



Heflin announces candidacy

Crosbyton Democrat seeking Texas House District 85

Herald Staff Report

Former Crosby County Judge Joe Heflin visited Big Spring Friday, announcing his candidacy for the District 85 State Representative post being vacated by longtime legislator Pete Laney.

Heflin, who was required by state law to resign as county judge in order to run for the Texas House, has filed with the Democratic Party.

He said Friday that he believes his experience in county and municipal government has prepared him to represent the citizens of District 85 effectively.

Before serving as county judge



Heflin

for five years, he was elected to two terms on the Crosbyton City Council.

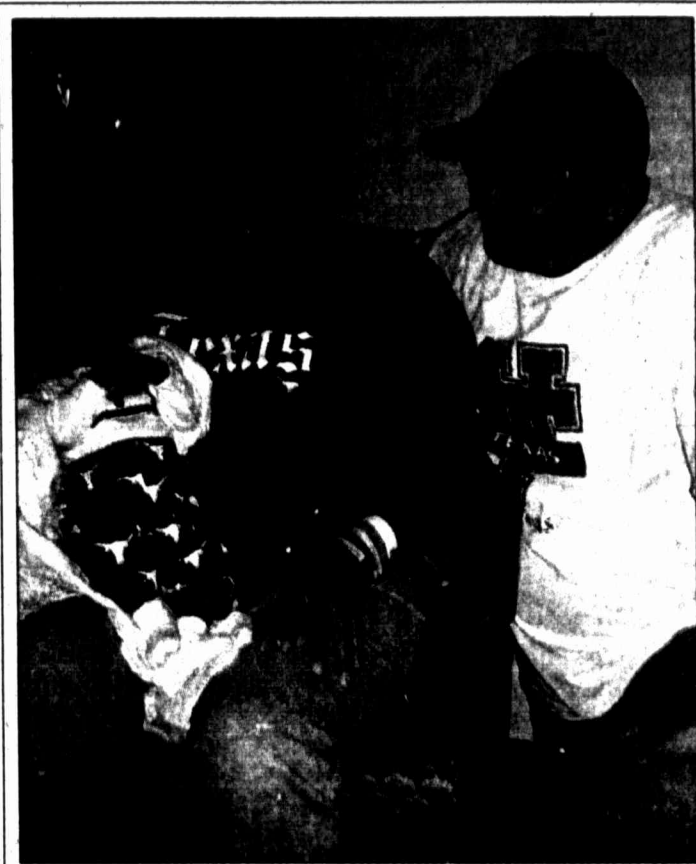
He is a member of the South Plains Regional Review Committee, having been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry. As county judge, he was a member of the South Plains Association board of governments as treasurer.

Recently, he worked closely with Sen. Robert Duncan during a series of town hall meetings regarding rural health care. Heflin said he is "concerned about this issue and others affecting all of us, but espe-

cially the senior citizens of the district." Heflin said that during the last legislative session, he carried letters of senior citizens to Austin and delivered them to West Texas representatives and Sen. Duncan. He said the letters addressed the financial crisis of area senior citizen centers caused by cuts in funding.

Heflin is a native West Texan, having been born in Morton, where he attended school until his freshman year when his parents moved the family to Big Cabin, Okla. He later attended South Plains College and Eastern New Mexico

See HEFLIN, Page 3A



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Parents Becky Mendez and Johnny Arispe admire new family member Alex Ray Arispe at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Saturday morning. Alex, born Thursday, was Howard County's first baby of 2006.

Parents get a baby, Longhorns get a fan

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The day after the University of Texas Longhorns won the college football national championship, a new fan was added to their ranks.

Alex Ray Arispe, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and at a height of 20.5 inches, became Howard County's first baby of 2006 when he was born at 4:59 p.m. Thursday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

And with parents Becky Mendez and Johnny Arispe both staunch Texas fans, it was unsurprising to see little Alex decked out in burnt orange and white

First baby of 2006

while he posed for photographs.

He is the couple's fourth child, joining sisters Anna, 7, and Brianna, 5, and big brother Matthew, 3.

Alex was due Jan. 1, but took his time making his debut. So, on Thursday, doctors decided to induce labor.

Mendez said. "I was ready," she said. "They actually started (inducing) at about 7 a.m. He just took his

See BABY, Page 3A



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Halie Schaefer grooms her pig while father Doug looks on at the Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show at the Glasscock County Community Center in Garden City Friday afternoon.

Raising, showing animals takes a bunch of effort, family reveals

□ Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show results, Page 5A.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Although it may sound outrageous at first glance, raising a show animal has some similarities to raising a child.

You have to take special

care of it, providing it every need. You have to feed it, groom it and make sure it is cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

The process teaches you responsibility and, in the end, is very rewarding.

And it can also be quite aggravating at times — just ask Halie Schaefer.

Schaefer, 16, was one of many youth displaying

their prize animals at the annual Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show in Garden City this weekend.

While watching over several of her pigs Friday afternoon, Halie talked about the effort that goes into getting an animal ready for the stock show circuit. Like most prima donnas, show animals

require a lot of attention.

"As far as raising them, I've learned a lot of things about it," she said. "And I know that there's a lot of yelling and screaming involved ... You just have to be dedicated. If not, it's not going to work. It takes a lot of time and effort."

Indeed, it can take months and even years to properly prepare an ani-

See SHOW, Page 5A

Pre-trial bonding on county agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are set to meet Monday morning with discussions concerning the possible creation of a pre-trial bonding program topping the court's agenda.

The program, which was first pitched to county officials Dec. 20 by Midland County's Pre-trial Bonding Administrator Tim Long and a pair of Midland district judges, would offer prisoners a "second chance" to bond out, taking a bite out of the jail population.

"Inmate housing costs

"They say this won't have a negative impact on local bail-bonds businesses, but I just don't see how that's possible."

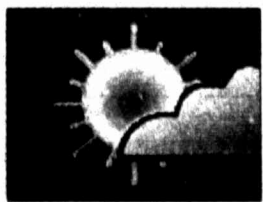
Robert Smith,
bail bondsman

money. For every person we keep out, that's one less person you have to keep fed and clothed," Long told officials during the December presenta-

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SUNDAY 74-76 SUNDAY NIGHT 37-39
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HEALTH ISSUES

Cindy Lopez from Best Home Care will be at the Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday to talk about stroke prevention and answer questions. For more information on the stroke prevention workshop, call 267-1628.

Red Cross instructor classes are scheduled Jan. 13-14 in Odessa. Cost for the course is \$175. Each year, the American Red Cross teaches lifesaving skills to nearly 12 million people. As an instructor, you can train people in your workplace, organization or community in first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillation. Call 432 570-6161 for more information.

WARM BEER ANYONE?

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A state senator wants to force Missouri stores to sell warm beer.

Under a bill by Sen. Bill Alter, grocery and convenience stores would risk losing their liquor licenses if they sold beer colder than 60 degrees. The intent is to cut down on drunken driving by making it less tempting to pop open a beer after leaving the store.

"The only reason why beer would need to be cold is so that it can be consumed right away," said Alter.

Others are lukewarm about the idea, saying "People who want to drive drunk will drive drunk anyway."

FAMOUS CHURCH BURNS



Flames engulf the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago. The 115-year-old church was an integral part of the development of gospel music.

See story, Page 7A

Obituaries

Lois Reed Ferguson

Lois Reed Ferguson, 88, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Ken Nobles with Home Hospice officiating.

She was born May 31, 1917, in Big Spring and married Raymond E. Ferguson Aug. 7, 1938 in Goldsmith. He preceded her in death June 14, 1993.

Mrs. Ferguson's parents were early settlers in the Elbow Community. She attended school in Elbow and had lived in Big Spring until moving to Uvalde in 1950. In 1975 she moved back to Big Spring.

She was a fabulous cook and enjoyed working as a waitress. She enjoyed children, flower gardening, bottle collecting and was an "Old Bottle Hound."

Lois loved animals and took in many strays. Her dog, Tippie was her beloved companion for many years after her husband's death. She was a loving, caring and sweet person to know. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

Survivors include a sister, Bernice Reed Jones of Big Spring; a sister-in-law, Lois Reed of Big Spring; numerous nieces and nephews including Kent Reed of Knoxville, Tenn., Jeannie Pitts of Big Spring and Mitchell Jones of Cedar Park; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

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

Paid obituary

Support groups

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets the first and third Monday each month. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting, 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Take note

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

• **CARRIE SAMA**, 35, 614 Linda, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **FRANCIS DELBOSQUEZ**, 43, 704 San Antonio, was arrested on two local warrants.

• **LAYLA DUNNAM**, 30, 1214 Ridgeroad, was arrested on a hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

• **EDWARD JAMES SPIVEY**, 17, 1100 Jeffrey Road, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest/vehicle.

• **RICKY HOKES**, 45, 800 Marcy No. 32, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **LINDA GAIL NORMAN**, 47, 209 E. Ninth, was arrested on charges of criminal trespass and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **ADRIAN VANDERPOOL**, 25, 1202 Johnson, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **MATTHEW VANDERPOOL**, 18, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **HOMERO GUERRERO**, 21, 2702 Central, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of Westover.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 1500 block of Oriole and the 500 block of San Jacinto.

• **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/INVALID** was reported in the 1700 block of Benton.

• **EVADING ARREST/VEHICLE** was reported in the 3500 block of FM 700.

• **RETALIATION** was reported in the 2300 block of Benton.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg (twice), the 300 block of Gregg and the 1400 block of Tucson.

Sheriff's report

There was no reported activity from the Howard County Sheriff's Office between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday.

Around Town

• **RAILROAD MUSEUM** at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Weather

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Tuesday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the lower 60s.

Tuesday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the lower 30s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the upper 60s.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the mid 30s.

Friday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-3-11-32-35.

Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-0-7

Bulletin board

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

SATURDAY

• Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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

• Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room. Cost is \$6.25 per person. RSVP to 264-5164 or 213-5293.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downton Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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WRECK TIES UP TRAFFIC



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
A white mini-van blocks traffic in the eastbound lane of Interstate Highway 20 Friday afternoon, while the tractor-trailer behind it blocks the westbound lane following an accident at the Highway 80 exit. According to law enforcement officials at the scene, the driver of the mini-van was traveling in the wrong direction down the I-20 off-ramp when the tractor-trailer, which was traveling east on Interstate Highway 20, swerved to miss the vehicle. The truck crossed the median and came to stop blocking the entire westbound lane. Both drivers were transported with what officials described as non-life threatening injuries.

Bank robber foiled by global positioning satellite

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Moments after a bank was robbed, police found a duffel bag full of cash — and the global positioning satellite device that bank workers had tucked inside.

The device used satellite signals to relay the location of the getaway minivan to police shortly after the Wednesday robbery.

The driver, Thomas R. Fricks, 38, was ordered held without bond Thursday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Cynthia Imbrogno.

"You guys are good!" Fricks said as Spokane Police Officer Tim Moses arrested him shortly after the Washington Trust Bank branch robbery, according to documents filed in federal court.

During the robbery, a masked armed man herded three employees into the bank vault and threatened to kill their families if they didn't cooperate, the documents say.

A teller who was on the phone with her husband

told him the bank was being robbed and to call police.

The masked robber threw a black duffel bag to another bank employee and said he wanted \$40,000 "and no bait bills," according to the court documents.

The employee complied, stuffing in more than \$37,920 in cash — and the GPS device.

Police recovered a black duffel bag containing a loaded BB gun and the missing cash from the minivan Fricks was driving, they said.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Leroy Aldridge, 77, died Monday. Funeral Services were at 11a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

CINEMA 4

*Hostel (R)
Daily: 4:10, 7:10
Fri. 9:20 Sat. & Sun. 1:10

Rumor has it... (PG-13)
Daily: 4:20, 7:20
Fri. 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 1:20

Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13)
Daily: 4:30, 7:30
Fri. 9:40 Sat. & Sun. 1:30

Chronicles of Narnia (PG)
Daily: 4:00, 7:00
Fri. 3:50 Sat. & Sun. 1:00

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

tion.

If adopted by the commissioners and 118th District Judge Robert H. Moore III — and modeled after the Midland County program — pre-trial bonding would utilize electronic monitoring devices to alleviate overcrowding in the Howard County Jail.

"We have several things we can do. One of them is electronic monitoring," said 238th District Court Judge John Hyde. "We have a number of electronic monitors that we can attach to the person's ankle and we can track where they are. We can place them under house arrest, where they have to stay in their home. If they leave their home, the monitor will reveal that to us."

The presentation didn't go without resistance from the commercial sec-

tor, however, as several representatives from local bail-bonding businesses showed little support of the program.

"They say this won't have a negative impact on local bail-bonds businesses, but I just don't see how that's possible," said Bob Smith, owner of A-Bob's Bail Bonds.

Ultimately, the creation of a pre-trial bonding program in Howard County will depend on the approval of county commissioners and Moore.

Also on Monday's agenda:

• County Auditor Jackie Olson will present the commissioners with invoices and purchase requests, as well as consideration of vehicle bids and the county law library.

• County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is expected to present personnel considerations and a payroll report, as well as the county's quarterly trea-

surer's report.

• Phil Furqueron, construction administrator, is expected to make a report concerning ongoing renovations at the courthouse and the county library, as well as other county facilities.

• County Road and

Bridge Administrator

Eddy Jameson will present pipeline crossings and a report on county road maintenance.

• County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom is expected to discuss changes in polling locations.

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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.

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Publisher

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

How about becoming an AARP Tax-Aide?

Would you like to learn how to prepare your tax return? Think you might like to help others in preparing their tax returns? If you are civic minded and have even the slightest interest in numbers, then you'll want to check out a training program coming here soon.

It's sponsored by the AARP and called Tax-Aide.

Training is two-fold. Classes on tax laws will be held from 8 a.m. until noon Jan. 17-23 at the Spring City Senior Center. Classes on the computer aspect of the program will be held Jan. 24-27, same times, same place.

Once you've had the training, you'll be able to help others prepare their tax returns.

This is a great program for those who have been looking for a chance to volunteer but may not be able to stand for long periods of time or don't have some of the physical skills or strength to take on other needed tasks. All you need is patience and a desire to help others. The trained volunteers are asked to help out an average of four hours per week on Mondays beginning Jan. 30 and running through April 10.

All training materials will be provided. The only cost is your time.

If you think you'd like to help, call Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

It's an outstanding way to help others and a way to learn a very beneficial skill.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR,

It is Christmas morning and my heart goes out to the families helped by this amazing community. They simply give so much to the community around them and the world beyond that.

Community Angels would like to thank the generous spirit of this community who realized the need and continued to reach out to those who really needed that help.

Our original goal was to provide gifts for the teens that are not gifted by the Salvation Army. We started with 59 teens of families being served by the Salvation Army. We began to hear of others who needed help with warm clothes and basic necessities. Finally, we began to receive calls about whole families who were in desperate circumstances.

It is impossible to ignore such pleas for help, so we set about touching the lives of these families as well. It seemed that the more we gave, the more funds came to use for that purpose. As the word passed through the community

the people were touched by the needs and lovingly gave their time and resources to fill the need.

A prison ministry in Odessa contacted us. They explained that judges try to play prisoners into prisons close to their families so that visits can take place. Next they told us that they had provided gifts to the prisoner's children with the parents name on them. These gifts needed to be passed on to the intended children in Howard County, but they needed help with the project.

We began to pull local resources together and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church provided their hall and their youth group to help the 38 or so children on the gift list plus their family members. Community Angels provided refreshments and Santa to the hundred or so guest. It was such a blessing!

I just want to share these wonderful experiences with the community I love.

Thank you,

PAT HARDISON,
CHAIRMAN OF
COMMUNITY ANGELS

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Be with us each day, dear Lord. Amen

Disaster tour not my idea of fun

Random thoughts while waking up from my nap:

I know we live in morally ambiguous times where one man's sin is another man's virtue, but there are some things that are wrong no matter how you slice them.

And the following is just wrong.

It seems that the Gray Lines Tour company of New Orleans is offering a tour of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina — and response has been so favorable that the company added a third tour on the first day.

For a mere \$35, you can view the mountains of debris, collapsed houses and assorted other signs of destruction left after the hurricane swamped New Orleans last year.

According to the *Associated Press*, some have questioned whether the tours are morbid exploitation, or simply a good way for people to grasp the enormity of the disaster.

"I felt guilty about going out and looking, but it's something we had to do," one person who took the tour told the *AP*.

Maybe I'm just a Pollyanna at heart, but this entire business strikes me as, like I said earlier,

just flat wrong.

Anyone who has ever driven past an automobile accident knows that you just can't help but look, but shelling out your hard-earned cash to take a three-hour tour of people's shattered lives is borderline sick in my book.

Not that I'm totally immune to the urge that drives people to do such a thing.

I remember when a tornado leveled the small town of Saragosa several years ago, I was assigned to do a story on reconstruction efforts there. And, I'm somewhat ashamed to admit, the idea of viewing the aftermath of that disaster appealed to me, both professionally and personally.

It wasn't until I got to Saragosa that I started to change my mind a bit. After spending a few hours with these people who just desperately wanted to get on with their lives, I felt like I was somewhere I didn't belong.

It was like I was intruding on their sorrow, looking at them as one would view a particularly curious-looking zoo animal.

OK, maybe that's an exaggeration, but I think you follow the gist of my point, right?

I was able to rationalize the Saragosa trip because, after all, it was my job, just as it's my job to cover other unfortunate events such as traffic accidents or house fires.

But years of doing just that have taught me to keep a respectful distance when I'm on the scene. I'm a

bit cynical, but I'm not so jaded as to not feel a great deal of empathy for people who have just had their lives turned upside-down.

Maybe it makes me a poor reporter, but unless the assignment demands that I talk to victims, I'm going to leave them alone. You're not going to see me, notebook in hand, peppering some poor soul who just lost a family member in a wreck questions about how he feels — mainly because I have a pretty good idea what his answer will be.

So, I slip in, as unobtrusively as possible, snap my photos, jot down my notes, and get the heck out of there.

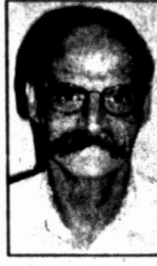
Sorry to go into this rant, but the idea of people gawking over scenes of death and destruction — especially those who charge others for the privilege — rubs me the wrong way.

You are not just looking at destroyed homes or twisted metal, you are viewing a person's misery. It may be morbidly fascinating, but that doesn't make it right.

So, to the Gray Lines Tour Co. of New Orleans, I say: God Bless America. It's a wonderful country that allows people to make money off of suffering.

Just don't expect me to sign up for one of your tours anytime soon.

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



STEVE REAGAN

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The value of building a consensus

The president whom George W. Bush might resemble most is not his biological father, George H.W. Bush, or even Ronald Reagan, who often seems his ideological father, but James K. Polk, a dynamic and willful leader few people discuss anymore.

Polk, when elected president as a Democrat in 1844, had more political experience than Bush (Polk had spent 20 years in elected office compared to Bush's six.) But like Bush (who was 54 in 2000), Polk was young (49) and extremely self-confident when he took office.

Polk might be the only predecessor who matched Bush's determination to drive massive change on a minute margin of victory. Polk won by less than 38,000 votes of 2.7 million cast. Over four tumultuous years, he pursued an ambitious, highly partisan agenda that offered little to people who had voted against him. Sound familiar?

Strong on vision but weak on building consensus, Polk advanced his goals more than seemed possible in a closely divided country. But Polk's tactics deepened the nation's divisions and fanned the flames that later exploded into the Civil War.

It's worth considering Polk's experience not because Americans will take up arms against each other any time soon — although you might never know that from listening to talk radio — but because it suggests that a president who slights the need to build national consensus can seed long-term problems that aren't immediately apparent amid short-term successes.

Polk was inarguably a visionary: he saw the United States as a continental nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. And he was determined to advance that vision over any obstacle. After completing the annexation of the independent Republic of Texas negotiated under his predecessor, Polk immediately targeted the vast Mexican holdings from the Southwest through California.

When Mexico wouldn't sell him the territory, Polk claimed that the border of Texas extended much farther south than when it had been a Mexican state and provocatively sent American troops to occupy the disputed ter-

rain. Mexico, which had rattled sabers itself, attacked and war began. It didn't end for nearly two years, proving much costlier and bloodier than the president anticipated.

The war also profoundly divided the country. The opposition Whigs, who would mostly dissolve into the new Republican Party in the 1850s, accused the president of "deliberately provoking a war and then lying about Mexico's responsibility for starting the conflict," wrote historian Joel H. Silbey, in his recent book "Storm Over Texas."

Among the Whigs most outraged by Polk's conduct was a freshman U.S. House member from Illinois named Abraham Lincoln. Doris Kearns Goodwin picks up the story in her panoramic new book "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln." Shortly after taking office, Goodwin reports, Lincoln voted for a Whig resolution that charged the president with "unnecessarily and unconstitutionally initiating the war. To accept Polk's justifications, Lincoln later complained, would be to 'allow the president to invade a neighboring nation ... whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary.'"

Polk eventually won the war and added to American territory an expanse that included California, New Mexico, Arizona and big pieces of the Mountain West. Yet in the process Polk sharpened conflict not only between the two major parties, but within his own party, and deepened the antagonism between Northerners (many of whom sought to bar the spread of slavery into the newly acquired lands) and the South.

Polk failed to understand the cost to his presidency, and the nation, of governing in a manner that increasingly was seen as championing the priorities of just one interest, Southern slaveholders. The charge wasn't entirely fair, but the impatient Polk never recognized the value of concessions that could broaden consensus. When Polk stepped down, Silbey writes, he left behind "ominous cracks" in the political and

social institutions that had encouraged "national unity."

Much separates Polk's war with Mexico from Bush's with Iraq. But obvious echoes reverberate. Much like Polk with continental expansion, Bush has focused his presidency on a single goal: fighting Islamic terror, largely by encouraging the spread of democracy. In pursuit of that vision, Bush, like Polk, launched a war whose initial justification has spawned bitter dispute. And like Polk, Bush has seen that war become more grueling and divisive than he expected.

Polk's unwavering, impermeable conviction defines one approach for organizing a presidency in such circumstances. But Polk's early critic — Lincoln — offers Bush a better model for leadership during a difficult war. During the Civil War, Lincoln was nothing if not resolute. But as Goodwin notes, he also calibrated his decisions — from key personnel appointments to the timing of emancipation — to hold together all shades of opinion committed to Union.

Bush lately has met more with Democrats and acknowledged mistakes on Iraq. But substantively, he has not conceded much, either about Iraq or his tactics in the broader war on terror (except his belated capitulation to Senate demands for a ban on torture in the interrogation of prisoners.) The divisions over Iraq are so deep that nothing Bush could do would bridge them entirely and his inclination to ignore his most implacable opponents is understandable. But Bush would place the nation's security on a more stable foundation if he worked harder to find a consensus agenda with those critics whose assessment of the ongoing threat in Iraq and at home is closer to his own.

Part of Lincoln's genius, as one close adviser wrote, was his understanding that in the pursuit of national unity, it is the task of the president "to mollify and moderate" the country's fractious interests and diverse viewpoints. That's one reason Lincoln is still revered and Polk, for all his ferocious accomplishment, barely remembered.

Ronald Brownstein is a national political correspondent for the *New York Times*.



RONALD BROWNSTEIN

SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

mal for a livestock show. "First, you have to raise the animal," said Halie's father, Doug. "Then it's months of feeding and walking the animal. You spend hours and hours and hours grooming and washing it, cleaning the pens and the barn. And there's lots of screaming and hollering." Out of every litter, one or two animals might be deemed worthy of showing, he said. Those animals are then segregated from the rest of the brood and given special food

and living conditions. "They get better food and care," Doug said. "When it's hot, you put out fans or foggers for them, and when it's cold, you plug in heaters." And did we mention it's occasionally aggravating? "Some of (the animals) get stressed," Halie said. "And when they stress, you start to stress." Irritation aside, though, she admits the process of raising show animals is ultimately very rewarding. "A lot of my friends show animals — that's what got me interested," Halie said. "Just by being around the animals ... it's been a great opportunity for me."

Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show

Following are Friday results from the 2006 Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show, held at the Glasscock County Community Center in Garden City:

- GOATS**
Grand Champion: Cade Halfmann
Reserve Grand Champion: Cade Halfmann
Showmanship: Junior, Brody Halfmann; Senior, Cade Halfmann; Intermediate, Amber Halfmann.
Nannies — Champion: Brody Halfmann; Reserve: Alex Halfmann.
Light Weight — Champion: Brody Halfmann; Reserve: Hannah Halfmann.
Medium Weight — Champion: Cade Halfmann; Reserve: Sydney Halfmann.
Heavy Weight — Champion: Cade Halfmann; Reserve: Cade Halfmann.
- SWINE**
Grand Champion: Bryson Batla
Reserve Grand Champion: Marcus Cook
Showmanship: Junior, Colton Belew; Senior, Colton Schwartz; Intermediate, Lauren Schwartz.
Chester — Champion, Chapman Royall; Reserve, Macy Schwartz.
OPB — Champion, Lauren Schwartz; Reserve, Brody Halfmann.
Duroc — Champion, Chapman Royall; Reserve, Macy Schwartz.
Hampshire — Champion, Marcus Cook; Reserve, Bryson Batla.
Cross — Champion, Britni Cook; Reserve, Blayne Batla.
York — Champion, Bryson Batla; Reserve, Blaine Walker.
- RABBITS**
Grand Champion: Marcus Cook
Reserve Grand Champion: Lexie Schaefer
Showmanship: Junior, Kamie Halfmann; Intermediate, Marcus Cook.
Fancy — Champion, Lexie Schaefer; Reserve, Lexie Schaefer.
Commercial — Champion, Marcus Cook; Reserve, Kamie Halfmann.
OPB — Champion, Taylor Hughes.

Police arrest American sailor on charges of robbing and beating a Japanese woman to death

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese police arrested an American sailor Saturday on charges of robbing and beating a Japanese woman to death — a case likely to further stoke opposition to U.S. military presence in Japan. William Oliver Reese, 21, was arrested after being transferred to police from the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, about 30 miles southwest of Tokyo, said police officials in Yokosuka and Kanagawa prefecture, both speaking on condition of anonymity citing police protocol. The U.S. military previously agreed to hand

over Reese, who police said admitted during questioning that he killed Yoshie Sato, 56, in Yokosuka on Tuesday. She was found beaten and unconscious that day and later died of internal bleeding. Reese, who also has been identified in Japanese media, is accused of robbing Sato of \$129. The U.S. Navy in Japan said it would continue cooperating with Japanese authorities in the case. "The U.S. Navy's responsibility to see this matter through to its rightful conclusion does not end here, and we will continue to provide our complete support and cooperation with Japanese authorities," said Rear Adm. James Kelly, the commander of U.S. naval forces in Japan. Reese was based on the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk and has been in Japan since May 2004. He has been in the Navy for about two years and Japan was his first assignment, according to the Navy. The case risks further inflaming local opposition to plans to build an American military airstrip in the southern island of Okinawa and base a U.S. nuclear-powered warship at

Yokosuka for the first time. Reflecting the sensitivity of the case, the U.S. Embassy issued a statement Friday expressing regret for the crime. "The U.S. military and the American people are deeply shocked and saddened by this event," U.S. Ambassador Thomas Schieffer said. In 1995, an uproar over the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen on Okinawa triggered massive protests and led to the relocation of an air base to a less densely populated part of the island.

As sole survivor fights for his life, final goodbyes begin for miners killed in explosion

PHILIPPI, W.Va. (AP) — As families and friends of 12 men killed in a coal mine explosion prepared to say goodbye with bowed heads and quiet prayers, mine employees met with company officials for the first time since the blast. The first visitations for the victims of the Sago Mine tragedy were scheduled Saturday, and six funerals were planned for Sunday. Gov. Joe Manchin's office said he plans on attending the viewings. "Having been with the families throughout these last difficult days this week, he felt a very close connection with them," spokeswoman Lara Ramsburg said Saturday. "He wanted to make sure he followed through on his commitment to them to be there for them." Before the viewings, the 145

employees of the Sago Mine were meeting with International Coal Group chief executive Ben Hatfield for the first time since Monday's explosion to discuss when the mine could reopen and company efforts to find them temporary jobs. "We're going to do our very level best to take care of our people," Hatfield said. An eight-person team has been appointed by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration to investigate Monday's blast. It killed one miner immediately and 11 more who were found nearly 42 hours later huddled together behind a plastic curtain erected to keep out deadly carbon monoxide. The lone survivor found among those corpses, 26-year-old Randal McCloy Jr., remains critically ill in a medically induced coma at a Pittsburgh hospital. Doctors

believe he has brain damage from severe oxygen deprivation. In hopes of jogging McCloy back to consciousness, his wife, Anna, said she planned to play the music of one his favorite bands, Metallica. She also got him his regular brand of deodorant and soap, believing the familiar smells will help him come around. And what does she plan to say to him if he does? "I'll probably be speechless. I know I'm going to squeeze him and tell him I love him and how much I'm proud of him," she said. She said she has only told their children — Randal III, 4, and Isabel, 14 months — that "daddy worked very long hours and that he had to rest." "And my little boy says, 'That's OK because my daddy's going to get better for me.'"

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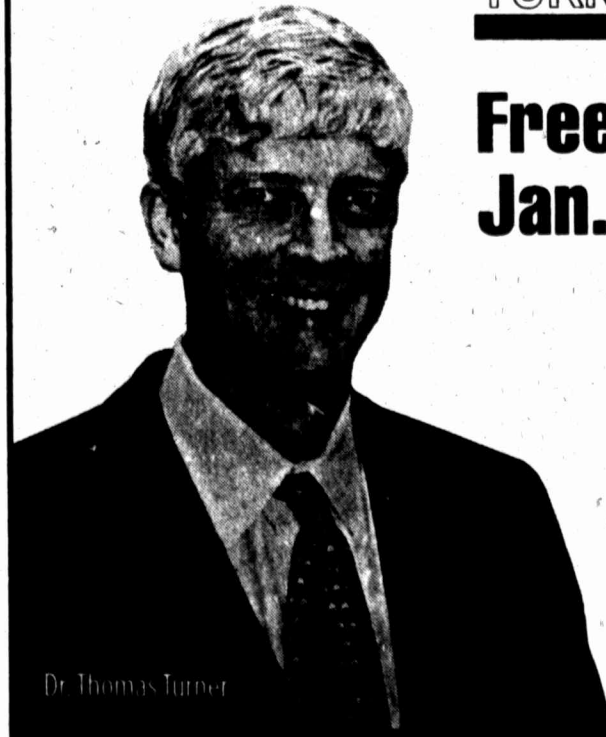
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News briefs

Lubbock man sentenced to 30 years in child porn case

LUBBOCK (AP) — A 49-year-old man convicted of posting child pornography on the Internet was sentenced Friday in federal court to 30 years in prison.

Ricky Lynn Cole of Lubbock was also ordered to pay \$10,700.

A jury convicted Cole in October of more than 100 counts of interstate transportation of child pornography, distribution of child obscenity and transportation of obscene matter.

Testimony presented at trial alleged Cole posted images of child porn on the Internet through at least three accounts he set up using the names "baddaddy4lilgirls," "badboy4badlilgirls" and "baddaddy4badgirls."

Army investigation concludes Jamboree deaths were accidental

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The electrocution deaths of four Boy Scout leaders at the National Scout Jamboree last summer were found to be accidental, an Army spokesman said Friday.

"We'll be closing the case as an acci-

dental death case," said Chris Grey of the Army's Criminal Investigation Command. "We found no culpability for criminal acts in the death of these individuals."

The Army plans to formally close the investigation within two weeks after an administrative review, Grey said.

The four men were electrocuted July 25, 2005, as they put up a dining tent near a power line during the gathering at Fort A.P. Hill. The 10-day Jamboree is held every four years and draws more than 40,000 Scouting enthusiasts from around the world.

The dead were Scout leaders Ronald H. Bitzer, 58; Mike Lacroix, 42; and Michael J. Shibe, 49, all of Anchorage, Alaska; and Scott Edward Powell, 57, of Perrysville, Ohio.

The four were helping two workers from Tents & Events Inc., a Fishersville, Va., company that is now closed. Witnesses said the four were erecting a large tent when its center pole touched overhead electrical lines.

Arson may be to blame for up to 70 wildfires, Perry says

AUSTIN (AP) — Arsonists may have started up to 70 of the wildfires that have burned across the state in recent days, Gov. Rick Perry said Friday.

Citing arson estimates from the Texas



Perry

Forest Service, Perry directed that agency, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the State Fire Marshal's office to work with local authorities to investigate.

"Arson is a serious crime with devastating consequences for the lives of Texans," Perry said in a statement. "I have asked state authorities to investigate and aggressively pursue those who have intentionally started wildfires at the risk of destroying property and lives."

Since December 26, 269 wildfires have killed three people and destroyed 244 homes and 248,370 acres of land, Perry said.

Thirty-five new fires started between Thursday and Friday mornings, destroying five homes and burning more than 2,400 acres.

Army captain cleared in Afghanistan prisoner abuse case

FORT BLISS (AP) — The only officer charged in the Afghanistan prisoner abuse case will not face a court martial.

Capt. Christopher M. Beiring said Army prosecutors told him Friday that charges of dereliction of duty and making a false official statement have been

dropped by Fort Bliss officials.

Beiring was in charge of a Cincinnati-based reservist military police company stationed at a detention center in Bagram, Afghanistan when two prisoners died in December 2002. Beiring, along with 10 of his soldiers, were charged in the case.

Four military intelligence interrogators from Fort Bragg, N.C., also have faced criminal charges in the investigation.

An Army colonel assigned to investigate the charges against Beiring recommended last month that Beiring, 39, not face a court martial in the case.

In a lengthy report about the case, Lt. Col. Thomas S. Berg said Beiring's leadership at Bagram may not have been perfect, but that he did the best he could despite being "sorely challenged at every step."

Beiring contended that he did the best he could in leading the reservists from the 377th MP Co., despite a lack of Army-provided training.

Four of Beiring's soldiers have been acquitted, while charges against two others were dropped before the cases were taken to trial. Two soldiers pleaded guilty and one was convicted by an Army jury.

One soldier, Sgt. Alan J. Driver, is set to stand trial on abuse charges in February.

DeLay will quit his leadership post in the House, officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Embattled Rep. Tom DeLay decided Saturday to give up his post as House majority leader, clearing the way for new leadership elections among Republicans eager to shed the taint of scandal, two officials said.

These officials said DeLay, R-Texas, was preparing a letter informing fellow House Republicans of his decision. These officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they did not want to pre-empt the formal announcement.

DeLay's defiant, take-no-prisoners style had won him the admiration and respect of fellow Republicans, but his mounting problems cast a shadow over the whole chamber.

DeLay is battling campaign finance charges in Texas and was forced to step aside temporarily as majority leader last fall after he was charged in his home state.

He has consistently maintained his innocence and said he intended to resume his leadership post once cleared.

His about-face came amid growing pressure from fellow Republicans who were concerned about their own political futures in the wake of this week's guilty pleas by lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt, the party whip who temporarily has filled in for DeLay, was expected to run for majority leader.

Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, a former member of the leadership, is also likely to run.

Elections are likely the week of Jan. 30, when lawmakers return to the Capitol.

DeLay intends to remain in Congress, these officials said, and plans to seek a new term in November.

DeLay acted hours after a small vanguard of Republicans circulated a petition calling for leadership elections and citing DeLay's legal problems as well as his long ties to Abramoff.

Republican rules permit an election to fill the vacancy, and aides to Reps. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Charles Bass of New Hampshire said on Friday that the lawmakers' petition would allow the rank and file to pick new leadership quickly.

"The developments with Abramoff have brought home the fact that we need not just new leaders but a course correction," Flake said.

Rep. Heather Wilson of New Mexico, a perennial election-year target of Democrats, said she did not want DeLay to return as majority leader.

And GOP Rep. Jim Ramstad of Minnesota

said, "It's clear that we need to elect a new majority leader to restore the trust and confidence of the American people."

Until Saturday, there had been no public indication that DeLay, whose fierce devotion to conservative causes has helped nurture the Republican majority, was willing to abandon his quest to take back the majority leader's job.

The maneuvering to succeed DeLay occurred near the end of a week in which Abramoff, the central figure in a growing public corruption investigation, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and several other charges in two federal courtrooms.



DeLay

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Fire destroys Chicago church legendary for many contributions to gospel music

CHICAGO (AP) — The architecture was majestic, the gospel choir was inspiring and services at the Pilgrim Baptist Church were so popular that worshippers in the 1930s and '40s had to show up an hour early to find a seat.

Friday, the 115-year-old church, an integral part of the development of gospel music, was destroyed by a fire so intense that its flames and smoke could be seen from miles away. The fire gutted the church and collapsed its roof and steeple. The cause wasn't known.

"It was a landmark church. God, it was just so beautiful," said Lena McLin, who was baptized at Pilgrim as a 12-year-old in the early 1940s. "It was very spiritual — you felt you were meeting the Lord there."

McLin's uncle was Thomas A. Dorsey — considered the father of gospel music — and

Pilgrim was where he perfected his cross of the raw soulfulness of the blues with the sacred music of his youth. His all-time

Thomas A Dorsey, considered the father of gospel music and author of "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," was music director from 1932 until the late 1970s.

greatest hit, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," was popularized by Mahalia Jackson and became a favorite of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

He was Pilgrim's music director from 1932 until the late 1970s. The church was designated a Chicago landmark in 1981.

Over the decades, the gospel stars who performed at Pilgrim included Jackson, Sallie Martin,

James Cleveland and the Edwin Hawkins Singers. The funeral service for early 20th century boxing champion Jack Jackson was held at the church.

The congregation recently numbered about 300, but in its heyday in the 1940s it had about 10,000 members, said the Rev. Hycel B. Taylor, the church's former pastor.

It had been "the quintessential black megachurch," he said.

The church was a place where the famous architects Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler experimented with the features that made them famous — such as vaulted ceilings, amazing acoustics and ornamental designs, such as the terra cotta panels with intricate foliage designs, said Ned Cramer, curator of the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

It was built as a synagogue between 1890 and 1891, but it has housed the Pilgrim congregation since 1922. The surround-



Flames engulf Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago Friday. The 115-year-old church was an integral part of the development of gospel music.

ing Bronzeville neighborhood was a vibrant hub for blacks during the first half of the 20th century.

"It's like hearing a close relative has died or a good friend. It's heart-breaking," said Cramer.

Though no one was injured in the blaze, it is feared the church's archives — including old

photographs and Dorsey's original sheet music — were destroyed.

McLin said she's hopeful that Dorsey's wife might have sent some of those mementoes to Fisk University, where the family choose to deposit some of Dorsey's belongings. But she is sure a huge painting of her

uncle — whom she lived with as a child — was destroyed.

Still, she said, she'll never forget the feeling of being in that church, surrounded by thousands of worshippers packed on the floor and the balcony, listening to gospel music.

"The spirit was just all over the place," she said.

Cars to be subject to video surveillance in Britain

By MARY JORDAN

The Washington Post

LONDON — Britain, already the world's leader in video surveillance of its people, will soon be able to automatically track the movements of millions of cars on most of its major roads.

Law enforcement agencies are drastically increasing the number of cameras that read license plates and are building a national database that designers say will make it possible to determine in seconds whether a car zooming by has insurance, was stolen or was seen near a crime scene.

"It will revolutionize policing," said John Dean, the national coordinator of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system, or ANPR. "Our aim is to deny criminals the use of the roads."

The technology is already being used on the M25, which rings London and is the country's busiest road. The system, scheduled to begin operating nationally by June, will employ thousands of cameras on fixed poles or in mobile police vans on major highways, key back roads and vital intersections throughout England and Wales.

Dean said the idea is to make it difficult, if not impossible, to travel by road without being captured by the cameras.

In recent years, the British public has accepted a generally high level

of surveillance in public places to counter terrorism and common crime. Thousands of closed-circuit cameras were installed on city streets during the Irish Republican Army's bombing campaigns.

Some human rights groups are fighting the new project, calling it a dangerous step toward a Big Brother society. "We believe it is a gross invasion of privacy," said Douglas Jewell, campaigns coordinator for Liberty, a human rights organization. "We don't have a problem with surveillance cameras when

they are used appropriately. But the idea of establishing a massive national database that will record ordinary people's journeys and whereabouts is troubling."

Each of the system's cameras, backed up by computers that read numbers from their images, can monitor 3,600 license plates per hour, Dean said. That information is immediately cross-referenced with a police database of plates registered to people suspected of breaking the law.

Police inspector Paul Moor said that a "textbook" example of how the

system works occurred Nov. 24, when police were parked on the shoulder of the A13 highway 20 miles east of London. Their van had a camera to scan passing license plates and computer equipment to check for numbers linked to criminal suspects.

Moor said that two seconds after a 1998 Volvo station wagon passed, the computer's alert system announced: "Attention: no insurance." Having no insurance is a crime in England, and Moor, who was in the van, radioed to police officers down the road. When they tried to pull over the Volvo, Moor

said, it sped away. The officers pursued it. Ultimately, Moor said, six police cars converged on the Volvo, and officers found a plastic bag containing \$180,000 worth of heroin.

In another case, Dean said, witnesses noted the plate number of a car they saw leaving the scene of a child's abduction. The next day, an ANPR camera detected the car. When police stopped it, they found the missing child in the trunk.

"It's tremendous; it is one of the best tools we have had in years," Moor

said. But Jewell, the human rights activist, said the system will enable police to "build profiles of people" and their movements even though they have committed no crime. He said few people are happy about "being tracked all day."

People in Britain are already monitored by more than 4 million closed-circuit, or CCTV, cameras, making it the most-watched nation in the world, according to Liberty. The group said that a typical London resident is monitored 300 times a day.

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Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA

HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive \$16,167.00 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross. United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to delivery emergency food and / or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isalah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Cynthia Scott at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201 or come by 608 Scurry for an application. The deadline for the submission of applications is January 18, 2006.

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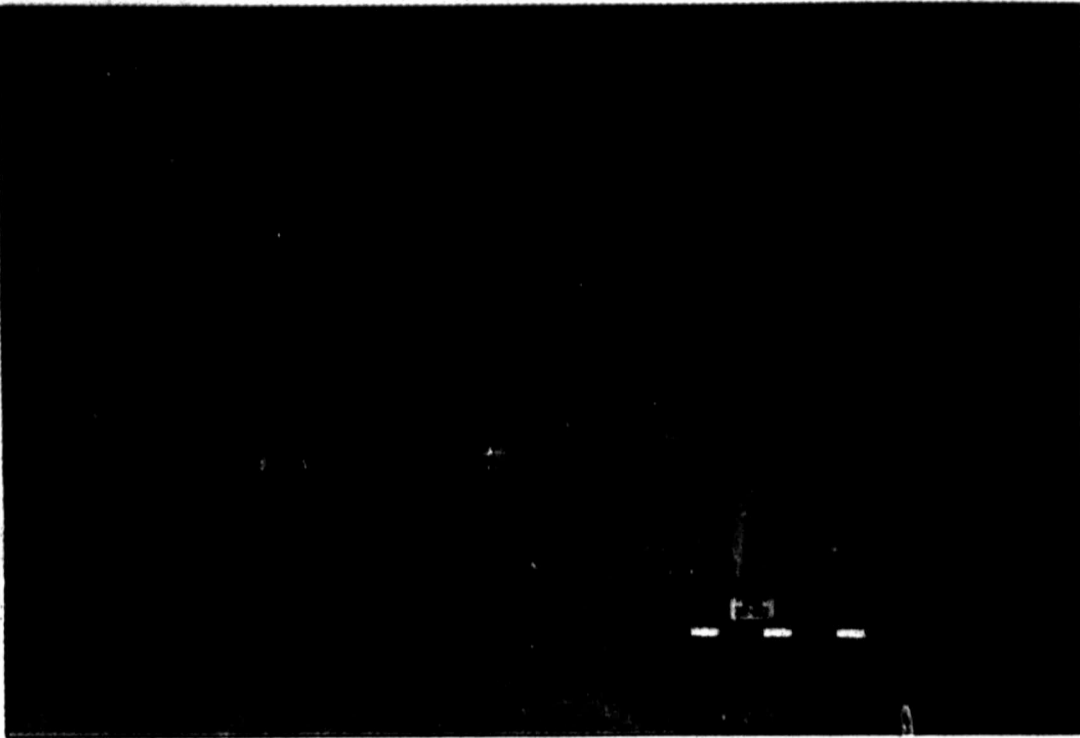
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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
This sign flashes a warning to all motorists coming into Howard County on Interstate Highway 20 just outside of Martin County to be aware of a countywide burn ban. According to Texas Department of Transportation officials, six signs similar to this one have been placed at strategic points throughout the department's Abilene District to help prevent fires similar to the one that recently raged through the Cross Plains area.

Sign warns motorists burn ban is in place for Howard County

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Motorists traveling east into Howard County on Interstate Highway 20 have a flashing message awaiting them, as the Texas Department of Transportation has placed some friendly reminders to be vigilant of range fires.

According to Roy Wright, TxDOT Director of Transportation Operations for the Abilene District, the sign located west of Big Spring isn't the only one flashing the message "burn bans in effect."

"The State Operations Center requested we do what we can to help make drivers vigilant of the heightened danger of range fires," said Wright. "In the larger districts, where they have the

dynamic signs like these posted permanently, they are posting the same warnings.

"We had eight of these portable signs and six of them are currently out serving in the same capacity as the one in Howard County."

Wright said signs are currently located on the east side of Callahar County, Nolan County, the southern portion of Taylor County and the northern portion of Haskell County.


Howard County commissioners, facing a dry winter with the increased chance of grass fires, issued a 30-day general burn ban, along with a ban on aerial fireworks in mid-December.

Issuance of the ban was made necessary because conditions in rural por-

tions of the county are over-ripe for grass fires, according to County Judge Ben Lockhart.

"This is a cooperative effort between TxDOT and the State Operations Center," said Wright. "If you tell people something once, about half of them will get it. This way it's in front of them all day, every day. We need then to keep their combustible materials inside the vehicles and dispose of them properly. That will help us avoid a situation like we recently saw in Cross Plains."

More than 100 structures were destroyed and two people killed when a 7,700-acre range fire swept through Cross Plains in December. More than 30 fire departments from all over Central Texas fought the blaze.




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IN BRIEF

Big Spring sets date for football banquet

The Big Spring ISD football banquet will take place Thursday in the high school cafeteria.

The public is invited to attend and tickets may be purchased in advance from Kay Cook at the ATC by calling 264-3662 or from Gene or Lana Piercefield at 816-1134. The cost is \$10.

Chicano Golf Association sets first meeting of year

The Chicano Golf Association has set an organizational meeting for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama meeting room.

All members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Urlacher wins best defensive player

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Urlacher won The Associated Press NFL Defensive Player of the Year award.

The Chicago Bears' star middle linebacker helped the Bears allow the fewest points in the league this season. Urlacher also won the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award in 2000.

Chiefs clear way for Edwards to move in

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs cleared the way for Herman Edwards to become their new coach, agreeing to a compensation deal with the New York Jets.

The Chiefs would give the Jets a surprisingly low fourth-round pick if they hire Edwards.

The commissioner's office approved the fourth-round pick as compensation and granted Kansas City permission to speak with Edwards, who technically remains the head coach of the Jets.

Virginia Tech star dismissed by team, will enter NFL draft

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick was dismissed from the team, the result of numerous legal transgressions and his unsportsmanlike conduct in the Gator Bowl.

Replays show Vick apparently intentionally stomped on the leg of Louisville All-American defensive end Elvis Dumervil during the Hokies' 35-24 victory.

Vick, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, was convicted for serving alcohol to underage fans during the 2003 season. Vick's name was taken off the team in August 2004.

Vick was cited for driving while intoxicated and was arrested.

Steers match last year's win total in Lubbock

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
LUBBOCK — Big Spring's boys' basketball team got its sixth win of the season Friday as the Steers traveled to Lubbock and took down Lubbock Cooper, 59-45.

The two teams were even in the first and third quarters, but Big Spring, which won its sixth game

of the season, won the second quarter 17-8 and had a 15-10 advantage in the final frame.

"We played really good defense," said Big Spring head coach Robert Ridgley. "The bench also did a good job for us (Friday)."

The team used balanced scoring to get the win and got 20 points from the bench. Junior Scott



FANKHAUSER led the team with 10 points, while senior Matt Hilario scored nine off the bench. Rondell Trevino, another reserve, and senior Kyle Piercefield each scored seven points. Junior Ryan Tannehill

got into foul trouble in the second quarter and was held to just six points.

"We created a lot of turnovers on the wing and that was due to putting pressure on the ball when Cooper ran its zone offense," said Ridgley. "(Cooper) wasn't able to get much inside either." Big Spring had nine

players score in the game and Ridgley said the offense was a lot better than Tuesday.

"We moved well on offense and got some easy buckets off turnovers," said Ridgley.

The Steers will look to continue to play well when they challenge a good Sweetwater team at home Tuesday. The game is set to tipoff at 7:30 p.m.

B.S. girls can't hang on against Maidens

• Lake View takes out Lady Steers as District 4-4A begins

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The Lady Steers missed a golden opportunity to start District 4-4A play with a win Friday on the hardwood as Big Spring fell to rival Lake View, 38-33.

Big Spring won the second and third quarters, but a big fourth quarter by the Maidens sent Lake View back to San Angelo with a five-point win.

The Lady Steers jumped out to a 4-0 and 8-3 in the first quarter. However, leading 4-0, the girls had three chances to extend the lead, but couldn't cash in. They missed two layups and two free throws in the stretch. The lead blossomed to five after back-to-back layups by Ja'Leza Terrell, but the Maidens finished the period with six straight points and led 9-8 after one quarter.

Raegan Ritchey started the second quarter with four straight points and gave the Lady Steers a 12-9 lead. Another basket by Ritchey made it 14-11 and then a layup by Terrell pushed the advantage to 16-11 with just more than three minutes to play until halftime.

Lake View cut into the lead with two free throws with 2:51 and 2:07 to play until halftime, but Terrell

connected on free throws of her own with 1:20 to play to push the lead to 18-13.

Ritchey and Terrell finished the half with eight points each as Big Spring led at the break 19-15.

Lake View started fast in the third quarter and eventually took the lead 21-20 early in the period. Big Spring battled back to recapture the lead as junior Brenna Phernetton and senior Carmen Davis each scored two points on putbacks and Ritchey added a jumper to make it 26-21.

After two free throws by Lake View to cut the lead to one point, Terrell ended the quarter with a layup as Big Spring led by three after three quarters.

Lake View did not take long to get back the lead, though. The Maidens scored the first six points of the quarter to go up 31-28. Big Spring got a putback from Ritchey on the next possession, but Lake View pushed the lead back to three on two free throws by Michelle Ruiz.

Chalesa Johnson, who was not expected to play in the game as of Tuesday, hit a free throw to cut the deficit to two with 2:33 to play in the game.

Lake View senior Kelli Williams came back with a layup for the Maidens to push the lead to four with

See BSNS, Page 2B



Big Spring sophomore Desiree Yanez gets the ball taken away from her by Lake View's Kelli Williams, left, during action at the Steer Gym Friday. The Lady Steers lost to district rival Lake View, 38-33.

Garden City starts District 7 play with two easy victories

• Dawson no match for Bearkats, Lady Kats in Garden City

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
GARDEN CITY — Both Garden City basketball teams got easy wins Friday night at home to start the District 7-A seasons off in a positive way.

The Bearkats took down rival Dawson, 54-34, while the Lady Kats also had no trouble with the Lady Dragons, 46-23.

Garden City boys 54 Dawson boys 34

A fast start was all the Bearkats needed Friday night at home. Garden City jumped out to a 14-2 lead after the first quarter and coasted the rest of the way in picking up its 11th win of the year.

"We jumped out on them early," said Garden City head coach Koby Abney. "We were intense from the start and kept them down after getting a lead."

The Bearkats outscored Dawson 13-9

in the second and fourth quarters and played even with the Dragons in the third quarter.

"Dawson shoots the 3-pointer very well," said Abney. "They got hot in third quarter and were able to get back into it a little. We didn't handle the tempo well in that quarter either."

Senior Cory Multer led a balanced Garden City attack with 14 points, while junior Taylor Niehues added 10, junior Alex Halfmann scored nine and junior Colton Schwartz pitched in with eight. Every player but one on the Garden City roster scored in the game.

"We dominated inside and didn't hit a 3-pointer all night," said Abney. "However, when you go up against a man-to-man, it is better to not take shots from outside if you can get the ball inside."

Garden City improved to 11-4 overall and 1-0 in district play with the win. Dawson, which was led by Dustin Rivas' nine points, dropped to 10-8 and 0-1.

The Bearkats will travel to Grady Tuesday in what should be an important game as far as the district standings are concerned. The Wildcats and Bearkats both made it the postseason out of this district last year. The Wildcats edged Borden County on the road Friday so both teams will look to start 2-0 in district play.

Garden City girls 46 Dawson girls 23

Junior Erin Hirt scored nearly half of Garden City's points Friday night at home as the Lady Kats got off to a strong start in district play with a 23-point win

See VICTORIES, Page 3B



Big Spring junior Brenna Phernetton, center, battles two Lake View defenders for the ball during action at the Steer Gym Friday. The Maidens are 1-0 in District 4-4A play after a five-point win over the Lady Steers.

Bulldogs stop Eula, struggle offensively

• Class A No. 8 Eula holds Coahoma to less than 30 points

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
COAHOMA — The Bulldogs basketball team struggled to put the ball in the basket Friday at home as Eula, which is ranked No. 8 in Class A, took down Coahoma on the road, 37-28.

Eula led by two after one quarter and then grabbed a four-point lead at the break. Both teams scored 12 points in the

third quarter, but Coahoma scored just one point in the final frame to Eula's six and lost the game by nine.

"We played well on defense," said Coahoma head coach Kim Nichols. "We just struggled to score in the fourth quarter."

Coahoma (7-13) was led by junior Jason Gonzales' 12 points, while junior Stephen Ewing added eight.

The Bulldogs will begin District 4-2A play Friday in Stanton against the rival Buffaloes.

Bulldogettes get off to fast start in 4-2A

• Sterling leads Coahoma to win

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
HAWLEY — The Bulldogettes got off to a solid start in District 4-2A play Friday as Coahoma took down rival

Hawley, 49-39, on the road. The two teams played even after one quarter, but Coahoma grabbed a nine-point lead at the break after outscoring Hawley 16-7 in the second quarter.

The third quarter was another even period and Coahoma edged Hawley

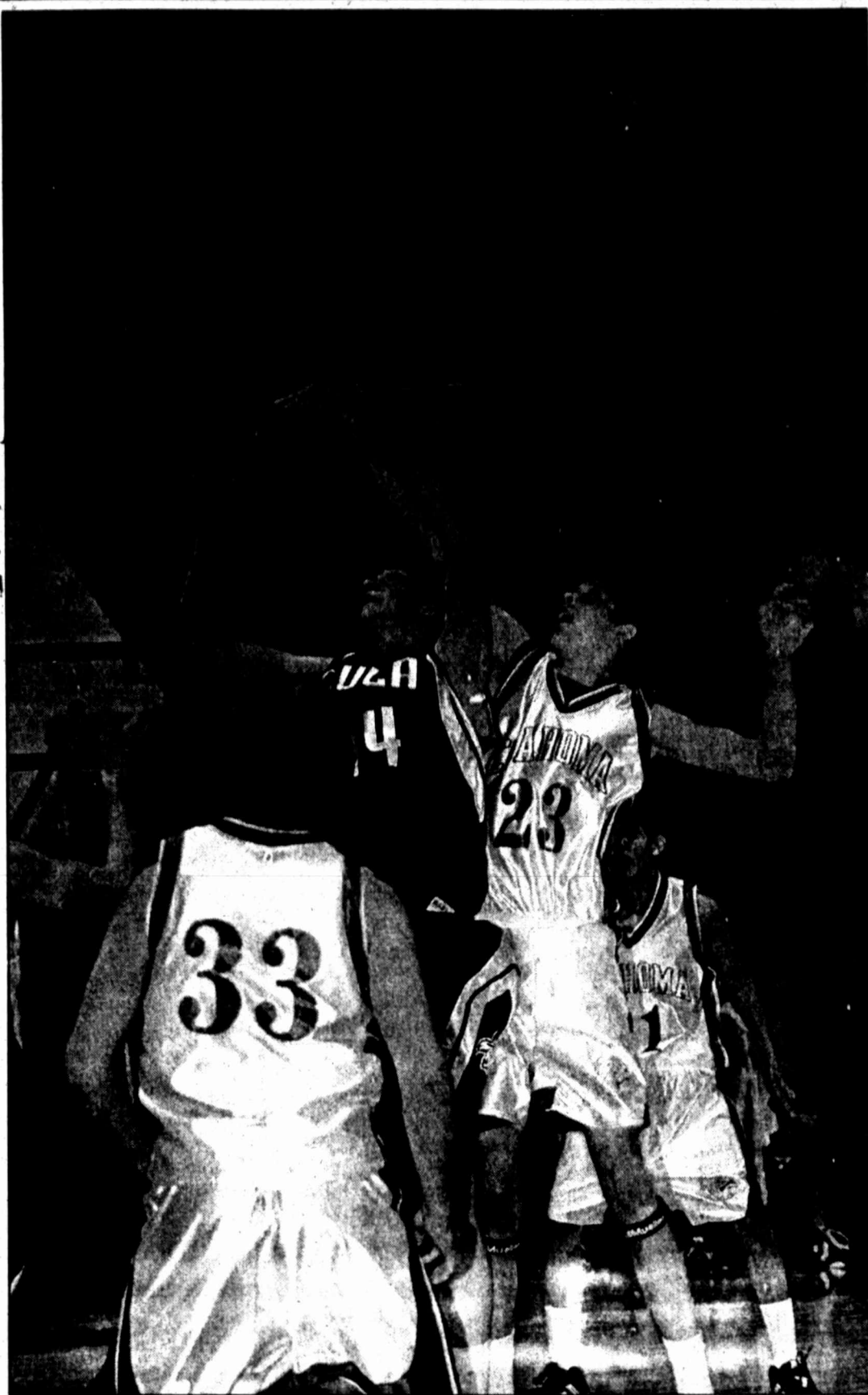
in the fourth by one point.

Freshman Laci Sterling was dominant for Coahoma as she finished with 19 points. Senior Sterling Gee added seven points, as well, as



Coahoma improved to 11-10 overall and 1-0 in the district.

Coahoma is tied for first place in the district after one game with Stanton and Stamford. Stanton edged Anson Friday, while Stamford cruised past Colorado City by 22 points. The Bulldogettes will host 1-0 Stamford Tuesday in Coahoma.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma sophomore Colter Morgan, #23, battles for a loose ball against a player from Eula Friday in Coahoma. The Bulldogs lost to Eula, 37-28, Friday. Coahoma begins District 4-2A play against Stanton next Friday.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

1:40 to go. Big Spring followed up Williams' basket with a missed shot, but Lake View gave it back to Big Spring after a turnover. Davis was able to get the Lady Steers within two points with 1:25 to go as she connected on two shots from the line.

But that is as close as the team would get as two late tries from behind the 3-point line failed and Big Spring dropped to 0-1 in district play.

Junior Mallory Dunn, who missed Tuesday's game due to a family vacation, returned to action Friday along with Johnson, who sat out Tuesday's game with a knee injury.

Ritchey led Big Spring with 12 points, while Terrell finished with 10. Davis added six.

The Lady Steers lost by five and missed eight shots from the foul line.

The Maidens were led by Williams off the bench as she scored a game-high 16 points, 12 of which came in the second half. The Maidens went 10-for-16 from the foul line.

Big Spring returns to action Tuesday as the Lady Steers will travel to Andrews to take on the rival Lady Mustangs.



Grady dumps rival Borden County

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
GAIL — The Grady girls' basketball team took down a struggling Borden County team, 45-27, Friday to begin the district season 1-0. The Wildcats also got a win over the Coyotes, but it was not easy as Grady got its first district win of the year in a close one, 47-46.



TUBB

Grady girls 45 Borden County girls 27

The Lady Cats held Borden County (3-18, 0-1) to single digits in the first three quarters of the game. Borden County did score 12 in the final frame, but the game was already decided. Grady jumped out to a 14-5 lead after one quarter

and led 23-9 at halftime. The Lady Cats outscored Borden County 8-1 in the third and 14-12 in the fourth.

Junior Kenzie Madison scored 14 points to lead Grady, while senior Taylor Woolfolk added 10 and Kelsie Howard scored nine. Grady improved to 11-8 and 1-0 after the win despite shooting just seven-for-20 from the foul line.

The Lady Cats will take on Garden City Tuesday at home beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Grady boys 47 Borden County boys 46
The Wildcats survived a scare to Borden County Friday as Grady opened

district play with a one-point win over the Coyotes.

Borden County jumped out to an eight-point lead after one quarter, but Grady slowly chipped away at the deficit. The Wildcats cut it to

five at halftime and then to two at the end of the three quarters. A 19-16 advantage in the fourth quarter proved to be just enough as the Wildcats escaped with the victory and improved to 10-8 and 1-0 on the season. Sophomore Justin Tubb led Grady with 17 points, while Jordan Pugh added 10.

The Wildcats will host rival Garden City Tuesday beginning at 8 p.m.



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Cisco betters Hawks in N.M.

• Howard struggles early against Cisco

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
HOBBS, N.M. — The second half of the season got off to a rocky start Friday for the Howard women's basketball team as they traveled to Hobbs, N.M. to take on Cisco and came away with a 71-53 loss.

The Hawk women got down early and never recovered in the game. They played nearly even in the second half, but the Marney damage had already been done as Cisco built a 16-point half-time lead. Howard connected on just four shots from the field in the first half, as well.

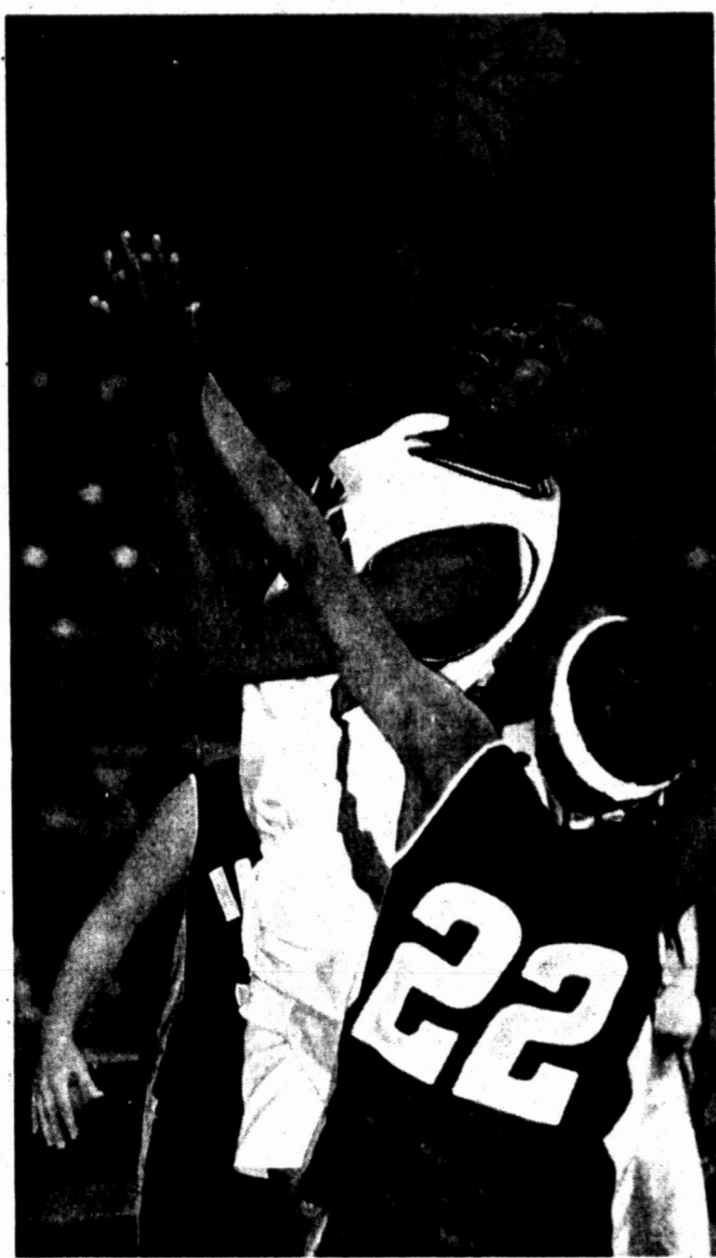
"We came out slow," said Howard assistant coach Eric Rodewald. "They built a big lead at halftime and just kept the lead the rest of the way."

Howard, which fell to 6-10 on the season, trailed by nine with just under five minutes into the game and Cisco pushed its advantage to 13 with just more than 10 minutes gone.

The Hawks held Cisco to just two points in the first five minutes of the second half, but managed to only put four points on the board themselves. Howard trailed 45-28 with 11:38 to go and 59-42 with just under five minutes to play.

Sophomore Latoya Fairley led the Hawks with 13 points, while freshman Kendra Marney played her best game of the year as she finished with 10 points, all of which came in the second half.

"Kendra played well in



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard sophomore Latoya Fairley gets fouled against Western Nebraska in a game played earlier this season. Fairley led the Hawk women with 13 points Friday, but Howard lost to Cisco, 71-53.

the second half for us," said Rodewald. "She shot well, moved well and did some nice things."

Sophomore Jennifer Pena had nine points in the game as did freshman

Kim Gilyard, who will start the rest of the season after the Hawks lost freshman Sara Rondeau for most

likely the rest of the year. Rondeau broke her clavicle in two places during the holiday break.

"Not having Sara obviously hurt us tonight,"

said Rodewald. "We needed her ability to shoot the ball."

The Hawks' bright spot in the game was their 21-for-28 shooting on the foul line.

But the schedule doesn't get an easier for Howard. They took on No. 1 Central Arizona Saturday in Hobbs, N.M., but scores were unavailable at press time, and will host No. 3 Trinity Valley Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The Western Junior College Athletic Conference season begins Jan. 19.

"Central Arizona will be a tough game, but right now we just have to continue to get better," said Rodewald.



Stanton gets win in 4-2A opener

• Crane edges Buffs in nondistrict finale

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
STANTON — The Lady Buffaloes only led in one quarter Friday but the lead was big enough to win the game as Stanton got the District 4-2A season off on the right foot with a 43-39 win over rival Anson.

Anson led 10-8 after one quarter, but an 18-2 advantage in the second quarter gave Stanton the lead for good.

The Lady Buffs led 26-12

at halftime and held on to win by three as the Anson outscored Stanton by 11 in the second half.

Senior Bonnie Kendall and junior Traci Carr led Stanton with 16 and 14 points, respectively. Stanton improved to 12-8 and 1-0 with the win.

**Stanton boys 39
Crane boys 40**

STANTON — The Stanton boys suffered a one-point loss at home at the hands of Crane Friday night.

Stanton jumped out to a 14-8 lead after the first quarter, but the lead was

just one at halftime as Crane won the second quarter 13-8.

The Buffaloes pushed the lead back to four after three quarters, but a 14-9 advantage in the fourth quarter was enough for Crane to sneak out of Stanton with the victory.

Sophomore Garrett Fulton led Stanton with 13 points.

Junior Mike Carmona, senior Matthew Ruiz and junior Jaron Sparks all scored eight points for the Buffaloes.

Carmona and Ruiz each hit two 3-pointers in the game.

Parcells signs two-year extension, will coach Cowboys through 2007

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — When the season ended, Bill Parcells said he needed a little time off before deciding whether to keep coaching the Dallas Cowboys.

Instead, he showed up

at his office every day this week.

So it wasn't too surprising — though still a relief to most Cowboys fans — when the team announced Friday that Parcells agreed to a new contract through 2007.

"I feel very fortunate to

have the opportunity to continue what we have started here," Parcells said in a news release. "The Cowboys organization has been the fairest of fair to me, and hopefully I can repay them with

See PARCELLS, Page 4B

VICTORIES

Continued from Page 1B

over rival Dawson.

Hirt finished with 22 points and six 3-pointers for Garden City as the Lady Kats led 27-9 at halftime after a 12-0 advan-

tage in the second quarter.

Dawson played Garden City to within five points in the second half, but the damage on the scoreboard had already been done. Junior Lauren Plagens added six points for Garden City.

Garden City improved

to 15-6 overall and 1-0 in district play. Dawson begins the district season 0-1.

The Lady Kats will also travel to rival Grady Tuesday to take on the 1-0 Lady Cats. Grady defeated Borden County on the road by 18 points Friday.

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PARCELLS

Continued from Page 3B

an improved performance."

The 64-year-old Parcells had a year left on the four-year, \$17 million contract he signed in January 2003. However, he left his three previous coaching jobs mid-contract and there was speculation he might do it again.

Apparently, he's more eager to continue a turnaround that began with Dallas going 9-7 this season after a 6-10 mark the previous year.

"This is about continuity and building upon the pieces we have in place as an organization and as a football team," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "We aren't where we want to be at this point, but we're definitely moving in the right direction and feel very good about the future."

Dallas is 25-24 under Parcells, counting the postseason. In his 18-year career, he's 163-123-1, good for ninth on the career win list, with two Super Bowl wins.

In three years with the Cowboys, Parcells has enhanced his reputation as a rebuild, but he still has plenty to accomplish — starting with winning a playoff game.

Terms of Parcells' new contract were not immediately available. A team spokesman said Jones would have no further comment. Parcells, who rarely speaks to reporters in the offseason, also was unavailable. His agent, Jimmy Sexton, did not immediately return a phone call to The Associated Press.

Despite having added a year to Parcells' existing deal — and probably giving him a raise, too — Jones could end up in the same will-he-stay-or-will-he-go dilemma after the upcoming season.

Coaches usually work with an extra season on their contracts, partly as leverage with players who might view them as headed out. So even with the extension, Jones can only count on getting 2006 out of Parcells.

"As I have said for the past three years, I am encouraged by Bill's enthusiasm and determination, and that hasn't changed in any way," Jones said.

The makeup of Parcells' staff remains in doubt. Sean Payton, the passing game coordinator and assistant head coach, is a candidate for the head coaching jobs in Green Bay and New Orleans, and defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer is up for the St. Louis job.

As for the roster, Dallas will have to decide about whether to keep several veterans who are due roster bonuses. The Cowboys likely will be on the hunt for several starters in free agency, and they have the 18th pick in the draft.

Parcells arrived in Dallas three years ago this week, taking over a club coming off three straight five-win seasons.

He won 10 games and made the playoffs right away, but lost to Carolina in a wild-card game. After the worst second season of any of his coaching stops, he rededicated himself for '05, restructuring the team more to his liking, and saw immediate results.

The Cowboys were 7-3

and first in the NFC East, then stumbled to a 2-4 finish. They were eliminated from the playoffs about an hour before their finale.

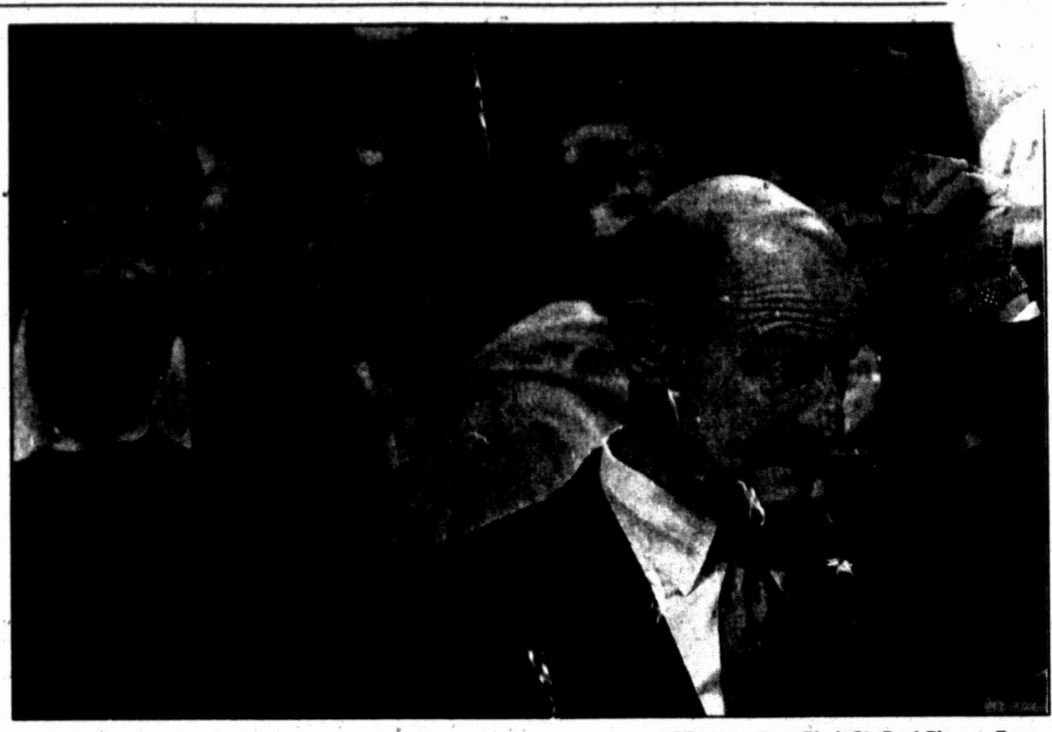
Afterward, Parcells said he needed time to decide whether to return. He's maintained that his health is fine, other than slipping from his workout regimen during the final month of the season. The first media report that he was considering retirement linked it to the November death of his younger brother, Don, after a long bout with cancer.

"Listen, the NFL season at best is a tiring process," Parcells said last week. "When you've been going every day since July 29, every single day, it's tiring for me. I don't know what it is for the other guys. When I see them Sunday, they all look tired, too."

Parcells guided the New York Giants to Super Bowl titles after the 1986 and '90 seasons, then got the New England Patriots to the title game in '96 and the New York Jets to the AFC championship in '98. He became the first coach to get four teams into the playoffs after making it with Dallas in 2003.

The future seems bright for the Cowboys.

Running back Julius Jones and tight end Jason Witten are building blocks on offense, and the defense — which Parcells switched to a 3-4 scheme last offseason — is loaded with talented young players: safety Roy Williams, cornerback Terence Newman, linebacker DeMarcus Ware and line-men Marcus Spears and Chris Canty.



The Minnesota Vikings named Brad Childress (right) the seventh head coach in the franchise's history at the team facility in Eden Prairie, Minn., Friday. Former Vikings players Carl Eller (left) and Chuck Foreman (middle) attended the announcement.

Chicago's Smith wins Coach of the Year after first-place finish

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

Lovie Smith was hired to resurrect a proud franchise in Chicago. He did such a strong job in 2005 that he was chosen The Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year Saturday.

And he beat out his mentor, Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy, for the honor.

In his second season as Bears coach, Smith guided them to the NFC North title with an 11-5 record, earning a first-round playoff bye. Chicago had the league's stingiest defense, which figures because Smith made his reputation as a defensive mastermind, first in

Tampa Bay under Dungy, then in St. Louis.

Now, he oversees a team that surged from 5-11 in his first year to a Super Bowl contender, armed with a defense that allowed only 202 points, just 61 of those at home.

If they aren't, then Dungy's Colts might be. Smith drew 24 1/2 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. Dungy was next with 20 1/2.

Bears general manager Jerry Angelo also worked for the Buccaneers.

Smith, who moved from defensive coordinator of the Rams to the Bears, chose Ron Rivera to coordinate the defense, but

remains heavily involved with a unit sparked by Defensive Player of the Year Brian Urlacher. Chicago gave up 24 points in a loss to Cincinnati in Game 3, but otherwise never yielded more than nine points at Soldier Field in going 7-1 at home.

Rivera has become a prime candidate for some of the head coaching openings this month.

Also receiving votes were New England's Bill Belichick (2), and one each for Seattle's Mike Holmgren, Cincinnati's Lewis and the New York Giants' Tom Coughlin.

San Diego's Marty Schottenheimer was the 2004 winner.

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- 2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Merlot Clearcoat, All Power, Keyless Entry, Anti Lock Brakes, Moonroof, 15,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Leather, Moonroof, Keyless Entry, Antilock Brakes, 18,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Cloud 9 White Clearcoat, Automatic, Air, Speed Control, All Power, Tilt, 20,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Silver Clearcoat, All Power, Automatic, Tilt, Speed Control, 14,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Arizona Beige, Automatic, Tilt, Cruise, 13,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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***** CARS *****

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- 2003 Toyota Avalon XL - Seafoam Green, All Power, One Owner w/43,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2003 Cadillac DeVille 4-DR. - White Pearl, Leather, All Options, Local One Owner w/43,000 Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
- 2002 Ford Focus SVT Hatchback - Black, Leather, 6 Speed, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2002 Ford Taurus SES - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/49,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
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***** CARS *****

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 - 2004 Dodge Ram 3500 Quad Cab 4X4 Diesel Laramie - Tan w/Leather, 6 Speed, All The Options, One Owner, w/50,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
 - 2003 Chevrolet Avalanche Z-66 - Dk. Gray, Cloth, XM Radio, OnStar, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **Was \$24,995** **NOW \$22,995**
 - 2003 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab Silverado - Blue, Cloth, All Power, Extra Clean. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
 - 2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/Silver, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner, w/46,000 Miles. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
 - 2002 Ford F350 Crew Cab Lariat 4X4 Diesel - Black/Arizona Beige, Tan Leather, One Owner. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$21,995**
 - 2001 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/70,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**
 - 2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Tan, V-8, Cloth, All Power. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
 - 2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT V-10 - Red, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, w/79,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
 - 1999 Chevrolet Classic C1500 Ext. Cab L.S. - Pewter, 350 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/56,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$11,995**
 - 1998 Nissan Frontier Kign Cab XE - Tan, 5 Speed, 4 Cyl., Air, 45,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**

***** SUVS *****

- 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/12,000 Miles. **Was \$26,995** **NOW \$25,995**
- 2004 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Red/Tan, Leather, DVD, Power 3rd Row Seat, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner w/46,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$29,995**
- 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - Black, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$18,995**

***** SUVS *****

- 2003 Ford Explorer XLS - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2003 Ford Escape XLT - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter, w/Leather, Loaded, One Owner w/45,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$20,995**
- 2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - Blue w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/49,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$16,995**
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- 2001 Ford Explorer Spt 4X4 2-DR. - Blue, All Power, w/57,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2001 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - White w/Cloth, All Power. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 2000 Chevrolet Suburban LT 4X4 - Black w/Leather, All Power, One owner w/73,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 1999 Dodge Durango SLT 4X4 - Black w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/Only 57,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$11,995**
- 1999 GMC Suburban - Tan w/Leather, All Power. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**
- 1997 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**

***** VANS *****

- 2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE - Blue, V-6, All Power, 54,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, Fully Loaded, One Owner w/58,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$13,995**
- 2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE - Blue, V6, All Power, 54,000 Miles. **Was \$14,995** **NOW \$13,995**

***** MOTORCYCLES *****

- 2002 Harley Davidson Road King Classic - Pearl White, Local One Owner, 25,000 Miles. **Was \$15,995** **NOW \$14,995**

"We Accept Income Tax Refunds As Downpayments" (wac)

Bob Brock
Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

God's quiet soldiers

They work as prayer warriors, ever vigilant but unseen, these men of God who serve with the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps for Howard County.

And their role and duties are as diversified as the various agencies they serve. They work as volunteers, answering a call for a job they see as needed within their community.

"We provide counseling with emergency service personnel of all kinds, from police officers to firefighters to emergency room personnel to those who work with victims of crime," said the Rev. Joel Miller, coordinator for the program.

"We're all pastors and can perform weddings and funerals and three of us serve a congregation as pastor. We also provide seminars for divorce prevention of emergency workers to help their families deal with the stresses they experience in the home," he said.

Think of them as a policeman or firefighter's best friend. They offer services to those who place their lives on the line for the community every day.

And their duties also include working with victims. Their job is to provide comfort for those experiencing trauma, shock and loss or a combination of these emotions.

"We go out every time there is a call to a traffic fatality, to make a death notification to a family or when we're called to the hospital's emergency room.

"Our first duty is to pray, and we start praying as soon as we receive the call," he said.

The chaplains also may provide educational programs to the prisons or other types of emergency service and must undergo 50-60 hours of specialized training to be a certified emergency chaplain.

The four men alternate being on call for 48 hours once each week. To be approved for the program, candidates must submit to a background check and have a minister's recommendation. The program is governed by a board of directors.

One of the tasks the chaplains set for themselves is a new stuffed toy for every child that visits a hospital emergency room or is involved in a traffic accident or other emergency experience.

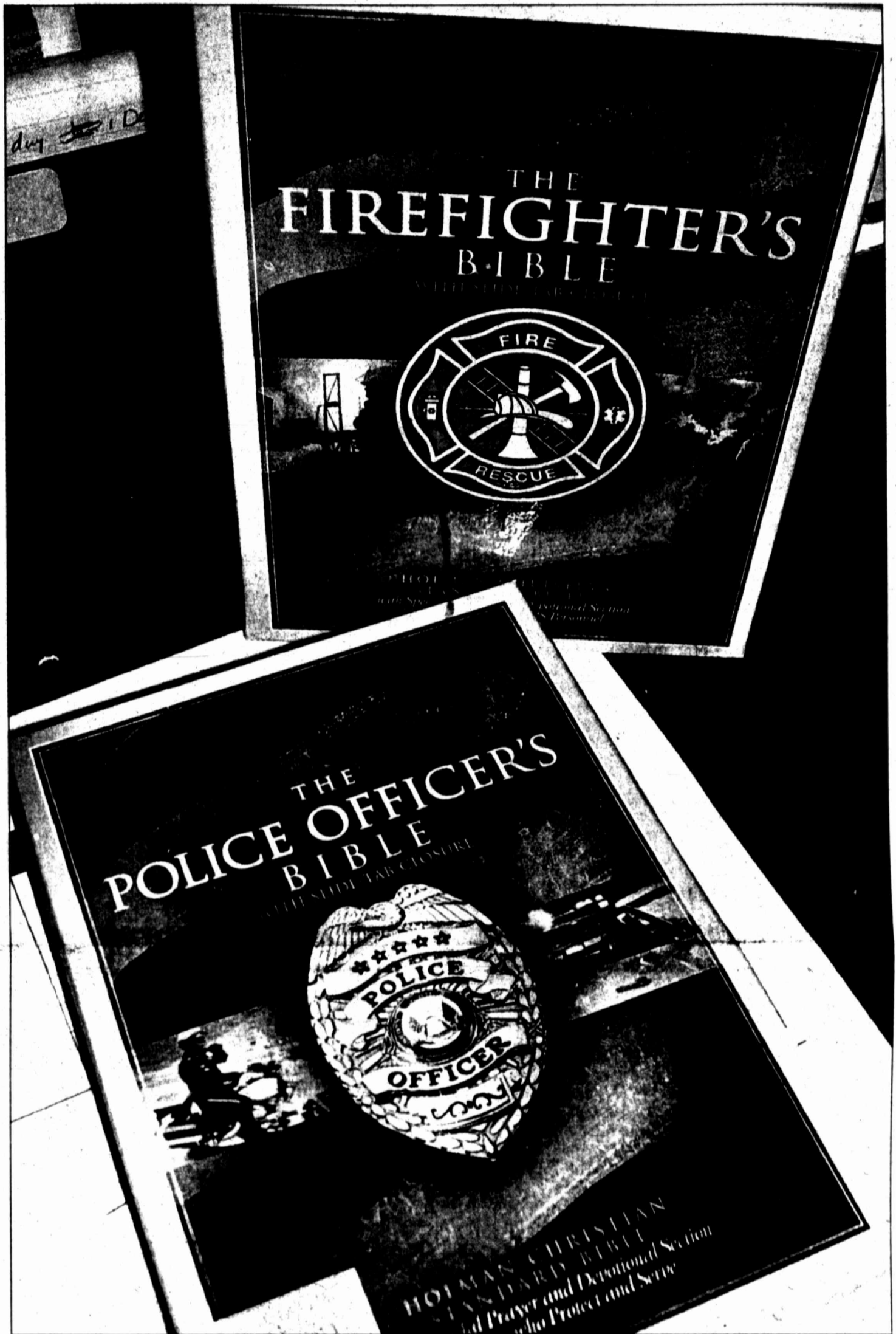
"Those stuffed animals really comfort a child," Miller said.

The entire chaplains program operates through donations. Often the minister's churches bear the majority of the cost for the program.

The program was started in Howard County four years ago, and Jan. 1, Miller became a salaried employee, keeping office hours and riding with emergency workers for several hours each day.

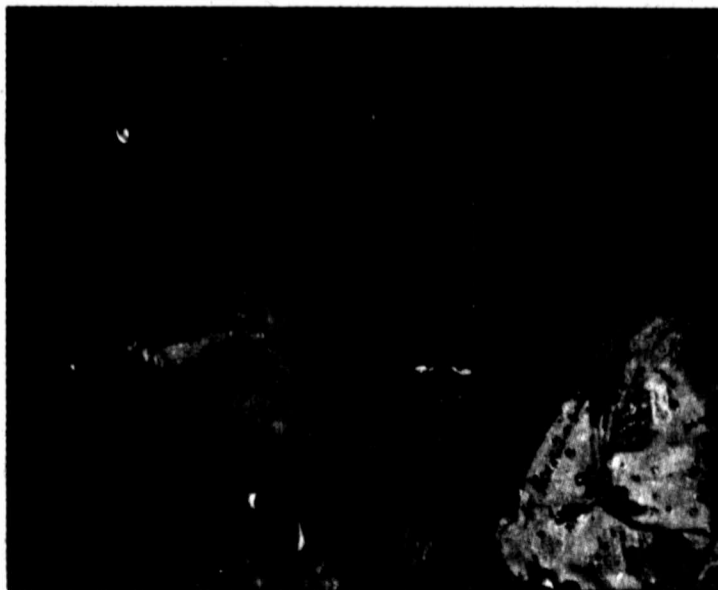
"What we do, behind the scenes as it is, is vitally important for our community and we all truly believe in what we do and feel we are called by God to perform these duties. Being an emergency chaplain is totally different from being a church's pastor, because we have to comfort people at possibly the worst times of their lives," Miller said.

For more information, contact Miller at 213-1221.



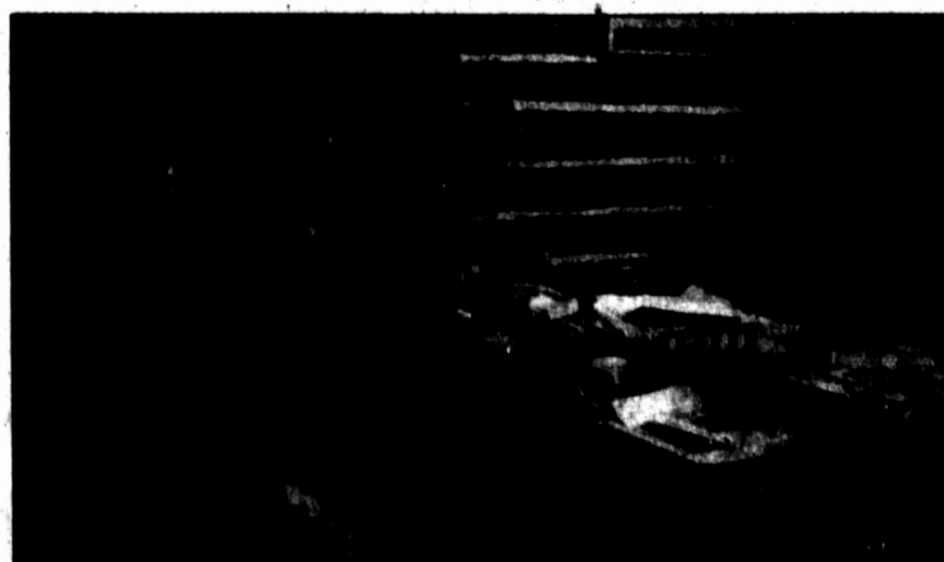
Herald photos/Marsha Sturdivant

Big Spring Fire Department driver/apparatus/paramedic Mark Settles, left, with the Rev. Dwayne Wheat, the Rev. Joel Miller and firefighter and emergency medical technician Daniel Castillo in Fire Station No. 1. The top right photo is of the Bibles recently purchased by the program to be distributed to the firefighters and police officers in Big Spring. The Bibles cost the program about \$500, raised through local churches and individual donations.



Herald photos/Marsha Sturdivant

The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps, right, is the Rev. Dwayne Wheat left, the Rev. Darrell Hendrickson, the Rev. Joel Miller and the Rev. Scott Willis, a licensed minister who works as a therapist at the VA Medical Center. The lower left photo is Wheat with Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room nurse, Juanita Smith with some of the stuffed toys they give to children at the hospital. The lower right photo is Wheat and Miller with Howard County Sheriff, Dale Walker.



Contact Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

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Menus

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, sausage patty, grape juice, milk; Lunch, corn chip pie, mixed fruit, ranch-style beans, baby carrots (high school second choice: tuna salad).
Tuesday: Breakfast, honey bun, apples, milk; Lunch, cheese enchiladas, border beans, Spanish rice, rosy apple-sauce (high school second choice: pizza pockets).
Wednesday: Breakfast, tortilla, sausage links, orange juice, milk; Lunch, chicken patty mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, grapes, rolls (high school second choice, chili-cheese fries).
Thursday: Breakfast, muffins, ham slices, pears, milk; Lunch, beet stew, spinach salad, cornbread, peach cobbler (high school second choice, chicken strips).
Friday: Breakfast, glazed donuts, fruit punch, milk; Lunch, hamburger salad, French fries, pork and beans, cookies (high school second choice, meatloaf).

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, waffles, sausage links, syrup, apple juice, milk; Lunch, green enchiladas, ranch beans, mixed fruit, nacho chips, milk, corn dogs.
Tuesday: Breakfast, donuts, sausage, apple-sauce cups, milk; Lunch, chicken patty, gravy, creamed potatoes, Jello with fruit, bread, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, oatmeal, ham, grape juice, milk; Lunch, cheeseburger pockets, potato salad, apples, milk, burritos.
Thursday: Breakfast, pancakes, sausage-on-a-stick, syrup, orange juice, milk; Lunch, smothered steak, sweetened rice, corn, apple turnovers, bread, milk, chili-dogs.
Friday: Breakfast, sweet rice, ham, juice, milk; Lunch, pizza, salad, pickle spears, oranges, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, chili-cheese dog, French fries, apples and orange smiles, sherbet cup, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast, biscuit, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, beef enchiladas, tossed salad, refried beans, cinnamon bar, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, oatmeal, toast, juice, milk; Lunch, steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, fruit cup, green beans, hot rolls, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast, pancakes, sausage, juice, milk; Lunch, hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, baby carrots, chips, milk.
Friday: Breakfast, donuts, juice, milk; Lunch, chicken taco casserole, corn, tossed salad, cinnamon apples, tortilla chips, milk.

Sands ISD

Monday: Breakfast, sausage and biscuits, milk or juice; Lunch, pizza, tossed salad, peas and carrots, fresh grapes, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast, Nutri-bars, milk or juice; Lunch, carne guisada,

refried beans, corn, orange quarters, flour, tortillas, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast-on-a-stick, milk or juice; Lunch, green beans, peaches, Texas toast, frozen yogurt.
Thursday: Breakfast, cereal, milk or juice; Lunch, fish strips, tartar sauce, tossed salad, fruit, macaroni and cheese, rolls.
Friday: Breakfast, muffins, milk or juice; Lunch, hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles, French fries, baby carrots, pudding.

Stanton ISD

Monday: Breakfast, waffles, syrup, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch, grill cheese sandwich, steak burger, potato puffs, chicken noodle soup, apples, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast, oatmeal, cinnamon toast, cereal buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch, spaghetti, Italian spaghetti, Salisbury steak, green beans, garden salad, fruit gelatin, French bread, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, cinnamon French toast, cereal buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch, pepperoni pizza, pizza sticks, peas/carrots, garden salad, fruit cocktail, milk, ranch dressing.
Thursday: Breakfast, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch, beef tacos, taco shells, flour tortillas, lettuce and tomato salad, pineapple, cornbread, milk, American cheese.
Friday: Breakfast, burrito, cereal, buttered toast, juice, milk; Lunch, barbecue/bun, ham/cheese sandwiches, potato chips, vegetarian beans, sandwich salad, pickle spears, peaches, milk.

Westbrook ISD

Monday: Breakfast, French toast sticks, cereal, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, pineapple chunks, milk.
Tuesday: Breakfast, scrambled eggs, toast, jelly, cereal, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, nachos w/meat and cheese, peppers, salsa, pinto beans, Spanish rice, fruit cup, milk.
Wednesday: Breakfast, pancake pups, cereal, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, pepperoni pizza, tossed salad, peaches, milk.
Thursday: Breakfast, assorted cereal, toast and jelly, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, turkey and gravy, creamed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, sliced bread, pumpkin pie, milk.
Friday: Breakfast, sausage, gravy, biscuits, fruit juice, milk; Lunch, barbecue rib-on-a-bun, onion, pickle spear, French fries, 1/2 orange, milk.

Spring City Senior Citizens Center

Monday: Lunch, stew, salad, cornbread, milk, fruit.
Tuesday: Lunch, smothered steak, potatoes, peas, milk, bread, cake.
Wednesday: Lunch, chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, beans, chips, milk, bread, gelatin.
Thursday: Lunch, large baked potatoes, cheese/broccoli, chili/sour cream, crackers, chocolate pie.
Friday: Lunch, steak and onions, macaroni and cheese, squash, milk, rolls, fruit.

Births



Nathan Richard Villareal

Nathan Richard Villareal, a boy, was born Nov. 23, 2005, at 12:24 p.m., weighing 5 pounds and was 17 1/4 inches long. His parents are David Villareal and Yvonne Brito of Big Spring. His grandparents are Lucy Brito and Elida Cruz.



Kavian Ray Ford

Kavian Ray Ford, a boy, was born Dec. 17, 2005, at 4:14 p.m., weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21.25 inches long. His parents are Priscilla Cortez and Raymone Ford of Big Spring. His grandparents are Rosemary Cortez of Big Spring, Lee Cortez Jr., of Lamesa, Charlotte Harrison of Dallas and Raymond Ford of San Angelo. He was welcomed home by his sister, Kymbry Nikole Ford.

Bryson James Hirt



Bryson James Hirt

Bryson James Hirt, a boy, was born Dec. 11, 2005, at 11:37 p.m., in Shannon Women's and Children's Hospital in San Angelo. He weighed 10 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Chad and Robin Hirt of San Angelo. His grandparents are Randy and Jennifer Key of Big Spring, Ronnie and Becky Bourland of Kerrville and Chris and Lana Hirt of St. Lawrence. His great-grandparents are Clois and Peggy Snell of Coahoma, Connie and Lou Key of Big Spring, Elsie Hirt of St. Lawrence and LaVerne Schniers of Wall. His great-great grandmother is Dorothy Key of Big Spring.

Texas Historic Commission releases grant deadlines, info

Texas trust fund grants awarded

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently selected 22 preservation projects from 65 applications to be recipients of the 2006 Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) grant awards totaling approximately \$405,000. For more information, or to apply for fiscal year 2007 TPTF grant, contact Lisa Harvell, at 512/463-6094 or P. O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711. To view a list of grant recipients and projects, visit the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us.

National endowment grants for the humanities

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Implementation grants are now available for Interpreting America's Historic Places from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Projects may interpret a single historic site, a series of sites, an entire neighborhood, a town or community or a larger geographical region. The place as a whole must be significant to American history, and the project must convey its historical importance to visitors. Applicants for implementation grants should have already done most of the planning for their projects, including consultation with scholars and programming advisers, identification of the key humanities themes, articulation of program components and performance of relevant research.

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects that include partners inside and outside of the traditional history community, such as heritage tourism or economic development agencies, community and other non-profit organizations, and agencies of local, state or tribal governments. While innovative partnerships are encouraged, at least one partner should have experience in developing and implementing humanities programs. The application deadline is Feb. 6 and must be submitted online at www.grants.gov. After the application is fully uploaded, grants.gov will time and date stamp it. Applications submitted after that date will not be accepted. Supplementary materials must also arrive at NEH by Feb. 6 to be considered as part of the application. For additional information, contact Interpreting America's Historic Places: Implementation Grants, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Room 426, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20506 or visit www.grants.gov.

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1103 E. 11th Place 263-3100
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Coronado Hills Apartments
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Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking & Washer - Dryer Conn.
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Remember...you deserve the best!!

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Suresh Gadasalli, MD, FACC
The Healthy Heart Center
Do not hesitate to call for evaluation of chest pain, irregular heartbeat, light headedness or other possible heart conditions.
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Acute, Interventional and Preventive Cardiology
New Patient Appointments Available Immediately
Most Insurance Filed • Se Habla Español
2005 READER'S CHOICE PHYSICIAN

Big Spring Weekend
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The groom Joe Paul son of Rob Spring an Lou Beal Jerry and Roman.
She is a Bronte H attends University pursuing a degree in childhood...
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The bride of Ralston C the gra Walley a of Iowa F Dallas Ralston.
The groom Joe and Coahoma son of J Big Spr Jimmy I...
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Engagement

Arrott, Beall to wed

Michaela Christian Arrott of Bronte and Stuart Len Beall of Knott will exchange wedding vows at 7 p.m. March 11, 2006, at Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mike and Andra Arrott of Bronte. She is the granddaughter of Clearence LeDrew and Bobbie Arrott of Bronte and Marjorie Cooper of Bronte and the late Noris Paul (Dick) Cooper.

The groom is the son of Joe Paul and Rene Beall of Knott. He is the grandson of Robert Beall of Big Spring and the late Ida Lou Beall and the late Jerry and the late Leona Roman.

She is a 2001 graduate of Bronte High School and attends Angelo State University, where she is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education. She



Michaela Christian Arrott and Stuart Len Beall

is a receptionist for a medical doctor in San Angelo.

He is a 2000 graduate of Sands High School in

Ackerly. He received his bachelor of business administration and management degree from Angelo State University

in 2004. He is a commercial real estate lender for Community National Bank in Midland.



Joey Jackson and Paige Prater

Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Marc Dale Ditto

Ralston, Ditto wed

Amber Michele Ralston and Marc Dale Ditto were united in marriage at 2 p.m. Dec. 17, 2005, at the Lakeview Church of God in Iowa Park. The Rev. Clifton McFadden performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Teddy and Karen Ralston of Iowa Park and the granddaughter of Walley and Doris Smith of Iowa Park and the late Dallas and Louise Ralston.

The groom is the son of Joe and Patty Ditto of Coahoma and the grandson of Thelma Ditto of Big Spring and the late Jimmy Dale Ditto, Rose

Speaker of Big Spring and the late Walt Speaker and the late Marc Luttrell.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, Teddy Ralston wore a Fairytale gown of white with a long, beaded train. She carried white, blue and purple flowers in her bouquet.

Amanda Walker served as matron of honor and Candace Walker served as flower girl. Marcus Wilson served as ring bearer.

Nathan Ralston assisted the groom as best man.

The couple have made their home in Waxahachie.

Publication policies for life! set

Wedding announcements, 50th anniversary or greater announcements, engagement announcements and quinceañera articles with photos are published within three months of the event in the Big Spring Herald's weekend edition at no charge.

Birth announcements, Who's Who and In the Military, with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All photos submitted must be of good quality for reproduction purposes.

All articles are edited

for style and content and must contain a connection to Big Spring and Howard County.

Articles are due in the Herald's office by noon each Wednesday for weekend edition publication.

All announcements must be typed on a Big Spring Herald form and contain just the information requested. The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to life@bigspringherald.com.

Newcomers

• Jason Mims, wife, Mysti, formerly of Lubbock. He is the assistant director of financial aid at Howard College. She is employed at Elbow Elementary.

• Bernadette Valentine, daughters, Sjammola, Darnice, son, Anthony, 17, formerly of Denver, Colo. She is a substitute teacher at Big Spring Independent School District.

• Brent Carr, mother, Billie Frances Carr, formerly of New Orleans, La. He is self-employed in the security business.

• Noah Albin, wife, JoAnn, mother, Grace Larson, formerly of Humboldt County, North Coast, Calif.

• Joe R. Morelion, wife, Veronica, son, Preston, daughter, Alondra, formerly of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. He is employed at Fiber Glass Systems.

• Jerry Cullison, wife, Roanna, son, Carey, 12, daughter, Ashley, 15, formerly of Odessa. He works for Odessa Sharpening.

Prater, Jackson to wed

Danielle Paige Prater and Anthony Joseph Jackson Jr., announce their intention to wed at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21, 2006, at the First Christian Church in Big Spring.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Jack and Sandy Griffin of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Jo Nell Griffin Sr. of Big Spring and the late Jack Griffin Sr. of Big Spring and the late Vincent and the late Marianne Bick of Mesa, Ariz.

She is a 1993 graduate of Big Spring High School and received an associate in science degree from Howard College. She will

receive a bachelor of science degree from Lubbock Christian University in May 2006. She is employed by the Southeastern Career Institute of Midland.

The groom-elect is the son of Dr. Robert and Rhonda Hayes of Big Spring and the grandson of the late John and the late Ann Jackson of Brewster, N.Y., Butch and Jeanette Floyd of Sterling City and Raymond McKee of Big Spring. He is a 1998 graduate of Forsan High School and is serving in the U.S. Army.



Trinity Baptist Church is proud to welcome one of America's most popular gospel trios

The Greenes

Sunday (January 8th) • 6:00 PM

Trinity Baptist Church

810 Eleventh Place

(A nursery will be provided)

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Open 7 days a Week 8 am-Midnight
Birth to 12 years old
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Board Certified OB/GYN
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432-264-7180

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Mary Carlomagno, right, a professional organizer and author, and Robin Wilson, founder and CEO of Wallbounce, a company offering unique services, talk shop in the Container Store in Paramus, N.J.

One-of-a-kind adventures: not your ordinary merchant

By ABIGAIL LEICHMAN

The Record

Perhaps you take an annual trip to Italy, looking at architecture and enjoying a week of great food.

Now imagine if you could add a twist — a private tour of the Hermes or Manolo Blahnik factory, let's say, where you could order up a custom bag or pumps to ship home.

It could make the difference between a routine vacation and an experience you'd never forget.

That's what Robin Wilson calls a "wallbounce."

Members of her new Internet ven-

"This is an egalitarian approach to open doors to people. We've tapped into a place where consumers want something that makes them feel special."

ture, wallbounce.com, get to purchase experiences they could never arrange on their own.

"Anybody can walk in to a couture retailer and hire their private shopper," Wilson says. "But if

you're a Wallbounce member you get the personal shopper for eight hours, who will take you to the store's private warehouse and help you choose items for a special event.

"Then, on the day of the event, a hair stylist will come prepared to do your hair and makeup based on a picture of the dress and accessories you chose."

In other words, she says, "a wallbounce takes you to a place you've never been before."

Why the wacky name?

See **SPECIAL**, Page 5C



Though he still has not received a disaster loan from the Small Business Administration, Drew Ramsey has reopened his landmark New Orleans bakery for the first time since Katrina cracked its wall.

Bakery back in business

New Orleans Pies can wait no longer for small business loans

By CHARLES BABCOCK

The Washington Post

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Ramsey started baking pies again this week for the first time since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and damaged Hubig's Pies, the family bakery that has long been a household name in the city. Hubig's fried, glazed snack pies

were a staple in convenience stores in the area, and the plant on Dauphine Street also turned out pecan, sweet potato and fruit pies daily for local grocery stores and restaurants.

Katrina cracked open a wall of the bakery and damaged the roof and ventilation system. The storm scattered his

employees, suppliers and customers. In the four months since, Ramsey, 37, has struggled with repairs, utilities, insurers and trying to get a loan from the federal government.

Hubig's did get a \$25,000 bridge loan from the state and recently "turned the corner" in negotiating claims with its insurance

company, Ramsey said. But Ramsey has not heard from the Small Business Administration.

Until recently, the plant's neighborhood had only intermittent electricity. There wasn't enough gas pressure to fire up the bakery ovens. And the city would certify only

See **BAKERY**, Page 5C

BUSINESS BRIEFS

American Airlines executives to get bonuses despite red ink

FORT WORTH (AP) — Executives at American Airlines are expecting April stock-based bonuses that could total more than \$500 million because shares of parent AMR Corp. have risen despite heavy losses at the nation's largest carrier.

About 1,000 employees from top executives to mid-level managers are expected to receive bonuses under a plan that AMR's board approved in 2003.

The amount of the bonuses will be based on AMR's stock price in April. At AMR's current stock price, they would range from about \$2,000 to about \$1.7 million for Daniel P. Garton, the airline's executive vice president for marketing.

Chairman and Chief Executive Gerard J. Arpey did not take part in the bonus plan.

The plan was written in 2003, when AMR hovered near bankruptcy, and it rewarded executives and managers if AMR's stock performed as well or better than that of other airline companies through the end of 2005. During that time, AMR shares gained 169 percent.

As previously disclosed in regulatory filings, management employees were given units that will vest in April at a strike price of \$5. Senior Vice President Jeff Brundage said the value of employee bonuses could top \$568 million.

Pilgrim's Pride tries to ease consumers' avian flu fears

PITTSBURG (AP) — Poultry producer Pilgrim's Pride Corp. says it will test each chicken flock for avian influenza before sending the birds to its processing plants.

The testing program was developed by a poultry industry trade group, the National Chicken Council. O.B. Goolsby Jr., president and chief executive of Pittsburg-based Pilgrim's Pride, said properly cooked chicken has never posed a human threat from avian flu but that the additional inspections will increase protection for consumers.

Pilgrim's Pride, the second-largest poultry producer in the United States and Mexico, has been forced to reroute some shipments away from Turkey and Romania after avian flu scares in those and other European countries.

Company officials partly blamed avian flu fears when they cut their short-term profit outlook by more than half, which sent Pilgrim's Pride stock to a 52-week low.

San Antonio man included in international scam probe

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A local businessman is under federal investigation for allegedly being a key player in an elaborate Ponzi scheme that has bilked investors out of \$36 million, according to court records.

Last month the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Sherman froze the assets of Gregory Thompson and his business, TNT Office Supply Inc., at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to the SEC, Thompson and his company were part of a six-person network that "engaged in an ongoing fraudulent high-yield investment scheme." Other players in the scam are reportedly in Minnesota, Georgia and Australia.

Thompson did not immediately return a phone call from The Associated Press on Friday.

The SEC says would-be investors were sent to Thompson's company in San Antonio based on assurances the funds would be invested internationally to earn between 4 percent and 12 percent each month without risk of losing the principal.

Investors were told that Thompson forwarded the funds to Atlanta money manager Travis Correll, who would then send the money to an Australian trader to buy various foreign bank investments, the SEC said.

The SEC says assets are also frozen at three companies owned by Correll that were allegedly part of the scam — Horizon Establishment, the Net Worth Group Inc. and Travis Correll & Co. Inc.

Investigators say Thompson, Correll and the others ran a Ponzi scheme in which older investors were paid returns out of funds sent by more recent investors.

Blockbuster to pay \$140,000 to settle N.J. lawsuit on late fees

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Blockbuster Inc. has agreed to pay \$140,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by New Jersey that charged its "no late fees" program was misleading and incomplete, state officials said Friday.

More than \$90,000 of the money will be refunded to about 75,000 customers who paid "video restocking fees," while the remainder will pay for state investigative costs, Attorney General Peter C. Harvey said.

Blockbuster did not admit any wrongdoing, but settlement terms require the nation's largest movie-rental chain to ensure that customers are clearly notified of all terms and charges under the "no late fees" program.

The settlement stems from a lawsuit the state filed in February, shortly after Blockbuster instituted the new policy with signs touting "the end of late fees." The fine print, however, said the company would charge consumers if they kept the movies too long, then charge a \$1.25 restocking fee if the movies were returned.

In March, Blockbuster agreed to pay \$630,000 to 47

See **BRIEFS**, Page 5C

BIG SPRING WEEKEND
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Hmm, a new job or a bullheaded husband? BRIEFS

Continued from Page 4C

DEAR LYNDA,

I have been working for the same company for past 20 years and now have an opportunity to expand my business with a cosmetics company. I have been selling for them on a part-time basis for two years and would like to do this full-time.

I am good at it and make a decent income, but know I could do much more if I could devote myself to this on a full-time basis. There is just one problem — my husband. He does not want me to give up the security we have with my job.

I will admit, it would initially be a pay cut and also would affect our benefits. However, he has a

good job, so insurance coverage would not be an issue. And to tell the truth, I am just plain bored at my job.

This seems like a way for me to really stretch my wings. My husband says if I quit my job he will not support me. It isn't fair he's making me choose. Please give me something I can say to him to make him change his mind.

It's MY CHOICE

DEAR CHOICE,

It sounds like you do need to make a choice — either your husband or the new full-time endeavor. Try to calmly talk to your husband and see what's really behind his inflexibility. Examine your

own point of view — seems like there's some inflexibility there, too. To give yourself more time, see if it's possible to go part-time at your job without losing your benefits or taking a drastic cut in pay.

In the end, you may need to make that choice. But choose carefully as it will impact the rest of your life.

Lynda Ford is president of The Ford Group, a management and human resource consulting firm. She can be contacted at asklynda@fordgroup.com or (315) 339-6398.

states that threatened to sue and to make refunds to customers who were charged the purchase price of DVDs or videos that they returned more than seven days late.

Recently, Blockbuster stores in several Southern states have resumed charging late fees because they cannot keep popular movies on their shelves.

BAKERY

Continued from Page 4C

that the water supply was good for flushing toilets, not mixing into pies. After giving workers four weekly paychecks from an emergency fund, Ramsey said, the company cash flow has been limited to the sale of a couple of hundred T-shirts on a new Web site.

Ramsey's family, which owns Simon Hubig Co. with a partner, is one of more than 23,000 businesses in Louisiana that have applied to the SBA for low-interest-rate disaster-assistance loans. "I'm not holding my breath waiting for the SBA," he said.

The agency has been heavily criticized for its slow processing of loan applications from businesses and homeowners hurt by the storm. Trying to fill the vacuum, Sens. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, and John F. Kerry, D-Mass., the chair and senior Democrat on the Senate Small Business Committee, tried without success to press the Bush administration into setting aside \$450 million so the affected states could give out more "bridge" loans or grants to small businesses.

Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., top Democrat on the agency's House oversight committee, is calling for SBA Administrator Hector Barreto to resign.

Barreto said in an interview that his agency is working hard to respond to the unparalleled size of the problem. "The thing that is so different is the scope of this disaster," he said. "That is surely something that we've never experienced before." His office announced Tuesday that the agency has approved \$2 billion in loans and continues to make approvals at a record pace.

Like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the SBA doesn't have a large permanent staff. It has hired hundreds of loan processors and inspectors, Barreto said, increasing its staff to about 4,000 workers from 880, to handle the fallout from Katrina and the hurricanes that followed. The agency also has simplified the documentation requirements because so many applicants lost needed financial information in the storms.

The SBA's task has been complicated by the law

governing its response. Though its usual mandate is helping small businesses, it is charged with helping homeowners and renters as well as all businesses damaged in disasters. That is because a New Deal program coupled the two loan programs during the Great Depression of the 1930s, and both were transferred to the SBA when it was created in 1953.

Usually applications from homeowners, who can borrow up to \$200,000, outnumber by about 4 to 1 those from business owners, who can borrow up to \$1.5 million, the agency said. Because of the widespread damage from last fall's hurricanes, though, the number of homeowner applications outnumber those from business owners 7 to 1.

The SBA has had nearly 337,000 applications for aid — 87 percent of them from homeowners. As of last week, the SBA still had to process 60 percent of the applications and was turning down about 70 percent of the requested loans, above the normal rejection rate of 40 to 50 percent.

Through Dec. 30, SBA figures show the agency had approved 28,689 loans worth \$2 billion, almost all for Katrina victims. Of those, 4,363 worth nearly \$330 million, were to businesses.

Of the \$1.1 billion approved for Katrina victims in Louisiana, 1,891 of the loans, worth \$148 million, were for businesses.

Recently though, Ramsey said he had made sufficient progress to start baking again. By last week he had regrouped almost half of his 55 workers, enough to fire up the ovens. He picked up lemon oil and sent a worker to Baton Rouge to get sweet potatoes and a new "apple" stamp for the labels on the pie wrappers. Apples arrived by air from Washington state. And after discovering that oven controls were "fried" by power surges, Ramsey bought new ones and calibrated them.

By 3 p.m. Wednesday, the first test run of 3,000 snack pies was finished and was being given away to firefighters and police officers, he said. By Monday the initial target of 10,000 snack pies a day, though only half the pre-Katrina run, should be read to sell, he said.

There will be other changes in the business too. Employees will be getting a raise and the pies will cost a little more, Ramsey said.

Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Samantha Ann Borrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater

Stephanie Renee Beatty, 2718 E. St. 176, Andrews

Tony Ray Bingham, 1503-A Scurry, Big Spring

Paul D. Calhoun, P.O. Box 842, Plains

Rebecca Carrillo, 309 E. St. Anna, Stanton

Noelia Carrillo, 1806 E. 11th Place, Big Spring

Scott Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring

Aubrey Dale Conway, 1101 N. Kelly, Odessa

Stephanie R. Daniels, 506 N. Avt. T., Snyder

Johnnie Lou Dry, RR11, Box 156, Longview

John R. Franklin, PO Box 1521, Stanton

Concepcion Garcia, PO Box 16156, Lubbock

Joe E. George Jr., 6336 FM 585, Bangs

Katherine A. Gladhill, 7670 M. Trailer/2718 Rear, Lubbock

Michael Gidewell, P.O. Box 294, Fort Davis

Naomi Gonzales, 1209 Runnels, Big Spring

Elizabeth Gonzalez, 931 E. 17th Street, Odessa

Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt No. 8, Fort Worth

Ray Charles Green, 3016 S. CR 119, Midland

Nicholas Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams, Breckenridge

Omega Hernandez, 500 N.W. Fifth Street, Big Spring

Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Cumberland Rd., Odessa

Emily Howard, PO Box 2224, Big Spring

Joann Baldwin Hubbard, 504 Eugene or 4000 W. Illinois, Midland

Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa

Kenney J. Krueger, 300 N. Friou, Alvarado

Gladys Lamonda, 400 Circle Street, Big Spring

Laura Lea Leon, 319 Rocky Lane Dr., Midland

Christopher Ernest Luellen, 599 Truheart, Paint Rock

Stephanie Marie Macias, 909 S. Sixth Street, Lamesa

Connie Suzanne McMahan, 604 N. Washington, Denver City

Manda Lisman Meeks, 2908 Sherman Road, Big Spring

Brian L. Mendez, 583 56th Street, Lubbock

Esiquio Moreno, 508 S.E. First, Andrews

Erica Ortega, 214 Grimes, Big Spring

Melissa Pena, 208 N. Nolan, Big Spring

Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood Drive, Abilene

Margarita Olivarez Ramirez, 538 Westover, Apt. 223, Big Spring

Sierra Ramos, 200 M. Estes Ave., Midland

Salome Rios, 2511 Albrook, Big Spring

Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo

Robert Rogers, 3815 S.C. Rd. 1192, Midland

Emily K. Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder

Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview

Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater

County Court Decisions:

Probated Judgment: Staria Marie Mendoza, failure to identify - giving false information, \$250 fine, \$311 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Jose Manuel Jimenez Jr., driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$376 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: David Franco, driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 fine,

\$426 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Kristopher Burks, false statement for property or credit, \$500 fine, \$336 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Ashlie Kay Pierce, driving while intoxicated, \$2,000 fine, \$381 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Karla Dawn Partlow, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$270 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Freddie Ortega Sosa, driving while license invalid, \$250 fine, \$261 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Prince Corpel Vanderbilt, theft - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$250 fine, \$270 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Judgment and Sentence: David G. Summers, criminal mischief - more than \$500 less than \$1,500, \$260.25 court costs, 180 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: David G. Summers, theft by check - more than \$20 less than \$500, \$260.25 court costs, 180 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Michael Ray Hernandez Jr., criminal mischief, more than \$50 less than \$500, \$311 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Probated Judgment: David Lee Brumley, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$266 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Probated Judgment: Jay Lee Billingsley, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$266 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Judgment and Sentence: Bernardo Perez, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$310.25 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: James Everette Roberts, theft by check - more than \$20 less than \$500, \$311 court costs, 180 days in jail.

Probated Judgment: Nicholas Craig Mills, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$266 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).

Judgment and Sentence: Michael Ray Hernandez, criminal mischief - less than \$1,500, \$320 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Julie Ann Mince, theft - more than \$50 less than \$500, \$250 fine, \$270 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Charles Ronald Crews Jr., failure to identify - giving false information, \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Loren Wade Lancaster, resisting arrest, \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Loren Wade Lancaster, criminal trespass, \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Bernardo Frausto Perez Jr., failure to identify - giving false information, \$100 fine, \$270 court costs, 30 days in jail.

District Filings:

Timothy Ray Arvieu vs. Denise Marie Arvieu, divorce.

Maxine Roberts Stockton vs. Wallace Leon Stockton, divorce.

Bridget Parker vs. Clay Parker, divorce.

Shirley Joy Fleming vs. Marvin Lester Fleming Jr., divorce.

Bennie Joe Green vs. Tone Kim Green, divorce.

Amanda June Jones-Wilde vs. Robert Glenn Wilde, divorce.

Liberty Mutual Ins. vs. Donald O'Neal Hardnett, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.

In Re Jason Charles Moore vs. In Re, other.

In Re John Louis Day vs. In Re, other.

Daanna Belew vs. David Belew, family protective order.

MRC Receivables Corp. vs. Herbert Moore, accounts, notes and contracts.

MRC Receivables Corp. vs. Florence Downey, accounts, notes and contracts.

Marriage Licenses:

David Allen Allen, 23, and Amanda Marie Jones, 21, both of Big Spring.

Charles Spencer Burks Jr., 42, and Virginia Gonzales Dura, 44, both of Big Spring.

Kevin Heath Henderson, 23, and Amanda Elizabeth Yawn, 21, both of North Carolina.

Jesse Moreno Marquez Jr., 22, Jeannie Marie Sanchez, 21, both of Big Spring.

Jack Monroe Furman, 28, and Christina Athena Ward, 32, both of Big Spring.

James Micah Anderson, 25, and Brooke Nicole Adams, 27, both of Mexico.

Francisco Castillo Medina, 65, and Ramona Fernandez Medina, 51, both of Big Spring.

Matthew Shane Franks, 19, and Kimberly Kay Avant, 24, both of Big Spring.

Sammy Ferrell 44, and Sophia Garcia Ferrell, 32, both of Big Spring.

Warranty deeds:

Grantor: Wayne Patrick Wright

Grantee: Shawn Boone

Property: Lot 11, Block 10, Hall Addition

Date Filed: Dec. 14, 2005

Grantor: Josephine Padron and Antonio Padron

Grantee: Kaydra Nicole Franco

Property: A tract of land out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

Grantor: Judy Park, Janice Hopper and Betty Skeen

Grantee: Pattie Blakeney and Lindy O'Brian Blakeney

Property: A tract out of Section 36, Block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

Grantor: Nanda Driver

Grantee: Neal D. Tindol and Marty Tindol

Property: A tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 16, 2005

Grantor: Kelly G. O'Dell and Sandy O'Dell

Grantee: GMAC Global Relocation Services

Property: The S/60 feet of Lot 8 and the N/2 feet of Lot 9, Block 6, Muir Heights

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: GMAC Global Relocation Services

Grantee: Jason L. Cornish and Dianne Cornish

Property: The S/60 feet of Lot 8 and the N/2 feet of Lot 9, Block 6, Muir Heights

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Helen G. Calobreves

Grantee: Connie Zebreski and John Wesley Zebreski

Property: Lot 18, Block 29, College Park Estates

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Donald Koerber and Aloma Koerber

Grantee: Abel Padilla Menchaca and Gregoria Menchaca

Property: Tracts located in Section 29, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Michael Naim

Grantee: Troy Koening

Property: Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 3,

Fairview Heights

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Rafael Luevanos

Grantee: Tommy Soto Jr.

Property: Lot 3, Block 1, Cole-Strayhorn Addition

Date Filed: Dec. 22, 2005

Warranty deeds with vendors

Grantor: Gene Campbell and Mary Jane Campbell

Grantee: Terri L. Fuqua

Property: Lots 3 and 4, Block 19, Fairview Heights Addition

Date Filed: Dec. 14, 2005

Grantor: Hubert Barber and Willie Barber

Grantee: Gerri L. Randle

Property: Lot 17, Block 3, Mittel Acres

Date Filed: Dec. 14, 2005

Grantor: Jeffrey L. Gearhart and Amy Gearhart

Grantee: Mike L. Graves and Tonya L. Graves

Property: Lot 9, Block 2, Highland South

Date Filed: Dec. 14, 2005

Grantor: Mike L. Graves and Tonya Graves

Grantee: Michael T. Smith

Property: Lot 25, Block 6, Kentwood Unit No. 2

Date Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

Grantor: Michael Wayne Pruitt and Lenora Belinda Pruitt

Grantee: Isaac Amoako and Gloria Amoako

Property: Lot 2, Block 5, Highland South No. 8

Date Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

Grantor: Judy Park, Betty Skeen and Janice Hopper

Grantee: Pattie R. Blakeney and Lindy O'Brian Blakeney

Property: A tract out of Section 36, Block 34, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

Grantor: Jay Holt and Sheila Holt

Grantee: Dennis L. Brink and LouAnn C. Brink

Property: Lot 8, Block 30, College Park Estates

Date Filed: Dec. 19, 2005

Grantor: Paula Ruth Henry, Lana Henderson, Tessa Reid and Jason Henry

Grantee: Gilbert Lujan

Property: Lot 3, Block 10, Kentwood Addition No. 1

Date Filed: Dec. 19, 2005

Grantor: Emmit Joe Thompson and Debbie Thompson

Grantee: Gary Stovall

Property: A tract of land out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Katherine Lynn Dunn and James Henry Dunn

Grantee: Big Spring Realty Inc.

Property: Lot 10, Block 6, Kentwood Unit No. 1

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

Grantor: Sam O. Matthews and Valeta A. Matthews

Grantee: Wendt Wendland and Catherine Wendland

Property: Lot 7, Block 7, Douglas Addition

Date Filed: Dec. 20, 2005

SPECIAL

Continued from Page 4C

"It was one of those rainy-day moments last January," recalls Wilson, 35, a former business executive in Arlington, Va.

"I was sitting there thinking, throwing a ball against the wall, and suddenly I thought, 'That's it! Wallbounce!' I immediately bought the domain name and sat on it for eight months deciding what to do with it."

Inspiration came last summer as a group of her girlfriends listened to the description of an unforgettable evening at a backstage concert party.

"I'd pay anything to do that," one of the friends declared.

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Help Wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Level II Ultrasonic/Penetrant Technician. Will be assigned to work with inspection in Big Spring refinery. 4 day work week, excellent benefits. E-mail resume to ken.overstreet@englobal.com or fax to (432)570-5152. For more information, call (432)561-8324.

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Help Wanted

MEDICAL RECORDS FILE CLERK F/T Mon-Fri day shift in Big Spring. No weekends or holidays req'd. Must have medical office experience or training. Fax resume & salary history to 888-999-2594 or email contracting@caseproinc.com EOE

Help Wanted

Mountain View Lodge Nurse Center 2009 Virginia Ave Big Spring, Texas 432/263-1271 is Under New Ownership and is seeking professional, enthusiastic and caring individuals, to fill the following positions:
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F/T Maintenance Supervisor
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ALON USA

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Applicants should have one year of I/E experience in an industrial environment and be able to complete basic instrument and electrical tasks. Applicants with a two year Associates degree in an I/E field and that possess basic computer skills are preferred.

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West Texas Centers for MHMR

Case Manager for Mental Health: Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Bachelor's degree in social, behavioral or human services OR a Bachelor's degree with 24 hours of Social Work credits. Base salary \$12.90-\$13.78 per hour (\$26,832.00-\$28,668.00 annually) plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. **Salary dependent on experience.** Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty Big Spring LPC supervision offered. **Plus sign-on bonus and performance incentives.**

Training Coordinators: Will perform technical duties to the preparation for and development of service plans. High school diploma or GED plus two years experience in a related field. Salary \$8.75-\$9.30 per hour (\$18,192.00-\$19,344.00 annually). Benefits.

Case Manager Fleet for Mental Health: Duty site negotiable. Assists individuals in gaining access to medical, social, vocational and educational services. Bachelor's degree in social, behavioral or human services OR a Bachelor's degree with 24 hours of Social Work credits. Base salary \$12.90-\$13.78 per hour (\$26,832.00-\$28,668.00 annually) plus excellent benefit package. Four day work week is possible. Flexible schedule offered. **Salary dependent on experience.** Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty site. LPC supervision offered. **Plus sign-on bonus and performance incentives.**

Counselor for Mental Health: Will provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to an individual, group or family. Salary \$18.53-\$19.79 hr (\$38,544.00-\$41,160.00 annually) plus benefits. Must be licensed LPC, LCSW, LMFT, Licensed Nurse Practitioner or Licensed Psychologist. Applicants must live within 70-mile radius of duty station. Some travel is required. **Salary dependent on experience.** Prefer bi-lingual.

Mental Retardation Intake Specialist: Will perform screening and intake interviews for people seeking service. Bachelor degree with major in Human Service or High School diploma plus four years experience. Salary \$11.31-\$12.09 hr (\$23,532.00-\$25,140.00 annually) plus benefits. Some travel is required. Prefer bi-lingual.

LAN Support Technician: Required to manage Novell networks and their Wide Area Network configuration and connections, demonstrates familiarity with PC troubleshooting and maintenance and coordinates maintenance. Works with end users as a helpdesk contact to identify and report system problems. Need experience includes Windows 98-XP. Must be available for travel. Salary \$12.90-\$13.78 hr. (\$26,832.00-\$28,668.00 annually). Salary depends on experience. Benefits. Mon-Fri 8-5.

Part Time Clinic Driver: High school graduation or GED required. Duties include transporting clients to clinic and other community appointments. Salary \$6.47 hr.

Direct Care Staff: Part time. Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$8.20/hr. Hours vary.

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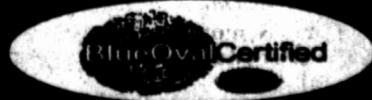
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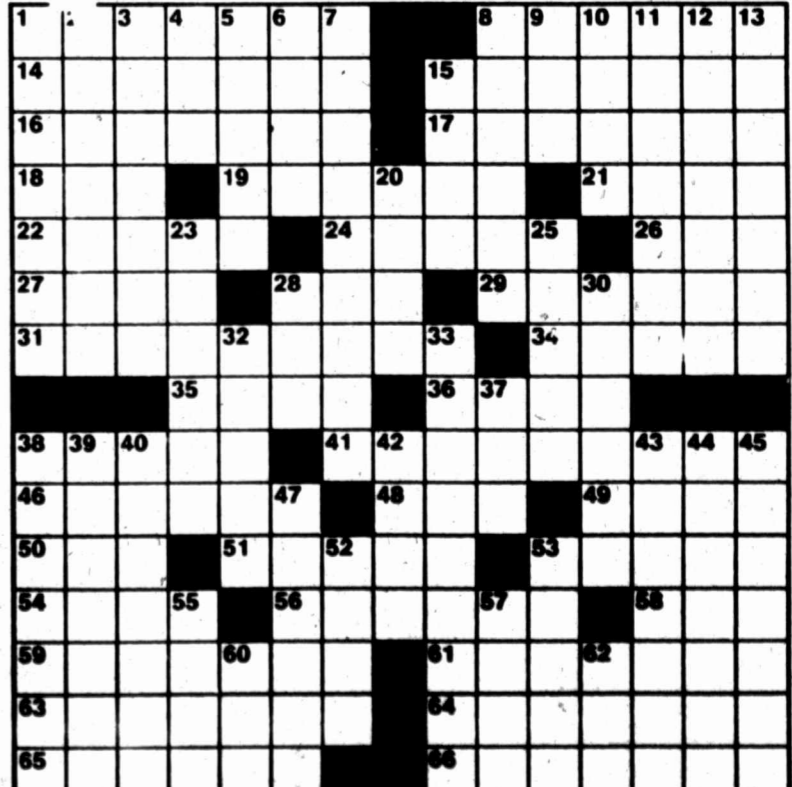
STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

VOTE!

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Gourds with sand | 1 Import |
| 8 Beat the rap | 2 Bag of tricks |
| 14 Exam smudge | 3 Delight |
| 15 Teaching story | 4 "So far ___ know" |
| 16 Aimed | 5 Imprecation |
| 17 Contact | 6 Survey finding |
| 18 Sport border | 7 Dregs |
| 19 Former national capital | |
| 21 Go first | |
| 22 Occupied | |
| 24 Pre-wireless need | |
| 26 AAA suggestion | |
| 27 Buster with a badge | |
| 28 With 60 Down, Wallace work | |
| 29 "Queen City of the Plains" | |
| 31 Last of the harvest | |
| 34 Kudzu and thistle | |
| 35 Carry on | |
| 36 Half of seis | |
| 38 Blew a fuse | |
| 41 Trooper play | |
| 46 Stayed | |
| 48 Meal for a seal | |
| 49 Icicle site | |
| 50 Enthusiasm | |
| 51 Compare to | |
| 53 Said further | |
| 54 Bells Are Ringing heroine | |
| 8 Made an advance | 37 Au. it or bro. |
| 9 Time piece | 38 Frayed |
| 10 Stay behind | 39 Chisholm Trail terminus |
| 11 Notice | 40 Vodka drinks |
| 12 Bobbed along | 42 Lute shape |
| 13 Car parts | 43 Extreme |
| 15 Dudge | 44 Nothing special |
| 20 Hammer target | 45 Went biking |
| 23 Chicken | 47 Rid |
| 25 Asked for milk, perhaps | 52 Boundless |
| 28 Grain holder | 53 Impromptu |
| 30 Made a home | 55 It could be a plot |
| 32 The Lemon Book co-author | 57 Katharine Ross role of '69 |
| 33 With the most nerve | 60 See 28 Across |
| | 62 Peeve |



Help Wanted
NOW HIRING FOR postal positions. \$18.50-\$59.00+hour. Full Benefits/Paid training and vacations. No experience necessary 1-800-584-1775 reference #9020.

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PIZZA INN
Now hiring Delivery Drivers. Earn \$10-\$12 per hour with wages, tips & commission. Full or Part time. Please apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No Phone Calls.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Help Wanted
REPORTER/ EDITORIAL Staff needed. Temporary, approx. 3 month. Experience in writing, reporting and Quark Preferred. Part or Full time. Call Bill McClellan, Big Spring Herald after 10:30 am (432)263-7331.

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Miscellaneous
2 DUEL Axles, 8 rims, 8 tires & frame for 48' Semi Trailer and Antique 1942 Barber Chair. Make offer. Call (432)270-4499.

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

KING PILLOW-TOP mattress set. Brand new, in plastic with warranty. \$250. Call (806)549-3110.

WANTED: RESPONSIBLE Party to take on small monthly payments on High Definition Big Screen TV. Call 1-800-398-3970.

On the Farm
HORSE for SALE. Paint. \$950.00. Call (432)267-1962 after 6 p.m.

Pets
TO GIVE away to good homes. Two female cats. Call (432)213-3523.

Real Estate for Rent
1505 OWENS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. No Pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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Cable TV Free!
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No Water Bill
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2 BR \$285
1 BR \$185
Call Rhonda
(432)263-2292

Large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry A. All bills paid. \$400. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

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Possible 4 bedrooms, 2 bath
Stove & Refrigerator furnished
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1505 TUSCON. Four bedroom, two bath, CHA. \$600.00 Month, \$400.00 deposit. Call (432)270-3848.

1610 MARIJO. Two bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. 3224 Auburn. Three bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$465 month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

2411 MORRISON. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A. Stove, refrigerator, washer & dryer, new paint and microwave. \$500/month \$250/deposit. Call Cyndi 432-816-3996.

2605 ENT. 3 bedroom with air, \$445. month. 1410 Robin, 3 bedroom, \$400. month. 3006 Cherokee, 2 bedroom, \$300. month. Call (432)267-7380.

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

802 1/2 Nolan- 1 bedroom. \$400.00 All Bills. 2528 Fairchild 2 or 3 bedroom. \$350/\$450. 3/2 Trailer- 5600 South Service Road. Call (432)264-9907.

BUILDING FOR LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month +deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

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2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

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4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 3 acres in Garden City. Updated throughout, hardwood floors, gameroom, office, jacuzzi, double garage w/1 bedroom apartment, large shop, pool. (432)557-0151.

BY OWNER 1906 Morrison. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, CH/A, utility room, storage building, tile brick fence, circle drive. \$70,000.00. Call (432)466-2066.

COAHOMA ISD - Beautiful 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, tile flooring throughout, metal roof, CH/A. 2.1 acres, horse barn and extra barns. \$73,000.00. Call (432)267-6554, 393-5602.

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1966 was also the year Bob Brock opened his new Ford Dealership in downtown Big Spring with one motto: "Keep The Customer First"

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Real Estate for Sale

MARYNEAL, NOLAN Co., Neat 3-2 home on 81+ acres. Amenities include water wells, feeders, storage buildings, shed, and farm equipment. Priced @ \$160,000.00. Mitchell Co. 20+ a farmland, N. of Colorado City. Nice 4-2 older home on Hwy. w/trees, sheds & carport. Priced @ \$69,000.00. 82+-a Mitchell Co.. Development property, water available. \$1,200,00/a. 12+-a Nolan Co., 2/1+ home, barn, horse barn w/runs, roping arena & more. \$159,000.00. Additional acreage available. Call for details. Nelson Farm & Ranch Properties (866)218-6238 (325)698-3374

OWNER FINANCE. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

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Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7121

REBUILDERS DREAM. 1973 Chevy Shortbed, 350 with 4BBL, 76K. First \$1,000 gets it. Call (432)268-8823.

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WOULD LIKE to buy small economical school or work car. Good condition. Call (432)263-7030.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE Big Spring Independent School District has contracted with Spring City Auction to sell the district's surplus property. The district's surplus property is sold at the following location throughout the year: Spring City Auction 501 Birdwell Lane, Unit #1 Big Spring, TX 79720 You may check with Spring City Auction for the designed auction dates and times. #4817 January 8, April 2, July 2, & October 1, 2006

CITY OF BIG SPRING NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed bids on the following date/time for the purchase of the below listed items/equipment:

A. Date/Time: Tuesday January 17, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., for the following material for the annual city contracts

- 1. Vehicles and Equipment: a. Five (5) each 2005 Model 4 door Police Special Sedans.

Bids are to be opened and read aloud in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, City Hall, 307 East 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airpark Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All bids must be marked with the date of the bid and a general description of the bid item(s).

The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all formalities. #4824 January 1 & 8, 2006

Answer to previous puzzle

PASTA SLAP SLAT BLOOP TILE HAVE SENOR AMEN ATOM TOKNOCKKAKIP ALI PIC NUKED TED OPENAIR LEANS OFFAMANS ACHY AGILE IDOL SHOULDER MIAMI IMMENSE PAT HANOI UPN TDS HIMONTHEDACK ARES OOZE KAPPA RENE NEIN ETHNIC EDDY EROS NEIGH

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Hidden treasures? Junk? Recycle your unwanted items! Call 263-7331 today.

A friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!

Legals

Notice of Public Meeting Proposed US 87 Truck Relief Route West of Big Spring The Abilene District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Meeting on February 7, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive in Big Spring. Registration will begin at 6:30 PM with the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to gather input from the public on the proposed project to construct a truck relief route West of Big Spring from US 87 North to US 87 South. The final alignment of the relief route has not been determined at this time. Input gathered at the scheduled public meeting will be used along with TxDOT design, and environmental criteria to develop and alignment to be presented at a future public meeting. Exhibits showing the proposed project location, potentially impacted properties, and proposed construction will be available for public viewing at the meeting.

The proposed project would consist of acquisition of right-of-way, construction of the new roadway and bridge structures in order to remove through truck traffic from US 87, through downtown Big Spring. Included in the project would be construction of the roadway, drainage structures, bridge structures, and landscaping. At this time the first phase of the project is scheduled for letting in the year 2008 at an estimated cost of 16 million dollars. The total project construction is expected to exceed 90 million dollars.

There will be an opportunity at the conclusion of the proposed project presentation by TxDOT personnel, for the public to ask questions and make oral comments. Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting and for ten days following the meeting date. Citizens not able to attend the public meeting may submit comments to the TxDOT, P.O. Box 511, Big Spring, Texas 79721, Attention Roy Dill, P.E. If there are any questions concerning the meeting location and time please contact Mr. Roy Dill, P.E. at (432)363-4768. All interested citizens are invited and encouraged to attend the Public Meeting. The meeting room is handicap accessible. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting with special needs please contact Mr. Dill at the number above at least five days prior to the meeting date.

La nota de la Reunion del Publico Propus EEUU 87 Oeste de la Ruta del Alivio de Camion de la Primavera Grande

El Distrito del Abilene del Departamento de Tejas del Transporte realizara un Publico que Encuentra en el 7 de febrero de 2006. La reunion se tendra en el Centro Municipal de Dora Roberts, 100 Whipkey Maneja en la Primavera Grande. La matricula empezara a las 6:30 de la tarde con la reunion que empieza a las 7:00 de la tarde. El proposito de la reunion es reunir la entrada del publico en el proyecto propuesto construir un Oeste de la ruta del alivio de camion de la Primavera Grande de EEUU 87 al norte a EEUU 87 al sur. La alineacion final de la ruta del alivio no se ha determinado en este momento. La entrada reunion en la reunion planificada del publico sera utilizado junto con el diseno de TxDOT, y los criterios ambientales para desarrollar una alineacion para ser presentada en una reunion fuera del publico. La exhibiciones que muestran la ubicacion propuesta de proyecto, potencialmente impresionan las propiedades, y la construccion propuesta estara disponibles para ver de publico en la reunion. El proyecto propuesto consistira en la adquisicion del derecho de via la construccion de la estructuras nuevas de calzada y puente para quitar por el trafico de comion de EEUU87, por el centro la Primavera Grande. Includo en el proyecto seria la construccion de la calzada, de las estructuras de desague, de las estructuras se puente, y de jardinar. En estos momento la primera fase del proyecto se planifica para el dejar para entrar el ano 2008 en un costo estimado de 16 millones de dolares. La construccion total del proyecto se espera exceder 90 millones de dolares. Harbra una oportunidad en la conclusion de la presentacion propuesta de proyecto por el personal de TxDOT, para el publico de hacer preguntas y hacer los comentarios orales. Los comentarios escritos se aceptaran tambien en la reunion y siguiendo durante diez dias la fecha de la reunion. Los ciudadanos no capaz de asistir la reunion publica puede someterse los comentarios al TxDOT, P.O. La caja 511, la Primavera Grande, Tejas 79721, Eneldo de Atencion Roy Dill, P.E. Si hay cualquier pregunta concieniendo la ubicacion de la reunion y el tiempo contactan por favor Sr. Eneldo de Roy Dill, P.E. en el (432)363-4768. Todos ciudadanos interesados son inbitados y encouraged a asistir la Reunion del Publico. El espacio de la reunion es la desventaja accesible. Cualquiera deseando asistir la reunion con necesidades especiales contacta por favor Sr. Eneldo en el numero encima de por lo menos cinco dias antes de la fecha de la reunion. #4833 January 8 & 30, 2006

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS The Taurus moon and the Capricorn sun are in love. But it's not the hearts-and-flowers kind of love; it's more of the building-a-house-or-garden-together kind of love. Express your affection with a gesture that will live on past the next few days or months. A real-world commitment says more than the words "I love you."

HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in a prime position to take advantage of opportunities, but that doesn't mean you should. Moral judgments are not black and white in this case — still, you know the answer in your gut.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Brilliant business ideas come to you during downtime. Also, you'll think up a way to make part of daily life better — but you'll have to talk to one of your techno-genius friends in order to make it work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Selfish goals are rarely accomplished. It's a fact of the universe that works in your favor as someone's narcissistic self-interest is thwarted in favor of your plan for helping the whole team.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's something that needs doing, so do it now. Acting now is the

only way to get time on your side. Don't worry about whether you'll do it wrong. Finish it first, and then learn how to do it later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Love is the only game in town now, so get your share — you're aglow with radiant allure. Tonight, you'll be fond of being in the public eye, and it fixes on you with an attentive and adoring gaze.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are on solid financial ground, so stop worrying. You will always be taken care of. Take steps to solve a custody or property battle. A wonderful change of heart is featured; you're feeling generous and forgiving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your personal interests could actually benefit mankind. Somehow, what you want is what everybody wants. So when you get what you want, everybody wins.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're pushing ahead — not just for yourself but for your family and loved ones, too. Your example is their inspiration. Your success is theirs. Forgoing the party in order to pursue your goal will therefore be admirable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are psychic, and you prove it today. Then again, why wouldn't you be able to predict the future? You are, after all, creating it right now with your choices.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rise above the

trap of thinking that the glamorous life will be available to you if you could just make more money. Glamour, adventure and excitement are cultivated within.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Patience is a difficult virtue to remember when your ambitions are as hot as they are right now. Try not to overextend your energy, especially socially. Sweet love is the best balm for anything that ails you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Delayed action is costly. Take measures to eliminate delay from your life in any way possible. In this day and age, immediacy is often possible — and therefore expected.

CAPRICORN 2006 ASTROLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS: You are exploring uncharted territory this year, and what could be more thrilling? The newness of experiences now through February gives them a romantic glow. It's as though your life has become cinematic. The starring players make strange and surprising moves in February. Your reaction will determine the course your personal life takes all spring. Make forgiveness your rule, and fight against the need to exclude anyone. The loving relationships you build are actually good for your health! March shows you going the distance for one special person. Just be sure to treat yourself with as much respect and honor your own goals with equal determination. Family

members seem to have an agenda that depends on your cooperation, but taking care of yourself is the best way to help others. A fantastic purchase in May is something you've looked forward to for a very long time. There's a chance for accepting retribution or even getting some kind of revenge in July. Of course, success remains the best revenge of all. Retaliate by showing the world you have outgrown the petty complications of the past! You are trusted with the custody of something or someone precious in August.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Over-the-top shock-rocker Marilyn Manson loves to annoy the public with dramatic theatrics and controversial statements. Though he's eccentric, he's also born under the most traditional sign of the zodiac — Capricorn. So, it's no surprise that he recently said "I do" at the altar with his longtime girlfriend, striking burlesque star Dita Von Teese.

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: My 32-year-old daughter, "Carla," has never had a date or a boyfriend, although she has had lots of crushes that have never been returned. I suspect it's because she is very overweight (about 100 pounds), and this has been a bone of contention in our relationship since childhood. I have learned not to talk about it since it negatively affects our mother/daughter relationship.

Carla is bright, pretty and works in a professional world that stresses looks and weight. She now really likes a man who is friendly but has not asked her out. She seems not to realize that her weight affects how men see her.

I really ache for my daughter and want her to find happiness, but what can I do? I have addressed issues of healthy eating (which she seems to do), but she never exercises for any period of time. It makes me heartsick to see that she has so much going for her, lots of friends, etc., but no man in her life, and she obviously wants one. I don't know where to turn. — Heartsick Mother

Dear Mother: We commend you for not saying anything more about Carla's weight, especially since it is obviously difficult for you to keep quiet. Plenty of plus-size women find men, although it's true that heavier women have a harder time. Carla can discuss her weight problem with her doctor, if she so chooses.

No woman should feel that her life is worthless if there is no man in it. Plenty of single women are happy and fulfilled. Focus on the things about Carla that make you proud and joyful, and we hope she will do the same.

Dear Annie: My grandmother recently passed away, and my once close-knit clan has been at one another's throats ever since. Her 11 grandchildren have not spoken to each other since the read-



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

ing of the will.

Grandma left 10 of us a meager monetary inheritance, which was wonderful considering we were not expecting anything at all. Then, as a shock, she left \$15,000 to the 11th cousin, "Sherry."

Grandma justified this decision in the will, stating that Sherry has a severe vision problem and she hoped her gift would make Sherry's life a little easier.

Well, Annie, Sherry's life may be financially easier, but the rest of us have had little, if anything, to do with her. There is such horrible resentment that we do not care to be around her. Also, our fond memories of Grandma have been tainted by this one severe act of favoritism.

Please tell your readers that what seems like a lovely gesture at the time can have long-lasting and deeply cutting results. — Feeling Slighted in West Virginia

Dear W.Va.: We agree that children and grandchildren should be treated as equally as possible when it comes to wills, but we have to ask — why are you punishing Sherry because Grandma thought one grandchild's vision problem could be helped with money? Did Sherry pressure Grandma? Has she become obnoxious since inheriting the money? If the only reason you are not speaking is because you are jealous and resentful, it's YOUR fault now. Forgive Grandma and stop blam-

ing Sherry. It's not worth the breakup of your family.

Dear Annie: This is for "Apart in New Mexico," whose kids missed their father while he was away on his business trips. I also travel a lot and miss my kids. A simple solution is to buy a cheap videocamera for the computer. Now I can talk to my kids and actually see them while I am away. They can hold up their school papers to show me their grades. The best part is that it's free. I can stay online with them as long as we like. — Traveler in Georgia

Dear Georgia: Another wonderful idea for traveling parents. Thanks.

Dear Annie: I am a black physician who was born in Haiti. From my first days in the United States (in the early 1960s), I have been appalled at the "race" tag hanging on all of us.

I can understand ethnicity and country of origin, but when I hear the word "race," I always feel all of us are from the same "human race." After all, we don't separate animals, as if there were a race of black horses or black dogs, and other colors were different animals.

I look black, but many of my ancestors were white, Caribbean Indians and Hispanic, with a dash of Mayan, Chinese and a few others tossed in here and there. Because of that, I consider myself a human specimen and would never turn my back on my multiple ethnic roots. Perhaps if we start looking at each other as members of the same wonderful human race instead of members of a white race or black race, we will start feeling closer to one another, don't you think? — Dr. R.M.

Dear Dr. R.M.: We do indeed. We never have understood why some people feel others are superior or inferior because of the shade of their skin color. Sounds like a serious case of ignorance to

us.

Dear Annie: I hope you don't mind one more letter on the issue of vasectomies. I would like to state that it is important for a man to put aside emotionally charged comments, such as you are a "coward" or "wimp" if you choose not to have a vasectomy, or that having a vasectomy is a reflection of character and maturity, as some of your readers wrote. Men should examine, in a reasoned fashion, the pros and cons of vasectomy. I wish that I had done that before I had mine.

I am one of the clinically proven 1 to 6 percent of men who have post vasectomy pain syndrome (PVP). It is thought to result from the body's inability, for unknown reasons, to absorb the sperm that continues to be produced. Because the causes are not clearly understood, there is no way of predicting which men will end up with PVP.

It is a difficult condition for both the patient and the doctor. Over the years, I have undergone a reversal, two epididymectomies and an orchidopexy to try to resolve PVP. I still have residual discomfort, but generally, I am much improved.

Please let your readers know that there is a support organization for those with post vasectomy pain syndrome (PVP) at the Canadian PVP Association, P.O. Box 1272, Smith Falls, Ontario, Canada, K7A 5C7 (www.vasectomy-information.com/canadian_pvp/in dex.asp). — Greg at the Canadian Post Vasectomy Pain Association

Dear Greg: Thank you for letting our readers know that a small percentage of men develop pain after a vasectomy. There are many possible causes, some of which are treatable. We hope all men with this problem will talk to their doctor and contact your organization for more information.

Wedding Planner

So the proposal is made and accepted and the date is set. As a bride-to-be assembles those closest to her to help make that important day more memorable, one of the key roles, aside from the top two, is Matron/Maid of Honor. But what duties are expected on a Maid/Matron of Honor, and what is the difference between the two? A matron of honor is a married woman who assumes the role of first attendant, best friend of the bride, while the maid of honor is an unmarried woman stepping into those shoes. However, recent weddings find the role renamed to reflect that the honor and responsibilities may go to the best male friend of the bride, the Male of Honor. These are some of the tradition duties of a Matron/Maid/Male of Honor:

- Help with details of wedding planning, such as address envelopes, making favors, and going on shopping excursions.
- Pay for her/his own wedding attire.
- Host a shower for the bride, whether alone or with bridesmaids.
- Organize or appoint someone to organize the bachelorette party, if you are having one.
- Help organize the bridesmaids with their fittings.
- Keep all bridesmaids informed of all parties, functions and rehearsals.
- Attend the rehearsal dinner.
- Oversee the bridesmaids in the wedding day by coordinating gowns, make-up, jewelry and flowers.
- Assist the bride in dressing before the ceremony and at the reception before the bride leaves.
- Keep the groom's ring until the appropriate time in the ceremony, when she/he will exchange it for the bride's bouquet.
- Sign the wedding certificate as a legal witness.
- Assist the bride with the train and veil at the altar.
- Be a member of the receiving line and be seated in a place of honor at the reception.
- Make a toast to honor of the bride and groom, if she/he so chooses.
- Make sure that the bride takes care of herself, especially at the reception; getting her something to eat and drink occasionally.
- Hold the bride's hand throughout the long months of planning and be her shoulder to lean on during times of crisis.

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