

## STATE OF THE UNION

### Bush outlines agenda to keep U.S. competitive

By G. ROBERT HILLMAN  
The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — Seeking to reassure Americans uneasy about the war in Iraq and the economy at home, President Bush vowed Tuesday night to couple his aggressive foreign policy with a new competitiveness initiative to sharpen the nation's technological edge.

"The American economy is pre-eminent, but we cannot afford to be complacent," Bush said in his State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress.

China and India and other "new competitors" are now moving ahead in a "dynamic world economy," he said, and the United States must keep pace.

To do that, Bush proposed \$380 million in new federal support to enhance math, science and technology education

in the nation's elementary and high schools. The program would include 70,000 new teachers over five years for advanced high school courses and another 30,000 math and science

**"In a time of testing, we cannot find security by abandoning our commitments and retreating within our borders."**

—George W. Bush

professionals to help as adjunct high school teachers.

"If we ensure that America's children succeed in life," Bush said, "they will ensure that America succeeds in the world."

In his address — at the start of the midterm election year — Bush drew predictably thunderous applause from the majority Republicans in the

packed House chamber and sometimes silence from the Democratic minority, which have been particularly harsh on his handling of the war in Iraq and his authorization of warrantless electronic surveillance of some Americans believed linked to terrorists.

"He's asking the American people to trust him that he's making America safer without breaking the law," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "But after his mismanagement of the war, lawless detentions and secret warrantless wiretaps on U.S. citizens, he has broken that trust."

Bush, though, gave no ground in his 52-minute speech. He reiterated his determination to stay the course in Iraq, until Iraqi security forces have control, and steadfastly defended the clandestine

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President George W. Bush talks with Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., right, and members of the Senate after his State of the Union address of 2006 before a joint session of Congress on Tuesday. KRT photo/Chuck Kennedy

## Filing nears for HC, ISD trustees

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College and all area public school districts will have school board seats up for election this year.

The first day to file candidacies for the school elections is Feb. 11, with filing deadline set for March 13. School trustees will be elected May 13.

Seats held by long-time Howard College trustees Harold Davis (Place 3) and Don McKinney (Place 4) will be up for election this year, said Steve Smith, assistant to the president at HC. Both terms are for six years.

Big Spring Independent School District voters will elect two trustees in May, according to James McFarland, assistant business manager.

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## STREET REPAIRS



City of Big Spring Public Works employees use a backhoe to begin digging a ditch at Scurry and Eighth streets Tuesday morning. The digging was in prelude to repairing a water line leak. Herald photo/Steve Reagan

## Heart Association Gala set to raise funds, awareness

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If wild things make your heart sing, the local chapter of the American Heart Association has just the thing.

The AHA Gala, set for Feb. 25 at the Big Spring Country Club, will feature plenty of wild things, according to event coordinator and local AHA board chairman Bobby Roever.

"We'll start off the night with a pre-event party for our sponsors. It's a wine and cheese party, and it will give them a chance to look at the silent auction items that will be up for bid," said Roever. "At 8 p.m. we'll start our Gala with either a live band or a DJ — we haven't decided which just yet — and there will be dancing and food."

Roever said the evening also promises some bidding wars, as several auc-

What: American Heart Association Gala fund-raiser.

Where: Big Spring Country Club.

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 25.

Cost: \$15

tions will feature a number of "must have" items.

"As the night goes on, people will have a chance to bid on the silent auctions and at another point we'll have a live auction for some items," said Roever. "All of this is to help raise money for the American Heart Association."

"We're still working on gathering the auction items. We currently have a one-night stay at a hotel in Mesquite, and we're

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## To reach us:

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.

## WORKPLACE SEMINAR

There are still seats available for Friday's seminar, "Activating Professional Performance in the Workplace," to be held in the Cactus Room at the Howard College Student Union Building.

Business trainer and professional speaker Patrick H. McGaughey will provide the seminar from 7:30 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Local business owners, managers and supervisors can register by calling the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Admission for the seminar will be \$39 per person or \$289 for a reserved table for eight. To register, call 263-7641.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOZART

Peng Peng, pianist child prodigy from China, will perform Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

Conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, the all-Mozart concert "Happy Birthday, Mozart" will celebrate Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and may be purchased at the auditorium, at the corner of Third and Nolan in Big Spring. For more information, click on [www.BigSpringSymphony.com](http://www.BigSpringSymphony.com), e-mail [BSSA@bigspringssymphony.com](mailto:BSSA@bigspringssymphony.com) or telephone (432) 264-7223.

## NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

National Wear Red Day is Friday in support for women and the fight against heart disease.

By wearing red, you can help the American Heart Association raise awareness about heart disease and inspire women to take charge of their heart health.

Wear your favorite red clothes or accessory — blouse, lipstick, lapel pin, handbag, tie or socks.



## Obituaries

## Laura Yvonne Scherer



Laura Yvonne Scherer, 81, of Big Spring died at 11:10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, at her daughter's home in Farmington, N.M., following a long illness. Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. today, Feb. 1, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will be next to her husband in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

She was born Feb. 24, 1924, in Goldthwaite. She was the daughter of Winnie and W. D. Miller. Her family owned Miller's Pig Stand for many years.

She grew up in Big Spring. She spent most of her life in Homestead, Fla., while her husband, Paul N. Scherer, was in the U.S. Air Force. She returned to Big Spring in 1990. She was a Baptist, attending First Baptist Church and the Ruth Sunday School Class.

She is survived by one daughter, Mayvonne Womack and her husband, Ray of Farmington, N.M.; one grandson, Paul Womack of Farmington, N.M.; two great-grandchildren, Kyle Womack and Laura Womack, both of Farmington, N.M.; one sister, Naoma Coleman of Big Spring; and one niece, Cindy McGuire and her husband, Keith of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Queetie Ausbie

Queetie Ausbie, 70, of Big Spring died Jan. 29, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. Services are 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, in the House of Hope Church in Colorado City with the Rev. H.H. Lee and Terrilyn Faye Ross officiating. Burial will follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery.

She was born June 1, 1935, in Colorado City to William and Monnell Lawson Booker and was a resident of Colorado City most of her life. She married James Ausbie in Colorado City and was a certified nurse's aide and laundry supervisor. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by four daughters, Marilyn Williams of Big Spring, Rosa Thompson and Della Ausbie, both of Colorado City and Shajarkel Wilbert of Houston; six sons, James Ausbie, Vernon and Cornell Ausbie, all of Colorado City, Alton Ausbie of Fort Worth and Paul Ausbie and Tracy Ausbie, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Dorothy Walthall of Midland and Patty Sue Swann of Fort Worth; two brothers, the Rev. William W. Booker of Austin and Duane Booker of Dallas; 30 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

## William James Arthur

William James Arthur, 65, of Abilene died Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Take note

**A BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED AT MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Feb. 17 AT 2009 Virginia Ave. To sign up for the blood drive, call Jessica Paredes, director of marketing and admissions for Mountain View Lodge, at 263-1271.

**BIG SPRING SYMPHONY PRESENTS "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOZART"** at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 senior citizens and \$5 for students and may be purchased at the door. For more information, visit [www.BigSpringSymphony.com](http://www.BigSpringSymphony.com) or e-mail [BSSA@bigspringsymphony.com](mailto:BSSA@bigspringsymphony.com) or telephone (432) 264-7223.

**VALENTINE'S DAY CAKES** available from the Relay For Life Yellow Dog Dare Devils team. Delivery available. Eight-inch cakes are \$5 and 5-inch cakes are \$3.50. Call Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

**FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** applications being accepted through Feb. 13. The event is 10 a.m. Feb. 18 in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

**AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon. 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.

## Around Town

**BEAUTY IN BIG SPRING AT THE HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is set for 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday. The new exhibit features barber, shoe shine and hair demonstrations at the opening, along with spa techniques from Uptown Salon and Day Spa. Register to win a full spa giveaway. The exhibit will be on display through April 16. Heritage Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

## Police blotter

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

- **JUAN CARLOS CORDOVA**, 29, of 1614 Canary, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ**, 41, of Colorado City, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **SANTIAGO JIMINEZ MORALES JR.**, 45, of 703 S. Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
  - in the 1700 block of Yale.
  - in the 300 block of Tulane.
  - in the 300 block of Eighth Street.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **DIANNA LYNN HEINIS**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 4400 block of Elder. An arrest was made.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near Rattle Snake Gap.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 7700 block of North County Road 41. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 195 of Interstate Highway 20. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of East 11th Place. One person was transported to the Big Spring State Hospital.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Northwest Third. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Airbase Road and Highway 80. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Mount Vernon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1200 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Huntington. Service was refused.

## Bulletin board

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

## TODAY

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

## THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

## FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

## SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

## MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 60.

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

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the lower 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs around 60.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

## Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$75 million today.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$61 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 1, 35, 53, 54, and 56. The Mega Ball number was 44.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-14-22-23-34.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$32,336.

Winning tickets sold in: Baytown.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-7-7

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**UNION**

Continued from Page 1A

surveillance. "Hindsight alone is not wisdom," he said of the war, "and second-guessing is not a strategy."

Turning to Iran, Bush said its leaders were "defying the world with its nuclear ambitions — and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons."

And speaking directly to the Iranians, he added: "America respects you, and we respect your country. We respect your right to choose your own future and win your own freedom. And our nation hopes one day to be the closest of friends with a free and democratic Iran."

Acknowledging yet another "serious problem," the president also launched a campaign to develop alternative energy sources to wean the nation off oil, much of it he said "imported from unstable parts of the world."

"The best way to break this addiction is through technology," he said.

Bush also reached back to a re-election campaign theme to retool several ideas for making health care — a continuing source of anxiety for Americans — more affordable, accessible and portable.

He proposed improving health care savings appeal by increasing their tax advantages and helping small businesses band together to provide employees better and cheaper health care.

His renewed push comes as senior citizens complain of being confused by his recently implemented signature prescription drug program.

"Our government has a responsibility to help provide health care for the poor and the elderly, and we are meeting the responsibility," Bush said, addressing none of the roiling controversy.

"For all Americans," he said, "we must confront the rising cost of care, strengthen the doctor-patient relationship and help people afford the insurance coverage they need."

Still, Democrats, who have long chastised the administration for what they see as failed policies, continued to prod. And many in the House chamber for the president's address stood and cheered when he noted his plan to overhaul Social Security had stalled in Congress last year.

"There's a better way," said the new Virginia governor, Tim Kaine, tapped by Democratic congressional leaders to respond to the president.

For instance, he noted that Illinois has established a program to help the elderly buy U.S.-manufactured drugs from other countries at a "fraction of the price they would pay here."

Well aware of the criticism — and the deep angst among the public over the war and rising gasoline and health-care costs — the president had deliberately sought a more even tone in his address, which was carefully laced with the sort of issues Americans grapple with every day.

The "fast-paced change" in the country, and around the world, has clearly left many Americans unsettled, anxious, even fearful, acknowledged presidential counselor Dan Bartlett, and the president was intent on addressing it.

Bush made the quick trip from the White

House, Pennsylvania Avenue, down the Capitol under extraordinary security and joined members of his Cabinet, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Supreme Court, including the newest justice, Samuel Alito, confirmed by the Senate and sworn in Tuesday.

The president faced Congress with Republicans fighting to retain control of both the House and Senate this fall amid an aggressive federal investigation of bribery and corruption involving a tightly knit group of top-drawer lobbyists and a handful of members of Congress. But Bush skirted it, preferring instead to offer the GOP some key planks to campaign on.

His overall job approval rating in public opinion polls has risen a few points in recent weeks, but still lingers just above 40 percent, affording him little momentum to push new initiatives. And Democrats, sensing vulnerability, have stepped up their attacks. In his rebuttal, Kaine said that his fellow Democrats were also committed to winning the war against terrorism. But he wondered: "Are the president's policies the best way to win this war?"

Bush, though, did not look back, making it clear he's had no regrets in his prosecution of the war against terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington in the first year of this presidency.

"In a time of testing, we cannot find security by abandoning our commitments and retreating within our borders," he said. "If we were to leave these vicious attackers alone, they would not leave us alone. They would simply move the battlefield to our own shores."

**GALA**

Continued from Page 1A

working to get tickets to the Mesquite Championship Rodeo to go with it."

Roever said the AHA is also working to secure tickets to several sporting events, including games featuring the Dallas Mavericks and the Odessa Roughnecks.

"We're trying to raise more money than we did last year," said Roever. "We exceeded our goal by nearly \$4,000 last year, and we're hoping to exceed our goal of \$25,000 this year by that much or more."

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women," he added. "It also creates a call-to-action for people to commit to living a heart-healthy lifestyle. People in the Big Spring area that have battled heart disease, had heart

surgery or have suffered the effects of a stroke are encouraged to attend."

The evening won't be without a heart-conscious message, however, according to Angela Watson, corporate market director for the Permian Basin AHA.

"Those in attendance will get to hear testimonials from people who have been helped by the AHA," said Watson. "We'll also be making a three-minute presentation on childhood obesity, and what the AHA is doing to combat that as well."

Sponsorships for the event are still available, according to Watson.

"We are still looking for sponsors for the event, and we have sponsorships ranging from \$250 and up," said Watson. "All they need to do is contact us and we'd be happy to get a sponsorship package to those people and businesses that are interested in helping out."

Tickets for the event are

\$15. For more information on the gala, or to purchase tickets, contact Roever at 270-1383.

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

Laverne Kimzey, 79, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Laura Yvonne Scherer, 81, died Thursday. Memorial services will be at 3:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

William James Arthur, 65, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

**FILING**

Continued from Page 1A

Seats currently held by Maria Padilla (District 2) and Tony Kenedy (District 4) will be up for election.

Persons interested in running for a seat on the BSISD board should apply beginning Feb. 11 in the district's business office, located across the street from the high school on 11th Place.

McFarland said candidates can file between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. During Spring Break (March 6-10), the business

office will be open from 8 a.m. until noon.

Early voting will be held May 1-9 at the Howard County Courthouse.

In Coahoma, at-large seats currently held by James White, Jody Reid and John Wayne Metcalf are up for election. All terms are for three years, said Gina McEndree, business manager for the district.

Forsan ISD voters will elect two trustees this year. At-large seats currently held by Misty Rhoten and Lewis Boeker will be filled. Administrative Secretary Judy Park said both terms are for three years.

Rhoten was appointed to the school board late last year to fill the unexpired term of Gary Hise, who resigned for personal reasons.

The May 13 election for Howard College and the Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts will be held at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the HC campus.

Three spots on the Stanton ISD board will be decided in May: At-large seats currently held by Pinky Jones and Danny Ireton and the Place 2 chair currently held by Ramiro Reyes. All terms are for three years.

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

**30-year Treasury bonds will mark their return Feb. 9**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The long bond is back!

The Treasury Department announced today that it will have its first sale of 30-year bonds Feb. 9, bringing back a debt security it had discontinued issuing five years ago when the government's finances were in better shape.

Faced with soaring budget deficits, the government has decided to bring back the 30-year bond.

Treasury officials said they will sell \$14 billion in 30-year bonds on Feb. 9 as part of \$48 billion in new securities scheduled to be sold next week to raise money to pay the government's bills.

Teenager Alert! • Teenager Alert!

**Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!**

**Tim Dashi**

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"At first, I leaked just a few drops of urine when lifting or coughing. But it has gotten so much worse. Now, I never leave home without wearing a maxi pad and carrying another in my purse. I'm afraid I'll have an accident."

Fortunately, there also are solutions available designed to be more permanent.

One such solution is the female "sling" system for stress urinary incontinence. Doctors treat incontinence by surgically placing a narrow strip of material—called a sling—under the urethra to give it a point of support.

"The sling procedure is a minimally invasive, highly effective procedure," says Dr. Haddad. "It generally takes less than 20 minutes and commonly is performed on an outpatient basis."

Most patients are continent immediately following the procedure and can resume normal, non-strenuous activities within a few days.

Clinical studies support the enthusiasm that patients and physicians alike have for sling systems. One manufacturer, American Medical Systems of Minnetonka, Minn., reports a study in which more than 95 percent of patients remained completely dry and did not need any protection following the procedure with its Monarc™ Subfascial Hammock.

"The potential to give someone back their lifestyle before incontinence set in is great with sling systems," says Dr. Haddad. "It is life changing for so many patients, and yet such a straightforward procedure."

As with any surgical procedure, inherent risks are present. Although rare, some of the most severe risks with transobturator sling procedures include infection, erosion and vessel or urethra perforation. Some of the most common risks include urinary track infections, urge symptoms and urinary retention. Sling procedures should not be performed on pregnant patients.

Currently, there are no medications available to treat stress incontinence. For some women, behavioral therapy (monitoring fluid intake), Kegel exercises, protective undergarments and bulking injections offer temporary solutions.

Any single condition or a combination of conditions can lead to stress incontinence. Pregnancy and childbirth, aging, medical conditions, infections and medications and obesity are common causes.

**Serving The People of Big Spring And Howard County Since 1980**

**Find out more about Urinary Continence Solutions. Contact Dr. Rudy Haddad at 1501 W 11th Place, Suite 103 432-714-4600**

## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Register to vote before it is too late

**M**onday, that's the day. Monday is the deadline for anyone planning to vote in March's party primaries. If you don't have a voter registration certificate by then, you may not be able to exercise your right.

It's the right to vote that gives us the opportunity to choose who we want to serve as our voice in the local, state and federal levels of government.

Let's clear up some misconceptions commonly associated with voting. First, you do not need to have resided in Howard County for a specific length of time before registering here. In fact, anyone who has moved since they last obtained a voter registration card should register again. If you don't register again, you may find you'll have to vote in your former precinct.

What are the other qualifications for voting?

Citizens are qualified to vote if they:

- are 18 years of age or older,
- are a United States citizen,
- have not been determined mentally incompetent by a court,
- have not been convicted of a felony, or if so, have been discharged by a parole division or pardoned

If you register to vote now, you'll automatically be registered not only for the March primaries, but for May's school board and city council elections, and, of course, for the November general election.

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.

From our point of view, voting is an important process in which all U.S. citizens should participate. It's their voice. It's *your* voice.

## 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 e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Help us to cleanse our minds, along with our bodies.

Amen

# The original real Texas calendar

**R**oger Moore lives at Spicewood, near Austin. He's in the advertising business and produces a

weekly cartoon for a dozen newspapers. He travels a lot to his farm near Merkel, where he grew up.

"I do most of my creative thinking in the pickup," says Roger. "Driving along, you have to think. I keep a pad close by so I can jot down things that pop into my mind. I've even stopped by the side of the road to write down a good thought or sketch something when it hits me."

In 1998 he started doing an annual calendar about Texas. Instead of starting on January 1, his calendar starts on March 2.

"The Chinese have their calendar, the Aztecs have a calendar and Texas needs a calendar, too. So I came up with this. Everybody knows the New Year starts on March 2. That's when Texas started."



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

His calendars have a cartoon for every month. In addition, he puts Texas history events on specific dates.

"It keeps me studying Texas history," says Roger, "and learning more about it. I'll never run out of material in my lifetime to do these calendars. I've got a ton of material. I've done over 600 weekly cartoons and I can do at least that many more without doing a lot more research. It's amazing how much stuff there is out there about our history and how special we are as Texans. It's a huge state with plenty of interesting history and colorful characters. There are things going on right now that will be in the archives pretty soon."

His 2006 calendar will be the eighth one he has produced. This one will be less serious than the previous ones. For instance, it'll have birthdays of Texas legends. Lightning Hopkins of blues music fame was born in Centerville March 15, 1912. Of course it'll have all the significant dates in Texas history, like March 6, the fall of the Alamo in 1836.

Other dates in his 2006 calendar

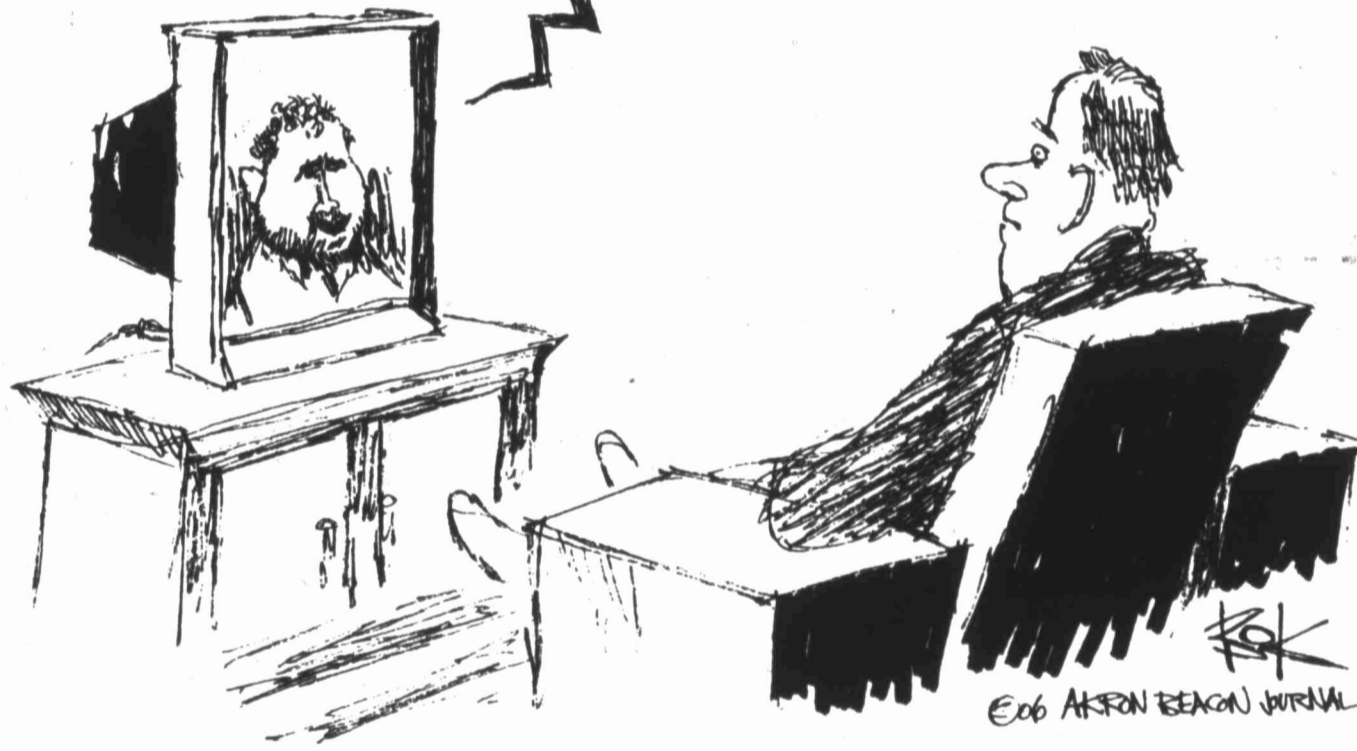
are April 14, 1958:

Van Cliburn wins the International Piano Competition in Moscow; April 21, 1836: Texans defeat Santa Anna's army at the battle of San Jacinto; May 23, 1929: "Texas Our Texas" is made the state song; July 4, 1883: the first recorded rodeo is held at Pecos; September 29, 1907: Gene Autry is born at Tioga; November 8, 1932: Uvalde's John Nance Garner is elected Vice President of the United States.

Roger's calendar came about because he thinks not enough attention is paid to March 2, the date Texas became an independent republic.

I've thought that same thing for a long time. I'm glad to see someone doing something about it. Roger's calendars are available for \$7 at 3614 Crosswind Drive, Spicewood, Texas 78669 or texas-calendars.com or phone (512) 263-6943 or fax (512) 264-0756. The Texas calendar is a good way to keep up with the date and learn about Texas at the same time. Roger also does a line of note and holiday cards featuring his cartoons.

I ADMIT I LIED IN MY BOOK.  
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Edgerton BEAGAN JOURNAL

# Hitching a free ride with the U.S.

**T**he widely differing reactions to Iran's drive for nuclear weapons among the countries of the world present a paradox: Those in greatest jeopardy from such weapons seem willing to do the least to stop it. This apparently illogical situation illustrates the most important and least appreciated feature of 21st century international relations: the remarkable role of the United States.

It is the U.S. that has taken the lead in trying to block Iran's nuclear ambitions, calling attention to Tehran's violations of its nuclear agreements, insisting on referring these violations to the United Nations for sanctions and hinting that a U.S. military attack on Iran's nuclear facilities is a genuine possibility. Even if Iran does acquire nuclear weapons, however, it will not have the capacity to launch a direct attack on the U.S.

On the other hand, the governments of Iran's Arab neighbors, which the Iranian regime has termed illegitimate and has tried in the past to subvert, have remained virtually silent about Tehran's nuclear program.

The Western Europeans (whose territory Iran could strike), while expressing disappointment that their diplomatic efforts to rein in the Iranian nuclear program have failed, proclaim their opposition to the use of force for this purpose.

And Russia, which is also within striking distance of Iran and is fighting a Muslim insurgency in Chechnya — to which the Iranian

regime, a notorious sponsor of terrorism, could some day supply nuclear materials — is balking at seeking a U.N. reprimand of Tehran.



MICHAEL MANDELBAUM

The reason for this odd pattern of behavior is that the United States has come to assume wide responsibility for ensuring international security and global prosperity. In particular, it is the U.S. that has taken the lead in pursuing two goals that benefit all other countries and that the Iranian nuclear program threatens: limiting the spread of nuclear weapons and ensuring a steady supply of oil from the Middle East.

These are not the only tasks the United States carries out that benefit others. The U.S. military presence in Europe and Asia forestalls nuclear and conventional arms races between and among the countries there, and it creates the political confidence necessary for trade and investment to flourish. The American dollar is the world's most widely used currency. The United States supplies the largest and most open market for exports, access to which is vital for the well-being of other countries. In fact, the U.S. provides to other countries some, although not all, of the services that governments typically furnish to their own citizens. The U.S. has come to function as the world's government.

To be sure, the U.S. did not deliberately seek this role; it grad-

ually grew out of American policies during the Cold War. Nor has the rest of the world ever officially approved this global American role. And the United States has never set out with the intention of furnishing benefits to others. The international initiatives it undertakes are designed to serve American interests. This they do — Iranian nuclear weapons would make the world a more dangerous place for the U.S., as well — but they also serve the interests of other countries.

Yet other countries do not acknowledge the benefits they receive from the United States because that could raise the question of why they don't pay more of the costs of supplying these benefits. No government would lightly abandon such a "free ride." So it is in the case of Iran's nuclear program.

Other governments know that the efforts to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons may fail, and that in that case they will be less secure. Yet even this prospect is unlikely to induce them to pay higher costs and run greater risks to achieve this goal, and for a familiar reason. The Arabs, the Europeans and the Russians have a country they believe they can count on to contain a nuclear Iran should that be necessary: the United States.

Michael Mandelbaum is the author of "The Case for Goliath: How America Acts as the World's Government in the 21st Century," from which this article is adapted.

# Briefs

## Police investigating child's hanging death

ARLINGTON (AP) — After initially calling the hanging death of an 8-year-old girl an accident, police said Tuesday they are investigating the possibility of foul play.

"Detectives will continue to work this case to determine if this was an accident or if any criminal charges will be filed," Lt. Blake Miller, an Arlington police spokesman, said in a statement.

Angel Jack and her 5-year-old brother were apparently playing at their Arlington home Monday when Angel was somehow hung by a rope, Miller said. The girl's grandmother said she found her unconscious when she went to check on the children, Miller said.

The girl was pronounced dead about 45 minutes later at Medical Center of Arlington, according to the Tarrant County medical examiner's office.

Miller said that, through the medical examiner's investigation, authorities decided "there's enough there that we're not ready to rule it an accident."

Counselors will be available at Angel's school, Beckham Elementary, and at a sib-

ling's school, Barnett Junior High.

## Boy dies, father injured in fire

MILES (AP) — A 10-year-old boy was killed and his father injured when a fire destroyed their home early Tuesday. Four other family members were able to escape uninjured.

Joe Stokes, Runnels County fire marshal, said initial indications were that the fire that killed Jose Gamez began with faulty wiring in the air conditioning unit in the wood-frame house on the Tapia Dairies complex.

Antonio Gamez, who worked at the dairy, suffered severe burns to his back and was flown to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Jose Gamez died in his bedroom. Randy Tapia, part-owner and manager of Tapia Dairies, said firefighters broke the window to the boy's bedroom but something exploded in the house as they tried to pull him from the room and they were forced back.

Stokes said the house burned in 10 minutes. Windows in a nearby home were shattered by the intense heat.

Dean Munn, principal at Miles Elementary School, described Jose as a model student.

## Most of charges in smuggling deaths trial dismissed

HOUSTON (AP) — Testimony from defense witnesses in the trial of three people accused of participating in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt was set to resume Wednesday, a day after most of the charges in the case were dismissed.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore made her ruling after prosecutors rested Tuesday and defense attorneys argued the federal government had not proven its case against Victor Sanchez Rodriguez, 58; his wife, Emma Sapata Rodriguez, 59; and Rosa Sarrata Gonzalez, 51, Sapata's half-sister.

The three had each faced 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants in the May 2003 smuggling attempt that left 19 people dead.

Sanchez and Sapata also face two additional charges, alleging they held for ransom the 3-year-old son of a Honduran woman who survived the smuggling attempt.

In dismissing the charges, Gilmore said it was not the three defendants but actions taken by Karla Patricia Chavez,

the alleged leader of the smuggling ring, and Octavio Torres Ortega, an accused leader of a smuggling cell, that put the immigrants in danger.

"It was not foreseeable (to the defendants) the actions taken by Karla or (Torres) could result in the deaths of the immigrants," Gilmore said.

Sarrata had 55 of her counts dismissed, leaving her with only one count of conspiracy, one for harboring immigrants and one for transporting immigrants.

Gilmore also dismissed 40 of the harboring and transporting counts Sapata and Sanchez faced.

Even with the dismissed counts, all three defendants still face up to life in prison if convicted.

## Greyhound bus driver pleads guilty to shutting cocaine

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Greyhound bus driver pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and money-laundering charges accusing him of shutting more than 300 pounds of cocaine on buses from Texas for sale in Tennessee.

Beginning in January 2000, Christopher Winford, 33, would regularly check out buses from the terminal in

Memphis, where he lived, and drive them by himself to a supplier in Houston to pick up the cocaine, prosecutors said.

He collected about \$2.5 million during the three-year operation, prosecutors said, some of which he attempted to launder through investments and the bank accounts of his mother and now ex-wife.

He did not transport the drugs during his regularly scheduled runs, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Jennings said in court records.

A spokeswoman for Dallas-based Greyhound

Bus Lines Inc. declined to comment on how Winford was able to regularly check out buses.

The company has been cooperating with the FBI for 15 months, she remarked.

"We can't discuss the details," spokeswoman Anna Folmsbee said.

Authorities said one of Winford's alleged buyers tipped them off.

Winford is being held until his May 8 sentencing hearing, when he could face 10 years for the conspiracy charge and up to 20 years on the money laundering charges.

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# Positive motivation important for children

A few days ago, as I was shopping in one of our local stores, a parent walked up, looked me in the eye and said, "How in the world can I motivate my child?"

I think at one time or another we all ask ourselves this same question. To be able to answer this question we must first understand the concept of motivation.

There are two kinds of motivation: Extrinsic and intrinsic. Extrinsic motivation has to do with external rewards such as prizes, money or candy.

Intrinsic motivation happens on the inside. It's the feeling of pride or accomplishment that comes when a goal has been reached.

To keep your child motivated at school, try focusing less on the extrinsic, which may cause him to over-value material rewards, and more on the intrinsic. Here's how.

Praise his efforts. Tell him that you appreciate his hard work. Not only will it make him feel good, it will also remind him that you value his effort, not simply his achievement.

Always be honest and sincere. If you cannot complement the work, maybe you can complement the effort. Don't compare him to others. If he doesn't do as well as his sister did, keep your comments to yourself. A feeling of "not quite mea-

## Parent's Corner

sure" can squash a child's motivation. Keep in mind that the motivation that comes from inside will boost success.

As the old saying goes, catch your child doing something good and praise him for it.

Your praise goes a long way in building your child's self esteem and self esteem goes a long way in building intrinsic motivation.

**TAKS test Question:**  
Grade 11 Science  
Which of the following is an example of solar energy being converted into chemical energy?  
a. Plants producing sugar during the day  
b. Water evaporating

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**HENRY BACKES**

and condensing in the water cycle  
c. The sun unevenly heating Earth's surface  
d. Lava erupting from volcanoes for many days

**Answer: a**  
Darrell Ryan is Director of Curriculum for Big Spring Independent School District. He can be contacted at 264-3600.

*In Sunday's Big Spring Herald*

**American Profile**

*Love stories*

In an era when many American marriages end in divorce, spending seven or eight decades together is extraordinary. Read about three couples whose vows have stood the test of time. Plus, the lowdown on high blood pressure and black bean salad.

**American Profile**

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## Forsan Math Team takes trophy, medals, ribbons at Lubbock meet

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Math Team, coached by Susan Alexander, competed well in the Lubbock Coronado University Interscholastic League practice meet recently.

The 12-member team came home with a trophy, eight medals and nine ribbons.

They received a trophy for first place Number Sense Team.

This was achieved through the efforts of medal winners: Audrey Montgomery, second place in the 12th grade division; Courtney Holdampf, third place in the 11th grade division; and Vince Penik, third place in the ninth grade division.

Also helping the team

was Rowena Suazo, who received a fifth-place ribbon in number sense and a seventh-place ribbon in calculator.

The calculator team finished fourth with medal winners: Seth Johnson, third place, 11th grade division; Amber Ritz, third place, 10th grade; and Charlene Stanley, first place in the ninth grade division. Other ribbon winners in calculator were Tim Ballard, Alyx Pappajohn, Jeremy Robbins and Sandi Golleher.

In the mathematics contest, Vince Penik received a first-place medal for the ninth grade division. Ribbon winners were fourth place, Audrey Montgomery, and 10th place, Amber Ritz and Haylie Burseson.

Courtney Holdampf received a third place medal for 11th grade science.

Pictured are, from left to right, top row, Seth Johnson, Jeremy Robbins, Vince Penik and Audrey Montgomery; middle row, Tim Ballard, Sandi Golleher, Haylie Burseson and Rowena Suazo; and bottom row, Charlene Stanley, Alyx Pappajohn, Courtney Holdampf and Amber Ritz.

Courtesy photo



## Board considers immersion for non-English speakers

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education plans to discuss English-immersion instruction as a possible alternative to the bilingual programs in place in Texas schools.

Supporters of both methods of teaching English are expected to speak at the board's meeting next week.

In bilingual classes, students are taught in their native languages while they are learning English. In immersion programs, the students receive all or most of their instruction in English.

Proponents of immersion programs say they capitalize on the ability of young students' brains to absorb a new language. But critics argue that the programs aren't successful.

"We're not out to undo years and years of what we've done," said Gail Lowe, a Republican board member from Lampasas. "But it's incumbent on us to be informed."

More than 14 percent of Texas students, or about 631,500, were in bilingual or English as a Second Language programs last school year. School districts with 20 or more students with limited English skills in the same grade are required by state law to offer bilingual education.

State House Speaker Tom Craddick, R-Midland, said in a speech last month that the state needs more accountability in making sure students are progressing toward English proficiency.

Among the speakers invited to the Feb. 9 education board meeting is Don Soifer, vice president of the Lexington Institute.

The Virginia-based think tank advocates limited government and market-based solutions to public policy challenges.

Soifer has said bilingual programs segregate students and often put more emphasis on multicultural studies than on teaching students to read and write in English.

Geraldine Miller, a Dallas Republican and the board chairwoman, said in a letter to Soifer that the board wants to learn how it "can encourage school districts within Texas to move into this model of successful instruction to enable non-English speakers to close the achievement gap more effectively."

Board member Joe Bernal, D-San Antonio, said bilingual programs have helped minority students in Texas when compared with similar students in other states.

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## Annual Meeting

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### IN BRIEF

#### Garrand match set for Sportsman Club

The Western Sportsman Club will be hosting a M1 Garrand match Sunday at 1 p.m. at the club, nine miles out on the Andrews highway (Highway 176).

For more information, contact 263-1345.

#### BSHS announces "Meet the Lady Steers" day

The 2006 Big Spring Lady Steers softball team, including new head coach Jennifer Reyes and assistant coaches Dee Dee Myers and John Sparks, will be introduced Saturday after a scrimmage against Greenwood.

Following the scrimmage, which begins at noon, the Lady Steers will take on the "Mad Cows" (BSISD faculty) in a rag ball game starting at 2 p.m.

There will be chili dog meals available for \$5 with all proceeds going to the Lady Steer Softball Booster Club. Purchasing a meal deal will also put your name in a drawing to win a Big Spring Steer Quilt. The meal tickets may be purchased at the concession stand.

#### Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season and they will be held each Saturday from Feb. 18 through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women ages four and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

#### Iguodala, Smith to be featured in NBA slam dunk contest

NEW YORK (AP) — Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith could become the third player to win consecutive NBA slam dunk contests when he participates in the event during All-Star weekend.

Joining Smith in contest this year will be Andre Iguodala of the Philadelphia 76ers, New York Knicks 5-foot-9 guard Nate Robinson and Hakim Warrick of the Memphis Grizzlies.

#### Mavs survive at home against Bulls

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points, the most important an open 3-pointer that helped prevent a major meltdown and stretching the Mavericks season-best winning streak to nine straight as they beat Chicago, 98-94.

Dallas moved back into a tie with San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference at 35-10.

## Big Spring falters in second half against Mats

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
Lubbock Estacado recorded two wins against Big Spring at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Tuesday night.

Both Matador teams used big second halves en route to the District 4-4A victories. The Estacado boys had an unheard of second half, outscoring the Steers 52-6 and cruised to the 76-21 win, while the Lady Steers trailed by five at halftime, but got outscored by 20 in the second half and lost, 69-45.

The Steers trailed by just three points after the first quarter and went into the locker room down 24-15.

Then the Matadors woke up and responded with a monster second half. Sophomore Al Duvall scored 13 of his game-high 15 points after halftime and Quaves Johnson scored nine of 11 after the break. Desmond Dickson scored 14 points, while LeCarl Willard also chipped in 12.

No Big Spring player reached double figures in the game as senior Kalan Whitehead scored five to

lead the way. Juniors Ryan Tannehill and Raymond Porter each scored four. Tannehill and junior Scott Fankhauser, the team's two leading scorers, were both plagued by early fouls.

The Lady Steers trailed 21-4 after the first quarter, but battled back in the second and scored 21 points of their own and cut the halftime deficit to just five.

Senior Raegan Ritchey scored nine of the team's 21 second-quarter points and helped the Lady Steers stay within striking distance. Her basket off a steal got Big Spring to within eight with four minutes to play until halftime and then her layup moments later trimmed the Lady Matador lead to just four. Junior Mallory Dunn later connected on a 3-pointer to make it 27-24 before Estacado went into the locker room up 30-25.

The Lady Steers could-

n't keep up with Estacado in the second half as they only managed five points in the third quarter and 20 for the half. Estacado countered Big Spring's 20 points with 15 in the third and 25 in the fourth.

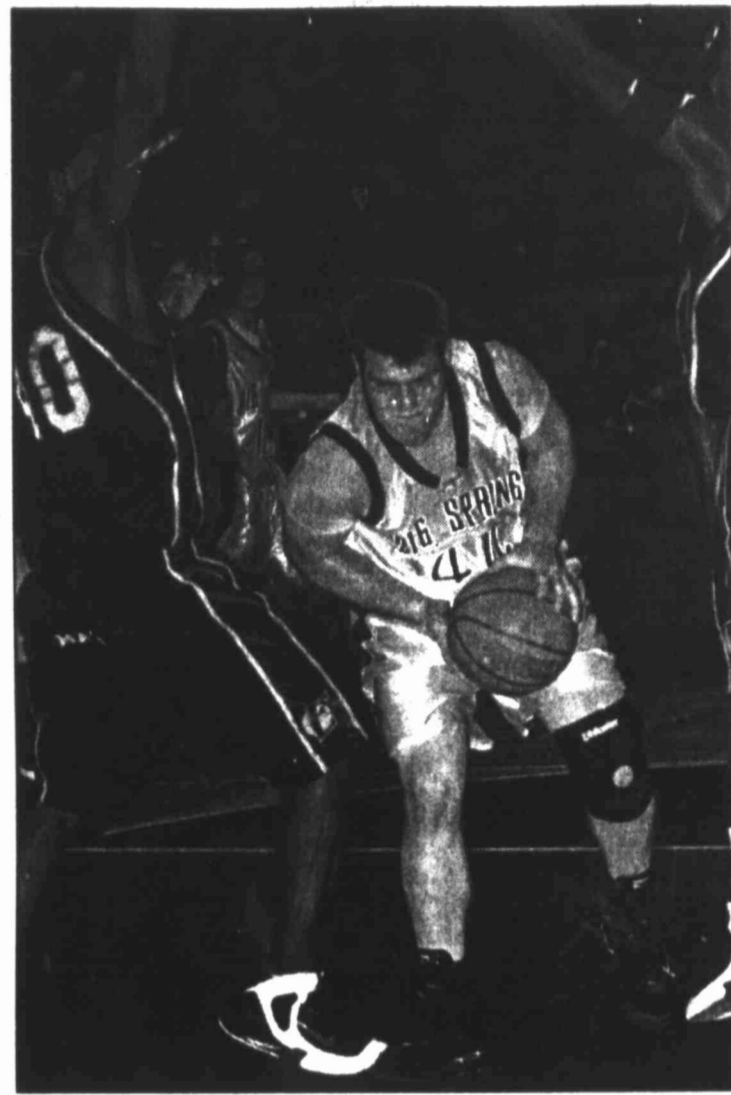
Ritchey finished with a team-high 18 points. She scored nine in the second quarter and seven in the fourth quarter. Dunn scored eight of her 12 points in the first half and hit two 3-pointers.

Karen Grant led all scorers with 20 points for Estacado, while Unisha McNeal added 10 — eight in the second half.

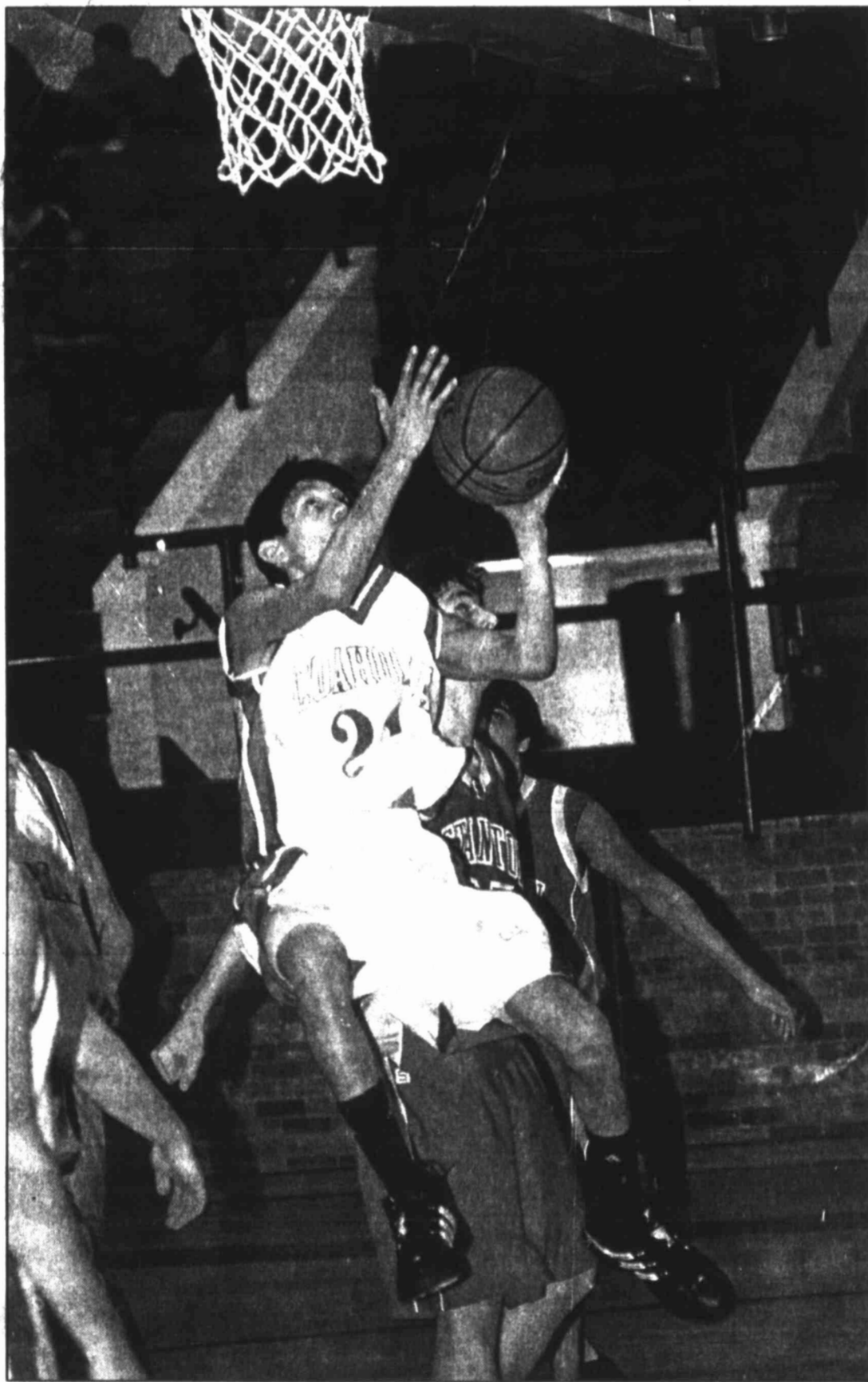
The Lady Matadors kept Big Spring in the game mainly because of their inability to hit free throws. Estacado went just 11-for-36 from the foul line. Big Spring, however, was only seven-for-16.

Both Big Spring teams travel to Wolfforth Friday to take on rival Frenship. The boys upset the Tigers at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum last month after a huge fourth quarter comeback.

The Lady Steers will tipoff at 6 p.m., while the boys will begin around 8 p.m.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler  
Big Spring senior Kyle Piercefield looks for room inside the lane against a Lubbock Estacado defender Tuesday during the Steers' loss to the Matadors at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Coahoma junior Jason Gonzales scores two of his game-high 19 points Tuesday against Stanton during action in Coahoma. The Bulldogs won the game, 51-43, and improved to 2-4 in District 4-2A.

## Coahoma records sweep of Stanton

### • Bulldogettes hold onto first place after double OT victory

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
COAHOMA — For the first time in District 4-2A this season, the Coahoma basketball teams recorded a sweep. And they did so at the hands of one of its arch rivals in Stanton.

The Bulldogettes had to fight through a strong effort, but was able to knock down Stanton in double overtime, 30-28, off a buzzer-beater by sophomore Janice Gonzales. The Bulldogs had to fight through a stingy Stanton crowd on their home floor, but got solid efforts from junior Jason Gonzales, sophomore Colter Morgan and senior Terrell Bibb and took out Stanton, 51-43.

#### Coahoma girls 40 Stanton girls 38 2 OT

The Bulldogettes got off to a fast start Tuesday, jumping out to an early 6-0 lead and grabbed a 14-9 lead after one quarter as Coahoma finished the period with two free throws from senior Kali Roberts and a jumper from Janice Gonzales.

Stanton battled in the second quarter and actually took the lead away from the Bulldogettes as senior Bonnie Kendall started to heat up. She finished with 11 points in the first half as the Lady Buffs outscored Coahoma 16-6 in the second frame and led by five at the break.

The Bulldogettes, who won the first meeting against Stanton by 22 points, trimmed the lead to one after three quarters as freshman Laci Sterling began the period with back-to-back baskets. Roberts tied the game from the line with 42 seconds to play in the period, but Stanton connected at the free throw line after that to lead by one heading into the fourth quarter.

"I don't think we played

worse tonight, I just believe Stanton played extremely better," said Coahoma head coach Chris Sumrall. "Credit them for having a great gameplan."

Sterling went back to work to start the fourth period as she scored seven straight points to give Coahoma a 35-29 advantage.

Junior Cassandra Flores kept the Lady Buffs close as her 3-point play later in the period closed the gap to 35-33. Roberts put Coahoma back up four with a jumper, two straight baskets by Flores tied the game at 37-37.

The game moved to overtime, but neither team found the basket, which forced another extra session. Roberts and Flores exchanged a free throw each with under a minute to play to make it 38-38.

"Stanton had the right idea tonight against us and I was very impressed with the way they played and the way the coach coached," said Sumrall. "I am impressed with how we were able to hang in there and battle though."

Coahoma called timeout for a final possession with about 14 seconds to go and out of the timeout senior Sterling Gee missed a 3-pointer. However, the ball was kept alive down low by Roberts and finally went into Gonzales' hands as she let it fly and connected as the buzzer sounded. It was her only basket the second half.

"Janice always does a good job of rebounding from the backside on the offensive end and was able to hit the shot for us," said Sumrall. "We just didn't make too many shots tonight, but thank goodness they rebounded."

Coahoma stay in first place in District 4-2A with the win as it improved to 7-1, while Stanton, which is still

See RIVALRY, Page 2B

## Forsan suffers home meltdown

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald  
FORSAN — The Forsan Buffaloes had control of the McCamey Badgers for three quarters Tuesday night, but it only took one quarter for the Badgers to steal a win in Forsan, 61-55.

Both teams played even in the first period with the Buffs claiming a small

one-point edge, 12-11.

In the second frame, Forsan enjoyed a 14-0 run to give them a nice cushion going into the half as it held an 11-point lead, 30-19.

McCamey started to make its move in the third, outscoring Forsan 21-19 in the period, but the Buffs still led by nine going into the fourth.

But a different team stepped onto the court for the Buffaloes in the final eight minutes.

For the first time this season, the Buffs suffered what can only be termed as a meltdown. Forsan committed more turnovers in the fourth quarter than they have in

See FORSAN, Page 2B

RIVALRY

Continued from Page 1B

alive for the third playoff spot, is 3-5. Coahoma has already clinched a spot in the postseason and is 17-11 overall.

Sterling led the Bulldogettes with 15 points, while Roberts added nine.

Kendall failed to score after halftime and finished with 11, while Flores added 10. Freshman Eva Dyck pitched in six, as well.

"We were going for a lot of Bonnie's pump fakes in the first half and she was able to get inside us and score," said Sumrall. "We contested her a lot better in the second half."

Coahoma boys 51  
Stanton boys 43

The Bulldogs got 19 points from Jason Gonzales and a big effort from 6-5 post Morgan in taking down the Buffaloes Tuesday at home.

Coahoma (9-17) led after every quarter, but the game itself was not that easy.

Stanton led 6-2 early as it got three layups right off the bat, but an 11-0 run to end the period gave the Bulldogs a seven-point lead after one quarter. Gonzales finished the run with back-to-back 3-pointers.

"Jason was big time tonight for us," said Coahoma head coach Kim Nichols. "He handled their pressure defense pretty well and took good shots."

Morgan came alive in the second period as he scored eight points. He started the quarter off with a basket to put Coahoma up 15-6, but a 3-

point play from sophomore Garrett Fulton and a 3-pointer from senior Matthew Ruiz got the Buffs to within one at 17-16 midway through the period.

Six straight points from the Bulldogs — including four from Morgan — pushed the lead back to seven before four points from Fulton ended the period and Stanton trailed by five at the break.

The teams played even in the third frame. Stanton sophomore Mike Carmona hit back-to-back jumpers early in the period to close the Buffs to within three, but Gonzales fired back with another 3-pointer.

Stanton still stayed on track though as Fulton scored four straight points to make it a one-point game before Coahoma closed with four straight points on two free throws from Morgan and a layup by junior Blaine Kerby.

Sophomore Chase Pinkerton started the fourth frame off with two straight baskets to make it a one-point game and then Stanton grabbed its first lead of the game moments later off a jumper by senior Travis Jezek.

Gonzales made sure the lead was short-lived as he scored on a 3-point play and later drained a 3-pointer to put the Bulldogs back up by seven.

Pinkerton and Fulton were able to hit 3-pointers later in the quarter, but Stanton couldn't overcome Gonzales' scoring and Morgan's big night inside.

"Colter played big for us off the bench," said Nichols. "Earlier in the



Coahoma sophomore Christie Rich, center, battles Stanton freshman Evá Dyck, left, and junior Cassandra Flores during the Bulldogettes double-overtime home victory Tuesday. The Bulldogettes improved to 7-1 in District 4-2A play.

year we wouldn't have been able to handle Stanton's pressure, but we've grown up a lot since then. They've learned to play together."

Gonzales finished with a game-high 19 points, while Morgan and Bibb added 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Fulton led Stanton with 15 and Pinkerton pitched

in with 12. "I think our zone bothered them some, but Fulton is a pretty good player and he was able to score some points from the high post," said Nichols.

The Bulldogs made nine more free throws than Stanton and improved to 2-4 in district play. Stanton dropped to 3-3.

The Bulldogs travel to Anson Friday night. They were defeated by the Tigers in Coahoma by 15 points earlier this season. "We just weren't mature enough to win earlier this year," said Nichols.

Anson enters Tuesday night with a 4-1 district record. Stanton plays Colorado City Friday.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

one period all year, including seven in the final two minutes.

The defense had trouble making a stop and when they did the Badgers crashed the boards for the offensive rebound and putback.

When the dust settled, McCamey had outscored the Buffs 21-6 in the last frame.

The loss moved Forsan to 5-2 in district with two games remaining. They still have a shot at the district title if they win out at Iraan and against Wink at home.

Tye Baker led all Buffalo scorers with 20 points, 14 of which came in the first half.

The Badgers were led by Sergio Gonzales' 23 points.

Tipoff is 8 p.m. for Friday's game in Iraan.

Forsan girls 40  
McCamey girls 61

The Forsan Lady Buffs played host to McCamey Tuesday night, losing in district play as the Badgers took the win, 61-40.

McCamey took control early in the second period on the strength of a 23-5 run that put them up 38-15 going into the half.

But the Lady Buffs, refusing to give up, matched the Lady Badgers almost point for point in the second half.

The late surge wasn't enough to overcome McCamey's big second period, however.

Leading the Lady Buffs in scoring was Tessa Montgomery with 11 points, while Alyssa Hodnett added nine.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
On the first day of the month, the Pisces moon shows us still busily

wrapping up last month's business and hopefully avoiding late charges in the process. Make calls just to be sure that everyone involved knows your intentions.

The friendly Aquarius astral vibes turn potentially awkward situations into rather cute scenarios.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The treasures of your life are your relationships. Do what it takes to connect. It doesn't seem like there is enough time to visit with everyone you

want to see or to share all that you'd like to share — but you sure will try.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll surpass your competition, but the race is long, so keep paying attention. If someone makes you feel bad, he or she is probably bad for you. Heed your instincts! Stay away!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Inwardly check your feelings about a love relationship. Irrational notions are based on a grain of truth. There's no blame to pass because you know that ultimately you're responsible. You're also the one who will make things right.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). A little honesty is dangerous to your social life, and a lot of honesty will kill it completely. For now, stick to being nice

and saying the thing that will make others feel good. The stars favor gentle sweetness.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The planets give you a lay of the career landscape now. From your vantage point, you see what work is on the horizon. The information may not be what you expected, but a grand adventure is imminent.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-discipline requires that you keep your mind on personal goals, even when sweet temptation calls this afternoon. A quick study session could help you acquire a new skill or timesaving trick.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You usually do as the current Ecuadorian campaign for punctuality suggests: "Inject yourself

each morning with a dose of responsibility, respect and discipline." Add compassion to the list, and life is beautiful.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're busy conjuring up a plan that will eventually bring a flood of prosperity and success. There are a variety of choices. Take the one that makes you feel comfortable — it's still riskier than many would choose!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You expect much from your loved ones, but you don't ask for a thing. Your nonverbal cues are picked up by the bright people for whom they were meant. You communicate very clearly without saying a word.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may not be the most sensitive person in the room, but at least

you don't wallow in your feelings. You act on them instead, and therein lies your true power.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is an exciting day in the game. Don't worry about how others are doing and whether they are more or less successful than you. Just play the hand you're dealt, and all works well.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your greatest lessons could come from not getting what you want right away. Look deeply into the hearts of others. You'll avoid being fooled by a pretty, but empty, package.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Looks, love and laughter all embody the Hollywood entity known as Ashton Kutcher. Coming off of a stellar 2005, most notably with a new marriage to

gorgeous actress Demi Moore, Kutcher will take more of a political stance in 2006. Spirituality is key to this vocal Kabbalist, and Kutcher will concentrate on inserting messages of peace, love and understanding into his upcoming projects.

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My mother died two years ago. In her will, she requested my cousin, "Jon," help me because he is a lawyer, so I hired him.

Jon agreed to help and gave me a 50 percent family discount, but he has not done his job. He has had all the paperwork, receipts, etc., for 18 months, and I have paid him over \$1,500. There have been multiple calls to his office, but he doesn't return them. The revenue service for inheritance allows nine months for things to be completed. They were sending me citations. I was told that Jon lied to the revenue service, and I have finally completed the work myself with the help of the revenue department.

Jon doesn't even know things have been taken care of because he hasn't returned my calls. Should I find a lawyer to help me get my money back from him? Do I charge him for late fees? What do people do in cases such as this? — Feeling Orphaned in Pennsylvania

Dear Orphaned: Our legal expert says you should send a letter to Jon, by certified mail, return receipt requested, in which you (1) terminate his services, (2) explain in detail why you are terminating his services, (3) demand that all files and papers be returned to you within 21 days, (4) demand a full refund, within 21 days, of all fees previously paid, and (5) notify Jon that you will file a complaint with your state's attorney disciplinary authority if he ignores your letter. (Jon risks losing his law license if the attorney disciplinary authority gets involved.)

Of course, this course of action will no doubt burn any bridges between you and Jon, so before resorting to the letter, you might ask a relative to intercede with Jon on your behalf and see if this cannot be resolved more amicably.

Dear Annie: We want to express our appreciation for your taking the time to print the letter from "Looking for Help in New York" about head lice. As the only non-profit head lice awareness and control center in the country, we are faced with these issues every day. Sadly, little help is available.

Newer research has found that bagging items for two weeks and mega-cleaning the house serve only to exhaust the parent and further frustrate the child. The real problem is reinfection. We applaud you for suggesting that she get her school involved. Only by all parties working together can they effectively hope to put an end to a very frus-



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

trating situation.

We work with several universities to help further head lice research. We also have incorporated programs so that even the neediest children can receive the help they need. We hope one day to have non-profit treatment centers in major cities everywhere, but for now, we are making a difference in our community.

Hopefully, by continuing to talk about head lice, we can help reduce the negative stigma. Please tell your readers they can contact our organization at [www.liceresolutions.org](http://www.liceresolutions.org). — Katie Shepherd, Executive Director, Lice Solutions Resource Network Inc., West Palm Beach, Fla.

Dear Katie Shepherd: Happy to help — and we appreciate the resource.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from Frank, who is looking for inexpensive ways to show his wife how much he appreciates her.

Your suggestion of a letter is great. Here's more: He can arrange for dinner to be ready when she comes home and surprise her with candles, flowers and a romantic evening. He can set up a candlelit bubble bath with her favorite music in the background. He can rub her feet and paint her toenails. — Easy to Please in Texas

Dear Texas: If someone offered to rub our feet, we'd follow him anywhere. Thanks for the great ideas.

Dear Annie: I am a 26-year-old guy who is pretty quiet. I really don't go out anywhere except to the mall on weekends.

A few months ago, a girl started working at one of the places I frequent. I could tell she was interested in me the first time I saw her, and she has become increasingly friendly. She recently asked me what my name is.

I like this girl a lot, but she is only 19. She seems very mature and intelligent. I know she wants to go out with me, but I'm worried that she thinks I'm younger than I really am. (People always think I'm barely out of my

teens.)

Am I too old for this nice girl? How can I find out if she thinks the age difference is too big? Should I just forget about her and stop going where she works? — Too Old

Dear Too Old: A seven-year age difference is a bit much when she is only 19, but it will not seem so great in a few years. However, you do need to let her know your age, so she doesn't think you are somehow misleading her.

There are many ways to get this information across. You can simply tell her. You can say that you've been at your current job since you graduated high school "eight years ago." You can ask if she's in college, saying that your college experience (if you had one) was a lot of fun. With a little imagination, you can find a casual way to mention the age difference. You'll be able to tell from her reaction if she's still interested.

Dear Annie: My father passed away eight years ago. A month later, my sister, "Connie," wrestled executor status from our

oldest sister. She then sold our parents' house and announced she was building an estate in Arizona so Mom could live there with Connie's family. She justified this drastic measure as the only logical way to care for our mother. My mother ended up hating Arizona and was always depressed when we visited.

I never questioned Connie's intentions until Mom passed away last month, and we discovered that my parents' savings and investments were completely exhausted. On top of that, Connie was charging my mother rent by taking her Social Security checks and my father's pension to pay her mortgage.

I do not believe what she did is ethical or legal. We are all equal heirs, and I am wondering if there is any action we can take against her. I hate for it to come to this, but she has cut off communication (perhaps out of guilt). — Bewildered Brother

Dear Brother: If Mom received the proceeds from the sale of the fami-

ly home, Connie may be completely innocent. It wouldn't have taken too much effort for Mom to go through the remaining investments and savings during the intervening eight years. Keep in mind that Connie was the one who took care of Mom until she died, and that is worth a great deal. But if you believe your sister took financial advantage of your mother, to your detriment, you should contact a lawyer.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from "Grossed Out" in Virginia, who had a male co-worker who constantly snuffles, snorts, makes grotesque noises and picks at his nose.

These are classic tics associated with Tourette Syndrome and are often mistaken for allergies. This is a neurological disorder that cannot be controlled. In fact, anxiety associated with complaints can make matters worse.

The man might benefit from the care of a neurologist, as medications and a better understanding of TS can help in many

ways. "Grossed Out" and her co-workers should visit the website for the Tourette Syndrome Association at [www.tsa-usa.org](http://www.tsa-usa.org). — TSA Supporter in Virginia

Dear Virginia: Thank you so much for educating us and our readers today. We hope it will help.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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WEDNESDAY

Table with 24 columns (station codes) and 12 rows (time slots 6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE PROBLEM WITH PARENTS IS THEY ALWAYS ACT LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I haven't been counting."

HAGAR



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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



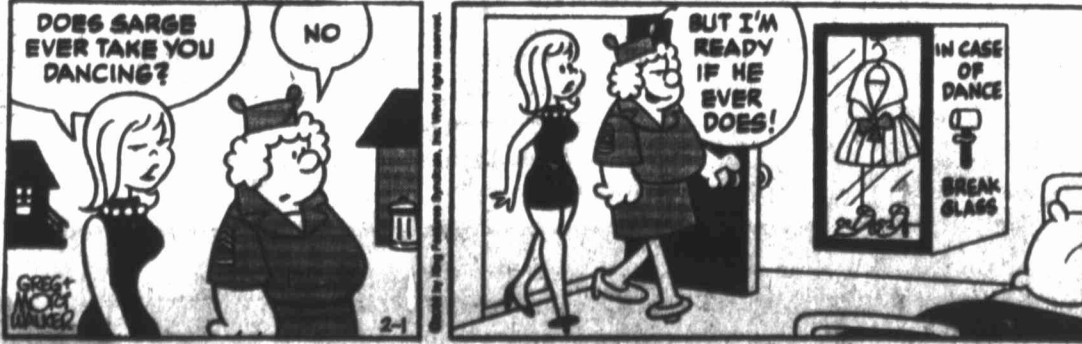
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2006. There are 333 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry...

Greensboro, N.C., where they'd been refused service. In 1968, during the Vietnam War, Saigon's police chief (Nguyen Ngoc Loan) executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured in a famous news photograph.

& the Heartbreakers) is 52. Rock singer Exene Cervenka is 50. Princess Stephanie of Monaco is 41. Country musician Dwayne Dupy (Ricochet) is 41. Actress Sherrylyn Fenn is 41. Lisa Marie Presley is 38. Comedian and actor Pauly Shore is 38. Jazz musician Joshua Redman is 37. Rock musician Patrick Wilson (Weezer) is 37. Rock musician Ron Welty is 35. Rapper Big Boi (Outkast) is 31. Country singer Julie Roberts is 27. Actor Jarrett Lennon is 24.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

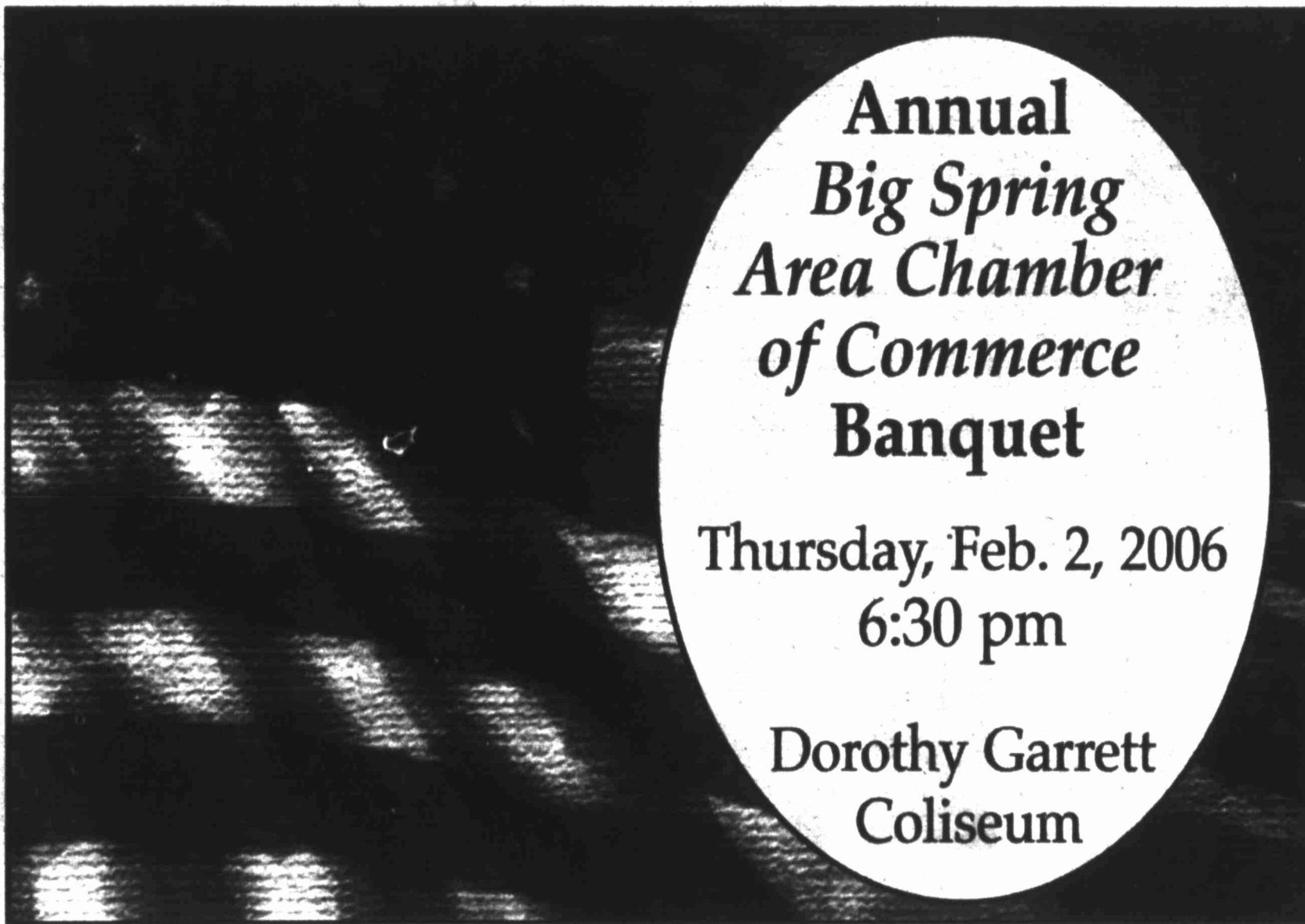
Newsday Crossword

DOMAIN NAMES by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Biting remarks 6 Actor Epps 10 Have on 14 Run of the law 15 Telegram 16 Not doing anything 17 Coastal plains, e.g. 19 Citrus fruit 20 Poetic preposition 21 Furtive "Hey, you!" 22 Sale-breaking words 24 Mexicali wrap 26 Mork's home 27 Showed to one's seat 30 Hang out 34 Prim and proper 37 Give a dam 39 contendere 40 Bring on board 41 Glacier's units 42 Tickled pink 43 "You said it!" 44 Skater's leap 45 Discom-bobulate 46 Not so nice 48 Sports playback format, briefly "Go on..." 51 Vandalize 55 Capri's Blue 58 Hertz rival 60 Architect I.M. 61 Tax-free bond, for short 62 Area under dispute 65 Sax range

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting points for words.

# THINK BIG IN 2006



**Annual  
Big Spring  
Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
Banquet**

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006  
6:30 pm

Dorothy Garrett  
Coliseum



*A special supplement to the Big Spring Herald, Wednesday, February 1, 2006.*

# Get motivated!

*Banquet keynote speaker adept at setting businesses, individuals up for success*

Speaker for this year's Chamber banquet is Patrick "Pat" McGaughey, recognized as one of the Top 5 "Enter-Trainers" in the United States and Canada for his ability to simultaneously get people laughing and learning.

He is a past president of the Idaho Association of Chambers of Commerce and served as president (and host) of the Northwest Chamber Leaders Conference.

He is a well-respected executive in the chamber of commerce industry and his professional successes have qualified him to serve as consultant and trainer to chambers, associations and private business.



McGaughey

McGaughey is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management at Southern Methodist University where he earned his IOM certification.

Since 2000, he has returned to the Institute for Organization Management as part of the regular faculty at such venues as the Universities of Notre Dame, Arizona, Georgia and Villanova.

His executive classroom evaluations are among the highest of all industry instructors.

He is adept at improving communication skills, developing a higher standard of ethics and helping managers lead and motivate their teams.

#### Seminar

McGaughey will be presenting his acclaimed national seminar "Activating Professional Perfor-

mance in the Workplace" from 7:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in the Cactus Room at the Howard College Student Union Building.

Among the topics he will be discussing:

- How to set yourself up for success.
- How to improve personal performance.
- How to make the customer feel like No. 1.
- How to improve communication skills.
- How to have success with difficult people.
- How to build an ownership attitude in the workplace.

Local business owners, managers and supervisors can register by calling the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Admission for the seminar is \$39 per person or \$289 for a reserved table for eight.

To register, call 263-7641.

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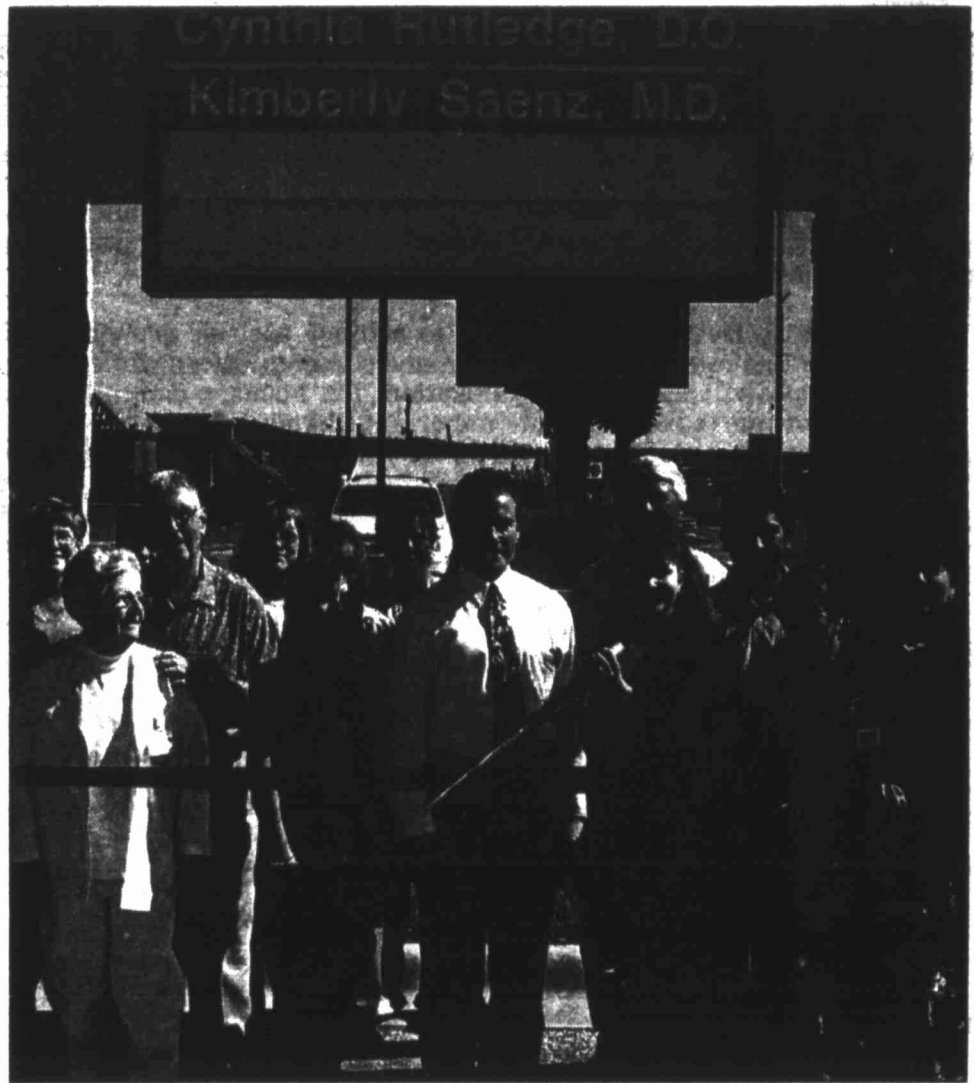
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## The Chamber's 'program of work'

**Governmental Affairs** provides opportunities for members to become informed on legislative issues and pro-actively support Big Spring and Howard County and the business community to/with the appropriate governmental entities. The Chamber will continue to sponsor public meetings with local, state and national leaders to keep abreast on latest issues facing our community.

**Membership Development** strives to achieve positive growth of membership through retention, recruitment and communication while functioning as the goodwill arm of the organization. The Focus, a monthly newsletter, will continue to communicate important Chamber issues and events to the membership. A membership directory will be published listing all members of the Chamber, categorized by business type, to be used as an informative and recruiting tool for the businesses of our community. The Chamber Web site will strive to list all active members with links to each entity's on-line site.

**Public Affairs** is keyed to providing the community with programs, business information, and networking through events throughout the year. The Chamber continues to offer health awareness to citizens by sponsoring the Health Fair. The Chamber also recognizes the agricultural industry by providing support of the Ag Expo and Ag Appreciation Luncheon to offer education and appreciation to our farming community. One of the most successful programs is Leadership Big Sprung and Jr. Leadership. Both programs continue to prosper and improve at providing the leaders of tomorrow with the knowledge and skills to insure the future of Big Spring.

**Business Development** strengthens, expands, and maintains all business sectors of the Chamber. Awareness to buy local and promote cooperation in the retail businesses in order to increase income will continue. Emphasis will be placed on supporting services and industries as well, allowing focus to be placed on education and assistance for all existing businesses of the Chamber.



Ward's Western Wear owner/manager Shane Ward, shown with his wife Karen and daughter Stevi, opened the store's new location in the 1100 block of Gregg in August.

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Classroom availability for  
employer workshops &  
meetings  
Business resource  
information  
On-The-Job training  
contracting  
Business workshops

### Job Training Programs:

Workforce  
Investment Act  
Trade Adj. Act  
Choices





## Health Fair draws large crowd each year

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce takes an active role in promoting health services and products by sponsoring the annual Big Spring Health Fair.

Thousands of people attend the fairs at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. They take advantage of free health screenings for prostate cancer, depression, bone density, skin cancer, body composition, stroke risk, blood sugar and more.

Exhibitors often come from local medical clinics, equipment sales and rental businesses, doctor's offices and other health-related services.

Information is available on such

topics as Alzheimer's disease, rehabilitation programs, the rabies outbreak and safe use of prescription drugs.

Fitness programs have conducted demonstrations in the past, while free ultrasound tests and glaucoma screenings were popular offerings.

In recent years, senior citizens have been encouraged to take advantage of the File of Life, which keeps health information available in case of an emergency.

Mark your calendar. This year, Health Fair 2006 will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8.

# Land of cotton

## Ag Expo, luncheon honor our agricultural community

Each year, the Chamber of Commerce takes time to thank the farmers, ranchers and all the agriculture community for their continuing role in the local community.

This year, the West Texas Ag Expo and Ag Appreciation Luncheon will be held Sept. 28.

"Agriculture is a part of the Big Spring Area," said Debbye ValVerde, IOM, Chamber of Commerce executive director. "This time, we are holding it to coincide with the Howard County Fair. We think that will be a very fitting time for this.

"We host the luncheon because we want to thank the area farmers for doing their business in Big Spring.

"All the contributions from area businesses come because those businesses want to thank the farm-

ers for doing business with them and in Big Spring."

Each year, tickets to the appreciation lunch are free to local farmers and ranchers. The lunch is also open to the public for a nominal fee and the event draws from 400 to 500 people.

The Expo features exhibits, seminars, food and the highlight — naming of the producer of the year and the agri-business of the year.

"The Expo allows different entities and business in Big Spring who would like to see farmers as potential customers to set up booths," said ValVerde.

Some of the seminar topics from past Expos included row spacing, boll weevil management, drip irrigation and worker protection standards, farm chemicals, laws relating to agriculture and even improving the home landscape.



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## Networking encouraged

Promoting area business, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce offers a number of annual events for its members.

One of the activities is Business After Hours and Business Before Hours, a function which spotlights a business quarterly. Held in the early evening (After Hours) or early morning (Before Hours), the program is a come-and-go reception which not only displays a particular business but also allows merchants, civic leaders and other an opportunity to interact on an informal basis.

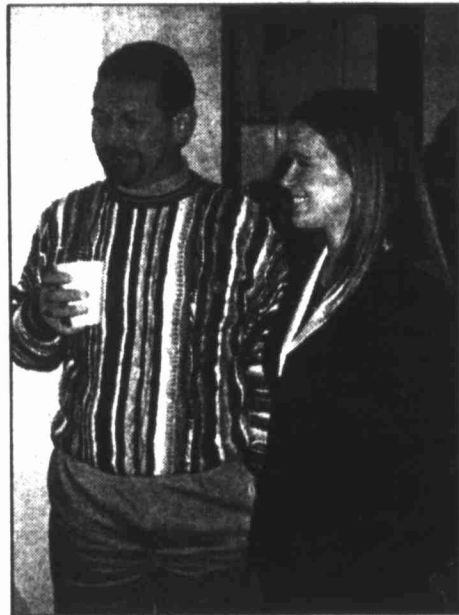
The host usually sends invitations to its clientele while the Chamber sends invitations to its members.

Every new member of the chamber has a ribbon cutting ceremony, which is attended by members of the Big Spring Ambassadors and photographs are taken.

During the holiday season, residents and businesses are encouraged to light up the town for the annual lighting contest sponsored by the chamber.

The chamber also sponsors a number of large events in the community including the Taste of Home Cooking School, Taste of Big Spring, the Ag-Expo, Treasure Trails, community luncheons, Pops in the Park, the Health Fair and Big Spring Day in Austin.

The chamber conducts membership drives throughout the year and is a focal point for visitors to learn more about Howard County.



## Chamber programs help to educate citizens about Big Spring, in and out

Leadership Big Spring, now into its 23rd year, is a Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce program that allows members of the community to have a first-hand look at all the businesses and services available locally.

Leadership is a nine-month program, held every second Thursday of the month, February through December except for June and July.

While involved in the class, the group tours various businesses and industries within the community, attends board meetings of various entities and generally gets a broad overview of everything Big Spring has to offer.

Leadership Big Spring classes also offer workshops on leadership, an additional bonus for those enrolled. Other areas of interest that the class tours are agriculture, utilities, communication and law enforcement.

Participants are required to attend multiple board meetings of

a local government entity, ride in a patrol car with a Big Spring police officer and must take part in a community project.

The Chamber also offers a senior course of Leadership Big Spring. The course, a less intense version of the original, gives seniors an opportunity to learn more about also visiting business and entities in the community.

The course lasts about 12 weeks and participants meet once every two weeks during the mornings. It is offered free to seniors.

In addition to the Leadership Big Spring program, the chamber also offers a junior leadership program.

Big Spring Junior Leadership is available to high school juniors and is actually conducted by the Howard County Extension Agency.

The program lasts for one semester. Faculty in area high schools recommend students for the program.

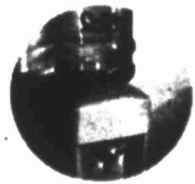
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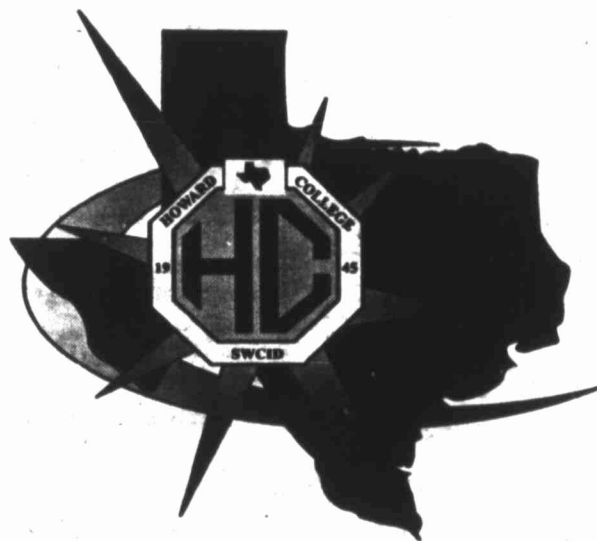
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# Think Big in 2006!

**T**hink big in 2006! Think out of the box! Go for the gold! The community started *thinking big* in November of 2004 when Moore Development and Big Spring ISD, in conjunction with the Festival of Lights committee, came up with the idea of making the lighted poinsettias to put all over town and the top of the Settles Hotel to attract more visitors to Big Spring. The response was very positive and now we are looking at branding Big Spring the Poinsettia Capital of Texas!

If you have ever wanted to open your own business and did not know how to go about it, this year is it! "Cashing in on Business" entrepreneurship seminars will kick off at a luncheon Feb. 28.

2005 was another challenging year for Big Spring and Howard County. Once again, our community came together in support of our VA Hospital and local veter-



ans. The Chamber, under the leadership of Joe Conciencie, put together a task force that came out on top. The committee presented an outstanding proposal to the LAP and VA

Group. With the guidance from local veterans and committee members, Ed Moughon, Jok Simons, Shelley Smith, Cindy Smith, Cheri Sparks, Brett Kinman, Pam Welch, Terri Blackshear and Stefani Wilkerson — along with community leaders — met the challenge and we have made it over one hurdle. We will

continue to work diligently for our VA Hospital and veterans of our community.

The Chamber played a part in the Katrina relief effort, but *kudos!* go to the city of Big Spring and all the volunteers who put in long hours to help the evacuees feel right at home.

The Chamber will continue to work with Howard College through the RCCI (Rural Community College Initiative) program as we welcome Vaughn Grisham to West Texas in October.

As a team, this community has come a long way this past year and we need to continue that momentum. The Chamber will continue to work closely with the City, the County, Moore Development and other entities to help make our community a better place live and to attract others to make Big Spring their home.

A special thank you to outgoing president Joe Conciencie for his

guidance and support. His goal was to focus on the Chamber as a whole and the needs of members, and with his direction we did just that. To our members who continue to give me their support and encouragement, thank you.

I look forward to working with incoming president Virginia Belew and the entire Board of Directors in 2006. The Chamber always focuses on its members. Our goal this year is to offer more incentives, educational seminars and ways to get businesses to network with each other. However, this year we are asking for your involvement. We hope to see more of you, our members, at our Business Before and After Hours, Community Luncheons, seminars and other events.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce strives to Serve — Promote — Protect its members.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IOM



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## What are the Benefits?

- Refers businesses to visitors and callers.
- Helps promote businesses of the chamber.
- Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber.
- Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases awareness of the importance of buying locally.
- Host quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo, and Health Fair to provide programs business

information and networking.

- Offers support and awareness of all areas of art.
- Advertises businesses in the Membership Directory.
- Works with City, County, Moore Development, and other entities for the betterment of the community.
- Publishes quarterly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings.
- Offers promotion and links to business through its Web site.

# Chamber works on democratic system

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce works on a democratic system, with board of directors selected for three-year terms.

The president-elect is selected by the current and past president. That recommendation is presented to the board of directors, which then votes on approval of the incoming president.

Officers for each division of the chamber are selected by the president and incoming president, who make their recommendations to the executive committee. An affirmative vote brings the recommendations to the board of

directors, which then votes its approval of the officers.

Each year, new members are selected through a nominating process that allows the general membership population to submit nominations. These nominations are then voted on by all chamber members and new members are selected.

Annually, five new board members are placed on the chamber board and five members retire.

Once a vice president has been selected, it is that officer's responsibility to form a commit-

tee comprised of chamber of commerce members.

The chamber of commerce leadership structure is divided into officers, vice presidents, retiring directors, ex-officio directors and directors who are grouped into three-year increments.

Vice presidents are responsible for such programs as business development, governmental affairs, membership development, cultural development and community development.

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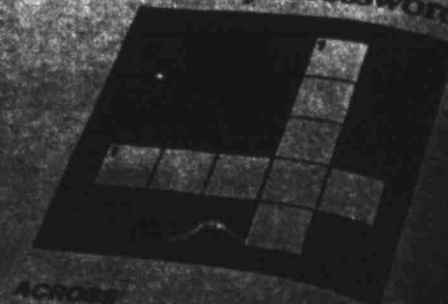
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Sunday Crossword



ACROSS  
1 Peanut Butter and

DOWN  
1 Opposite of big

# Looking forward to a new year

**Customer satisfaction and continuous improvement are very important**

**T**he Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will continue its work to serve and promote the area's business interests and work toward community development on behalf of the membership in 2006. We eagerly look forward to new challenges and opportunities this year. Joe Concienne, president in 2005, and previous presidents have paved the way for the Chamber and created opportunities for this year's board to continue our very important mission.

The Board of Directors for the Chamber is truly representative of the membership and the partnerships that work together within our community. Our community leadership includes business, education and government working toward the betterment of our area. The board committee work is led by representatives from each of these sectors. At the very heart of our membership are our area businesses who depend on the Chamber to:

- Develop and promote special activities that result in enhanced business and cultural activity for the area.

- Coordinate with local, state and federal government entities and officials, addressing issues that affect the community.

- Coordinate activities with education entities to enhance the area workforce that is needed to keep business viable.

Activities for 2006 include the continuation of the initiatives developed the previous years. The Chamber will approach our activi-



The committee chairmen and goals include:

- Business Development, Sherri Moates, Vice President — This committee will provide special projects designed to promote area businesses. Initiatives include the Business After Hours events, increased networking opportunities for members, seminars to improve business practices and a Business Expo.

- Membership, Janice Bishop, Vice President — This committee will evaluate our services to members and develop a plan to ensure value in what we provide. New members will be recruited to increase involvement of business representatives in all aspects of the Chamber affairs. The strength of the Chamber depends on its ability to recruit and sustain a membership that is dedicated to our community in an organized manner. The value of being a Chamber member will be demonstrated as often as possible through various efforts.

ties with the attitude reflecting the theme for this year's banquet, "Think Big in 2006." No challenge will be approached with hesitation to do our best to serve our members.

- Governmental Affairs, Michael Downs, Vice President — The chamber will keep legislators at all levels of government informed about issues important to our community. We will continue to monitor the Ports to Plains progress to insure the future of our business community is protected from changes in transportation plans. We will continue our leadership in the VA Task Force, to maintain their awareness of this community's commitment to area veterans and to the passion that we have to keep the VA Hospital in operation. We will be prepared to respond to any other issues that may impact our community. This year, the committee will have candidate forums and will sponsor debates that will bring candidates to our community as often as possible, realizing the importance of the Howard County vote. Voters will be encouraged to vote to make our area voice well known in the political arena.

- Community Development, Hilda Lara, Vice President — This committee will continue its involvement in the Rural Community College Initiative and provide input in every committee working toward the development of our area. It will work to provide the Health Fair, the Agricultural Expo, Leadership Big Spring and other projects such as job shadowing for our youth, serving our entire area population. The Chamber of Commerce provides numerous services to the community. Projects such as these carried out on behalf of our membership make a valuable

business contribution to not only the citizens of our area, but attract visitors.

- Cultural Affairs, Raul Marquez, Vice President — This committee works to promote the cultural events and organizations within our community. Our community includes diverse cultures and people that are recognized and supported by the Chamber membership. The appreciation and participation in community events that promote the arts and culture celebrations sustain our citizens support for each other. Chamber involvement helps promote tourism and attraction to the area, to the benefit of everyone.

Customer satisfaction and continuous improvement are very important to every Chamber board, its director, and its membership. We continue to seek new ideas and suggestions that will help those on the Chamber Board of Directors and the staff make our services more beneficial. The board of directors for this year began planning for activities as soon as the new board was selected.

Several directors are new and already have some innovative ideas to make 2006 a memorable year for everyone.

I predict that 2006 is a very important and big year for this area. As our community motto reads "Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring," so will the Chamber's theme coincide by encouraging everyone to "Think Big in 2006."

VIRGINIA BELEW  
CHAMBER PRESIDENT



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VIRGINIA BELEW  
MBER PRESIDENT

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## CHAMBER PRESIDENTS

- 1919 John E. Mundell
- 1923 W.W. Rox
- 1924 M.H. Morrison
- 1925 R.L. Price
- 1926 B. Reagan
- 1927 S.R. Weaver
- 1928 Shine Philips
- 1929 Edwin A. Kelly
- 1930 Dr. E.O. Ellington
- 1931 Joe Edwards
- 1932 T.W. Ashley
- 1933 Wendell Bedichek
- 1934 D.W. Webber
- 1935 George White
- 1936 G.C. Dunham
- 1937 R.F. Schermerhorn
- 1938 Dr. P.W. Malone
- 1939 Calvin Boykin
- 1940 Ted O. Grobel

- 1941 R.W. Whipkey
- 1942 B.L. LeFever
- 1943 Willard Sullivan
- 1944 A.S. Darby
- 1945 R.T. Piner
- 1946 Joe Pickle
- 1947 K.H. McGibbon
- 1948 Elmo Wasson
- 1949 Douglas Orme
- 1950 Adolf Swartz
- 1951 Dr. M.H. Bennett
- 1952 Truman Jones
- 1953 Dr. R.B.G. Cowper
- 1954 Champ Rainwater
- 1955 Marvin Miller
- 1956 Ira L. Thurman
- 1957 Jimmie Beale
- 1958 Dr. J.E. Hogan
- 1959 Clyde McMahon Sr.
- 1960 Cliff Fisher
- 1961 Horace Garrett
- 1962 Roy B. Reeder
- 1963 Dr. Carl Marcum
- 1964 John L. Taylor
- 1965 Ike Robb
- 1966 John A. Currie
- 1967 Dr. Lee Rogers
- 1968 Dr. M.W. Talbot Jr.
- 1969 M.R. Koger
- 1970 Paul Meek
- 1971 Paul Meek
- 1972 R.H. Weaver
- 1973 George McAlister
- 1974 Ralph McLaughlin
- 1975 Ken Perry
- 1976 J.D. Nelson
- 1977 Roger D. Brown
- 1978 Ray Don Williams
- 1979 Johnnie Lou Avery
- 1980 Jimmy Taylor
- 1981 Winston Wrinkle
- 1982 Sidney T. Clark
- 1983 Bill E. Read
- 1984 Paul L. Shaffer

- 1985 Granville Hahn
- 1986 John Arrick
- 1987 Troy Fraser
- 1988 Clyde McMahon Jr.
- 1989 Hooper Sanders
- 1990 Don Reynolds
- 1991 Steve Fraser
- 1992 James Welch
- 1993 Ben Bancroft
- 1994 Jeff Morris
- 1995 Jim Weaver
- 1996 Frances Wheat
- 1997 Curt Mullins
- 1998 Ray Kennedy
- 1999 Chuck Williams
- 2000 Jim Purcell
- 2001 John Freeman
- 2002 Cheryl Sparks
- 2003 Terry McDaniel
- 2004 John Weeks
- 2005 Joe Concienne
- 2006 Virginia Belew

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