith — into a winning coalition.

"It is a movement that is being heard all across the country. It is made up of fiscal conservatives, and I'm one of those. It's made up of peace-through-strength, national-security conservatives. I'm one of those," she said. "It's made up of social conservatives. I'm one of those. And it is made up of the glorious tea party movement, and I'm one of those."

Raised in the Lutheran church, Bachmann has said she was born again at age 16 and has rarely made a major decision

since without direction from God. She and her husband, Marcus, she said, realized they would marry after God gave them simultaneous visions. She would go on to feel God's hand in decisions to attend law school, have children and take in foster children, seek political office and, ultimately, run for president.

For many years, the Bachmanns attended a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod church near their home in Stillwater, Minn. The conservative denomination adheres to a strict doctrine that some have called anti-Catholic — Bachmann has disavowed those views — and excludes women from church leadership roles.

The family formally left the church around the time Bachmann launched her presidential campaign and now attends an evangelical mega-church in suburban St. Paul. But even some Bachmann supporters wonder if the views held by some in similar evangelical congregations might open the door for Perry to indirectly siphon away some of her backers.

"I don't know a lot about Rick Perry," said Bachmann supporter Julia Anderson, the wife of an evangelical pastor and a stay-at-home mom in Hubbard, Iowa. "I would say the one thing that, sadly, is going to maybe be a test for her is the fact that he's a man and she's a woman. I've had people say, 'What are you doing supporting a woman candidate? That's upsetting the order of the home.'"

Bachmann supporter Danny Carroll, a former Iowa legislator active in social conservative circles, said Perry's arrival shouldn't mean Bachmann needs to do more to stress her own faith. He cautions that in doing so, candidates can go too far.

"The more you have to tout and promote your Christian beliefs, in some respects, the more suspect it becomes," Carroll said.

Roederer, the former Bush and McCain adviser, said Bachmann seems to hold the early advantage over Perry because she's invested more time forging personal bonds in Iowa.



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HERALD photos/Robert Griffin

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

For Forsan football coach Jason Phillips, the season can not come fast enough. The third year head coach (seventh year coaching at Forsan) said he was excited about his team's chances this year, after a disappointing 2010 season.

"We have a lot of speed coming back this year," Head Coach Phillips said. "Ty Johnson, Brendan Roman and Trevor Burchett are very quick on both sides of the ball. They will be a tough trio for opposing coaches to deal with."

Though the Buffaloes lost eight seniors to graduation in May, they have a strong corps of returning lettermen. In fact, 14 of the players who are attending camp this year earned letters in 2010. This includes starting quarterback Foster Burchett, the team's top two rushers and three out of Forsan's five offensive linemen.

Though the Buffaloes are picked to finish in fifth place in their division, they are returning the division's top passer and receiver in Foster Burchett and Ty Johnson, respectively. Burchett threw for 1,418 yards last season with 14 touchdowns, while Johnson had 450 receiving yards and four trips to the pay dirt.

"We have a lot of experience coming back onto the field this season," Coach Phillips said. We plan to spread some people out and make them try to run with us."

The Buffaloes will scrimmage Miles in Forsan Saturday with the JV squad playing at 11 a.m. and the Varsity playing immediately after. Coach Phillips said he intends for his squad to improve on last year's 4-6 season.

"We have an offensive line that averages 230 pounds per player and a lot of speed," the coach said. "If we can stay healthy, we have a good shot at making the playoffs this year."



Cowboys tame Broncos in opener

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Tim Tebow scrambled far to his left, inches from the sideline, saw some resistance and headed back the other way. He was around the middle of the field when he decided to pass, lobbing the ball over a defender, lobbing the ball over a teammate, who took off toward the end zone.

It could've been the latest addition to Tebow's legacy — if only he hadn't gone a full stride over the line of

scrimmage, a lineman hadn't illegally down the field and another teammate hadn't clobbered someone in the back.

Instead, by the end of it, even one of the officials was chuckling.

Tebow's schoolyard play came just before halftime and stood as the play of the game, until Dallas' Stephen McGee threw a 13-yard touchdown pass and a two-point conversion with 15 seconds left,

giving the Cowboys a 24-23 victory over the Broncos on Thursday night.

McGee, an option quarterback in college just like Tebow, showed the moxie he displayed in two quality outings at the end of last season. He finished 14 of 24 for 208 yards, with three touchdowns, plus ran four times for 25 yards.

"It's always fun to win no matter how it comes," McGee said. "For me, this is my reg-

ular season."

Tebow's numbers were good. He completed 6 of 7 passes for 91 yards. He also ran twice for 15 yards, producing a pair of field goals in four drives.

His first scoring series started at Denver's 10 and included a 43-yard pass perfectly lofted into double coverage. The other drive, however, started 7 yards from the end zone and wound up moving backward, with a holding penalty wip-

ing out his touchdown run on first down, then the bizarre play coming on third down.

"I tried to scramble and one thing turned into another," Tebow said.

Dallas declined all three penalties to force the Broncos to kick a field goal. When Tebow went to the sideline, new Denver coach John Fox spoke to him gently, patting him on the head at the end of

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Briefs

Steer season tickets on sale

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. New purchasers of season tickets can purchase their ticket books through Aug. 17 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The ticket books are \$25 and include all five home games. For more information, contact Kay Cook at 432-264-3662.

Fall tennis

Big Spring begins tennis practices Monday for their fall schedule. The sessions will be from 9 a.m. through noon on weekdays at the courts at Comanche Trail.

Climb to the top handicap bowling tournament

Bowl-A-Rama is hosting a bowling tournament with a \$600 guaranteed first place prize. The tour-

nament, which will take place at 1 p.m. Aug. 28, is open to the first 24 bowlers with an average of 199 or less. Entry fee is \$60 and must be received by 6 p.m. Aug 25.

For additional information, contact Greg Clarke at 432-264-6480 or John and Diana Dodd at 432-267-7484. Further information can be obtained on Bowl-A-Rama's website. Simply go to www.bigspringbowlarama.com.

Quarterback Club meeting Monday

Big Spring Quarterback Club meeting to be held Mondays at the ATC. The meetings will start at 6 p.m. All parents of football players in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 432-816-1685

Soccer signups

Soccer signups will be held at Big Spring Mall Aug. 15-19 at 5:30 p.m. In addition, players can register between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Aug. 13 and 20.

Astros fall in 10 innings

PHOENIX (AP) — Mark Melancon needed one pitch to give the Houston Astros a four-game split with the NL West-leading Arizona Diamondbacks.

It didn't come. Melancon surrendered a tying, two-run shot with two outs and two strikes in the ninth and Chris Young hit a game-ending three-run homer in the 10th and the Dia-

mondbacks rallied from four runs down to beat the Houston Astros 8-5 on Thursday night.

"I was confident in what (catcher Humberto) Quintero and I were doing," said Melancon, who blew his fourth save in 15 tries and first since June 26. "I thought out plan was good. But I made one bad pitch and he capitalized it. The whole key in

pitching is keeping the hitter off balance. Execution was what failed."

Jeff Fulchino (1-4) gave up consecutive singles to start the tenth. Sergio Escalona retired Miguel Montero on a fly ball to right before Young drove a pitch deep to left for his 17th home run of the season and sixth career

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Rodman makes Hall colorful

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The acknowledgement list could only belong to Dennis Rodman.

There were coaches Phil Jackson and fellow inductee Tex Winter. He mentioned teammate Michael Jordan, along with rocker Eddie Vedder and Motley Crue. And he thanked that guy Stern who's coming to see him Friday night.

That's Howard Stern, not the NBA commissioner.

Rodman's uncommon blend of basketball and entertainment has arrived at the sport's birthplace, where he will be en-

shrined in the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame on Friday as part of the 10-person class of 2011.

"I really didn't play the game to be in the Hall of Fame. That wasn't my job," Rodman said. "My job was to go out there and win ballgames, have a good time and take care of my family. As long as the people had a good time, that was my main objective."

Dressed in all black, wearing sunglasses, an Ed Hardy tattooing hat and a scarf that read "The Worm, HOF '11" on the inside, the five-time NBA champion was the cen-

ter of attention during Thursday's news conferences.

Exactly the way he likes it.

"I just love living life free. And for me to shine, I shine every damn day," Rodman said. "That is for other people here that don't get to see these famous people that's going to come in this building tomorrow."

Dream Teamer and two-time Olympic gold medalist Chris Mullin is the other headline name in the class, though much of the focus was on

See **RODMAN**, Page 2B

NFL gets ball rolling with preseason games

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick threw for 74 yards and a touchdown pass in his only series and the new-look Philadelphia Eagles beat the Baltimore Ravens 13-6 on Thursday night in their preseason opener.

Nnamdi Asomugha, Vince Young and several other big-name acquisitions made their first appearances for the Eagles, who've signed a slew of free agents with impressive resumes in the past two weeks.

Joe Flacco played two series and led the Ravens to a field goal on the opening possession. He completed 3 of 6 passes for 60 yards. Ricky Williams, who signed with Baltimore on Monday, was inactive.

Vick, the runner-up to Tom Brady for NFL MVP, completed 4 of 6 passes, including a 3-yard TD toss to Brent Celek. Vick drove the Eagles right down the field against Ray Lewis and Balti-

more's vaunted defense.

FOXBOROUGH (AP) — Third-round draft pick Ryan Mallett played the whole second half and drove New England to touchdowns on his first four series, helping turn a 19-9 halftime lead into a 35-point rout.

The former Arkansas star was 12 of 19 for 164 yards and a touchdown. Stevan Ridley, a third-round choice from LSU, scored three touchdowns on two 1-yard runs and a 16-yard pass from Mallett. Richard Medlin, a rookie free agent from Fayetteville, had two 2-yard touchdown runs.

Blaine Gabbert, the former Missouri quarterback drafted 10th overall, completed 9 of 16 passes for 85 yards for Jacksonville. Playing against mostly backups as top players for both teams sat out the game, the Jaguars scored three field goals on Gabbert's six possessions. He played

the entire first half with starting quarterback David Garrard unavailable because of a back injury.

ARLINGTON (AP) — Tim Tebow's failed scramble just before halftime stood as the play of the game, until Stephen McGee — another option quarterback in college — ran around to throw a 13-yard touchdown pass and a two-point conversion with 15 seconds left, giving Dallas a victory over Denver.

Tebow led the Broncos to two field goals in four drives.

His first scoring series started at Denver's 10 and included a 43-yard pass perfectly lofted into double coverage. The other drive, however, started 7 yards from the end zone and wound up moving backward.

That series began with Tebow running it into the end zone on first down, but a holding penalty wiped it out, shov-

ing the Broncos back to the 17. On third down, Tebow ran almost to the left sideline, back to the middle of the field, then tossed the ball to a waiting receiver for a short gain. However, Tebow crossed the line of scrimmage before ever cutting back, a lineman illegally went up the field to block and another teammate clobbered one of the Cowboys in the back. Dallas declined them all, forcing the Broncos to kick a field goal.

Tebow was 6 of 7 for 91 yards and ran twice for 15 yards. McGee threw three TD passes.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Thomas Clayton scored on a 25-yard run with 3:05 left to lift Seattle past San Diego.

Tarvaris Jackson passed for 13 yards over two moderately successful series in his debut as Matt Hasselbeck's replacement with the Seahawks. San Diego's Phil-

lip Rivers went 5 for 6 while leading an 89-yard scoring in his only series.

Cornell graduate Bryan Walters returned a kickoff 103 yards for a touchdown late in the third quarter for the Chargers, and Mike Tolbert caught an 8-yard scoring pass to cap the only drive by Rivers.

Leon Washington rushed for a 1-yard score on the Seahawks' opening drive of the second half, and Josh Portis Portis hit Anthony McCoy with a tying 6-yard TD pass with 4:02 left.

San Diego rookie Scott Tolzien's fumble set up Clayton's go-ahead score, but the former Wisconsin quarterback drove the Chargers to the Seattle 5 in the final minute before his final pass pinballed among several players and fell incomplete in the end zone.

OAKLAND (AP) — Kevin Kolb found new favor-

ite target Larry Fitzgerald twice in his Arizona debut but was unable to get his offense on the scoreboard in two drives before the Cardinals rallied to beat the Raiders.

Arizona's other three quarterbacks all threw touchdown passes, including a 28-yarder from Max Hall to Isaiah Williams with 39 seconds left for the win.

Raiders third-stringer Trent Edwards threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to rookie David Ausberry, and Sebastian Janikowski kicked four field goals, including a go-ahead 57-yarder with 2:32 to play, but the Raiders lost in Hue Jackson's head coaching debut.

After a year of poor quarterback play following Kurt Warner's retirement, Arizona made the big move to acquire Kolb from Philadelphia after the lockout ended last month. The Cardinals gave Kolb a five-year, \$63 million contract.



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