

Commissioners delay bonding program

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners chose not to implement a new county-run pre-trial bonding service during their Monday meeting, opting instead to further study the cost and savings of such a program.

Mike Welling, who currently runs the county's delinquent fine program and would head up the pre-trial bonding service if it's approved, presented commissioners with a report outlining the effect it would have on a particular day at the Howard County Jail.

"This is basically a slice

of time," said Welling. "I took Jan. 12 of this year and went down through every file from that date, and using the criteria Midland operates by and looked at each file for each inmate. If they fell into this criteria, we put them down as a potential bond. We didn't talk to the inmates, which can really change things some of the time, but we did look at their criminal histories and their appearance records, as well as their crime.

Some of them just aren't bondable under anyone's program.

"On that particular day the inmate population was at about 60. Out of that 60, 16 were eligible under that criteria... At \$38.50 a day for Dickens county and \$40 a day at our jail, which is an estimation of what it costs us to house them, if we got them out after the waiting period it would have saved the county \$26,115.50."

After hearing Welling's presentation, all commissioners — excluding Gary Simer — agreed a more in-depth study was necessary before making a

decision on whether or not to implement the service.

"When you look at this (report), it shows a total of \$26,000," said Crooker. "Out of that \$26,000 we know some of those aren't going to accept the program. So we really don't know. However, from this point on, if you were to start tracking them... you could also talk to them and see if they would take advantage of this program."

Crooker suggested Welling should attempt to gather information from the prisoners regarding their desire to use the program, an idea Welling

said he wasn't comfortable with.

"The only problem I have with that is if Joe Blow is sitting in jail, and

I go talk to him with this and fill out all the paper work with no intention to get him out of jail," said Welling.

"I have a problem with that. If I go through his file and look at it and determine under the criteria this guy is eligible and we have to assume he would do this and track from that point forward, no

problem. I can do that."

Local bondsman Robert Smith was also present for the meeting, and stressed to the commissioners the program should not be undertaken simply for better control of the prisoners.

"The judge can set stipulations whenever they arraign these people and set their bonds without this program," said Smith. "If they want them to check in with their office on a daily basis, they can tell them it is part of their bond condition. They can set all of these stipulations now,

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ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL



Workers are shown constructing the east side of the Visual and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Howard College Monday afternoon. The center is expected to be completed by early May, officials said.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Trustees eye new home for program

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College trustees learned during their regular meeting Monday that even "cheap" buildings aren't cheap.

Trustees are looking into a permanent home for SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf's Workforce Training programs — automotive technology, welding and construction course.

Students in those courses currently have to hold labs in either dilapidated World War II-era buildings, or have to travel across town to the Birdwell Lane campus.

Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president

of Howard College, said the junior college district requested, but did not receive, funding for a permanent building on the SWCID campus from the recent state legislature session.

"So far, they haven't given us any money for the workforce training program, and we do have some needs in that area," Sparks said.

But Sparks added that the college has some money they could use salted away in the district's fund balance.

So the college is looking into constructing a metal building on the SWCID campus sometime in the near future.

The only two catches is that the building will neither be small nor cheap.

Sparks said that the program will need a building in the 13,000-square-foot range to effectively meet SWCID's needs.

And a building that size, regardless of whether it's made of brick or metal, is not going to be cheap, Sparks confessed.

Preliminary estimates, she said, indicate that constructing

See **HOWARD**, page 3A

Court nominee faces first vote by committee

By JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito takes his first step toward the high court with a preordained Senate Judiciary Committee victory today, but the strength of opposition among panel Democrats may forecast his margin of victory in the full Senate.

The GOP-controlled committee was advancing the nomination of Alito — President Bush's pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor — today. All 10 Republican senators already have announced their support for the conservative judge, leaving the eight Democrats with no way to stop the committee from giving him a positive report.

"You don't have to worry about him in the committee," Bush said at Kansas State University on Monday. He called Alito "a very, very smart, capable man. When you talk to Sam Alito, you think, 'smart judge.'"

But Alito's liberal critics are worried that Alito may defer too much to Bush and swing the court to the right. They fear his replacement of O'Connor will bring conservatives a decisive fifth vote on cases involving abortion, affirmative action and

the death penalty.

Half of the committee's eight Democrats — Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Dick Durbin of Illinois and Dianne Feinstein of California — have announced their opposition to his nomination. Many expect the other four — Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, Joseph Biden of Delaware and Charles Schumer of New York — to join them.

After the committee votes, Alito's nomination goes to the full Senate for a final vote as early as this week. Republicans want Alito on the Supreme Court before Bush gives his State of the Union address on Jan. 31.

In recent judicial battles, a 10-8 party line vote would be the first sign of the possibility of a Democratic-led filibuster. But Democrats are not expected to try that with Alito, a former federal prosecutor and lawyer for the Reagan administration who parried sharp Democratic attacks on his judicial record and personal credibility without a major stumble during his confirmation hearings earlier this month.

Democrats are expected, however, to try to persuade as many senators in their party to vote against him as possible on the Senate floor.



Samuel Alito

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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.

BANQUET TICKETS

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

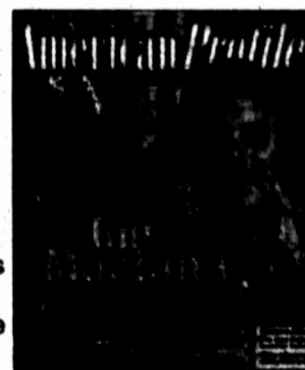
The banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$27 per person through Saturday.

No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Saturday. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Guest speaker will be Pat McGaughey of McGaughey Enterprises Inc. on "Maximizing Your Chamber Membership." RSVP or pick up tickets at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third, or call 263-7641.

COMING THIS WEEKEND

Joe Montana, football legend — Legendary quarterback Joe Montana discusses his Super Bowl memories, as well as how he's adjusted to life after football. He shares his secrets to success on the field in his new book, "The Winning Spirit: 16 Timeless Principles that Drive Performance Excellence."



SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Firefighter John McDonnell was among the first responders at a house fire for one very good reason — it was his own house.

Authorities said it appeared the fire started after something fell on a wood stove used to heat the home. No one was inside the home at the time of the fire.

"Obviously, when you hear your own address come over, it's something that just twists your gut up right away," said Omaha Fire Department spokesman John Fuxa. "He was in one of the first responding companies."

The fire was extinguished within a few minutes.

Obituaries

Allene Bell Warren



Allene Bell Warren, 93, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Chaplain Walter McCall of Odyssey Hospice officiating and the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, assisting. Interment will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Feb. 20, 1912, in Limestone County and married Curtis E. Warren March 30, 1939, in San Angelo. He preceded her in death April 29, 1982.

She had lived in Big Spring since 1914. Mrs. Warren had worked at Keaton-Acuff Cotton Gin as a bookkeeper for more than 50 years and was also the bookkeeper for Bell's Pharmacy for many years.

She and a close friend enjoyed traveling and took many trips throughout the world. Allene loved her nieces and nephews as if they were her own.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include two sisters-in-law, Jessie Bell and Wanda Erickson, both of Big Spring; three brothers-in-law, Charles Warren and wife, Shirley of Big Spring and G.T. Warren and Benny Ray Warren; two nephews, Wilson C. Bell and wife, Neva of Lewisville and Guy Bell and wife, Robin of Big Spring; two nieces, Marianne Mullins and husband, Jerry of Marshall and Ann Carter and husband, Tom of Coleman; and several great nieces and nephews.

The family suggest memorials be made to a charity of choice.

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

Paid obituary

Teddy Covington

Teddy Covington, 65, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. The next meeting is Feb. 6. For more information, call 398-5522.

• **SPRING CITY SENIOR CENTER** offering class to make pressed-flower book marks at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, sponsored by Mountain View Lodge.

• **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING** is Wednesday. Contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 or obtain an application at the chamber office, 215 W. Third.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Jan. 30. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

• **CRIMSON SOUL** in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Cowboy's Steakhouse, Bean's World Cafe and at the door.

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

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

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

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

Police blotter

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

- **TAMMY LOCKHART COKER**, 29, of 1302 Leatherwood, was arrested Monday on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to identify.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 41, of Colorado City, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DAVID LYNN DOW**, 22, of 1402 Tucson, was arrested Monday on charges of assault/family violence, criminal mischief/family violence and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **CHAD EVERETT WARREN**, 26, of 1310 Tucson, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- **LUIS MOLINA**, 44, of 507 E. 15th Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT OF SERVICES** was reported in the 2400 block of Gregg Street.
- **THEFT OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 700 block of Tulane.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 700 block of Tulane.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 3200 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.

Sheriff's report

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

- **ALEX SANCHEZ**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **TAMMY LOCKHART COKER**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to identify - giving false information.
- **MISTY LYN TWILLIGEAR**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and tampering/fabricating physical evidence.
- **JAMES WAYNE HINES**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **TERESA VALLE RUTLEDGE**, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **KAREN HARRISON**, 57, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery with intent to defraud or harm another.
- **FERNANDO K. ARRIAGA**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3600 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

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

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

• **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

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

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

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- **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.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756** meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- **Evening Lions Club** meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- **Prospector's Club** work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- **Big Spring Rotary Club** meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

- **Optimist Club** meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- **Senior Circle** meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- **Downtown Lions Club** meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- **Line dancing** begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- **Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary** meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- **Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060** meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- **Coffee Club** meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- **Kiwanis Club** meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

FRIDAY

- **Signal Mountain Quilting Guild** meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- **AMBUCS** meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- **Greater Big Spring Rotary Club** meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Weather

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Lows in the mid 30s. Northeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 50s. southeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 40. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 60. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

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

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Sunday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the mid 30s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-11-15-36-37.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-14-31. Bonus Ball: 7.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$400,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-5

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Berkley Iden, a freshman at Coahoma High School, left, poses with her grand champion steer at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show Saturday. The steer was purchased by Wal-Mart representatives (from left) Becky Reyes, Ava Martin, Oralla Granados and Paul Jost.

Bond

Continued from page 1A

without having this program instituted. It's not a situation where instituting this program is going to make all of these options available. It's available right now. If they chose to do so."

Simer, who was the only commissioner who expressed a desire to go forward with the program in lieu of a month-long study, said he believes waiting is a mistake.

"I felt like we should have gone ahead and gotten it started," said Simer. "I feel like every day we're not using this program is costing the tax payers money. He (Mike Welling) has done about as good a study as we're going to be able to do and we already have everything in place. We should have went ahead and gotten it started."

Simer said the need to weigh the cost of the program versus what it can save the county is a moot point.

"We already have everything in place, so as far as budgeting extra for it, we're not going to have to," said Simer.

"Everything is already in place for that office, which would be combined with the collections office. The pre-trial bonding position won't be a full-time job, so Mike would be able to do both jobs. It would be at the same salary already set, so it wouldn't cost anything."

"The leg monitoring service costs right at \$5 per day for each prisoner. People in Minnesota monitor it, and when someone

gets within 50 feet of one of their boxes, they page us and we send someone over there to see why they stepped out on the porch. We charge them (bonded prisoners) \$7 a day, so we can make \$2 a day on them to help offset things."

And while Simer said he sees the program as a major boon for the county, he doesn't expect it to eliminate the need for a new county jail facility.

"It's a good program," said Simer. "There are other counties that are doing it and it has helped their jail population and saved tons of money. However, it's not the answer to a new jail. It will help us for a while with the population part of the problem, but it's not the answer. We'll have to do something eventually."

The study ordered by the commissioners is expected to be completed shortly after the end of February.

Contact Staff Writer
Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

Texas briefs

Accidental gun discharge kills boy

BONHAM (AP) — A 3-year-old boy died and his 9-year-old brother was injured after the family's .22-caliber rifle accidentally discharged, authorities said.

Fannin County authorities said the gun went off Sunday after the victims' 7-year-old brother put it down on a table. The youngest boy was struck in the head by the stray bullet, which then ricocheted and lodged in his older brother's arm.

Investigator Wayne Walker told KTEN-TV that the boys' father thought he had unloaded the gun the day before after the family had been in a barn hunting for rats.

The injured boys were transported to Northeast Medical Center in Bonham. The 3-year-old died on the way to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

Two youths shot down in border city

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — Two unknown assailants opened fire on a group of youths in the center of this violent border city, killing two instantly and leaving one severely wounded.

The wounded 27-year-old man drove nearly two miles to a hospital, police investigator Pablo Madrid said. Doctors said his condition was extremely grave.

The attack took place

Monday night. No one had been arrested as of Monday night.

With the latest shootings, Nuevo Laredo, a city of 300,000 across the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas, has recorded 19 homicides since the beginning of the year.

Violence in Nuevo Laredo has spiked since early last year. U.S. and Mexican authorities blame two powerful drug cartels battling for control of the area's key smuggling corridors into the United States.

Group strives for name recognition

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Five West Texas museums want the world to know that they exist — and that they have great artwork to prove it.

Representatives from the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, The Grace Museum in Abilene and the Ellen Noel Art Museum in Odessa met in San Angelo on Monday to work to change what they say has caused low visitation at their institutions — poor name recognition.

The group, which also wants to focus attention on the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, blamed the area's remoteness and limited interstate access for the problem as well as a misperception of the region.

"Everyone's image of West Texas is that it's dry, boring and there's nothing to do," Holly

North, curator of collections at The Grace, said in Tuesday's editions of the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.

All of the museums, except the Grace, are accredited by the American Association of Museums, and at least one, the Old Jail Art Center, features original works by Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani and Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

Family, friends mourn state trooper

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — A Texas state trooper who died in a fiery crash

while on the way to the scene of another accident was remembered by family, friends.

Matthew Dewayne Myrick of Hereford, was buried Monday in his native Clovis following an afternoon service at a church in Hereford.

Family and friends said Myrick died doing what he loved. Police cruisers and other vehicles made a 58-mile funeral procession between Hereford and Clovis.

Myrick, 36, was answering a call Friday night when he crossed through an intersection and his vehicle went off the road.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Public must take lead on lobbyists

OK. Fine. Pass them. Pass them all. Whatever it takes to reform the lobby.

Ban lobby-paid trips for legislators? You bet. Do it tomorrow.

Stop former members who lobby from schmoozing with old buddies in the House gym? Kill the practice. Now.

Require legislators and staffers who join the lobby to wait two years before they can lean on their pals on Capitol Hill? Great idea. Why didn't we do that before?

Open up House/Senate conference committees so the public can see final negotiations on bills? Wonderful. The smoke will clear.

But, folks, let's not delude ourselves. All the cleanup measures House Republicans and Democrats are rushing out in their holier-than-thou reform bills won't solve Washington's problem. What will solve it is legislators and lobbyists finally deciding the public is sick of the town's cozy game of money and favors. When they realize the rest of us are about to sack the city, whether through voting out lawmakers or drying up dues to our own particular trade groups, they'll change.

We'd like to think the great awakening will begin when the House's GOP caucus elects a new majority leader. Tom DeLay's successor must put mighty distance between the K Street Project and the Republicans in Congress.

Mr. DeLay started the power-hungry project as a way to force lobby shops to hire Republicans. It ended up a hideout for double-dealers like Jack Abramoff and Michael Scanlon.

Here's another benchmark by which to judge change: Look at whether your representative or senator holds all of his or her fund-raisers outside Washington. And we don't mean across the border in Virginia or Maryland. We mean back home, or at least far away from the Beltway. This is not a perfect fix, but raising money outside Washington may control the town's lobbyist/legislator back-scratching.

In other words, let's look to see what lawmakers and lobbyists do on their own. When they start restraining themselves, as opposed to passing laws to curtail their habits, then we'll know Washington's got religion.

Dallas Morning News

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

Democrats are a confused party

Though Republicans undeniably face difficulties, Democrats are ill-positioned to capitalize on them because of their own problems, which amount to a veritable identity crisis.

The New York Times reports that while just a year ago senators of both parties said a Supreme Court nominee "who disagreed openly with the major abortion rights precedents" would face nearly insurmountable confirmation hurdles, the Alito hearings "cast doubt on such assumptions."

Why? Because "the handful of Democrats from socially conservative states were reluctant to be perceived as voting against him on those grounds."

Yet, according to a separate Times story, the apparently tone deaf Senate Democratic leaders "urged their members Tuesday to vote against (Alito) in an effort to lay the groundwork for making a campaign issue of his decisions on the court."

So which is it? Is the Democrats' stance on abortion a net plus or minus for them? Do they have a clue anymore?

Democratic strategists James Carville and Paul Begala don't seem to think so. In a book they've co-authored, they reportedly argue that Democrats are in disarray and need to rethink their positions on various issues. According to Newsmax.com, "both authors argue the party needs to change its dogmatic thinking on abortion rights, gun control and environmental concerns."

Indeed, in the very process of trying to paint Judge Alito as "outside the mainstream," Democratic leaders showed how out of touch they are. What Carville and Begala know, but their party leaders, with the exception of Hillary, seem not to

have discovered, is that the only time Democrats have won the presidency in the last three decades is when their candidate — Bill Clinton — masqueraded as a moderate.

On the other hand, there is some evidence that Democratic leaders have begun to realize their world view doesn't play as well nationally. Why else would they be reluctant to give us the unvarnished version of what they believe? Why else do they spend all their time demonizing President Bush instead of articulating their own policy agenda?

Their strategy is fraught with problems. While they are trying to expand their smear of Bush to encompass the entire GOP — "a culture of corruption" — most of their ammunition since 2000 has been aimed at Bush personally, and neither he nor his vice president will be running again.

Plus, most of their attacks, even if inflicting some damage on Republicans, might do more to weaken their own standing with the electorate. Every time they bring up their tired mantra that Bush lied about WMD, they reveal their own dishonesty and hypocrisy and advertise their irrelevance. Every time they try to cast isolated incidents involving abuse of terrorist detainees as systematic torture authorized by the administration, they exhibit their disingenuousness — and, worse, their sympathy for the devil.

Every time they cast President Bush as a power-mad dictator spying on innocent American citizens, they further alienate themselves from a public appreciative that intercepted Al Qaeda phone calls have actually prevented further terrorist attacks.

But you have to give the Democratic leaders credit for ingenuity. Whereas they seemed to be mired in the aimless project of tainting the president with scandal after isolated scandal, they are now trying to attach some cohesiveness to their charges. They want to show these "scandals" are

born not only of personal corruption but a flawed ideology — a corrupt theory of government.

If their only weapon is scandal mongering, they give the public no reason to vote for them other than to throw the other bums out. But if in the process they can prove the scandals are the inevitable outgrowth of a dangerous ideology, they can sell themselves, by negative implication, as possessors of an alternative, superior ideology.

So when you hear them shifting gears in criticizing Judge Alito, from the subject of abortion to his "expansive views of executive authority," understand they are trying to tie together most of the formless slanders they've hurled at the president over the last five years.

The theme is that conservatives are freedom-loathing, war-hungry tyrants who can't be trusted with the presidency: They "stole" the election in 2000, denying voters their elective freedom. They "unilaterally" attacked Iraq by tricking congressional Democrats. They are "spying" on innocent Americans. They are stifling dissent in the "plantations" of Congress.

President Bush is a stubborn, close-minded autocrat, unwilling to admit his "mistakes." He is surrounding himself with judges who will enable his "executive excesses" and slap down any congressional checks on his power.

Democrats deserve an A for effort, but their strategy isn't likely to succeed. In addition to the flagrant untruthfulness of their allegations, they still aren't presenting an alternative policy agenda. They don't dare come all the way out of the closet with it, or they'll suffer even worse at the polls.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. And to read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Franklin: A man ahead of his time

What a celebrity! Best-selling author. Pal of politicians and princes. Big on laughs, lovers, diets and health kicks, some involving nudity. Fantastic swimmer. Fantastic thinker. In France, they put his picture on bracelets.

Are we talking Lance Armstrong? Donald Trump? Bill Clinton, maybe? Try Ben Franklin, the frisky founding father who turned 300 this week [Jan. 17].

Most of us learned about Ben Franklin the same time we learned about Betsy Ross: First grade. She sewed a flag, he flew a kite. Good for them.

But with Ben's birthday upon us, it's time to go a little further and allow our jaws to drop. This guy — the oldest man to sign the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution — wasn't just a father of our country (and at least one illegitimate son, whom he raised). He was a genius like Leonardo, but wackier.

After all, Franklin didn't just give us the first lending library, the first fire department, the first fire insurance company and bifocals. (Annoyed that he had to keep switching glasses, he cut two pairs in half and glued half of each lens into a single frame.) He's also the dude who brought tofu to America. He spent a half-hour every morning in an air bath — i.e., sitting around naked. For a while, he went vegetarian.



LENORE
SKENAZY

Most of us learned about Ben Franklin the same time we learned about Betsy Ross: First grade. She sewed a flag, he flew a kite. Good for them. But with Ben's birthday upon us, it's time to go a little further and allow our jaws to drop.

As a 16-year-old, Ben was even a female impersonator, sort of. His brother James wouldn't let young Ben write for his newspaper, so Ben started penning articles under the name "Silence Dogood" and slipping them under the printshop door. Mrs. Dogood was funny and gossipy, and she complained about the way women were treated — a Colonial Oprah. Ben used her popularity to promote his budding ideas, insisting, for instance, that any decent society should guarantee freedom of speech. He was 16 at the time. The Constitution was still 59 years away.

So, OK: He was ahead of his time. He stayed that way. At 17 he started his own printing house where he would publish Poor Richard's Almanac. This perennial best seller taught Americans how to work hard ("Early to bed ...")

and face facts ("After three days men grow weary of a wench, a guest and rainy weather.")

He must have risen really early — and kicked out the wenches — because he still found time to invent the eco-friendly stove that bears his name and, oddly, the odometer. Plus there was that key on the kite that caught a bolt of lightning, proving (I'm still not exactly sure how) that lightning is electricity.

Did I mention he got France to finance the Revolutionary War against Britain?

Don't hate Ben because the French loved him. Love him for the same reasons so many back then did (except, perhaps, his wife, when he moved to England for 19 years). Love the fact that he left money in his will for micro-loans to young businessmen. Love the fact that he refused to patent his inventions so he could leave them to the world. Love the fact that one of the last things he wrote was a plea to free the slaves.

It's so easy to love Franklin once you get to know him that it's hard to understand why most of us lump him with Betsy Ross. Now that he's 300, let's give him his due. Not celebrity status. Just a little more time devoted each day to improving the mind, the body and — what the heck — the country he helped found.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (lskenazy@nydailynews.com). To find out more about her, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

Farmer finds a cash cow in his herd's droppings

By DENNIS LIEN
KRT

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Dennis Haubenschild's 900 dairy cows produce a lot of manure. But that manure, after going through a conversion process at his farm, also produces a lot of captured energy.

As part of a new greenhouse-gas trading system that rewards operations that reduce airborne emissions, Haubenschild is earning thousands of dollars a year from large companies and public institutions that can't cut pollution as much as they have promised. As the only Minnesota farmer doing this, he predicted other Midwestern farms will welcome the extra money stream and help blunt the effects of global warming.

"All businesses have to be sustainable," said Haubenschild, who runs the 54-year-old family farm with his two sons. "We have to lessen the footprint we are leaving on Mother Earth."

Seven years ago, Haubenschild installed an anaerobic digester system, which converts methane-creating manure into electricity that is sold to a local utility. Methane is one of many greenhouse gases building up in the atmosphere, contributing to a 1-degree increase in the Earth's average temperature over the past century.

For five years, Haubenschild had a contract with a utility that covered the digester's operating costs. But when

it expired and he found another outlet that paid less, he looked to the Chicago Climate Exchange, North America's only voluntary, legally binding greenhouse-gas reduction and trading system.

In just under three years, 130 private and public institutions such as Ford Motor Co., IBM, the state of New Mexico and the University of Minnesota have joined it, committing to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions that trap the sun's heat. Those that can't meet an established emissions-reduction goal must buy pollution credits from members that exceed the goal.

"It really provides a financial incentive for people to do it," said Richard Sandor, chairman and chief executive of the exchange.

Because Haubenschild Farms is too small to join the exchange, it needed another way to participate. Enter Environmental Credit Corp. of Pennsylvania, which is a member of the exchange and has begun signing up U.S. farms.

"We think we are on the cutting edge of an emerging market that is going to be very significant," said Ed Heslop, chief executive for Environmental Credit. "With that, we are talking about tens of millions of dollars of opportunity to be returned to farmers."

Environmental Credit creates the so-called credits by measuring and verifying emissions reductions at Haubenschild's

farm. Much like trading commodities, the group then handles credit transactions on the exchange. Almost 100 tons of carbon credits are created there every week, funneling an extra \$125 a week to Haubenschild.

Haubenschild isn't the only Minnesota participant. The University of Minnesota, as part of President Robert Bruininks' initiative to promote sustainability, joined the exchange a year ago.

Members with direct emissions have agreed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases this year to 4 percent below the average of their 1998-2001 baseline. Gases covered by the agreement are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.

Jerome Malmquist, the university's energy director, said the school, by updating controls and making heating systems more efficient, is ahead of schedule.

"We have met our requirements, as far as reducing 4 percent below baseline, and we continue to make strides in the area of energy efficiency," he said. "We are using less energy per square foot than we were a while ago, and that is a very difficult thing to do."

For Haubenschild, the arrangement is the latest step in a decades-long dream.

He said it's a challenge to make the methane-digester process, which is 150 years old but costs



Dennis Haubenschild runs a dairy farm in Princeton, Minn., that uses the waste produced by his 900 Holstein cows and then he turns it into electricity. Haubenschild then uses some of the electricity and sells the rest to a utility company as part of a sophisticated greenhouse-gas trading system.



more than a half-million dollars to install at the scale he needs, pay for itself.

For one thing, he said, he's tried to build it so it can be duplicated elsewhere. For another, he said, Minnesota doesn't provide anywhere near the renewable energy incentives that Wisconsin does, for example.

With 100 cows producing enough energy each

day to replace a barrel of oil, the renewable-energy savings are significant, he said.

Haubenschild predicted other farmers would consider the arrangement. "There's tons of interest," he said. "The closer you can come to breaking even, or being rewarded, it allows more people to do it."

"I think it's the way of

the future," said Amanda Bilek, energy program associate with the Minnesota Project, a sustainable-development organization that has been working with Haubenschild.

"We are going to see a lot more of it as some of the private industry is more constrained by pollution controls that might be put in place by federal and state policies."

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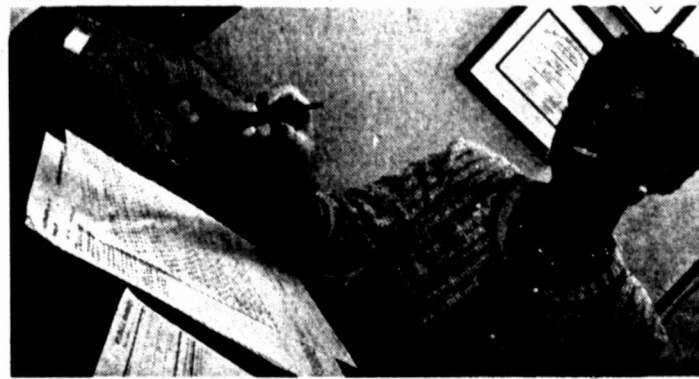


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A great blue heron

Courtesy photo

Bird Poop

As the car approached the top of the viaduct, a long-legged, long-necked bird with a sharp-looking beak was caught in the glare of the headlights.



BEBE MCCASLAND

The driver stopped to look at such a strange bird standing in the middle of the road. Glancing both ways to make sure no cars were approaching, the woman slowly eased out of her car and toward the bird.

It did not move. Even when she was about a foot away, the bird just stood there, totally unresponsive.

If another motorist used the viaduct, he might hit the bird. She decided to put the bird in her car. Then she would figure out what to do with such a bird at 9 p.m. in the evening.

When our phone rang, we assumed it was family or a friend calling.

A police officer asked if we would come to the police department and get a great blue heron out of the drunk tank.

Never having seen the inside of such a holding facility, we knew this would be a new experience.

As the officer led us to the enclosure, he explained that since an animal control officer was not available at that hour, the heron had been placed in the empty tank. He added that he was

concerned about getting an occupant at any time.

As the officer opened the steel door, we could see the motionless heron. We easily picked up the bird, which offered no resistance, and placed it in a carrier.

The officer thanked us for removing the bird before any inebriated person had to be placed in the tank. We could imagine what the bird and the drunk might have thought of each other.

Once home, we examined the heron. There were no visible injuries, but the beak, feet and feathers were characteristic of older birds. The toes were missing from one foot.

Its lethargy was troubling. Fortunately for the woman and the officer, the heron was not young

and energetic.

The bird, with its spear-like beak, would have defensively struck at the eyes, and was capable of piercing one's skull. Once an expert at fishing, the heron would have stood in the shallow water of a lake, pond, river or creek, absolutely still, head poised and ready, waiting for a fish to swim into the shadows cast by its body.

At the right moment, the heron would have grabbed its aquatic meal in the razor sharp edges of its beak.

The grey-blue heron had flown its last migration. Its large, slow-moving wings could take it no further. To us, it was a lesson in the inevitable.

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

Christy's Quill

My family had so much fun this weekend. We were pet sitting.

My son's class has a gerbil, and anyone who volunteers may take the gerbil home for the weekend.



CHRISTY ALTON

This little gerbil had personality and charm. She would come up to the sides of the cage and try to eat food out of the little spoon we'd offer it in.

She wanted to visit with us and was very friendly. Letting her out to exercise in her little ball was great fun. She wheeled all over our wood-like floors and made a big kethonk sound when she'd hit the walls and cabinets.

My kids would roar with laughter, knowing she wasn't getting hurt.

Back in the day, we owned a gerbil.

For more than a year, he shredded paper, made nests and played in his cage. But, that gerbil just didn't have the personality my son's class pet possesses.

With our former little rodent, we had an incident.

I'm scared to death of

mice. To clean his cage, I put Snowball (his name) in his little exercise ball.

The lid flew off and he scurried under the dishwasher.

I dashed into the dining room to climb up on top of a chair. I stayed there until Ron could get home to rescue both the mouse and me.

As scared as I was, the gerbil was the really terrified one.

Ron finally coaxed him out from underneath the dishwasher and I got off the chair.

That was the end of exercising for him. That exercise gadget was defective.

But, back to our newest visitor...

Very easy to care for, the gerbil only needed a teaspoon of food per day and a little water. She pawed the chips, shredded paper, and made the biggest mess on the blanket her cage was on.

We forgave her as soon as she stood on her hind legs and nibbled the metal.

We enjoyed our weekend with our adopted friend. My children hope she comes back to our home...soon.

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

She works as a substitute teacher and also attends college classes.

Policies for life! submissions

The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions for publication in the Friday and weekend edition and there is no charge for this service.

The deadline for all submissions is noon Wednesday and all submissions will be edited for content, style and space. An information sheet for submissions is available at the Herald offices.

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

Paid submissions are also accepted.

Church and Club News should be concise and may not be written in first person.

Articles may be mailed to P.O. Box 1431 or e-mailed to life@bigspringherald.com.

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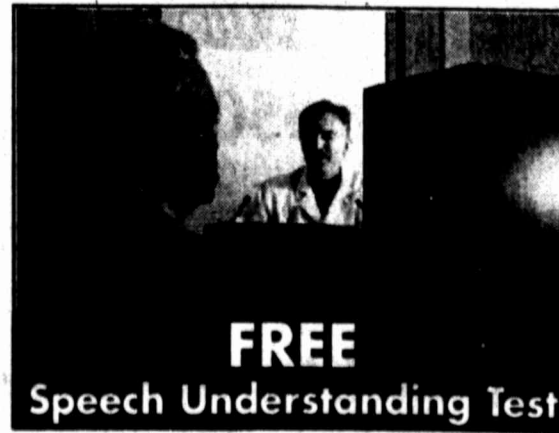
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IN BRIEF

Garrard match set for Sportsman Club

The Western Sportsman Club will be hosting a M1 Garrard match Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1 p.m. at the club range nine miles out on the Andrews highway (Highway 176).

For more information, contact 263-1345.

Big Spring L.L. to elect new officers

The Big Spring Little League will hold a meeting to elect new officers Sunday at the Howard College Library.

The meeting will start at 2 p.m.

Howard announces wear red promotion

The Howard College athletic department will again be implementing a "wear red" get in free during the Hawk men and women's next home game against rival South Plains. Anyone wearing red to the game will get in free of charge.

The game will take place Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The women's game will begin at 5:50 p.m. and the top-ranked Hawk men's team will tip off around 7:50 p.m.

Also getting into the game free will be any student who currently attends Bauer Magnet School. Several elementary schools in the area will have the chance to get in free this year as part of another Howard promotion done by the men's team.

Bonds pulls out of baseball classic

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds pulled out of the World Baseball Classic, saying he didn't want to risk an injury that could jeopardize what might be his final season with the San Francisco Giants.

The star slugger had three operations on his troublesome right knee last year and missed most of the 2005 season before returning Sept. 12 and playing in 14 games. He announced in late November that he planned to play for the United States and was included on the preliminary U.S. roster for the inaugural World Baseball Classic, scheduled for March 3-20.

Nalbandian cruises at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — David Nalbandian advanced to the Australian Open semifinals for the first time, overwhelming veteran Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 7-5, 6-0, 6-0 Tuesday.

Maria Sharapova beat fellow Russian Nadia Petrova 7-6 (6), 6-4 in an error-filled quarterfinal.

Roger Federer overcame an uncharacteristic 58 errors in his 6-4, 6-0, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2 fourth-round win over Tommy Haas.

Harris' buzzer-beater sinks Chaps

• Top-ranked Howard escapes upset at home to arch rival

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Howard College's top-ranked men's basketball team dodged a huge bullet Monday at the hands of No. 13 Midland College at home as sophomore guard Dezmon Harris connected on a jump shot at the buzzer to sink the Chaps, 65-63, in a front of an estimated 2,200 screaming fans.

The Hawks inbounded the ball with five seconds to go with the game tied and, after a missed shot, the ball bounced around

and eventually found Harris' hands as he connected on the game-winner to keep the Hawks undefeated and No. 1 in the nation.

"We work on our shooting all the time and the hard work paid off for me tonight," said Harris, who scored 12 of his team-high 14 points in the second half. "I played bad in the first half, but coach talked to me and got my head on straight. I played a lot better in the second half."

Howard head coach Mark Adams is happy to have won the game, but knows his team escaped from defeat.

"We got lucky," said

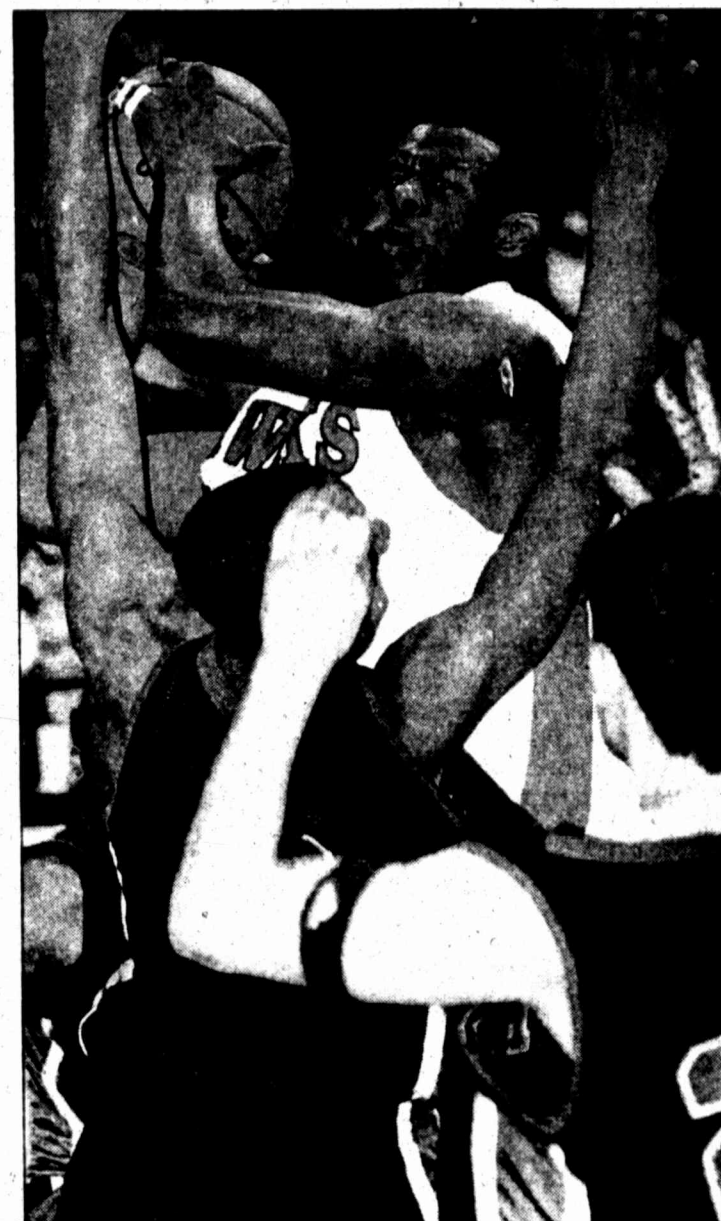
Adams. "It was a poor performance as a team, but good teams find ways to win games and we were able to do that tonight. We got a lucky bounce late on the final play and Dez hit a big shot."

Neither team grabbed control of the game as the Hawks led by as many as six in the first half and Midland's largest lead was four. The Hawks led by five at halftime and led by seven briefly in the second half.

Harris was forced to pick up the slack offensively as sophomore Louis Rodgers did not play and has been suspended indefinitely for violating team rules. Harris, a sophomore from Fort Worth, added three rebounds and three assists to go along with his 14 points.

"It was a big win for us," said Harris. "We are holding our spot at No. 1. I am just happy we are still undefeated."

Harris' putback on the first possession of the second half gave the Hawks a seven-point lead, but Midland scored eight straight points after that and grabbed a one-point advantage after a 3-pointer from Rodrigue Mels, who led all scorers with



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College freshman Phil Murphy draws contact from Midland defenders during action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday. The Hawks won the game over their arch rivals by two points as sophomore Dezmon Harris hit a jumper as time expired.

See BUZZER, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
The Howard College student section lends a big hand to the top-ranked Hawks during action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday night.

Hawk women fall short against MC

• Howard drops tough home loss to arch rival Lady Chaps

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Howard College women's basketball team missed a lot of easy shots, did not execute very well and lost two starters to fouls late in the game Monday against Midland College and still nearly came away with an upset win at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Trenisha Williams hit a controversial layup with just under six seconds to play and the Lady Chaps escaped Big Spring with a 57-55 win over the Hawk women.

"I thought the effort was good and we played on our toes for most of the game," said Howard head coach Earl Diddle. "We created a lot of troubles for ourselves and that's not good. We need to execute better and do the little things."

The Hawk women had a chance to win or tie the game after the layup by Williams, but could not execute the inbound play called by Diddle in the huddle. The ball eventually ended up in the hands of Kendra Marney, but her shot from just beyond halfcourt fell short.

"We ran the play too deep and did not execute it very well," said Diddle. "We had enough time for a catch, five dribbles and a shot, but we could not get into position for an easier shot."

Still, the Howard women played hard and had chances to win. The Hawks were helped out by Midland's inability to hit free throws as the Lady Chaps made just 13 out of 28 shots from the charity stripe.

Midland did not take its

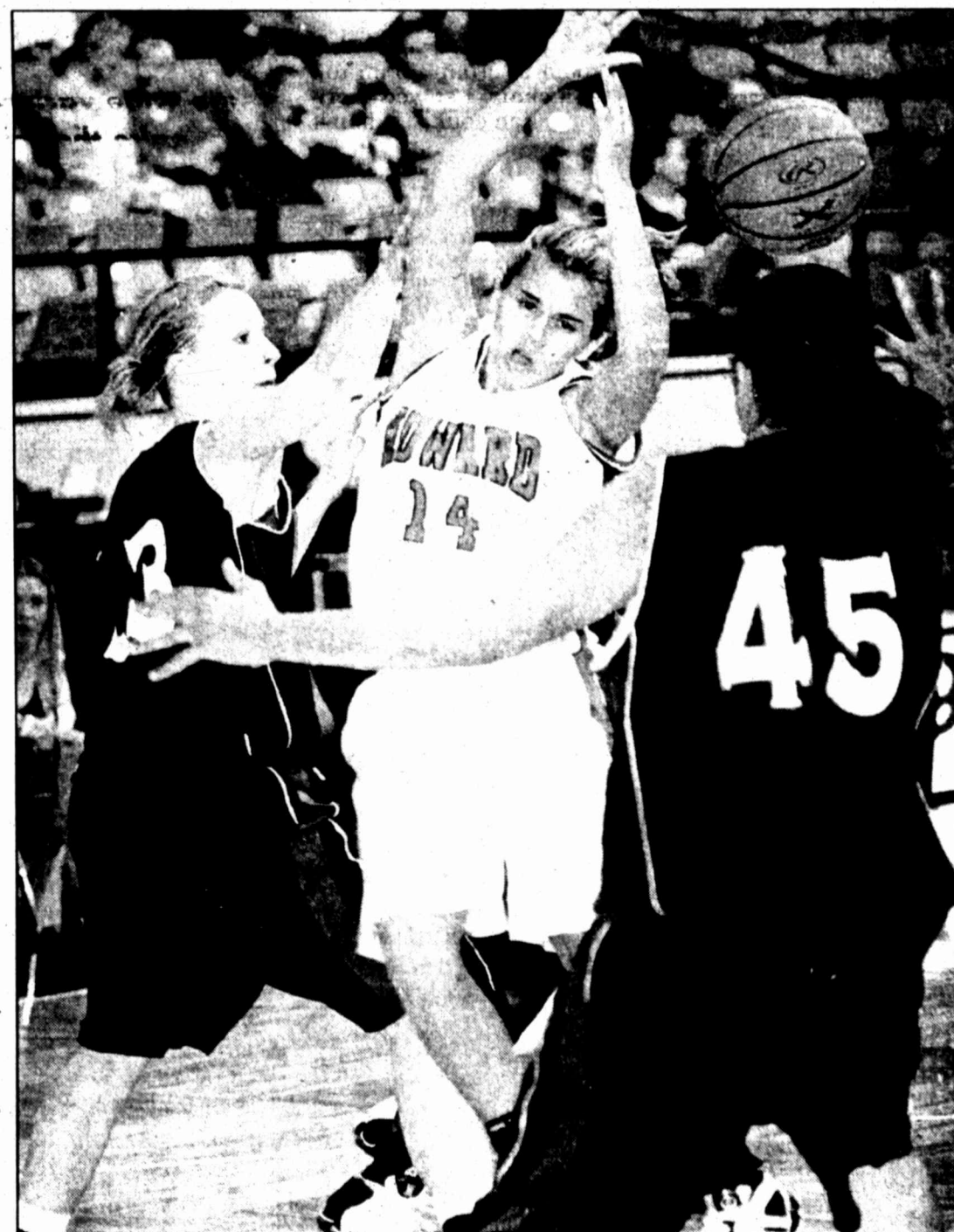
first lead until a basket with 7:29 to play in the first half put Midland up 15-14. The game was tied with 3:25 to go until halftime after a free from freshman Valerie Burnam. Two straight baskets from Howard — a jumper from Chanel Jones-Delas and a putback from Latoya Fairley — gave the Hawks a two-point lead, but Midland scored the final four points of the half and led by two at the break.

The game remained close in the second half. Midland grabbed a five-point advantage after a layup by Danesha Wright, but a Fairley jumper, two free throws by Jones-Delas and a 3-pointer from Burnam evened the contest at 40-40. Burnam added another 3-pointer moments later to put Howard up by one with under 11 minutes to play in the game.

"If she gets her feet set Valerie is capable of knocking down those shots," said Diddle. "I thought we got a big lift from her and several of our bench players tonight."

Midland College missed five straight free throws at one point, but was still able to push the advantage to five with 4:35 to play. Jones-Delas hit two free throws to cut into the deficit, but Fairley fouled out on Midland's ensuing possession. Fairley was also called for a technical foul and Midland went up six with three converted free throws.

The Hawks stayed close, but lost another sophomore to fouls late in the contest. Sophomore Jennifer Pena fouled Rachel Brazell on a 3-point attempt with 35 seconds to play. Brazell hit



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College freshman Kendra Marney gets fouled as she drives to the basket Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawk women tied the game late with a 3-pointer by Chanel Jones-Delas, but Midland converted a layup with five seconds to play and claimed the two-point win.

WJCAC Standings

Women			Men		
Odessa	3-0	18-0	Howard	3-0	19-0
Midland	2-1	17-4	South Plains	3-0	16-3
South Plains	1-1	14-3	Midland	2-1	16-3
New Mexico	1-1	10-7	Clarendon	2-4	11-7
Frank Phillips	1-2	13-6	Odessa	1-2	13-6
Clarendon	1-2	9-12	New Mexico	1-2	11-8
Howard	0-2	6-14	Frank Phillips	0-3	11-8
			NMMI	0-3	4-13

Monday's Results
Midland 57, Howard 55
Odessa 83, Clarendon 73
South Plains 84, Frank Phillips 70
New Mexico Junior College did not play

Monday's Results
Howard 65, Midland 63
Clarendon 88, Odessa 72
South Plains 90, Frank Phillips 68
New Mexico 72, NMMI 57

Garden City lands three to all-state second team

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Three players from Garden City's playoff football team were named to the six-man all-state squad recently. The Bearkats' best defensive

See BEARKATS, Page 2B

See HOWARD, Page 2B

BUZZER

Continued from Page 1B

18 points. After a 3-point shot from Charles Burgess put Howard back on top, Mels connected from long range again before Howard freshman Phil Murphy swung the lead back into the Hawks' favor with a 3-pointer of his own.

Freshman Benny Valentine, who scored 13 points and dished out four assists in the game, later hit a 3-pointer to give Howard a four-point advantage, but a free throw from Timmy Crowell and a 3-point play from Davlin Davis tied the game at 47-47 with 11:11 to play.

The game would again be tied at 52 with 9:23 to play, but Midland looked to take control at the five-minute mark as the Chaps connected on four straight free throws and grabbed a 58-53 lead.

Freshman Benson Akpan scored on a 3-point play moments later and Harris hit a 3-pointer to cut the Chaps' advantage to just one with 3:06 to go. Harris put the Hawks up one with a layup with 1:04 to go and freshman Richard Forbes extended the lead to two with a free throw.

Mels was fouled by Howard with 16 seconds to go and connected on both free throws to tie the game.

Both teams took several timeouts in the final 16 seconds before Harris eventually won the game with a fadeaway from the baseline.

Howard improved to 19-0 overall and 3-0 inside of Western Junior College



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College sophomore Charles Burgess scores an easy two points during the Hawks' two-point win over rival Midland Monday. Burgess finished with 12 points.

Athletic Conference play. The Hawks won the game despite making just 11 of their 24 shots from the foul line.

"The difference in the game was the crowd," said Adams. "It was a great atmosphere for us and it sure helped tonight."

Burgess finished the game with 12 points, four rebounds, four assists and three steals, while Akpan pulled down a team-high eight rebounds.

Crowell finished with 12

points for Midland, which dropped to 16-3 on the season. Howard has defeated Midland twice this year.

"I hope this performance is a wake-up call for us," said Adams. "We have to play better if we want to keep winning. We sure can't play like this and win on the road in this league."

Howard will travel to Odessa Thursday to take on the Wranglers at 7:50 p.m. Odessa lost to Clarendon Monday night and is 1-2 in WJCAC play.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

two free throws to put the Lady Chaps up three.

The Hawks tied the game 13 seconds later as Jones-Delas hit a

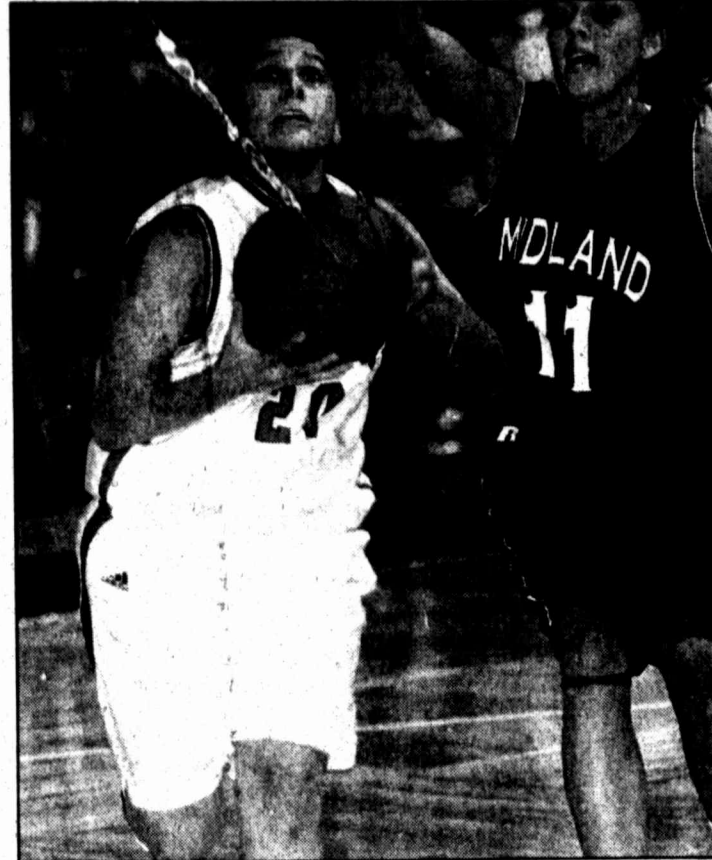


JONES-DELAS

designed 3-pointer from the left wing. "We set the play up for her and she hit a big shot," said Diddle.

"Kim (Gilyard) did a nice job of penetrating and found Chanel open for the shot." The game came down to one possession for Midland and Williams connected inside to give the Lady Chaps the win. Williams appeared to fall down and get back on her feet before shooting the ball through the basket, but traveling was not called on the play.

"We missed too many layups which we created through pushing the ball," said Diddle. "We can't do that against a team like Midland if we expect to win. Midland is



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard sophomore Jennifer Pena gets into the lane during action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday.

a team capable of winning this league."

Howard falls to 6-14 with the loss and 0-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play. Midland improves to 2-1 in league play and is 17-4 overall.

Jones-Delas led the Hawk women with a game-high 16 points, while Fairley added 12 and Burnam scored nine. The Hawks went 12-for-14 from the foul line.

Brazell led Midland with 14 points.

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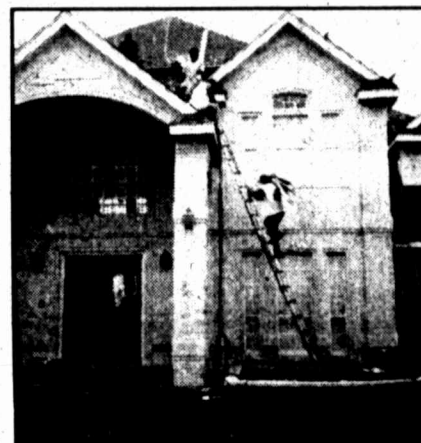
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HENRY BACKES



BEARKATS

Continued from Page 1B

player — senior Cory Multer — was placed on the second team and offensive standouts Alex Halfmann and Jared Bradford, both juniors

this past season, earned spots on the offense's second team.

Multer made the second-team defense as a lineman. Halfmann, who played quarterback for the Bearkats, made the team as a spreadback, while Bradford earned a spot as a wide receiver

after scoring 10 touchdowns this year. Halfmann threw for more than 1,600 yards and ran for 442 more.

The six-man Player of the Year was awarded to junior Bryce Hogue of Throckmorton, while the Coach of the Year went to Valley's Brett Tyler.



THE ORANGUTAN NAMED DAN WHO WANTED TO BE A MAN

Dan, the Orangutan, lives in a zoo, near you! Dan loved to swing in the trees and play hide and seek in the bushes, with his friends. Dan had fun with his friends every day. He had good friends. Do you have a good friend? I'll bet you have a lot of good friends.

But there was always one thing that Dan had wanted to be. He wanted to be a human man! He thought that a human would be a very fun thing to be. They can fly airplanes. Orangutans can't! They can drive cars. Orangutans can't! They can build great big buildings. Orangutans can't! They can do everything, or can they?

This story happened in your favorite zoo, I think! The story was told to me by the zookeeper. He was there. He saw the whole

thing! I think maybe, he was just kidding me with the story about Dan. After we finish reading the story, and before you fall asleep, please tell me if you think it really happened.

"It was just about this time of the year," the zookeeper said to me. "And Dan was about ready to go to sleep one night, when all of a sudden, someone knocked on his bedroom door." "Now, who can that be at this time of the night," Dan thought to himself? "This had better be very important!" It was! Standing at the door was a human. "My name is Stan, and I want to be an orangutan. I have always wanted to be an orangutan. And I know you always wanted to be a human man. Will you trade places with me, if you can?"

Did this really happen, or was Dan just dreaming the whole thing? Tell me what you think! The zookeeper said it really happened, but was the zookeeper really dreaming, too?

Of course, Dan would

trade places with Stan! He had always wanted to be a human man, and Stan had always wanted to be an orangutan!

"POOF", and it was done. Stan was now an orangutan, and Dan was now a human man. And the first

thing he wanted to do was fly an airplane! Dan ran, to the airport near our city. He found a beautiful airplane, started the engine, and—, Do you think Dan can, fly



this airplane? Of course he can! This is a bedtime story and everything can happen! Remember, the zookeeper said this really happened! Up, up and away went

Dan. The sky was a beautiful blue and the earth way down below looked so pretty! Dan flew and flew that airplane. And flew some more! After he had been everywhere he had always wanted to go, he very gently put the airplane back on the

ground. "That was so much fun," he thought, "It makes me want to swing through the trees and tell all my friends about my wonderful plane ride!" Off he ran, to the nearest big tree, grabbed a big old limb, and "Thump!" Dan fell to the ground! "What happened," he thought, "I have never fallen from a tree before!" You and I know what happened, don't we? We humans can't swing through the trees like

an orangutan can. And Dan was now a man, not an orangutan! Dan was not so sure that he wanted to be a man anymore, but what could he do? He didn't even want to try to drive a car anymore, like humans do! He wanted to be an orangutan again!

But where was Stan? Dan tried and tried to find Stan, to see if he would trade places again. He couldn't find Stan anywhere! He looked in the trees for he thought that now Stan was an orangutan, that's where he would be! But there seemed to be no Stan!

Would Dan always have to be a man, and never again, an orangutan? Poor Dan! He started thinking that he was always very happy being just what he really was, an orangutan. He wished that he had never wanted to be someone he wasn't! He should have been happy with himself, just the way he was! That is what made him so special! Do you want to end this story this sadly? I didn't

think so! When I count to three, let's all wish that we will always be just as we are now, and that Dan will again, turn into an orangutan. Ready? One—two—three!

Did you really wish for Dan? Did you really wish



hard? Our wishes must have worked because the zookeeper said that Dan is still in his zoo! Do you think this story is really true, or was the zookeeper just teasing me the whole time? Dan, the orangutan, and all the animals at the zoo said to tell you,

"Good Night"

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602 1/2 GEORGE. Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Stove & refrigerator, carport, CH/A. \$350.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

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Real Estate for Rent

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

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

900 SCURRY very clean/ quite apartment. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, washer/ dryer connection. Appliances furnished/ covered parking. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688.

914 EAST 6TH. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. No Pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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

CLEAN 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, covered parking, large backyard with shop. \$350.00 Month, \$300.00 deposit. 1107 Barnes Call (432)263-3778.

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

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

1 Bedroom - \$400. month

\$200. deposit.

All Bills Paid

403 East 8th

Call (432)267-2771

MIDWAY AREA. Two bedroom

mobile home, water & gas paid, \$375. month. Big Spring.

Three bedroom, 1 bath. \$375. month. Deposit & References required. (432)267-5952.

SUNSET RIDGE APT.

Cable TV Free!

Playground

No Water Bill

Paragon Security

24 Hour Laundry

On-Site Mgr. & Maint

Family Friendly

2 BR \$285

1 BR \$185

Call Rhonda

(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick

Homes. No Down Payment.

Owner Financing. Bad Credit

OK. 6 Month warranty.

Call Maria (432)263-3461.

Don't LAST!

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 living areas on 4 acres. 2 Water wells, asking \$70,000.00. 3310 Gail Hwy. Call (432)816-8970.

4109 DIXON. 4/2, refig. air/gas heat, storm windows, large back yard with steel fence, work/storage bldg. Much more. \$39,000.00. Call 1-979-324-2072 or 267-3074.

"AS IS" 609 Holbert. \$285.00 per month for 180 months. Call 1-800-834-7110.

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

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

WESTBROOK BRICK home on 2 lots. 3/2, large living with formal dining, newer carpet, 50x24 workshop/ garage, storage building with metal privacy fence. Call (432)267-3074.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon liberates herself in Sagittarius, and the spirit of adventure is alive and well. Combined with Aquarius aspects, the emancipation is best shared with colleagues. If you can delegate responsibilities long enough to take a field trip, the journey will be most enlightening. Minds are open to ideas that seemed crazy only yesterday.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It is important to advance your career — but not at the expense of your character. The stars feature a temptation. Be double and triple sure that your decisions are ethical.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You immerse yourself in the business of making a goal come to life. An illusion of yours is cracked in the process, if not shattered. That's the cost of experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have no time to waste in anger, so you forgive quickly and forget easily. There is so much fun and play to be had! Tonight sees you laughing until your cheeks hurt.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be asked a question that you don't want to answer. Smile, and ask in return, "Why do you want to know?" You're justified in your desire to remain a mystery.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wouldn't it be nice if you alone could make a better world? In fact, you can. Strive for morality in all of your actions. Humor is your best coping mechanism. Look for comic irony — it's everywhere tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Instead of reinventing the wheel, model your success after someone whose success you admire. As soon as you realize that you need a mentor, you will find one. Don't be afraid to ask outright — you are a joy to help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can better overcome a financial setback by not panicking — the money will come in. Consciously fill your day with the positive, and soon, you will find it becoming second nature for you to do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). By helping a friend, you are really helping yourself. You will have the opportunity to teach and learn even more at the same time. An Aquarius and a Pisces show you tough love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Instead of waiting for a change, the stars urge you to affect that change. Do one thing differently, and keep adding to the list. Start simple. Green tea instead of coffee?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A compliment is like honey to the fly while criticism is like vinegar. Though you really don't want to catch flies, this also works well with loved ones, co-workers and anyone you find challenging.

lenging.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You get a fabulous offer, and it probably has to do with your love life. This is also a good day to research and make moves to improve your credit status and financial security.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Setups have advantages, whether it's friends making a love match or your employer scheduling client appointments. What you offer will open doors for you that you didn't know existed. Hidden rewards await!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I recently found out that I have a moon in Pisces when a friend did my chart. She said that was probably why I'm having a lot of emotional problems connecting with my boyfriend, who is a Gemini. Do you think that my moon could have something to do with it?"

The moon represents your emotional life and secret aspirations, and the danger of having your moon in Pisces is that you often have really deep feelings that you keep very hidden (especially when they're of a romantic nature). To top it all off, you often take away impressions of events that are not actually accurate, and the void you feel between the two of you is not actually there. You and your Gemini man are having problems because he doesn't know that you truly desire to be with him exclusively. His moon in Capricorn makes him emotionally complex and not just a little afraid of being abandoned. Once he feels comfortable and committed in a relationship, he will prove to be endlessly loyal and loving. Shout it from the rooftops! Make a banner! Tell him you love him in any way you can! Once you do, I promise that yours will be a very happy union.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aquarius is the sign of the water bearer. Generosity comes natural for Aquarians, which is why actor/writer/director Alan Alda (Jan. 28, 1936) has found such tremendous success in Hollywood. Alda gives himself completely to every project he commits himself to, whether it be on "M*A*S*H," "The West Wing" or one of his many big-screen roles. Viewers naturally respond to this type of authenticity. 2006 will bring some sort of lifetime-achievement recognition for Alda. Congrats!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis

TUESDAY

	WFAA(2)	KMID(3)	UNI(4)	KPEJ(5)	KOSA(7)	KTLN(8)	KWES(9)	WTBS(11)	KMLM(12)	KOCV(13)	DISC(20)	AMC(21)	SPIKE(22)	TNT(23)	BET(25)	DISN(27)	ESPN2(28)	ESPN(29)	SCIFI(30)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Plai de Oloro	My Wife-Kids	News (CC)	La Tormenta	News (CC)	Raymond	Booker	News-Lehrer	Dirty Jobs	Classics	CSE Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's Raven	With Smith	College	Movie: Science Fic.
7	Accord-Jim	Accord-Jim	Corina Vento	American Idol	NCIS (CC)	El Cuerpo del	Fear Factor	Friends (CC)	Update/Real	Secrets of Lost	Mythbusters	Model Anna	CSE Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	Movie: The	NBA Coast-to	Kentucky at	Death Roll
8	Commander in	Commander in	Albora	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami	Corazon Part	Scrub (CC)	Sex and-City	Light of the	Frontier/	Dirty Jobs	Model Anna	CSE Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	1/2 (CC)	College	Movie: Aberration	
9	Boston Legal	Boston Legal	Casos de la	My Wife-Kids	Love Monkey	Decisions	Law & Order	Satfield (CC)	Scout (CC)	Independent	Into the	Movie: For	CSE Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	Zack & Cody	Tennis: Australian	Indiana at Iowa	(CC)
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70a Show	News (CC)	Noticias	News	10 Movie: The	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Extreme	Movie: Beaches	CSE Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	Open - Men's	SportsCenter	Movie: Hood	
11	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Letterman	Late Show	Late Show	Scout (CC)	Scout (CC)	Sign Off	Mythbusters	CSE Crime	CSE Crime	Law & Order	The Ultimate	Phil of Future	NFL Live	Movie: Hood	
12	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Becker (CC)	Show	The Insider	12:10 Movie: The	12:10 Movie: The	12:10 Movie: The										

DENNIS THE MENACE



MARTHA AND DENNIS ARE A GREAT TEAM... SHE COOKS UP A STORM AND HE EATS UP A STORM.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Should I be saving now for my vacation on Mars?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2006. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

On this date:

In 1908, the first Boy Scout troop was organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924, the Russian city of St. Petersburg was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader (however, it has since been re-named St. Petersburg).

In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1965, Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1972, the Supreme Court struck down laws that denied welfare benefits to

people who had resided in a state for less than a year.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1985, the space shuttle Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Ted Bundy was put to death in Florida's electric chair.

In 1993, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Md., at age 84.

In 2003, the new Department of Homeland Security officially opened and its chief, Tom Ridge, was sworn in.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Ernest Borgnine is 89. Evangelist Oral Roberts is 88. Actor Marvin Kaplan ("Top Cat") is 79. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 70. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 67. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 65. Singer Aaron Neville is 65. Actor Michael Ontkean is 60. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 56. Country singer-song-

writer Becky Hobbs is 56. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 55. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Theoplis Peoples is 45. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 43. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 39. Olympic gold-medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pat "Sleepy" Brown (Society of Soul) is 36. Actor Matthew Lillard is 36. Actress Merrilee McCommas is 35. Actress Tatyana Ali is 27. Actress Mischa Barton is 20.

Thought for Today: "God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends." — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

Answer to previous puzzle

NOTSO	TAPS	STEW
ABHOR	ABIT	HALO
GOUDA	MESA	ABBR
SEM	CAPTAIN	HOOK
BALSA	RESOWS	
PONIES	MESS	
IRAS	ERAS	TECHS
TAIL	SIXPM	NOAH
ALLEY	NINE	ARLO
ASKS	TACKLE	
ESCORT	PACTS	
THUNDERBOLT	CBS	
HATS	ROAN	OPRAH
ERIE	ENID	REESE
LENT	OATS	SAVED

Newsday Crossword

SEE YOU IN COURT by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Poodle's feet

5 Tachometer readings: Abbr.

9 One who weeps

14 Very funny one

15 Succulent houseplant

16 Row of bushes

17 Garlic quality

18 All in place

19 Perfect model

20 Person on trial

22 All set

23 Musical sense

24 Track circuits

26 Adjust to changes

29 Emulated

31 Londoner's exclamation

35 Train lines: Abbr.

36 USC rival

38 Noisy bird

40 Person testifying in court

43 Brunch egg dish

44 Catcher's glove

45 Pub order

46 Extremely uncommon

47 Right, on a map

49 Land units

51 Sound of fright

53 By way of

54 Heathen

57 Person bringing suit in court

63 Modify, as the Constitution

64 Beef cut

65 Cherry or chestnut

66 British coins

67 Sea swirl

68 Noisy

69 Poker-pot starters

70 of approval

71 Concludes

DOWN

1 Give a poke to

2 Assistant

3 Canine sound

4 Actress Meryl

5 GI's vacation

6 "Not guilty," e.g.

7 Sound of distress

8 Come to terms

9 Songbird sound

10 Interior decorator's job

11 Notion

12 Quaint exclamation

13 Count (on)

21 Inherent quality

25 Allow in

26 Knight's protection

27 Serious play

28 Late-blooming flower

29 Chicken king

30 Sources of coconuts

32 Piece of asparagus

33 Airplane walkway

34 Thumbs-up votes

37 Gives as an example

39 Reach, as success

41 Classy quality

42 Sense of humor

48 Fruits for the teacher

50 Ranch beasts

52 South American mountains

53 Synthetic leather

54 Mama's mate

55 Church affirmation

56 Mannered fellow

58 Ore deposit

59 Verdi opera

60 Steam-emitting appliance

61 Long-running argument

62 Government agents, for short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
			23				24	25				
26	27	28			29	30			31	32	33	34
35				36	37			38	39			
40			41					42				
43							44				45	
46						47	48			49	50	
			51	52					53			
54	55	56			57	58	59			60	61	62
63					64					65		
66					67					68		
69					70					71		

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2006 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/24/06

Wacky Facts

- Mandarin, the language of China and Taiwan, is the most common; it's spoken by approximately 874 million people. English is spoken by roughly 341 million people.
 - One of every five people in the world lives in China.
- World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"The kids just didn't have very much. I saw three, sometimes four kids packed around one little desk, and they were sharing a pencil."

— Actor Gary Sinise ("CSI: New York" "Forrest Gump") on the poor conditions in Iraqi schools, in Newsweek. Sinise co-founded an organization called Operation Iraqi Children that provides basic supplies to Iraqi schools.

In The News

Kids band together to make a difference

What can a rock band do to change the world? A band of kid musicians and singers called Creation has an answer. What makes this band different from most youth bands that play for fun and might hope to one day be famous? Creation has joined with Building with Books and the We Are Family Foundation, two charities that help build schools in developing countries.

Proceeds from Creation's new CD, "World Without Windows," will go toward building a school in Mali, Africa. The government of Mali had promised the school would be built more than 50 years ago, but it never happened. But thanks to Creation, construction of the school can begin.

HOW WAS CREATION CREATED?

Creation was formed by a musically talented group of four boys and two girls when they were in the fifth grade. The band has gone from the garage to the recording studio and has just released a new CD. "The whole thing started out really small in our school and people started noticing us because we put flyers out and then we had a billboard donated to us. We were just on TV and it's getting bigger as we go," Josh, the lead guitar player, said at a special Creation benefit concert held recently in New York City. Money raised from the concert will go toward the school in Mali.

The other members of Creation include Raechel and Molly on lead vocals and guitar. Thomas on vocals and bass, Sam on drums and percussion, and Peter on keyboard.

Success has brought Creation's members a lot more attention. "I don't know if we're famous yet, but we were more noticed when we started (distributing) flyers and going on TV. And that's when everyone started to notice us, and realize our cause," Peter said.

"Also, a lot of people are really interested in the fact that we're not doing this just to become famous ... We're just doing it to help other people," Raechel said.

"We're not doing it to make money for ourselves," Molly added.

THE BIG MAN SITS IN

Clarence Clemons, a famous saxophone player also known as The Big Man, performs with Creation in their song "Only for You." Clemons even played with the band during its benefit concert at BB King, a famous blues club in New York City.

"I was very impressed with their ability. And then when they started this project to help build schools, that's a very adult thing to do, and I wanted to help them as much as I possibly could, so I did the CD with them," Clemons said.

Creation is proving that you can have fun with your friends, make music and make a difference, all at the same time!

— Emily Doveala, 10



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ANOTHER NEW YEAR

Get ready for the Year of the Dog

By KARALEE MILLER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

On Jan. 29, some people may party like it's 4704. That's because, according to the Chinese calendar, it will be. This Chinese New Year marks the Year of the Dog. On the Chinese calendar, each year is designated by one of 12 animals. Last year was the Year of the Rooster. This year also is known as the Year of Bing-xu. The name of the year is repeated and recycled every 60 years.

The Chinese New Year celebration starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The new year is celebrated in many ways — firecrackers, lion dances and parades are just a few.

WHEN DID THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION BEGIN?

The Chinese use of the lunar cycle to determine the New Year dates from about 2600 B.C., making it the oldest calendar in use.

Like the Western calendar, the Chinese lunar calendar is yearly. However, the start of the lunar year is based on the cycles of the moon — which is why the date of the new year varies, falling sometime between late January and the middle of February.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR RITUALS?

Preparations begin a month before the new year. A massive cleanup takes place in Chinese houses, which are cleansed of any traces of bad luck. Doors and window panes typically are given a fresh coat of paint — usually red, a color meant to ward off evil spirits. The doors and windows then are decorated with colorful calligraphy called chun lian (spring couplet) featuring themes for happiness and longevity.

New Year's Eve dinner typically is a feast of seafood and dumplings, with several foods signifying different good wishes. For example, prawns represent liveliness and happiness, and raw fish salad, or yu sheng, is meant to bring good luck and prosperity.

On New Year's Day, an ancient custom called Hong Bao, meaning Red Packet, is observed. This involves married couples putting money in red envelopes and giving it to children and unmarried adults.

HOW DO PEOPLE SPEND EACH DAY OF THE 15-DAY CELEBRATION?

On the first day of the new year, many people abstain from meat because it is believed this will ensure them long and happy lives.

On the second day, the Chinese pray to their ancestors and gods.

The third and fourth days are meant for men to spend time with their in-laws.

The fifth day is called Po Woo — when people stay home to welcome the God of Wealth. No one visits families and friends on this day because it's believed it will bring bad luck to both parties.

From the sixth to the 10th day, the Chinese visit their relatives and friends. They also visit the temples to pray for good fortune and health.

The seventh day is when farmers display their produce. Noodles are eaten to promote longevity and raw fish for success.

On the eighth day, family reunion dinners are held, and on the ninth day, offerings are made to the Jade Emperor.

The 10th through the 12th are days when friends and relatives are invited to dinner. To balance all the rich food, the 13th day is supposed to be enjoyed by eating simple rice congee and mustard greens (choi sum) to cleanse the system.

The 14th day is spent preparing to celebrate the Lantern Festival, which marks the culmination of the new year on the 15th night of the celebration.

SOURCES: WWW.CHINAPAGE.COM/NEWYEAR.HTML; WWW.NEW-YEAR.CO.UK/CHINESE/

ARE YOU A RAT OR A RABBIT? REVIEW THIS ZOO TO FIND OUT

Using the Chinese lunar calendar, find out what your birth year says about you.

Rat: 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

Rats are imaginative, charming and very generous to those they love. However, they also can be quick-tempered and overcritical.

Ox: 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

Oxen are born leaders, methodical and good with their hands. They make fine surgeons and hairdressers.

Tiger: 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

Tigers are said to be bold and adventurous. They have a tendency to be risk takers, and make good bosses, explorers or race-car drivers.

Rabbit: 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

Rabbits are affectionate, cooperative and pleasant, with lots of friends. But they can get too sentimental and seem superficial. Ideal careers include law, diplomacy or the stage.

Dragon: 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

Dragons tend to be popular and full of life. They make good priests, artists and politicians.

Snake: 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

Romantic and deep-thinking, wise and charming, snakes can also tend to dismiss others too quickly. Ideal jobs include teaching or psychiatry.

Horse: 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

Horses are hardworking and independent, but can be a bit selfish. They would do well as scientists or poets.

Sheep: 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

Sheep are said to be charming, elegant and artistic, but they have a tendency to complain. Ideal jobs include actors, gardeners and beachcombers.

Monkey: 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

Monkeys are intelligent and well-liked and have success in any field.

Rooster: 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

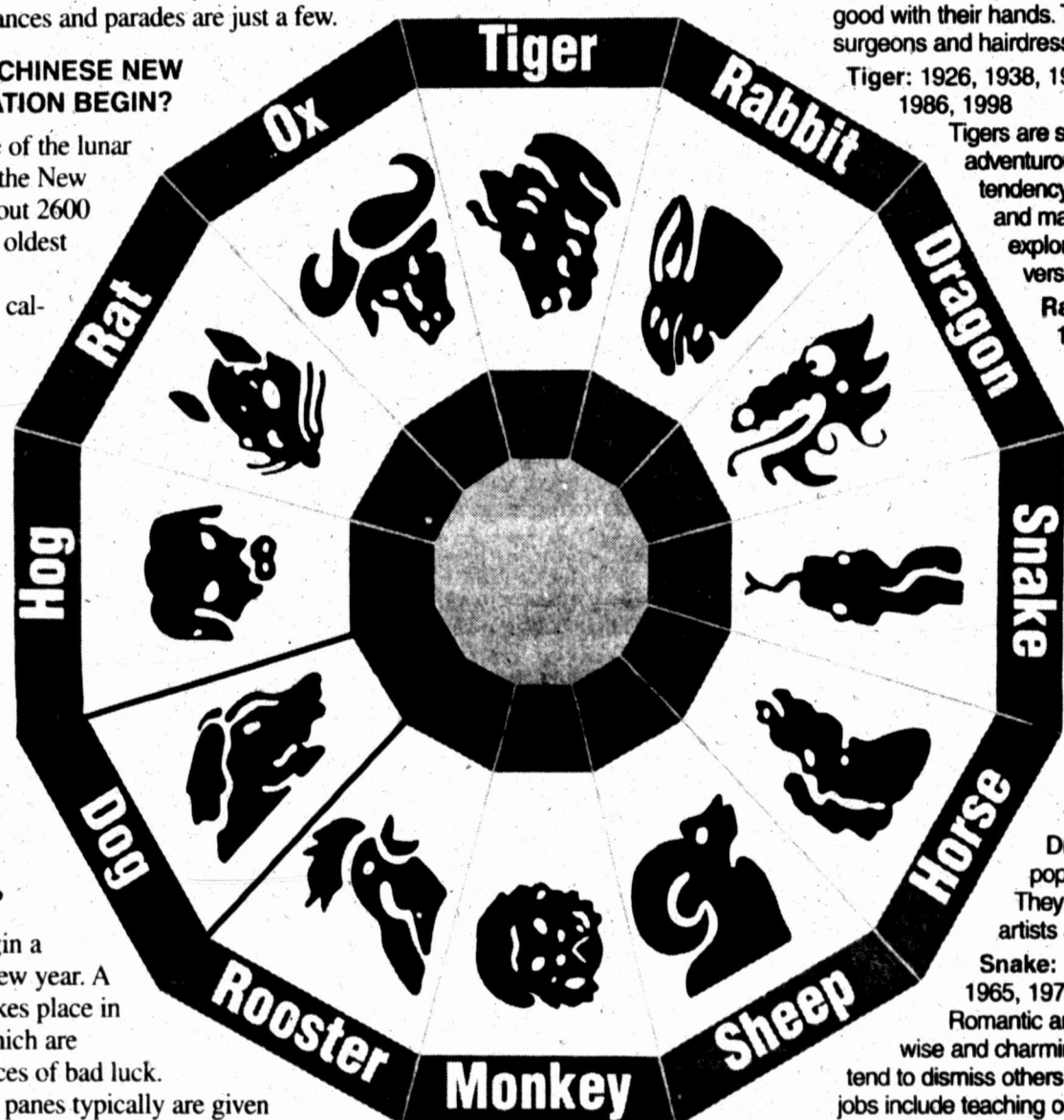
Roosters are decisive, hardworking and unafraid to speak their minds — which can sometimes come across as boastful. They make good restaurant owners and world travelers.

Dog: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

Dogs are honest and faithful. They make ideal secret agents or business people.

Boar: 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

Boars are honest and tolerant and make good friends. They thrive in the arts as entertainers.



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