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**VOLUME 102, NUMBER 40** 

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2006** 

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# Sheriff's office investigating stabbing, wreck

#### **Herald Staff Report**

Howard COAHOMA County sheriff's deputies are investigating a stabbing and traffic accident that occurred here late Monday night.

Deputies and Emergency

Medical Service personnel were dispatched to the 100 block of South Fifth Street in Coahoma at around 10:45 p.m. Monday following a report that a person had been stabbed.

Two persons sought in connection with the incident led sheriff's deputies on a highspeed chase — with reported speeds in excess of 90 MPH before crashing at the intersection of Old Colorado City Highway and Old Gail Highway about 11:20 p.m.

Following the accident, one

person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, while the other was taken to a Lubbock-area hospital, official records state.

Sheriff's deputies were busy early today checking the accident scene for evidence.

Howard County Sheriff's Office officials were unavailable for comment today.

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Names and conditions of persons involved in Monday night's incidents unknown as of press time today.

# Group to study pre-trial bonding service

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners agreed to appoint a committee to look into the possibility of creating a county-run pretrial bonding service. which most officials are hopeful will alleviate the overcrowding problem at the county jail.

Commissioner Simer, who was appointed as the chairman of the committee, said cost will be one of the main focuses for the group, as will

"I've heard from some members of the community that they were curious because they were thinking we were going to be bonding all kinds of folks who otherwise would not have been bonded out, in terms of heinous crimes... That's certainly not the case."

the impact the service operation, which we could have on commercial bondsmen in the for," said Simer. "The

already have the money sheriff has money allotted "We'll be looking into for housing prisoners and what it costs to run this he won't need all of that See COMMITTEE, Page 3A

once this program starts. So actually, it won't cost the county anything.

"As far as the (commercial) bonding people go, once we start this program there will be more people to bond out, so it should be a plus for them,

While Simer claims the service would actually help local bonding companies, not everyone at the meeting agreed.

Jason Seay, a bondsman with Big Spring-based

## Bondsmen skeptical, say it may drive them out of business

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

While the creation of a pre-trial bonding service has county officials eyeing the measure as a possible solution to overcrowding at the Howard County Jail, local bondsmen are watching the proceedings with a great deal of unease.

The proposed program, which is currently being studied by a panel of county officials, would allow prisoners who have been passed over by commercial bondsmen the chance to bond-out after an as-of-yet undetermined waiting period at a lower percentage rate than that charged by most bail bond companies.

The Midland program, which the Howard County model is currently being based on, charges 3 percent of the set bond, while most commercial bondsmen charge 10 percent.

Robert G. "Bob" Smith, owner of A-Bob's Bail Bonds in Big Spring, said the program represents something totally different to the mom and pop operations in the area.

"I think it's certainly a slap in the face of free enterprise," said Smith. 'We're not trying to get into the county's business, and more or less, they are trying to get into our business.

Smith said the impact the program could have on his and other local bonding companies depends directly on how long the county service waits before processing would-be customers.

"I've talked with people about how the program would run, and when they talked with the people from Midland they said they waited 48 hours before they actually approached people in the jail," said Smith. "One of the people involved in this right now has even See SKEPTICAL, Page 3A

"I think it's certainly a slap in the face of free enterprise. We're not



Smith

trying to get into the county's business, and more or less, they are trying to get into our business."

said they were willing to wait 72 hours before they approach them.

"If they're willing to wait 72 hours, I really don't know how much it will effect us. It will some, but I don't see too many sitting in jail three days just so they can save 7 percent on what they would pay on their bond.'

However, should the County decide to go with a shorter waiting period, Smith said the end-result is very clear.

"If they do it on a 24hour basis, they will put every local bail bondsman out of business," said Smith firmly. "Every one of them."

Jason Seay, a bondsman with Big Spring-based B&M Bail Bonds, said the creation of the pre-trial bonding service could also affect who is - and isn't — eligible for getting out of jail.

"It changes who is eligible for the bonding service just in the felony part of it," said Seay. "When a person is out on felony probation and they revoke that probation, they're thrown right back into jail and they're not able to bond out unless the judge sets a bond. And most judges won't set a bond on a charge like that. We've never had the chance to deal with any of those bonds.

### Officials pitch nuclear reactor proposal for West Texas

Another forum is set for 7 p.m. today near Midland.

ANDREWS (AP) — The University of Texas-Permian Basin and a California nuclear technology company sought to win public support Monday for a proposed nuclear reactor in West

Officials said the project would include a hightemperature test nuclear reactor and high-temperature labs for testing other methods of producing fuels, hydrogen and electricity.

Texas-Permian Basin President David Watts said the university supports the project as a research facility. He told a crowd of about 150 people at an informational meeting that he became a proponent of the project after being convinced that it would be safe.

"This reactor promises to take Texas, and more particularly West Texas, into a new frontier of energy production," Watts said.

Mike Campbell, vice president of energy for San Diego-based General Atomics, also stressed the reactor's safety. Nuclear materials would be held in containers that can withstand temperatures

See REACTOR, Page 3A



Samuel Alito, President George W. Bush's nominee for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and his wife Martha, listen to his introduction before he is sworn in before the Senate Judiciary Committee Monday in Washington, DC.

## Alito says he would approach abortion issue with open mind

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

**Associated Press Writer** 

WASHINGTON - Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito said today he would deal with the issue of abortion See ALITO, Page 3A

with an open mind as a justice, though he defended his 1991 judicial vote saying women seeking abortions must notify their husbands.

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**Obituaries** Opinion

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Sports

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

#### SPIN CYCLE IS ROUGH

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - A man had to be rescued after becoming wedged in a washing machine while playing a game with his children Tuesday.

A fire officer pulled Robin Toom, 38, out of the machine after Toom became trapped while playing hide-and-seek.

"I just hopped in there and couldn't even get the lid down and the kids came in and said, 'Ha, ha! We found you," Toom said.

Toom waited for an hour with his knees pressed to his chest before being rescued by local fire squad member Dave Dillon. the Daily Telegraph reported.

Toom said he planned to change the rules of hide-and-seek for his children.

## OFFICERS SEIZE \$95,000

HIDALGO (AP) — A 42-year-old Eagle Pass resident was arrested after Customs officers seized almost \$95,000 from the vehicle he was driving to Mexico, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported Monday.

The seizure occurred Friday at the Hidalgo International Bridge.

At the bridge, Benjamin Vargas-Betanacio denied having more than \$10,000 in cash, claiming only \$500. But officers noticed oddities in the engine area of the vehicle he was driving and discovered bundles of cash totaling \$94,520.

Vargas-Betanacio has been charged with bulk cash smuggling.

#### BANQUET TICKETS READY

Tickets for the Big Spring area Chamber of Commerce banquet are on sale now.

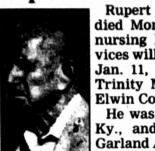
The banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$22 per person before Jan. 23 and \$27 per person from Jan. 23-28.

No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Jan. 28. Tickets will not be avail-

able at the door. Guest speaker will be Pat McGaughey of McGaughey Enterprises Inc. on "Maximizing Your Chamber Membership." RSVP or pick up tickets at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215

W. Third, or call 263-7641.

Rupert W. Madrey



Rupert W. Madrey, 84, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006, at the Peace Chapel in Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Elwin Collom officiating.

He was born Oct. 14, 1921, in Linton, Ky., and married Fannie Josephine Garland Aug. 23, 1956, in Rome, Ga. She preceded him in death Dec. 12, 1996.

Mr. Madrey served 20 years in the United States Air Force. He and his wife, Josie came to Big Spring in 1964. He retired from military duties in 1971. He was a Baptist.

He was a member of the Retired Air Force Association, the American Legion, the Retired Enlisted Men's Association and the National Rifle Association.

Survivors include two nephews, Dale Boren and wife, Carol of Florence, Ala., and James Boren of Dover, Tenn.; a stepson, John Fowler of Calhoun, Ga.; and very close friends, Barbara and Melvin Jarrell of Big Spring and Helen and David Garcia of South

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

Paid obituary

Warren D. 'Pete' Hastings

Warren D. "Pete" Hastings, 74, of Midland died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, at the Hospice of Midland inpatient unit at Midland Memorial Hospital. A memorial service at St. Stephen's Catholic Church was today. Jan. 10, 2006, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Terry Hancock of Brownwood and the Rev. James Bridges of St. Stephen's officiating.

He was born Oct. 10, 1931, in Jetmore, Kan., and married Carol Carpenter Jan. 30, 1955, in Big Spring. He served in the United States Air Force at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring from 1950 to 1955. He worked in the oilfield as a drilling equipment salesman. He was a Methodist.

He was preceded in death by his parents and five brothers.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Carol Hastings of Midland; a son, Bill Hastings of Midland; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Debbie Hastings of Austin; a daughter and son-in-law, Carren and Terry Hancock of Bangs; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Sandra Hastings of Jetmore, Kan.; seven grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and

The family suggests memorial donations be made to The American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, No. 5, Midland 79705 or The American Lung Association of Texas, 5926 Balcones Dr, Austin 78731.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Midland. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

#### Breaina Lynn Gonzales

Breaina Juni Gonzales, infant daughter of Kath the Scaggs and Robert Carlos Gonzales, died ... onday, Jan. 9, 2006, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services were 3 p.m. today, Jan. 10, 2006, at the Trinity Memorial Park with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating.

She was born Jan. 9, 2006, in Big Spring.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandparents, Linda and Arthur Hernandez of Big Spring, three brothers, Michael Ray Scaggs, Tony Dee Scaggs and Christopher Isaac Scaggs and two sisters, Natalee Dee Scaggs and Tracy Lynn Gonzales, all of Big Spring; one uncle, David Ray Gonzales of Big Spring; and her great-great-grandmother, Gregoria Gonzales of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Albert Gonzales and her maternal grandparents, Bernice Scaggs and Dee Scaggs.

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

Wayne Shepard

Wayne Shepard, 90, of McCamey, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, in the McCamey Convalescent Center. Graveside services are 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11,

2006, in the Resthaven Cemetery in McCamey with the Rev. Ted Creech officiating.

She was born Sept. 11, 1915. She was a longtime resident of McCamey, homemaker, a member of the First Baptist Church and the Garden Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charlie Shepard and a son, Jim Shepard.

She is survived by two granddaughters, Krista Shepard of Big Spring and Denisa Powell of Forsan; and two great-granddaughters, Brittany Christian of Forsan and Alayna Baltazar of Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home.

**George Campbell** 

George Campbell, 88, of Big Spring died Monday, January 10, 2006, at a local nursing home. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Support groups

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.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m.

• SHERRY CHANDLER, 21, of 1810 Owens, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.

• THEFT was reported: - in the 1400 block of Tucson.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 100 block of Third Street. ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY
- INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

## Sheriff's report

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

- ADOLFO LOZAMA, 45, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- JESUS MANUEL VASQUEZ, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxica-
- MANUEL CHAVERA, 30, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of theft by check and criminal mischief - impairing public communications.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported near the intersection of Old Colorado City Highway and Old
- STABBING was reported in the 100 block of South Fifth Street in Coahoma.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Pettus Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of State Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of East
- Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported at the intersection of Parkway and Alamesa. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Nolan. Service was refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Old Gail Highway and the Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC. One person was transported to Lubbock.

## Take note

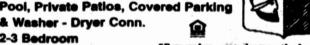
- JOHN MOSELEY, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE BIG SPRING HERALD, is receiving treatment at Duke University in Durham, N.C., because of the generosity of friends and this community. He welcomes cards and letters of encouragement. Write to John Moseley, 807 W. Trinity Ave., Apt. 126, Durham, N.C.
- DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING is Jan. 25. Contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 or obtain an application at the chamber office, 215 W. Third.
- REHEARSALS FOR A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MUSIC: GEORGE GERSHWIN'S "PORGY AND BESS" with the Big Spring Symphony Chorus begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 in the First United Methodist Church's choral rehearsal room. Rehearsal will continue until 8:45 p.m. The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. April 8 in the Municipal Auditorium. For more information, contact Dr. Keith Graumann, symat 267-1626 phony conductor, Graumann@cox.net.
- AARP TAX TRAINING IS SET FOR Jan. 17-23 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Spring City Senior Center. Training on the computer aspect of the program is Jan. 24-27, also from 8 a.m. until noon at the Senior Center. Tax preparation will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Jan. 30. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.
- 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.

## **Coronado Hills Apartments**

1 Bedroom - \$375 • 2 Bedroom - \$475 • 3 Bedroom - \$575

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"Remember...you deserve the best!!"

## **Bulletin Board**

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

**TODAY** 

· 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
- · Downtown 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
- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Call 267-
- · 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
- · 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 infor-
- Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

## Weather

Tonight...Clear. Not as cold. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the 30s to the lower 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the upper Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Saturday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the mid 60s. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Martin Luther King Jr day...Partly cloudy. Highs

## Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 2-4-9-14-21

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 11-17-28-34. Bonus Ball:

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-1-2

## Correction

In the Monday edition of the Herald, the charge against Patrick Terrall Kesler was incorrectly provided by the HCSO. The entry should have read:

 PATRICK TERRAL KESLER, 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.

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432-263-7335 (Mon.-Fri. 8a.m.-7p.m. Sun. 8a.m.-noon)

Susanne Reed John A. Moseley **Duane McCollum Tony Hernandez Dianne Marquez** 

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In the second day of Senate hearings, Alito also said no president or court is above the law - even in time of war - as he addressed questions on presidential powers. The issue has been at the forefront since the revelation that President Bush had secretly ordered the National Security Agency to conduct wiretaps of Americans in the terror war.

The federal judge also faced tough questions about his decisions during 15 years on an appeals court, his writings on wiretaps and his membership in a college organization opposed to the admission of women and minorities.

Bush's choice for the high court said his Reagan-era writings opposing abortion reflected an attorney representing a client's interests and, if confirmed and faced with an abortion case, "I would approach

the question with an open mind." The judge defended his dissent in the 1991 case of Casey v. Planned Parenthood, in which the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a Pennsylvania law that included a provision requiring women seeking abortions to notify their spouses.

The Supreme Court also rejected the spousal notification, but Chief Justice William Rehnquist quoted from Alito's opinion in his own dissent. The high court, on a 5-4 vote, upheld a woman's right to the procedure but was divided on other elements of the case.

Alito told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I did it because that's what I thought the law required."

In a 1985 memo as an official of the Reagan administration, Alito described a legal strategy for chipping away at abortion rights. Questioned about the document, he told the committee, "That was a statement that I made at a prior period of time when I was perform-

ing a different role and, as I said yesterday, when someone becomes a judge you really have to put aside the things you did as a lawyer at prior points in your legal career."

Bush's pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor told the Judiciary Committee that courts in general should follow their earlier decisions and avoid being moved by public opinion on controversial issues.

"The legitimacy of the court is undermined if it makes its decision based on public perception," Alito said.

Alito, who has been criticized by opponents for advocating broad presidential powers, said he did not believe war allowed the president to bypass the Constitution.

Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., started the hearing by questioning Alito about abortion and privacy rights, divisive issues that loom large as the Senate decides whether to confirm the conservative jurist.

#### REACTOR

Continued from Page 1A

up to 2,000 degrees Celsius, or more than 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit, he said.

Officials said their first step will be to develop a \$3 million conceptual design and business plan for the project. Then they would start trying to raise the estimated \$400 million needed to build the project. If built, the reactor would probably last about 60 years.

A nuclear reactor hasn't been built in the United States for more than 25 years, and the project's supporters said the Andrews facility would be a magnet for scientists, researchers and industry. They touted the reactor's potential benefit to the

regional economy.

Brian Gordon, a 42-year resident of Andrews, said he supports the reactor's construction.

"A lot of people recognize us as an energy producer," he said, referring to the area's history as an oil-and-gas region.

Andrews County is already home to a nuclear waste disposal site, where federal uranium byproduct waste is held.

Andrews, population 10,000, is 63 miles west of Big Spring.

Another forum on the proposed reactor is set for 7 p.m. today at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED) building on State Highway 191 and Farm-to-Market 1788. It is being hosted by the Midland and Odessa chambers of commerce.

## COMMITTEE

Continued from Page 1A

B&M Bail Bonds, said "I don't think it would be in the best interest of the county to enact a pre-trial bonding service without at least doing a study — a more in-depth study to see how this will affect the local business owners and our county. Is it going to help?

"I think we're avoiding the obvious, which is that a new jail is going to have to be built... Usually, these pre-trial bonding services are in towns of 100,000 people or more, and they have the facilities to facilitate this. We're not that large."

Simer said the creation of the service will actually change the rules when it comes to who can and can't be bonded, increasopportunities for

bondsmen such as Seay. "The whole purpose of

the program is to bond people out of jail instead of have them sitting in jail," said Simer. "Lets say we bond 25 people out to lower the jail population. They (commercial bondsmen) will have an opportunity to bond those people out that they don't have right now.

"This program will change the rules where we'll be able to put these people out with ankle bracelets on... But someone has to bond them out, so there will be 25 to 30 people right off the bat who will need to be bonded out, so it ought to increase their business."

The program, which was first pitched to county officials Dec. 20 by Midland County's Pre-Bonding trial Administrator Tim Long and a pair of Midland district judges, would offer

prisoners a chance" to bond-out, hopefully taking a bite out of the jail population.

According to 118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III, the program doesn't do what many area residents might fear — put dangerous criminals back on the streets.

"I've heard from some members of the community that they were curious because they were thinking we were going to be bonding all kinds of folks who otherwise would not have been bonded out, in terms of heinous crimes... That's certainly not the case," said Moore.

"This program is for somebody who is entitled to make bail and has simply been unable to do so through the normal bonding process. We're not about to start making \$50,000 to \$75,000 bonds for people charged with

"second murder and sexual assaults and those types of offenses. That's not what the program is for."

> At the center of the discussion is the impact it would have on the jail population, which recently came under fire by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. The commission gave the county jail failing marks for overcrowding.

"This will definitely help the population of the jail and it will help the future of what we do about a jail — where we build one, how big it will have to be and it will help the county financially," said Simer. "It's a big plus."

Kilgore said he supports the program, but he doesn't see it as the answer to the county's continued problems with an outdated jail facility. "A jail is going to have

to be built," said Kilgore

firmly. "But what I'm concerned about is how much we spend on this. We need to get a better idea on how much it's going to cost.

"I understand the program and I like the program. But what I'm concerned about is if we fund that office, how much is it going to cost? If it costs \$50,000 to run this office and you're only saving \$30,000, you're adding \$20,000 to the problem."

Moore, however, said the scope of how much the service could save the county overall goes beyond just the day-to-day cost of housing the prisoners, locally or in a contract facility elsewhere.

"I don't think the issue is how much will it save us to fund the program. I think the question is how much will it save us opposed to building a \$12 million jail," said Moore.

The committee appoint-

ed to look into the matter consists of Simer, Kilgore, HCSO Chief Deputy Gary Pritchett, Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman and County Auditor Jackie Olson. Moore has also been asked to serve by providing legal advice to

the committee. "I think this is a good starting point for this." said County Judge Ben Lockhart.

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

#### MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Louise Dunlap, 94, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Rose Hill Cemetery in Cleburne, Texas.

George Campbell, 88, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## SKEPTICAL

Continued from Page 1A

"We'll possibly have a shot at those, but I'm not sure how they are going to work that into it. If they start setting bonds on them, we may get a shot at them. But those are the only ones who will be eligible to bond out that weren't able to do so before."

Smith said the influence the service would have on the overall jail population may not be as pronounced as county officials hope.

"If you get a jail roster and go down the list, most of the people who have had their bonds set at a lower level will be gone in a 72-hour time," said Smith. "We (commercial bondsmen) should be able to make those type of bonds. So, in my opinion, the only people this is going to help get out of jail is people we don't really want out of jail.

"They say they won't approach anyone who's accused of a violent crime, but if you look at the jail roster, most of the people who are in jail and have been for some time are sex offenders and people awaiting transfers because they have already been sentenced. The majority of the jail population comes from people awaiting transfers to go to prison, and the prisons are full so the counties have to keep them."

Seay said the idea of pushing offenders through the system to

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avoid long waits in jail and the subsequent costs isn't a new idea in the Howard County area, and its results are quite clear.

"We're already seeing this, in essence, at the city level," said Seay. "The judge at the city level is releasing them on personal recognizance (PR) — which isn't even a pre-trial bonding service which lets them out of jail for free on their own recognizance. He PRs them and gives them time served on thousands of dollars in tickets that they should be paying. He's doing this because the city facilities can only hold them for 72 hours.

"We don't get a crack at the people being released on personal recognizance anymore. And yes, it does effect us. I've talked to the other bondsmen in the area, and it's had a drastic impact on our income. We lose anywhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year by not being able to bond out those people at the city level. If the county implements this pre-trial bonding service, not only are we going to be hurt at the city level, we're going to get it on

the county level." Seay said if the program takes a negative toll on his and other bail bond companies, the fallout could mean more than a few boarded up offices.

the heart and soul of Big Spring," said Seay. "We don't have many big businesses here, and us sole proprietors as bondsmen and families spend money here and use other companies to put signs up and things like that. Not only will they be hurting us, they'll be hurting the community. We'll just have to ride it out until we go out of business, which is exactly what we'd have to do if they approach the prisoners sooner than 48 or 72 hours.'

As for the hope the new service can help the county dodge the need for a new jail facility, Smith said it takes just one trip into the county jail to realize overcrowding isn't the only hurdle the facility faces.

"This is a long way away from being an answer to building a new jail." said Smith. "I really wish the public could go up and just see our jail and what it's like. It was built nearly 60 years ago and it's obsolete. We need a new jail facility. We may not need a 144-bed facility, but it's smarter to build that size prison so we can house prisoners from other counties, and the county can make money off that. However, if they're trying to do this in lieu of building a new jail, they're cutting their "Sole proprietorship is noses off to spite their

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan **News Editor** 

**OUR VIEWS** 

# Don't pass up opportunity to register to vote

t's time to think about registering to vote for the March 7 primaries, if you haven't already done so. The last day to register is Feb. 6. That sounds like a long time away, but it's less than a month.

The right to vote gives us the opportunity to choose who we want to serve as our voice in the local, state and federal levels of govern-

This is an important election. In addition to the county judge's race, there are two contested county commissioners races, a peace justice race — bids for governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller, ag commissioner and more. Howard County will also be going to the polls to select party nominees for the Texas House and U.S. House.

Voter registration is simple and free. It takes only a couple of minutes.

To be eligible to vote, residents must be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. You do not need to have resided in Howard County for a specific length of time before registering

Anyone who has moved since they last obtained a voter registration card should also

Please, take the time to register to vote. Today, you might have no interest in the election; you may have no desire to vote. But something may happen that causes you to decide to exercise your right. If you haven't registered, it will be too late. You can even register through the mail. For more information, call Saundra Bloom, Howard County election administrator, at 264-2273.

From our point of view, voting is an important process in which all U.S. citizens should participate. It's their voice. The Herald encourages you to register if you haven't, study the candidates and their platforms, and vote.

## How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

#### LETTER POLICIES

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

#### A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

# The artifices of impeachment

pe Left — from The Nation's Katrina van<del>de</del>n Heuvel to Newsweek's Jonathan Alter — has pulled out the impeachment card and is brandishing it as the weapon that will drive George W.

**Bush from the White** House. This could be more than talk. Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer is consulting with legal eagles as she explores the idea.

I must say, I am tickled at their efforts. I supported impeaching the perjury-prone President

Clinton, but preferred censure to removing him from office. I also saw the damage to Republicans who pushed to chase Clinton out

But the Bush-haters won't heed history, not when they see an opportunity to relive the glory days of Watergate: Republicans evil; Democrats uncorrupted; reporters respected. As Alter wrote after the story broke that President Bush authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on international calls in efforts to uncover possible agents of al Qaeda, "Similar abuse of power was part of the impeachment charge brought against Richard Nixon in 1974.

Angry leftists are so hysterical that they cannot distinguish between government agents eavesdropping on a president's political enemies, and the data mining of international phone calls in an earnest effort to thwart another Sept. 11 terrorist attack. They don't see that Bush, rather then trying to hide his role in the effort, signed off on the program

more than 30 times.

Warrantless wiretaps? Victoria Toensing, a former deputy assistant attorney general in the Reagan administration, called CNN recently to note that the Clinton administration authorized the warrantless search of the house of CIA employee Aldrich Ames.

But the Dems didn't talk of impeachment then.

**George Washington University** law professor Jonathan Turley offers the best argument for impeachment — not because he is persuasive, but because he is consistent. Turley said he supported the impeachment, conviction and removal of Clinton, and is advocating likewise for Bush, as the Bush wiretaps constitute "a clear and undeniable crime." (He ignores lawyers and judges who see the issue either as far from settled, or come down in Bush's favor.)

Turley added that what the Bushies did "wasn't necessary." The administration could have won warrants from the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act court. Out of tens of thousands of eavesdropping requests since 1979, Alter reported, FISA rejected only

Toensing countered that it was necessary. FISA's turndown rate is low because government lawyers don't push for warrants unless they know they'll win.

Don't forget that the feds wouldn't even ask for a warrant to tap. the laptop computer of Zacarias Moussaoui, the French citizen who later pleaded guilty to conspiring with the Sept. 11 hijackers. Turley says they should have sought a warrant. Toensing says officials knew they would lose because they could not establish Moussaoui was an "agent of a foreign power."

Turley also argues that if Bush had problems with the FISA law, then he should have gone to Congress to change it. But to do so. Toensing noted, officials would have had to reveal their surveillance methods.

Turley's best argument: If the president can circumvent FISA, then "he can circumvent any federal law.'

Are we at war? I asked him. "That's a good question." Then, after deriding Congress for passing war resolutions - not declarations of war — Turley said, "As a constitutional matter, no.

As a practical matter, though the answer is yes — as any soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan can tell you. I respect Turley, but in the real world, it makes sense to monitor international communications to prevent another attack — in America or against Americans abroad.

Instead, Washington delivers lowball partisan politics. Too many Democrats support Bush when polls support Bush — the war, the Patriot Act — then turn on his policies when they think they can get away with it. They don't think about the impact on U.S. soldiers on foreign soil.

This whole NSA story reinforces the fact that Bush is willing to be unpopular, risk the White House even, to get the job done, while too many of his Democratic critics will walk over anyone to stand up for their lack of principles.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.cre-

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# We just can't control the news

his is the time of year when we predict the future: who will win and who will lose, who will get to the top of the mountain, and who will never be heard from again. Will the market go up or down? Will Katie Couric go to CBS or not? Will Bush get more or less popular? I haven't got a clue about the future, at least about what matters.

Here is what I do know: Today's paper always wraps tomorrow's fish. Nothing we say now has anything to do with what most of us will spend the next year thinking about.

That is so for at least four reasons.

First and most important, what counts most for all of us has very little to do with anything we can control. Every wish I make for the New Year is for a healthy and safe year for my family. Who doesn't

wish for that? But can we control it? Yes, of course, we do have some control, in terms of what we eat and how much we exercise. It took me 20 years and actually writing a diet book before I finally "got" the idea that I could use my head to take care of myself the same way I used it at work to accomplish other goals — that I didn't have to stop for a donut in the middle of the Superwoman routine. Even so, in an increasingly dangerous world, where I feel like every time I pick up the phone I hear from someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, it is difficult to feel much control. So it remains true that the predictions that matter most for all of us are ones that no one, not even our doctors, can make with certainty.

Second, secrets are only interesting until you learn them. That



sounds like an oxymoron, but it makes most predictions predictably obsolete. Consider Katie Couric. Most media predictions this year center on whether she will (about 40 percent say yes) or won't (about 60 per-ESTRICH cent say no) leave the

"Today" show for CBS. At some point, she will or she won't. If the majority is right, the whole issue will simply disappear the day she decides, as if it never existed. And if she does go to CBS, people will start kicking her the day she does. There was intense interest in who would replace Peter Jennings until the replacements were actually named, and then the intense interest evaporated. The most classic example of this phenomenon occurs every four years, when the press goes wild with anticipation over who will be selected as the vice presidential nominee, only to ignore that person completely as

soon as they are named.

Third, time frames have changed. A year is now a lifetime. Can you remember what you thought of Bush a year ago? A year ago, he was preparing for his second inauguration, which certainly seems like a lifetime ago, politically speaking. But that also means that a year from now, he and we — could be in a very different place than we are today.

Fourth, and perhaps most important, no one can predict which stories will capture the country this year because "importance" in policy terms doesn't necessarily determine importance in terms of coverage and attention. In an increasingly competitive media community, with more and more outlets spewing less and less accurate information, the collision between news and entertainment makes Natalee Holloway bigger news on some days than the war in Iraq. You can accept that or condemn that, but it's what we want.

So, what can I predict? That in our hearts, we will worry about our families and hopefully do better at taking care of ourselves. which is the one thing we can do while on television and in the papers, we will read what's there, laugh at the worst, curse the darkness, and hope for the best. Happy New Year.

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TORS

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

**BIG SPRING HERALD** 

#### Former Bartlett mayor sentenced

GEORGETOWN (AP) - Former Bartlett Mayor Bobby Hill will spend five straight weekends in jail and was ordered to pay back more than \$7,600 to the city for stealing money and services from the city.

Hill was sentenced Monday to 20 days in jail. He pleaded guilty in November to misdemeanor charges of abusing his power while in office. He resigned at that time.

"I realize that my actions were an abuse of the office to which you, the citizens, so graciously elected me," Hill said in a letter of apology he read to the court while lawyer Marc Ranc put a hand on his back, the Austin American-Statesman reported. "I ask for your forgiveness."

As part of the sentence, the letter will published as an advertisement in two local newspapers.

Investigators said Hill wrote bad checks, then told a city employee to falsify the books and not deposit the checks until instructed by him.

#### Teens arrested after ambulance stolen

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) - A 17-year-old was arraigned on theft charges and a 16year-old was turned over to juvenile authorities Monday after they were caught running from an ambulance that had been stolen outside a Grand Prairie

The ambulance's crew was inside the home tending to a patient in a non-emergency case, said Cynthia Wentworth, a spokeswoman for American Medical Response, which owns the ambulance.

When they came outside early Monday, the ambulance was gone.

Officials used a global positioning device to track the ambulance, which was spotted about 18 miles away in Grapevine.

The two teenagers tried to run, but they didn't get very far, police said.

"One couldn't run very well because his pants were too low," Sgt. Todd Dearing, a Grapevine police spokesman, said. "He was having to hold his pants up with one hand."

Dedrick Tarrant, 17, was taken to Grapevine jail where he was held on a charge of theft between \$100,000 and \$200,000, a second-degree felony, and evading arrest, a state jail felony. Bail totaled \$20,000.

The 16-year-old faces similar charges, Dearing said.

Dearing said he didnt know why the ambulance was taken. He said one teen told police he was having a hard time finding the home of relatives in Grapevine.

#### 5 killed in East Texas mobile home fire

HARLETON (AP) — Five people were killed, including four children, when flames swept through a mobile home overnight near this small East Texas

Three of the dead were found in the charred ruins of a bedroom after the 11 p.m. fire Monday, said Harrison County Justice of the Peace Melba Oney. She identified the three as Laura Patton, 75, and two of her grandchildren, Demarcus King, 4, and Destiny Graham, 11.

Two other children died at hospitals a short time later, Oney said. She identified them as Te'Sherman Davidson, 12, and Nathan Brown, 4.

C.J. Brown, 3, was taken to Longview Regional Medical Center, then airlifted to the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, La., Oney said. He's listed in stable condition, a hospital spokeswoman said today.

Oney said Patton was baby-sitting the Brown children, while the others were part of her extended family. Two others suffered minor injuries, Clara Tucker, Te'Sherman Davidson's grandmother, and Kim Graham, mother of Demarcus King and Destiny Graham, Oney said.

No word yet on what caused the rural fire, which happened about 20 miles northeast of Longview and northwest of Marshall.

#### Management contract vote expected on faith-based prison

SAN ANGELO (AP) - Tom Green County officials are expected to vote today on a management contract with a Dallas-based group to operate a faithbased prison in this West Texas city.

The contract would allow Corrections Angelo.

Concepts Inc. to negotiate inmate contracts for the prison. The company is to operate the facility.

County commissioners have delayed the vote at least twice, most recently Dec. 14 when the court tabled the motion because county officials wanted their Dallas-based attorney, John Sheedy, at the meeting to answer questions commissioners might have, the San Angelo Standard-Times reported. Sheedy's name is on the agenda for today.

At the Dec. 14 meeting, commissioners approved a location for the prison on a 200-acre city-owned plot.

Corrections Concepts also is negotiating a construction contract with the Concho Valley Community Facilities Corp., which the county formed to issue bonds to build the prison.

Habilitation House would take volunteer inmates with one or two years remaining on their sentences. Inmates could work and earn wages in the facility and receive addiction counseling.

The prison has had supporters on both sides of the issue. Opponents point to safety and water use concerns, and that the prison will bring no positive economic benefit. They also fear taxpayers will have to pay if the prison fails.

Supporters say the prison could influence inmates' lives through religion, and that areas around a prison are no less safe than anywhere else. They also say it will create needed jobs in San

## Iran removes seals from nuclear equipment, resumes research, bringing international outcry

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran basis for more talks. removed U.N. seals on uranium enrichment equipment resumed nuclear research Tuesday, defying demands it maintain a two-year freeze on its nuclear program and sparking an outcry from the United States and Europe.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran plans to enrich uranium as part of its experiments with the nuclear fuel cycle. An IAEA statement issued in Vienna, Austria, said Iran told the agency the scale of its enrichment work would be limited.

U.S. officials denounced Iran's move, calling it a step toward creating material for nuclear bombs. Germany's foreign minister raised European-led negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, questioning whether there remains any

Britain warned that the international community was "running out of patience" with Tehran, and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Iran had breached IAEA resolu-

"There was no good reason why Iran should have taken this step if its intentions are truly peaceful and it wanted to resolve longstanding international concerns," Straw said. The latest move came as Iran has

been taking a more confrontational line with the West. Hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has angered Europe and the United States in recent months with anti-Israeli remarks, first calling for the Jewish state to

"myth. The United States accuses Iran of news conference.

calling the Nazi Holocaust a

seeking to develop nuclear weapons, a charge denied by Iran. which contends its program aims only to produce energy. France, Germany and Britain have been leading long-troubled negotiations with Iran aimed at ensuring its program is peaceful.

The seals were removed Tuesday from equipment at the nuclear plant at Natanz, the center of Iran's uranium enrichment program.

However, Iran stressed it was not resuming enrichment, a key process that can produce either material for a nuclear weapon or fuel for a reactor. Instead, it said it was restarting research activities at the plant.

"What we resume is merely in the field of research, not more than future of be "wiped off the map" and then that," the deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Mohammad Saeedi, told a

## **Doctors: Sharon shows** improvement, moves hand

JERUSALEM (AP) -Prime Minister Ariel Sharon showed "slight improvement" in his recovery from a massive stroke by moving his left hand today, but doctors said they still cannot assess his abilities to think and reason as they gradually reduce the anesthesia keeping him in a coma.

Doctors also said Sharon's life was not in immediate danger.

One of Sharon's sons spoke to him; and the 77year-old leader's blood pressure increased.

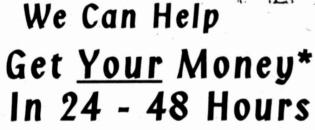
Sharon is recovering from a cerebral hemorrhage and widespread bleeding in the right side of his brain that he suffered Wednesday.

doctors As decreasing Sharon's dose of sedatives to remove him from an induced coma Monday, he moved his right hand and right leg slightly in response to pain stimulation. Today, movement the on Sharon's right side increased, and he also moved his left hand, said Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the director of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. "These are neurological

changes that show slight improvement in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's brain functioning," he said. Movement on Sharon's left side could be very significant because that part of the body is controlled by the right side of the brain.

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## Christy's Quill

ashing through the sunshine in mid-sized minivan we made a

trip to see my family over the holidays.

As per our marital contract, I took next to nothing for three persons and husmy took band

but the everything kitchen sink. I lost count after 16 bags.

CHRISTY

ALTON

Perched in the front seat amidst the piles, I whined and groaned and rued the day we decided to drive. The kids sat peacefully in the back. baggage notwithstanding and watched countless movies with the very God-given headphones.

The luggage arrangements were even more precarious on the trek home, as we'd accumulated numerous Christmas packages. More whining, more griping from the front seat. More promises to fly in the future. (The airports aren't generous when it comes to carry on pieces. Two per person.

We had a little "incident" on the way home.

duction of Abilene's

Children's Performing

Arts Series is set for 2

Straight from New York

Jim

"Dinosaurs" is a colossal

show inspired by every-

one's favorite prehistoric

Fossil, the dinosaur

detective, mixes fun and

facts and din-puppet

antics - all set to a rich

Mahler, Stravinsky and

Tickets to the show are

\$7 for open seating and

can be purchased by call-

ing the Abilene Cultural

A limited number will

The next show in the

2006 season will come

It will be a live produc-

tion of the beloved chil-

dren's book, "Alexander,

the

Celebration Tour.

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be available at the door.

score

classics by

Beethoven,

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Abilene - The first pro- Who's Not, Not, Not, Not,

p.m. Jan. 22 in the his- and lesson of a young boy

toric Paramount Theatre dismayed by his father's

Move!"

from

love

years.

in the hotel bathroom. We'd been gone from the inn for over an hour.

The good news was that we'd only made a city block. By the time we'd cooled our heels at the hamburger hut. gassed up the guzzler, and filled up the coffee mug, I noticed my empty hand.

It was one of the only times I was glad that it takes the Altons more than an hour to make the block. I was so happy to see my beautiful wedding band.

Unpacking brought more vows to use the overpriced airline services. I brought in my three bags and helped with the other 16 or so.

It took me several days to recover from the twoday stint in the vehicle. I finally unloaded my three suitcases Tuesday night.

My van's back to normal. Only crayons, soda cups and cracker crumbs adorn it.

The only piece of luggage in it now is my allpurpose, overstuffed, solo purse.

Christy Alton is married to her park ranger, Ron and they have two children.

She works as a substitute teacher and also I left my wedding ring attends college classes.

Not, NOT Going to

job in a new city.

The story tells the tale

The show will take

place in the Paramount

Theatre Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

live musical production

of the classic "Wizard of

Performed by a troupe

**American Family Theatre** 

organization, this rendi-

tion brings in all of the

characters that children

and adults have grown to

It will be at the

Season tickets for the

Children's Performing

Arts Series also are still

available and include

reserved seating for all

four shows of the season.

purchased by calling the

Cultural Affairs Council

but also will be available

at the door

"Dinosaurs."

Season tickets can be

Paramount Theatre at 2

p.m. Sunday, April 2.

the national

throughout the

Next in the season is a

# Bird Poop

n Christmas Eve, over an hour and a half was spent just trying to get close to a roadrunner in a furniture store.

The owner of the furniture store had called during the morning. She was concerned that the bird might be hurt and it would starve if she could not get it to leave the building. She had left the front door open, but the bird refused to leave.

When we arrived, the paisano was looking out one of the windows. The moment it saw us, it jumped to the floor and was lost in the myriad of sofas, tables, chairs, desks and end tables.

Using a net would be impossible.

If we were fortunate enough to grab the bird, our opportunity would be lost if we caught it by the tail. We would have had nothing but a handful of feathers.

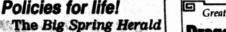
Nature has provided this specie with the ability to donate its tail in lieu of capture, either by man or lesser predators.

The bird had a definite advantage in that it went under, over and through furniture at a record clip. Capable of speeds up to

<sup>9</sup> 12 to 15 miles per hour, the roadrunner made us think we might just spend Christmas in that store.

Even with the front door open, the bird would turn and run to the back of the store.

Although we could see the bird, and noticed a limp, we were never close



The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions for publication in the Friday and weekend edi-

Friday's Church and Club News should be concise and may not be written in first person. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number.

Wedding, 50th anniversary, engagement, quinceañera and birth announcements, Who's Who and In the Military, with or without photos are also published free of charge within three months of the event in the weekend edition at no charge.

All submissions are due by noon er Wednesday for Friday or weekend publication and will be edited for content, style and space.

The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

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

MOST COLORS

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A roadrunner similar to the species native to West Texas

enough to detect exactly what might be wrong with it, except it seemed to love all that furniture.

As we tired of climbing over and around so many items, and made every effort not to break anything, the bird seemed to gain momentum.

Finally, Art suggested that since the bird did not prefer the front of the store, we could try to usher the bird toward the office at the back of the store.

If it went in, we could shut the door and have

the bird contained. Fortunately, his idea

worked. I squeezed through a slightly-opened door, which Art closed behind me.

The roadrunner was hiding on a lower shelf of a bookcase.

Slowly, I crept toward the bird. Down on hands and knees, I took a deep breath, and grabbed at a creature that hardly seemed winded.

Coming out of the office with the captured bird, we noticed it only had one foot.

It had been leading us on one heck of a chase through all that furniture with one foot and a stub.

Where the other foot had been was toughened, scarred skin that had healed over the bottom of the leg.

Ron Alton offered a release site in the State Park, and all of us were amazed to see how rapidly the roadrunner disappeared.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



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alling 264-3662 or rom Gene or Lana terretield at 816-1134.

Chicano Golf

esociation sets

st 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

All members are encouraged to attend.

For more informa-

tion, contact Billy

Pineda at 264-7116.

Lady Steer Booster

meeting announced

The Lady Steer

**Booster Club will meet** 

Monday, Jan. 16, in

the Athletic Training

Center (ATC) at 6 pm.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading

and trainers are

encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Carol

brandishing firearms

RICHMOND, Va.

(AP) — Former irginia Tech quarter-

back Marcus Vick was

charged with pulling a

gun on three

teenagers during an

altercation in a restau-

Vick surrendered

after three warrants

were issued for his

arrest Sunday. He

could be sentenced to

up to three years in jail and fined \$7,500. On Friday, Virginia Tech kicked Vick off

the team, citing

numerous legal prob-

lems and his unsports-

manlike conduct in

the Gator Bowl, where

he was caught on tape

stomping on the left calf of Louisville's

He also received a

speeding ticket and

another for driving on

a suspended license in

Hampton Dec. 17 while under a "zero

tolerance" policy from Virginia Tech.

cided to turn pro.

Rockets' McGrady

to miss two games

HOUSTON (AP)

niss the next two

ames and be re-evalu-

ated Friday after a recurrence of back

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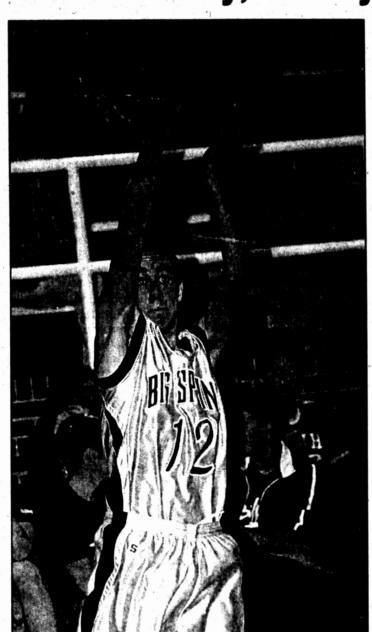
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# Garden City, Grady seek control of District 7-A



**HERALD** photo/Troy Hyde Big Spring junior Scott Fankhauser puts up a jumper from the corner last Tuesday against Merkel. The Steers will host Sweetwater tonight at 7:30 p.m.

 Steers host Sweetwater, B.S. girls travel to Andrews

By TROY HYDE

**Sports Editor** City Garden Grady's basketball programs will try to take control of District 7-A

tonight when the two rivals the on hardwood collide in Grady for the first of two district meetings this season.

MULTER

All four teams opened the district season with

Friday. h e **Bearkats** (11-4) and Lady Kats dominated Dawson, while the Grady girls



FAIRLEY

e a, s i l y defeated Borden County and the Grady boys edged Borden County by one point.

The Garden City boys were led by Cory Multer's 14 points against Dawson, but had a balanced attack on offense as Taylor Niehues, Colton Schwartz and Alex Halfmann also Bearkats. The Lady Kats, who enter tonight's game with a 15-6 record, were led by Erin Hirt's 22 points and also feature the inside presence of K'Lann Niehues and Lauren Plagens.

The Wildcats (10-8) are led by sophomore Justin Tubb, who led Grady with 17 points in its win against Borden County. The Grady girls are led by Kenzie Madison and Taylor Wodlfork. The Lady Cats enter the game with an 11-8 record overall.

Tonight's game will take place in Grady beginning at 6:30 p.m. The boys' game will begin at around 8 p.m. The two rivals split in competition last year.

Both Forsan basketball teams open district play tonight at home against rival McCamey. The Lady Buffs will tipoff at 6:30 p.m., while the boys will begin at around 8 p.m.

The Big Spring girl's basketball team will travel to Andrews tonight to take on the arch rival Lady Mustangs in District 4-4A action at 7:30 p.m., while the Steers host Sweetwater at the same time in Big Spring. The Big Spring boys are coming off a win against Lubbock Cooper, while

scored well for the the Lady Steers lost a close game to Lake View to open district play last Friday.

> The Howard College women's basketball team closes out its nonconference schedule tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum against thirdranked Trinity Valley Community College, which has 12 of the top 50 players in the nation on its squad, according to Howard head coach Earl The Hawk Diddle. women, who are led by sophomore Latoya Fairley, tipoff at 6 p.m.

Coahoma's girl's basketball squad hosts Stamford tonight at 7:30 p.m. The boy's team does not play and will open district play Friday on the road against rival Stanton.

The Bulldogettes and Stamford both got wins Friday to open district

#### Tonight's area basketball lineup

B.S. boys vs. Sweetwater, 7:30 p.m. • B.S. girls @Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

· Garden City @ Grady, 6:30 p.m./8 p.m. Forsan vs. McCamey

6:30 p.m./8 p.m. · Howard women vs. Trinity Valley

Community College, 6 p.m. Coahoma girls vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

Sands vs. Dawson, 6:30 p.m./8 p.m.

## Longhorns roll past **lowa State in Ames**

By LUKE MEREDITH

**Associated Press Writer** AMES, Iowa — With ing on both ends of the floor, Texas once again

looks like a national title contender.

Kenton Paulino scored a career-high 20 points and Gibson scored 19 while helping hold Iowa State's Curtis Stinson to a season-low seven points as No. 8 Texas blew out Iowa State 78-58 Monday night to extend its winning streak to five games.

Texas (13-2, 2-0 Big 12) has won each game during this stretch by double digits - including a 69-58 victory at No. 5 Memphis and has moved back into the Top 10 for the first time since early December.

Gibson, who scored 18 in the win over Memphis, scored 17 points in the second half as Texas blew open a 34-32 game. His play on both ends of the floor prompted Longhorns coach Rick Barnes to declare that

Saturday, Vick game of the year. announced he had "If you knew how hard he worked, you just knew it was just a matter of time before he had a game like he had

Gibson played his best

tonight," Barnes said. Gibson's scoring numbers are down slightly from last season, when he was named the Big 12 Freshman of the Year. But Texas coach Rick Barnes said Longhorns have asked Gibson to play a much larger role on defense this season, often putting him on the opponent's best

perimeter player. Gibson took it upon himself to shut down Stinson, a preseason first team All-Big 12 pick who has scored at will in almost every game he's played this season.

"I don't think I've put together an offensive and a defensive game like I at Hilton Coliseum.

did tonight," Gibson said. "Whenever there's a challenge put in front of me, Daniel Gibson dominat- I'm ready and willing to step up and guard any body."

The Longhorns broke the game open with a 14-4 run early in the second half. Paulino hit a 3-pointer to put Texas up by nine, and LaMarcus Aldridge converted a 3point play to give the Longhorns a 48-36 lead with 15:00 left. Paulino finished with six 3 point-

"We made too many mistakes tonight not getting out to their shooters. Texas was able to capitalize," said Iowa State coach Wayne Morgan. "We had to pick our poison on whether to stop the inside game or give up their shots outside."

Iowa State (11-4, 1-1) briefly got within 49-40, but Gibson made consecutive 3-pointers to push the Longhorns' lead to 68-49 with 5:50 left.

Texas kept the Cyclones at bay in the second half by pounding them on the boards, outrebounding Iowa State 23-8.

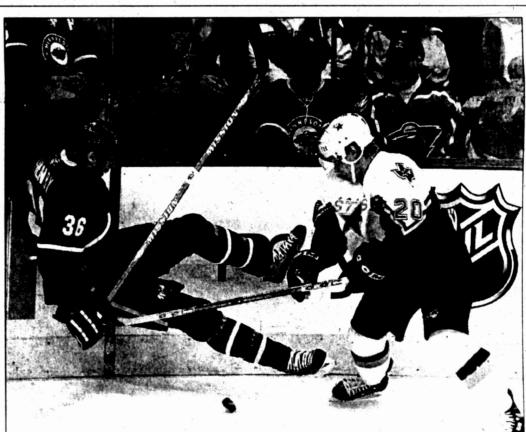
Paulino took advantage of constant open looks and broke his career high for points for the second straight game. He made five 3-pointers in the first half, and keyed a 17-6 run that put the Longhorns ahead to stay late in the first half.

Paulino tied the game at 20 with a 3-pointer, then capped the spurt with back-to-back threes late in the first half to give Texas a 34-26 lead. "He's like a silent assas-

sin. People really don't think about (Paulino) as being one of scorers, but he steps up and does what he does. He knocks down shots," said P.J. Tucker. Rahshon Clark led the Cyclones with 18 points.

Texas is now 2-5 all-time

Will Blalock added 17.



KRT photo/Chris Polydoroff, St. Paul Pioneer Press Minnesota Wild's Alex Henry, left, is upended by Dallas Stars' Antii Miettinen during second period action. The Stars defeated the Wild, 2-1, at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minn., Monday.

## Mavs win on Stackhouse jumper

#### Dallas takes down **Celtics in Boston**

BOSTON (AP) - Dallas had one too many shooters for the Boston Celtics to cover.

Jerry Stackhouse made a baseline jumper with 0.1 seconds left to lift the Mavericks over the Celtics 104-102 Monday night.

Jason Terry hit seven 3pointers and finished with 30 points, and Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 as the Mavericks won their third straight game. They improved to 13-5 on the road, best in the Western Conference.

On the game-winning play, the original plan was for Terry or Nowitzki, but it was Stackhouse who got open. Stackhouse got the ball in front of the Celtics bench and drove the right baseline before pulling up and nailing a 12-footer

"Obviously, I've hit a quite a few shots in this

over Ricky Davis.

league," Stackhouse said with a smile.

Stackhouse finished 20 points and Keith Van Horn had 12.

"It was for JT if we could get him the ball because of the game he was having, or we would have liked Dirk to take the shot," Stackhouse said. "At that point, it's just a matter of whoever gets the ball."

Stackhouse missed the first 26 games of the season with a sore right knee before returning on Dec.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 32 points, tying it with a 3-pointer with 6.5 seconds to play. The Celtics erased a 12point deficit in the closing 5:50.

'They have a number of guys who can step up," Pierce said. "That's why they're one of the better teams in the NBA."

Van Horn hit two 3s, Nowitzki one and Terry another during a 14-4 run that made it 96-84.

setting the stage for Stackhouse. "I was right there," Davis said. "He made a great shot. I pressured him, but he made a great pull-up."

with a 15-4 surge, closing

to 100-99 on Pierce's dri-

ving dunk with 1:35 to go.

Mark Blount missed a

jumper with just over a

minute left that would

have given Boston the

lead, and Josh Howard

grabbed the rebound.

Howard also got an offen-

sive rebound before

Nowitzki hit a fallaway

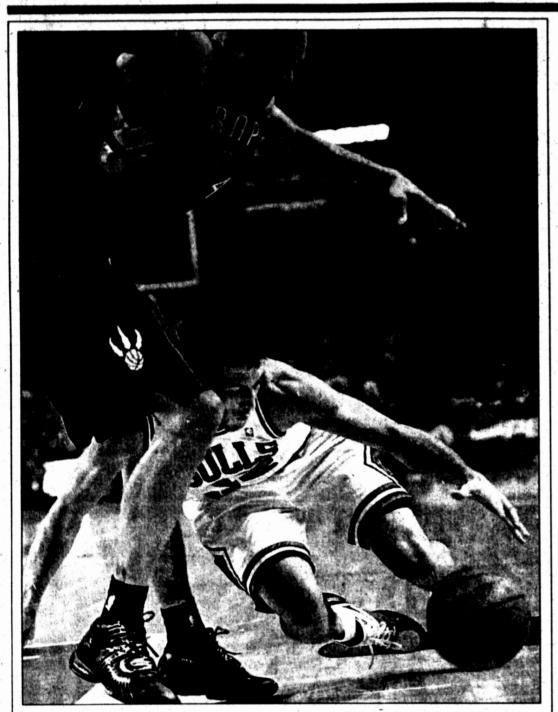
over Pierce, making it

102-99 with 16 seconds to

Pierce then nailed his 3,

Led by three from Terry, five of Dallas' eight baskets in the third quarter were 3-pointers as the Mavericks took a 79-74 lead.

The Mavericks took their first lead since early in the second quarter at 68-65 when Terry nailed his sixth 3-pointer of the game with 5:51 left in the The Celtics answered third period.



Chicago Bulls' Kirk Hinrich falls while trying to dribble past Toronto Raptors' Aaron Williams. The Bulls defeated the Raptors 113-104 at the United Center in Chicago, Ill.,

## Texas to celebrate title Sunday

#### State Rep. asks UT to retire VY's jersey

AUSTIN (AP) - Texas will honor its national championship football team with a celebration Sunday Royal-Memorial Stadium.

coaches as well as the No. 1 on all four sides at 6 band, cheerleaders, and p.m. other spirit groups will participate.

Longhorns' 41-38 Rose 10 jersey. Young was 30-2 Heisman Trophy.

Bowl victory Southern California.

The stadium gates will open at 3:30 p.m., with the program to start at 5 p.m. Season highlights will run on the scoreboard Jumbotron. University Tower will be Longhorn players and lighted orange with the his senior season.

Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale, No. 20 and Ricky Texas won its first out- R-Tomball, asked the Williams' No. 34. They right national champi- school to retire quarter- are the only two Texas onship since 1969 with the back Vince Young's No. players to win the

over as a starter in his career and scored three touchdowns against USC, including the game-winner with 19 seconds left.

announced Young Sunday he would enter the NFL draft and would not return to Texas for

Texas has previously retired only two football Also on Monday, state jerseys — Earl Campbell's

## Chiefs make it official, hire Edwards to be next coach

By DOUG TUCKER

**AP Sports Writer** KANSAS CITY, Mo. -Bring 'em on, says Herman Edwards. He's ready to take charge of the good and the bad, the talented and mediocre, and the lazy and the energetic as the new coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

"I can coach anything you give me - good players, great players. That's my job as a coach," he said.

Edwards' spirited introduction to Kansas City on Monday seemed at times to be part news conference and part old-fashioned evangelical crusade. His voice seeming to bounce off the walls, the 10th head coach in franchise history refused to take any questions about the intrigue that led to his departure from

the New York Jets.

But he was full of platitudes and coaching homilies, and promised to conduct himself with integrity while squeezing the very best out of everybody who fell under his

Sitting in the back of the room was quarterback Trent Green, who has led the most prolific offense in the NFL the past five years. Green and other members of the NFL's only 10-win team not in the playoffs had campaigned for offensive coordinator Al Saunders, who was the first to be interviewed by Chiefs president Carl Peterson.

But listening to his new coach's passion sparked a positive response.

"I thought he was very impressive," Green said. "I thought he handled the questions very well. Obviously, he sent out a

very profound message and I'm excited about it."

The hiring even makes NFL history because 17 years ago Edwards served a minority internship with Kansas City. Now he becomes the first alumnus of the league's minority fellowship program to become head coach of the team he interned with.

He signed a four-year contract with the Chiefs after getting released from the final two years of his deal with the New York Jets, who got a fourth-round draft pick in return.

His hiring, expected for more than a week, concludes intense, behindthe-scenes wrangling between the Jets and Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson, who has been Edwards' friend and mentor since he tried to recruit him to UCLA more than 30 years ago.

## Colts land four on All-Pro team

By MICHAEL MAROT

**AP Sports Writer** INDIANAPOLIS - Bob Sanders helped change the image of the Colts' Indianapolis defense with a few big hits.

The sports writers and broadcasters rewarded him Monday by making him among the Colts' league-high four players on this year's Associated Press All-Pro team.

"Knowing the way I play and the attitude I have for this game, I felt like I was the guy who should take it to another level," Sanders said. "It has to do with being physical" Joining Sanders, a safe-

ty, on the first team were quarterback Manning, center Jeff Polamalu who had 37. Saturday and defensive end Dwight Freeney. Seattle also had four play-

Receiver

Marvin Harrison and linebacker Cato June were both second-team selections. For the high-scoring

Colts, it was an unusually balanced mix, and Sanders was the biggest surprise. The second-year player from Iowa, whose rookie season was limited by injuries, made the kind of impact coach Tony Dungy expected when the Colts took him in the second round of the 2004 draft.

He finished with 118 tackles - second on the team — had one interception, forced one fumble and recovered a fumble. It was enough to earn 22 of 50 votes, second to Peyton Pittsburgh safety Troy

Manning, a two-time MVP who finished second in this year's MVP and ers named to the first offensive player of the

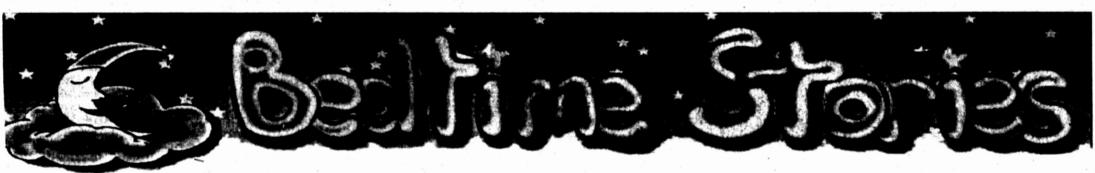
year balloting, was named the top quarterback for the third straight

Freeney earned his second straight selection to the All-Pro team.

Saturday was honored for the first time in his seven-year career.

During the offseason, Dungy said he wanted the Colts to be more physical on defense this year, and Sanders seemed to take the plea personally. With Sanders healthy, the addition of defensive tackle Corey Simon and the emergence of June and Gary Brackett, Indy jumped from the No. 29 defense to No. 11.

"We've been healthier this year, which allowed us to practice more, and the guys carried it out," Dungy said. "Bob Sanders has certainly been the ring leader, but it's not just him."



# DICKIE, THE CARPENTER AND THE HOUSE THAT FELL

very young boy, all he ever wanted to do was be a carpenter. Do you know what a carpenter does? Does he build homes, like yours and mine? Yes, that's right! A carpenter can build homes and doghouses, birdhouses, and even toys! Would you like to be a c penter when you grow u This little boy's name w 3 Dickie.

When old. h made little

wagon. It was a very pretty wagon, too. His neighbors loved to push and pull the wagon everywhere they went. Sometimes, one of Dickie's friends would even ride in the wagon, while Dickie pushed him up and down the hills. They would go fast. They would go slow. Dickie loved to be pushed in the wagon, too. Do you have

friends in your wagon? That is fun, isn't it? As Dickie grew older and

a wagon? Have you ever

ridden in your wagon? Have

you ever pushed one of your

Then he was a bigger, he would build many different things. When he was twelve, he built a doghouse for his little puppy. The little puppy was very happy to have his own house. He wagged his tail every time he went into his When he new house. wagged his tail, he was telling Dickie, "Thank You" for building this nice doghouse just for him.

When Dickie was eighteen years old, he had become a man, and he still loved to build things. He was learning how to build things better and better as each year passed by. He was now a carpenter! And, that made him very happy! His next door neighbor was one of his



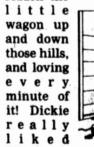
friends he grew up with and pushed many times in the little wagon he made many years ago. His friend still remembers the little wagon too, and all the times they had pushed and pulled that wagon up and down the hills, shouting with glee! His friend needed a new

porch because the one he from their long winter sleep, had for so many years was getting old and not safe anymore. Do you think Dickie could build a new porch? Of



course he can, for Dickie is now a carpenter!

Dickie had another friend who now lived way over on the other side of town. Her was Kimberly. Kimberly was also one of Dickie's friends who had ridden the



Kimberly too, because she was so nice. Kimberly liked Dickie also, because he was nice, too! It was on one of those beau-

tiful mornings, when the

sun was shining brightly.

and the birds were chirping,

and the flowers had awaken

what was wrong? Why did she sound so sad? It was then that Kimberly told Dickie that her house had fallen down! "Can you help me," she asked, crying? "I have no money to pay you, but I will someday. Will you help me? I must have my home fixed!"

that Kimberly called Dickie.

She had a very sad sound in

her voice. Dickie asked



Do you think Dickie should help his friend? Do you think Dickie will help his friend? Of course he will! That is what friends do! They help each other! Dickie gathered all the tools he thought he might need, and ran over to Kimberly's house as fast as he could go.

When he saw Kimberly's house, he wondered why it didn't fall a very long time before this. The poor little house was in terrible shape. It's roof was falling down. It's windows were sagging! It's front porch was a front porch no more. Dickie had that he had even seen! It was going to take a lot of hard work and a very long time to fix this house! Can Dickie do it? Don't forget, he is now a carpenter! This was going to be a big test for him! He

will finally see if all the things he had learned all through the years will help him.

He started on the roof. He worked and worked and worked on that roof. Then one day, he saw that the roof was going to be okay. It even looked very good!

Then he started working on the walls! Day after day, week after week he worked, and then the walls started looking much better. Better than before!

Then, he worked on the floors. They looked better and better with each passing day! And finally, he started working on the brand new porch. It was a much different porch than the old one. It was much more beautiful! It seemed to reach all the

the biggest job ahead of him way around the little house. as if it was trying to hug it!

Dickie and Kimberly walked out into the street. turned around, and looked at the little house. It was so different! It was so much better than ever before! But, it still needed something! "I know," said Dickie, "Let's paint it!" This would be all the little house would need for a very long time.

So, paint it, they did! And after the painting was all done, and the paint had dried, they

both walked back into the street,

turned around and looked at this house again. It was magnificient! It was now the prettiest house on the block! Kimberly was so proud of her new home. Dickie was so proud that he could help his childhood friend. Dickie was so glad now, that all he ever wanted to do was become a carpenter. And, what a nice carpenter he was!

Dickie is building a new house right now for a little old lady, but he told me to tell you, "Good Night"

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INSIDE SALE, 1903 S. Gregg. Tue.-Thur., 1:00-5:30. Fri. 10:00-5:30 & Sat. 10:00-2:00. Christmas decor, 1/2 off, stroller, carseat combo, closeout on all clothing, \$5. a bag, excluding scrubs.

#### Help Wanted

**DENNY'S** Servers ' Apply at: 1710 East Third Street E.O.E.

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Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation. Now Hiring for Charge Nurse Position. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway.

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Phlebotomist, one year experience preferred. Needed full time at an outpatient clinic in Big Spring, Tx. Criminal and Abuse background check required. Fax resumes to Kelly (817)306-4673.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for Level II Ultrasonic/Penetrant Technician. Will be assigned to work with Inspection in Big Spring refinery. 4 day work excellent benefits. week, 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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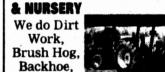
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Month, \$400.00 deposit. Call

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Pool, 24 hour maintenance,

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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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3 BDRM, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 3 car carport, den, fireplace on 19 acres w/barn. \$65,000. Will look at all offers. Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

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\$445. month. 1410 Robin, 3 BY OWNER 1906 Morrison. 4 bedroom, \$400. month. 3006 Bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, Cherokee, 2 bedroom, \$300. CH/A, utility room, storage building, tile brick fence, circle \$70,000.00. drive. 3708 Caroline. 4 Bedroom, (432)466-2066. 1bath. Fenced yard, fireplace,

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263-1252

#### Horoscope

The Gemini moon is a perky cheerleader, leaping, chattering and provoking gossip and speculation wherever she goes. The intrigue she generates should be a welcome respite from all the hard work of the last few days. It turns out that getting ahead doesn't have to be such a chore, after all. Maybe you can dance your way across the finish line.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are presented with an opportunity to choose another way of relating. Take a breath, and make your best intentions known — first within, and then to others. Support from outside is eminent.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your skepticism gets in the way of good fortune sometimes, but today, the planets try harder to impress you. Luckily, you don't have to totally believe in magic to

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When life throws you a curve, often the universe is simply trying to focus your attention in a new direction. Gemini, you take direction well, and in this case, the outcome can

Sometimes people mistake your good manners for weakness. What a mistake! You're stronger than you seem something your colleagues will find out now.

There are no barriers that can keep you from someone you were meant to be with. Take the current obstacles in stride. Things change. For now, focus on expressing

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As a rule, you are annoyed by those people who walk around telling others to smile. But today, you just might become one of them. You see how things could be different with

little hope is all you need to keep going.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If only there were a person who was in sync enough with you to complete what you start. Such a person could emerge! All that's needed is for you to be very clear in

your instruction. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Romance is a state of graceful understanding. Your efforts to this end are noble. Be in awe of the mystery that is your object of affection understanding will unfold

before the sun sets. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You go about your business with dizzying speed. That's what a professional gets paid for — knowing the path. If only the rest of the world would approach their work with the same profes-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Growth is associated with pain. But you are in a growth period of pleasurable measure, and you can take full advantage by bringing your own brand of playfulness

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Challenges come and go. It is important to remember their passing with as much clarity as their appearance. You are resilient. Relax, and be

CAL HIGHLIGHTS: Wonders are plentiful this year, mostly because you are open to being "wowed." You give up the skepticism of the past because curiosity attracts more interesting, creative and impressive people to your life. January and February show a mischievous character influencing your world. It is lucky to travel with this person or go into a short-term investment or business situation. You'll see new places in February and could move to one. New additions to your family are a joy in the spring. These arrivals brings new expenditures, too, so your financial realm will have to grow in order to handle the difference. This causes you to think and act more creatively. By April, the changes you are making in business require you to learn additional skills. You thrive when you surround yourself with beauty in May. The artist in you needs care! Friends can provide this if you give importance to nurturing the relationship. By the summer, you'll probably realize that your friendships are the wealth of your life, leading you to cherished and priceless moments. Romance is best this year when it grows out of a solid platonic

bond. August is the most passionate month!

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2002 DODGE Grand Caravan. (Silver). All power, V6, 70K, has child built in seats. Good Condition. Smoke \$11,000.. Call (432)264-6044.

TRAILER 5X8, Enclosed, Pace. Excellent condition. Tires like new. Low miles. Sells new for \$1800. asking \$1300. Call (432)816-1473.

Several New 2005 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th

#### Legals

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS** The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., January 24, 2006, on the following:

**Varsity Football Uniforms** Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on February 9, 2006, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or #4822 January 10 & 17, 2006

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

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**BIG SP** 

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be a sweet illumination. CANCER (June 22-July 22).

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

yourself.

a shift in attitude. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Regarding a difficult relationship, there's a rainbow through the clouds. Rainbows are illusions, but at least they offer hope. And sometimes a

sionalism!

wherever you find yourself.

assured in this. PISCE\$ 2006 ASTROLOGI-

## ре

THIS on is a leaping, oking goswherever rigue she e a wel-I the hard w days. It ing ahead e such a aybe you ay across

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e mistake s for weakake! You're u seem colleagues

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ASTROLOGI-

**ITS: Wonders** 

year, mostly open to being give up the past because s more interand impresyour life. oruary show a aracter influd. It is lucky his person or t-term investess situation w places in ould move to tions to your in the spring.

brings new too, so your will have to to handle the causes you to ore creatively. anges you are iness require ditional skills. nen you surwith beauty in in you needs in provide this ortance to nurationship. By ou'll probably ur friendships of your life, cherished and ents. Romance year when it

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the most pas-

#### **BIG SPRING HERALD** Tuesday, January 10, 2006

#### **TUESDAY** WFAA (2) KMID (3) UNI (4) KPEJ (5) KOSA (7) KTLE (8) KWES (9) WTBS (11) KMLM (12) KOCV (13) DISC (20) AMC (21) SPIKE (22) TNT (23) BET (26) DISN (27) ESPN2 ESPN 29 SCIFI 64 Spike TV Ent. Tonight ene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS) by the Lake Law & Orde (CC) (DVS) CSI: Crime 7 30 Kick It Up UNC at Va. Law & Orde Sex and-City Sex and-City Light of the IBA Coast-t the Bullet Chief (CC) Chief (CC) (CC) (DVS) Coast (CC) Vanderbilt a (CC) oston Lega 45 Movie Sister, Sister Kentucky That's-Raver he Hour of Cold Case :30 That's-Raven Late Show nai TV La Hora NBA Fastbre Late Late Jamie Foxo Kim Possible Quite Frankly k (CC) nel Live (CC) Yards (CC) Lizzie McGuire NFL's Great Game (CC) That's-Raven Seinfeld (CC)

#### DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THINK THAT WAS MARGARET'S SPECIALTY... ATRIPLE KLUTZ!"

LOOK AT THIS! PEOPLE

WITH TAPERED FINGERS

ARE ARTISTICALLY INCLINED

BC

REASURE

WIZARD OF ID

I SEE A TIME WHEN PEACE

SHALL REIGN THROUGHOUT

THE WORLD

ROVE

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Instead of buttons, let's give him a zipper and Velcro!"

NO KIDDING, WHAT

ABOUT PEOPLE WITH

TAPERED TOES ?

I BET

THE PEOPLE

ARE HAPPY

THEY ALSO KEEP FEET

SAFE FROM DROPPED BOWLING BALLS AND WILDLY WHIRLING

MOWER BLADES.

THEY ARE INCLINED TO

WEAR POINTED SHOES

I DON'T SEE

ANY PEOPLE

GIVE ME NINE PAIRS.

THEY ALSO

THINNER

NO , THANK YOU.

#### HAGAR



I COULD DEFINITELY

**BLONDIE** 







## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 19, the 10th day of 2006. There are 355 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense.

On this date:

In 1861, Florida seceded from the Union.

1863, London's In Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the pub-

1870, John Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles went into effect.

In 1946, the first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals were bounced off the lunar sur-

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United convened

London.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1971, "Masterpiece Theatre" premiered on PBS with host Alistair Cooke introducing a drama series, 'The First Churchills.' In 1984, the United States

and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century. One year ago: CBS issued

a damning, independent review of mistakes related to a "60 Minutes Wednesday" report on President Bush's National Guard service and fired three news executives and a producer for their "myopic zeal" in rushing it to air.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Max Roach is 82. Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 71. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 71. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie McCovey is 68. Singer Scott McKenzie is 67. Movie director Walter Hill is 64. Singer Frank Sinatra Jr. is 62. Singer Rod Stewart is 61. Rock singer-musician

Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 58. Actor William Sanderson is 58. Boxer George Foreman is 57. Singer Pat Benatar is 53. Singer Shawn Colvin is 48. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 47. Actor Evan Handler is 45. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 42. Actress Trini Alvarado is 39. **Rock musician Matt Roberts** (3 Doors Down) is 28. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is

Thought for Today: "History must speak for itself. A historian is content if he has been able to shed more light." - William L. Shirer, American author and journalist (1904-1993).

2005 The Associated Press.

# Answer to previous puzzle

#### HI AND LOIS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A PAIR OF IMPERYO-SOCKS? YOUR FEET WILL BE UNHARMED BY GAS, OIL,

ACID, OR CAUSTIC

CHEMICAL SPILLS!

**AGNES** 



NO.

THE OTHER COAST





**SNUFFY SMITH** 





GRUB, CHOW, STEW, SLOP, WHATEVER WHAT'S





HARD TO GIT OUTTA BABY-SITTIN'!!

#### **Newsday Crossword**

57 Takes a glance

58 Part of an ear

**59** Otherwise

60 Grown-up

island

62 Depend

61 U.S. Pacific

**63** Fills completely

64 Penny-\_\_ poker

65 Ghost sounds

1 Farm building

instrument

3 In good order

West Wing

4 Alan of The

6 Travel-guide

recommen-

5 Pursued

dation

8 Moistens

7 Give off

**DOWN** 

2 Woodwind

**ACROSS** 

fide

(genuine) 5 Enjoy

bubble gum

9 Makes a sketch

14 Brother of Cain 15 Where you live

16 Bouquet

flowers 17 Highway

18 Take a

crack \_\_ (try)

19 Keats or Shelley

20 Balance-sheet

total 22 HS juniors'

exams

"Electric" fish

24 Fruit-filled

dessert

25 Walked casually

e.g. 34 Merchandise

29 100-yard dash,

35 Mouse catcher 36 Zhivago's love

now (so far)

38 Angry 39 Nest-egg accts.

40 Does not exist 41 Raucous

noises 42 Ben Franklin's

43 Student's

reading

45 Gave one's autograph

46 Completely 47 Nightclub performance

48 Pet protection

51 Obligated,

so to speak

GO FISH by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

13 Former fast

21 Takes a

26 En\_

28 Football

29 Candid

position

31 Composer

32 Fruit box

Copland

fliers: Abbr.

glance at

24 Vatican leader

(as a group)

of Manhattan

27 Borough north

25 Be patient for

9 "Change the 33 Made simpler subject!" 35 Threesome 10 Twilight Zone

38 Object of creator worship

11 Where 42 Refer to Borneo is

44 Explosions 12 Toward sunset 45 Devious plan

47 Facing the

pitcher

48 Regretful word

49 Carbonated

drink

50 Sulk

51 Gymnast

Korbut

52 Person, place, or thing

53 Basil or

rosemary 54 Margarine

30 Meal for a mare 55 Norway's

largest city 56 Locksmith's

creations

10 11 12 13

15 18 17 20 41 58 60 61 62 CREATORS SYNDICATE @ 2006 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS @ AOL.COM

Chatter Box

"I was at the skating rink and I grabbed a girl by the arm because she refused to skate with me.

I wanted to hold hands, but she ran off and left me hanging!"

Usher, on an embarrassing dating episode, in Twist magazine.



By KARALEE MILLER Knight Ridder Newspapers

As the cold weather moves in, some wintry questions have us heated.

But when a chilly blast of sleet, snow and ice moves in, schools close. Office workers end the day early. Ice scrapers and mittens whiz off store shelves.

With plenty more arctic air this winter, we decided to stop flaking out and once and for all find the answers to some of our wintry-weather wonders.

#### Why is snow white?

The answer lies in the sun. Visible sunlight is white. Although most natural materials absorb, and gain their color from, sunlight, snow reflects most of the sun's rays. Snow, however, does absorb some sunlight, which gives it a white appearance.

#### Is it safe to eat snow?

If you're starving, or just curious, clean snow (NOTE: clean!) is OK to chow. However, remember that snow in urban areas can end up with pollutants that you should not ingest. So, even though it may look enticing, wouldn't you rather head inside for a PB&J instead?

## Can it ever be too cold to snow?

No matter how low the temperature gets outside, snow can still fall, as long as

When the weather outside is frightful, you'll know the difference between snow, sleet

snow, sleet and frozen rain

there is some type of moisture and some way to lift or cool the air.

# What's the difference between winter weather watches, warnings and advisories?

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service uses the weather terms to let us know what kind of weather conditions are heading our way.

A "winter storm watch" is like a storm-preparation alert. If you hear a forecaster issue a watch, this means there is a possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, freezing rain or sleet. A watch typically is announced 12 to 48 hours before the start of a winter storm.

If a "watch" is upgraded to a "winter storm warning," that means the wintry weather is close or occurring. Warnings are issued for heavy accumulations of snow, freezing rain and sleet.

A "winter weather advisory" is issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle and sleet that will cause significant problems. Extreme caution should be used in these instances.

# What's the difference between snow, sleet, freezing rain and more?

Here are the precipitation definitions, according to USA Today's Weather Book:

**SNOW:** falling ice composed of crystals in complex hexagonal forms; it forms mainly when water vapor turns directly to ice without going through the liquid stage, a process called sublimation.

**SNOW FLURRIES:** light showers of snow that do not cover large areas and do not fall steadily for long periods of time.

**SLEET:** drops of rain or drizzle that freeze into ice as they fall; they usually are smaller than  $\frac{3}{10}$  inch in diameter.

#### FREEZING RAIN OR DRIZZLE:

falling rain or drizzle that cools below 32 degrees but does not turn to ice in the air; when the drops hit anything, they instantly turn into ice.

SOURCES: WWW.NOAA.GOV; USA TODAY'S WEATHER BOOK, NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE DATA CENTER (HTTP://NSIDC.ORG)

In The News

## This writer's a 'Hoot'

For author Carl Hiaasen, finding the characters and plots for his outrageously fun stories is no problem. Hiaasen, who wrote the bestseller "Hoot," lives in Florida and takes his writing cues from the people and places around him. Hiaasen not only writes kid's books, he also writes a non-fiction column for a newspaper and hilarious novels for grown-ups.

Hiaasen talked to Time For Kids about his most recent book, "Flush," the Florida wilderness and turning "Hoot" into a movie.

TFK: The kids in "Hoot" and "Flush" help change their communities and protect the environment. What do you hope kids learn from characters like Noah and Roy?

hiaasen: If there's any message to these books, it's that everybody can make a difference if they make a stand. From the many letters I've received, it's plain that kids care so much about Roy and Noah because Roy and Noah care enough about their world to take action — and to take on the establishment. It's an example that too few grownups provide.

**TFK:** Where do you get your ideas for your characters and the situations they get into?

Hiaasen: The situations come from real-life events I know about or read about in the newspaper. South Florida is teeming with weird and interesting stories, and wild characters, too. I get bits and pieces of the characters from people I know, or have met, but most of their DNA comes out of my own warped imagination.

TFK: Like Noah in "Flush," did you spend a lot of time outdoors when you were growing up? If so, how did that influence your writing?

Hiaasen: The best part of my childhood was spent exploring the woods and swamps on the fringe of the Everglades. It had a huge influence on my writing because it gave me a passion for wild places, and something that I knew was worth fighting for.

TFK: How can kids get involved in protecting the environment?

Hiaasen: I always tell people who want to protect the places they care about — rivers, forests, estuaries, whatever — to stay alert, stay involved

and, most importantly, show up at the meetings to let the politicians know that you care, and you're not alone. And even if you lose a few battles, don't quit fighting. The stakes are too high. Once these places are gone, ruined by pollution and

development, we'll never get them back. **TFK:** What do you like best about writing

books for kids?

Hiaasen: I love the reactions I get from kids
who read my books. ... The letters from kids

knock me out — they're funny, perceptive, thoughtful and very candid. **TFK:** What advice do you have for young wri

TFK: What advice do you have for young writers?

Hiaasen: Anybody who wants be a writer ought to first be a reader. Reading not only inspires you to write, it will teach you more about the craft than any teacher or college professor. ...

TFK: What do you think of "Hoot" being made into a movie?

Hiaasen: So far, I'm optimistic about the film version of "Hoot." They finished shooting a few weeks ago here in Florida, and the stuff I've seen is very funny, and true to the spirit of the novel. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

— Jill Egan

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