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BIG SPRING

HERALD



INSIDE

Mavs roll to 109-96 victory over Rockets

Page 1B

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 44

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Trustees to look at Memorial Stadium for new track

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring school district trustees will take a close look at the possibility of building a new track at Memorial Stadium when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Trustees are in a bit of a bind to provide adequate track and field facilities since they

learned that needed renovations at the Blankenship Field facility would be much higher than expected.

Superintendent Michael Downes said it would likely cost between \$400,000 and \$450,000 to bring Blankenship up to standards needed to host district and regional level track meets. Considering limitations on parking, concessions and other services in the area, BSISD officials believe that

"Memorial Stadium is a fantastic example of two entities providing a facility that otherwise would not have been possible, if one of them had tried to construct it."

—Michael Downes, BSISD superintendent



expenditure to be unfeasible. Downes said it would likely be far cheaper to construct a new track at the Memorial Stadium complex. The stadium,

constructed in 1956, has adequate support facilities, but hasn't had a track since the old cinder circuit was demolished in the early 1990s.

A possible complication to that idea arose because the property is owned by Howard College, and it was unclear whether BSISD could legally allocate funds to finance construction on college property.

That situation may be clearing, he said.

"Based on a December ... opinion by the (state) attorney general, there is a way for the

See BSISD, Page 3A

WINTER SETTING IN



A late Tuesday storm dropped a blanket a snow on this area, leaving accumulations of between 1 and 2 inches. The snow also left streets and roads slick, causing numerous accidents Tuesday and early today.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Leads turn up no clues as to ID of John Doe

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Investigators say they are no closer to identifying a dead body that was found north of Coahoma late last week.

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker said his office has been exhausting a number of possible leads in the effort to identify the remains, but nothing solid has developed.

"So far, it's all been a dry run," said Walker. "We've entered the information into state and national data bases, which has given us several possible matches. However, we've managed to rule out all of them except one, and it's really hard to say if that one will pan out."

Found in a ravine approximately six miles north of Coahoma on Highway 820, Walker estimated the man — a male, Caucasian between 20



Walker

and 30 years of age — had been dead three to four days.

Walker said the autopsy performed on the body by the Lubbock County

Medical Examiners Office is still pending.

"We received the preliminary report last week," said Walker.

"However, the final report is still pending." Walker said the unidentified man had very short brown hair and a light brown goatee and mustache. He was 5'9" tall, 136 pounds, with a pierced right ear.

"The autopsy has ruled the cause of death to be from blunt trauma to the head," said Walker. "Toxicology testing has been submitted to the lab, and those results could

See BODY, Page 3A

Martin County Junior Livestock Show opens Thursday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

STANTON — Future farmers and ranchers will be putting their best foot forward this weekend during the Martin County Junior Livestock Show.

The show begins Thursday and runs through Saturday at the Martin County Community Center. County Extension Agent

Lee Howard said 140 entries have been received for this year's show, a number that is on par with recent events.

The show begins with weigh-in of all animals between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the community center, Howard said.

Judging begins Friday morning.

First up is goats at 9 a.m., followed by lambs approxi-

mately 30 minutes after goat judging. Following the same interval, steer judging will be held later in the day.

An additional event at Martin County is the "Pee Wee Show," in which younger children get a taste of exhibiting their animals.

"It's for kids who are too young to be in 4-H who might have an older brother or sister showing an animal," Howard said.

The show concludes Saturday with hog judging at 9 a.m. and the banquet at 7:30 p.m. At the banquet, awards and scholarships will be presented, Howard said.

"This is probably the best part of an agent's job — working with these kids," Howard said. "It's part of the job. It's part of what's expected that we do to help these kids."

Martin County Junior Livestock Show

Schedule of events	
Thursday	4 p.m. until 6 p.m. — All animals weighed.
Friday	9 a.m. — Goat show. 30 minutes after goat show — Lamb show. Noon (approximately) — Steer show.
Saturday	9 a.m. — Hog show. 7:30 p.m. — Awards banquet.

INDEX

- Classified 3-5B
- Features 5A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B



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Revelers brave treacherous roads to help Perry party

By APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Forget the fierce ice storm outside. With country musician Clay Walker at his side, Gov. Rick Perry partied with hundreds of revelers at his inauguration ball, kicking off his second full term in office.

Hundreds of guests packed the ballroom in elegant gowns and tuxedos despite treacherous winter weather and repeated warnings to

stay off the roads.

Early in the night, Perry joined Walker onstage, playing air guitar while Walker belted out his own version of "Sweet Home Alabama," changed to "Sweet Home Austin, Texas."

"How many of you want to see Rick Perry sing this song with us?" Walker shouted just before Perry walked onto the stage.

Earlier, Walker told about singing the same song with Perry at President Bush's

inaugural ball in Washington D.C.

"I accidentally turned his microphone off," Walker joked.

This time he changed the words to "In Austin, Texas they love the governor." Another verse took a swipe at Perry's gubernatorial challenger Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who called herself One Tough Grandma.

"Watergate does not bother me. Does One Tough Grandma bother you?"

Walker sang his hit "Hypnotize the Moon," as a special request from Perry, who dedicated the romantic ballad to Texas first lady Anita Perry.

Later in the night, a jubilant Perry introduced his wife before they danced.

"In the words of famous NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby, thank you Lord for my smoking wife!" Perry yelled to the cheering crowd.

See PERRY, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Judge James 'Jim' Ward Gregg Sr.

Judge James "Jim" Ward Gregg Sr., 76, died Jan. 13, 2007, at Silver Pines Nursing and Rehab Center in Bastrop.

Judge Gregg was born Feb. 18, 1930, in Fort Worth and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War from 1948 to 1952. After his military service he attended the University of Houston and graduated with the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree and became a member of the State Bar of Texas.

He served as the city attorney for Big Spring before being elected as state judge of the 118th District Court. After serving 11 years with the district court, Judge Gregg retired to Granbury where he became a Master Mason in the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Judge Gregg was predeceased by his parents, Elijah Bishop Gregg and Fannie Belle (Ward) Gregg and by his wife, Catherine Jo (Crumpton) Gregg. Surviving are his sons, James (Jim) Gregg Jr. and Jack Gregg of Bastrop; daughter, Janis Kuykendall and husband, Jeff of Florissant Colo.; brother, Weldon Gregg of Fallbrook Calif.; and three grandchildren, Jeremy Gregg and Jennifer and Jessica Kuykendall.

Visitation and viewing will be from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, at Marrs-Jones-Newby Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Calvary Baptist Church with Pastor Richard Shahan officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave. Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Paid obituary

Ronnie Carter



Ronnie Carter, 60, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Sept. 18, 1946, in Big Spring to Marcella and Robert Carter. He spent part of his early life in El Cajun, Calif., but most of his life was in Big Spring. In his early years, he worked in the oil field and in more recent years at the Water Shoppe. He served in the Army in Viet Nam.

He is survived by one sister, Cheryl Click of Coahoma; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters; one brother; and two nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Ricky Gamble

Ricky Gamble, 48, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, in Midland. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Francyse Gatliff

Francyse Gatliff, 84, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM WILL HOLD** its annual meeting and Veteran of the Month reception Thursday, Jan. 25.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. for museum members and previous Veteran of the Month honorees.

Non-members wishing to attend the Veteran of the Month reception for Col. Harry A. Spannaus and for the unveiling of the new permanent display, the "Spannaus Office," are encouraged to arrive at 7 p.m.

• **THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING** is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers.

Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING** infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them.

To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **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 Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES Church of God In Christ** is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **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.

• **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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

• **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease)**, a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

• **Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA)**, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage.

For more information, call Deidra F. at 263-0027, ext. 236 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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** for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Mesa. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to VAMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. 12th. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Dow. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of E. 12th.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 195 mile marker of Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Eighth. One person was transported to Mountain View Lodge.

• **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 200 block of Airbase Road. It was a false call.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• 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, 703 W. Third St.

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.

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.

• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

• 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 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizens Center 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

• Howard County Junior Livestock Show buyer's barbecue at 11:30 a.m., awards reception and auction at 1 p.m.

• American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry at 3203 W. Highway 80. Serving will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Delivery will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Plates are \$8 each.

• The Knockout, Christian battle of the bands, begins at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, available at Cowboys Steakhouse, Bean's World Cafe and at the concert.

• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.

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

• Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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Winter storms close I-10, strand motorists in West Texas

By JEFF CARLTON
Associated Press Writer

Joe Stokhaug and his pregnant wife, Sarah, were turned away from two fully booked motels when winter storms forced the closure of about a 300-mile stretch of Interstate 10 from Fort Stockton to San Antonio.

The Stokhaugs and at least 50 other motorists ended up in a convention center in Ozona, stranded there by storms that shut down businesses and schools across Texas, killed at least two more people and drove state inauguration ceremonies indoors Tuesday.

Stranded travelers at the convention center, described by motorists as a converted bingo hall, said folks were making the best of their situations overnight.

"They have air mattresses and cots for everybody — and pizza and doughnuts," Joe Stokhaug said. "We've already made a couple friends here who are from Los Angeles."

The weather was blamed for a crash that killed two people on Interstate 35 near Buda, about 15 miles south of Austin. They were among at least five people killed since Friday, when the rough weather entered the state. At least 54 people have died across the country due to the winter storms.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Austin officials closed highways at four major intersections and part of Interstate 35 near the University of Texas campus. The intersections would likely remain closed overnight and this morning.

Numerous schools and universities across Texas announced they were canceling or delaying classes today. Among them were districts in the Austin, San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas. Some local and state government offices also told employees to stay home. The inclement weather prompted community colleges in the Houston area to cancel Tuesday

evening classes.

Weather officials said more bad weather was likely. A winter storm warning continued for the Hill Country through this morning with a possibility of snow and freezing rain, and a snow advisory was in effect through this afternoon for North Texas, according to the National Weather Service. Forecasters predicted up to 3 inches of snow was expected to accumulate today from Brownwood to Paris and from Hillsboro to the Red River as temperatures were not expected to top freezing.

Forecasters expected more freezing rain to hit parts of Texas tonight, said Dennis Cook of the Weather Service's Austin-San Antonio office.

The Texas Department of Transportation on Tuesday shut down I-10, a major east-west route across the country, from Fort Stockton to San Antonio, a stretch of about 300 miles as the snow continued to fall on top of a layer of ice.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram, MCT photo/Ralph Lauer
Texas Gov. Rick Perry gets a hug from his daughter, Sydney, after he took the oath of office at the Texas State Capitol in Austin Tuesday.

PERRY

Continued from Page 1A

The couple danced onstage to Walker's hit "Live Until I Die." Son Griffin and daughter Sydney also danced, jumping playfully around the stage with their young cousins Bella and Claire Solis.

Mary Wilson, former member of the Supremes, kicked off the night's entertainment with the hit song "Love Child." Revelers rushed to the front of the stage snapping pictures, but were slow to dance. More people were rocking by the time she ended her set with a rousing cover of the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction."

For the event, a cavernous hall at Austin's downtown convention center was transformed into an elegant ballroom. Massive chandeliers hung overhead, mimicking the frigid weather with crystal icicles. The room was decorated with hundreds of jewel-toned roses, including two impressive centerpieces anchoring a spread of fruit and pastries, but no dinner.

2007 Howard County Junior Livestock Show

Howard County Fairbarns
Schedule of events

- Today**
 - 10 a.m. — Lambs/goats in place.
 - 1 p.m. — Lamb weight cards due.
 - 2 p.m. — Goat weight cards due.
 - 3 p.m. — Lamb show.
 - 4 p.m. — Goat show (30 minutes following lamb show).
- Thursday**
 - 9 a.m. — Steers in place.
 - 1 p.m. — Steers weighed.
 - 4 p.m. — Rabbits in place and weighed.
 - 6 p.m. — Rabbit show.
 - 6 p.m. — Barrows in place.
 - 8 p.m. — Barrows weight cards due.
- Friday**
 - 10 a.m. — Steer show.
 - 1 p.m. — Barrow show.
- Saturday**
 - 11:30 a.m. — Buyers' barbecue.
 - 1 p.m. — Awards reception followed by auction sale.

Editor's Note: Officials said today the livestock show will go on as scheduled, despite the weather.

Big Spring area weather forecast

Tonight... Cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. South winds around 10 mph.

Thursday... Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Not as cold. Highs in the mid 40s. Light and variable winds.

Thursday night... Cloudy. Snow and light sleet likely in the evening... Then light sleet likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows in the upper 20s. Light and variable winds becoming northeast 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday... Cloudy with

snow and light sleet likely. Colder. Moderate snow accumulations. Highs around 30. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Friday night... Cloudy. Snow and light sleet likely in the evening. Then a chance of snow after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows in the upper 20s. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday... Cloudy with snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Highs in the mid 30s. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday night... Cloudy

with snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows in the lower 20s. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Sunday... Mostly cloudy. Not as cold. Highs in the upper 40s.

Sunday night... Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Monday... Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Margaret Frankie Marstrand, 99, died Saturday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ronnie Carter, 60, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ricky Gamble, 48, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

district to improve the facilities at Memorial Stadium," Downes said.

Under a 51-year-old joint resolution between BSISD and the junior college district, Howard College retains ownership of the property, while the school district handles scheduling of events.

"Memorial Stadium is a fantastic example of two entities providing a facility that otherwise would not have been possible, if one of them had tried to construct it," Downes said. "The school district had the money, but didn't have the available land, while the college had a the property, but didn't have the money to construct a stadium."

It is unknown how much a new track at Memorial would cost until estimates are secured.

Although no action is anticipated Thursday, Downes said trustees will

look very closely at the Memorial Stadium option.

Also Thursday, trustees will discuss the impending plan by district officials to purchase laptops for students and teachers at Big Spring High School. Downes said it appears that trustees may formally approve the \$1 million plan as early as Feb. 8.

In other business, trustees will consider:

- Approval of the annual audit report.
- Resolutions concerning

ring participation in the West Texas Food Service Cooperative, a joint election agreement with the City of Big Spring and a contract with the Howard County Election Administrator's office.

- Possible extension of Downes' contract.
- Resignations, retirements and hirings.

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

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BODY

Continued from Page 1A

take some time to come back."

The body bore a tattoo of the name Angela across the back, according to Walker. Scars from previous injuries or cuts were also identified on his back and below the right shoulder.

"We're beginning to think our John Doe is not from this area," said Walker. "I really don't think he's from Howard County or any of the surrounding counties. If he was, I believe we would have received some more information at this point. It's looking like the body was dumped there."

The body, which was found wearing only a pair of underwear and a white T-shirt, showed signs of a brutal assault, according to Walker.

"There were a lot of markings and bruises on

"We would greatly appreciate any information the public may have concerning the victim's identity or information concerning the situation surrounding his death," said Walker.

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

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Where your local cardiologist is always available for you.

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.

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Statesmen
needed, not
politicians

It didn't rain or snow on Texas Governor Rick Perry's inaugural parade Tuesday in Austin because it was canceled by inclement weather. Having been re-elected to a second full term with less than 40 percent of the vote in November, Perry would do well to keep that unexpected political buffeting in mind as he lays out his agenda for the current legislative session and the next four years.

House Speaker Tom Craddick should likewise be chastened by the unsuccessful revolt of House members against his iron-fisted rule that many felt led to the defeat of six GOP members and a narrowing of the Republican majority in the body to 81-69. Although Craddick eventually overcame the challenge of GOP colleague Jim Pitts, he has already reacted by promising a more collegial management in the 80th legislative session.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst got high marks in the previous regular and special sessions for balancing the demand for school district property tax cuts with expanded business taxes and significant educational reform. Now he presides over a Senate that has reaffirmed rules that effectively give the Democratic minority veto power over legislation that comes to the floor. In order to burnish his credentials for an eventual run at higher office, he'll need to continue his open-handed approach to senators of both parties while repairing frayed relations with Perry and Craddick.

Texans are hungry for a leadership that puts more emphasis on their health, welfare and education and less on the personal political standing and the priorities of special-interest lobbyists. They want meaningful ethics reform to limit the unseemly flow of campaign cash between lawmakers and lobbyists as well as steps to revitalize social programs such as children's health insurance, which was cut to the bone in previous sessions.

For the first time in years the Legislature has enough extra revenue to reorder priorities and deal with festering problems, such as rising tuition that is making it more difficult for members of the middle class to send their children to state colleges and universities. The dilapidated condition of the state parks system also must be dealt with by returning already dedicated state sales taxes to the purpose for which they were intended.

It will require statesmen rather than politicians to produce the needed results in Austin. Though this inauguration will produce no new faces at the top, perhaps the demands of the time will generate a new mindset and willingness to work together by legislative leaders.

—The Houston Chronicle

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Confusion and misunderstandings abound, but with You, Lord, we can clear up our life.

Amen

McCain-Clinton, that's the ticket!

Imagine this scenario: The country is so deeply divided that the media have color-coded the map of the United States to indicate the partisan chasm — one color covers the South and most of the border states, the other drenches the North.

As the presidential election year nears, one candidate, a shoo-in for his party's nomination, has an obvious choice for running mate. Yet he also senses the uniqueness of the moment. So he makes a risky decision: He asks a leader of the opposition to run for vice president alongside him, forming the first bipartisan presidential ticket in U.S. history.

This is no fantasy. It's the decision Abraham Lincoln made when, running for reelection in 1864, he asked his Republican vice president, Hannibal Hamlin, to quit the ticket in favor of the highly partisan Democrat Andrew Johnson.

Lincoln's experiment in bipartisanship was tragically cut short when he was assassinated less than a month after his 1865 inauguration. But if ever there was a time to give it a second try, it's now.

Today's national unease and rabid partisanship — so similar to the circumstances of 1864 — raise the challenge for someone to form a bipartisan ticket in 2008. The lingering trauma of 9/11, the war in Iraq and the fight against terrorism call for an administration open to bipartisan solutions to the crises that confront the country.

Last year's congressional elections showed that voters are tired of the partisan gridlock in Washington. They want some solutions from liberals and others from conservatives. That's the new politics of our age, as exemplified by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman's reelection in Connecticut as an "independent" Democrat. Though he has voted mostly with his fellow Democrats over the years, Lieberman is open to both liberal and conservative approaches.

The most important reason for a bipartisan presidency in 2008 is the need to find solutions to the war in Iraq and to avoid delaying the end of significant U.S. involvement over fear of partisan recriminations. Solving the dilemma of Iraq — how to get U.S. troops out of harm's way in a civil war yet not leave behind a rogue state dominated by terrorists — will require bipartisan effort and support.

A bipartisan administration is also essential for enacting new taxes. Most responsible political leaders in both parties know — though few are willing to admit it publicly — that there is no way to pay for the war in Iraq, even as it winds down, and reduce the deficit while also addressing health care, energy independence, global warming and Social Security other than by raising taxes. Only a bipartisan presiden-

cy pushing leaders on both sides of the aisle can make it possible to tackle that issue honestly.

So how do you put a bipartisan ticket together? Theodore Sorenson, speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy, wrote a book in 1984 describing the various ways it might be done.

The Democratic and/or Republican nominee could do what Lincoln did — reach out to a leader of the other party as a running mate at the nominating convention. Another scenario, which I prefer, would be for the two parties to nominate their tickets and wage a traditional partisan campaign on the issues, so that voters could see each party's approach and weigh their preferences. After the election, the winner would ask his or her vice president-elect to step down (and become, for example, secretary of state) while inviting the defeated presidential or vice presidential candidate from the other party to serve as vice president. This plan would ideally be announced during the campaign — with the vice presidential candidate agreeing to act as a placeholder on the ticket — so that the electorate would be aware of the commitment to a bipartisan presidency.

In this scenario, the vice president could be selected after the election by the Electoral College, which would presumably honor the president-elect's request to vote for the president or vice president of the defeated party. Or the selection could occur after the inauguration, with the newly sworn-in vice president resigning and the resulting vacancy filled, under the 25th Amendment, by a majority vote in both houses of Congress. The advantage of this latter method is that it would receive Congress's ratification of the concept of a bipartisan presidency.

In forming his administration, the new president would continue to adhere to the ideal of bipartisanship, selecting a 50-50 Cabinet and choosing judicial nominees on the basis of merit rather than party.

There are any number of provocative possibilities for a bipartisan ticket in 2008. Imagine the buzz if Republican John McCain and Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton committed to making the other vice president in the event that either won the election. Pick any combination of other names in the current field of potential candidates: Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Chuck Hagel; Democrat Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Republican Mitt Romney; Democrat John Edwards and Republican Michael Bloomberg; Democrat Bill Richardson and Republican Rudolph W. Giuliani. Any of these bipartisan pairings, in any permu-



VOTE BLOOMBERG-EDWARDS

tation, would create a stir — and a dynamite ticket. (OK, strike one possible combination — there's no way we'll see a Clinton-Giuliani ticket, or vice versa; not only does the Constitution forbid it, as they're both from the same state, but their personal chemistry would preclude it, too.)

Will it happen? In the end, political realism will be the determining factor. If it appears that a bipartisan ticket could enhance the chances of victory, and if any party leader embraces the need to make this a reality for the country's sake, then yes, it's likely to happen.

You don't have to go back 143 years to Abraham Lincoln for an example of such a judgment. Less than three years ago, Democrat John F. Kerry reportedly saw the political wisdom in asking McCain to be his vice presidential candidate, even though he knew the idea would be vehemently opposed by the Democratic Party's liberal base, which disagreed with McCain's positions on abortion, the Iraq war and other issues. Though McCain declined the invitation, it seems evident in hindsight that a Kerry-McCain ticket would have had a better chance of picking up an extra state (or turning 75,000 votes in Ohio) to win the 2004 election.

And whether either party takes the dramatic step of committing to a bipartisan ticket, there could be one nonetheless. A well-funded group of national political experts from both parties called "Unity '08," led by Republican pollster Douglas Bailey and former Democratic presidential aide Hamilton Jordan, is ready to fill the void and run a third, bipartisan ticket that would be nominated online through a virtual convention.

But I'm betting that such a third ticket won't be necessary, because either Democrats or Republicans — or both — will nominate a bipartisan ticket in 2008 or commit to a bipartisan presidency after the election. And I'll wager that if only one of the parties does it, that party will win.

Any takers?

Lanny J. Davis, special counsel to President Bill Clinton from 1996 to 1998, is the author of "Scandal: How 'Gotcha' Politics Is Destroying America" (Palgrave Macmillan). E-mail: ldavis@orrick.com

Pat McCormick no longer a recluse

Pat McCormick is the lady bullfighter whose sensational ability in the bull ring during the 1950s and '60s grabbed headlines and magazine covers all over the United

State, Mexico, Spain and South America. She was on the TV show, "What's My Line," and appeared on "This is Your Life" as part of a tribute to screen actor Gilbert Roland. A book, "Lady Bullfighter," was written about her career. After her last bullfight in 1962, Pat went into seclusion, seldom mentioning her fame.

She went to California to work for a bullfighting magazine, which folded within two months after she was hired. She went back to her home in Big Spring for a while, then returned to California to study art and work as a secretary and receptionist at an art school. She rented a place at

Pebble Beach for several years, living a quiet life, then moved to Midland.

Pat would have continued living her quiet life had it not been for a gun shop owner in Del Rio named Gary Humphreys.

"It goes way back to when I was about 9 years old," says Gary. "When she got gored in Acuna they brought her to Del Rio for treatment and recuperation. One of the nurses was a friend of my mother and she brought Pat to our house one day. My dad had some fighting roosters and Pat and I went out and looked at them. That was the only time I saw her until a couple of years ago."

Pat became a household name in Del Rio. Gary says you can walk out on the streets today and find people who remember her. He put a link to her on his Web site (humphreysgunshop.com) and all sorts of people are e-mailing her now. How Gary finally made contact with her is a story in itself.

"In 2004, we were planning a reunion for my high school class, the class of 1964. We went to La Macarena, a restaurant in Acuna,

because we were planning to have part of our reunion over there. I saw a picture of Patricia McCormick on the wall and just kind of got to wondering where she might be. I spent the next six months searching for her on the internet and telephone. I must have made 75 calls to every Patricia or Pat McCormick in the U.S., Mexico and Spain.

"I just asked them one question: 'Did you ever fight bulls?' I talked to bullfighters all up and down the border and finally made contact with a bullfighting club in Los Angeles and got Pat's phone number and address in Pebble Beach. I called her and the phone had been disconnected. I called the club back and they found a change of address: Midland, Texas. I picked up the phone and called her."

Gary convinced Pat to move to Del Rio where she is making speeches, giving autographs, serving as the guest of honor at various events and doing art shows. She has been the subject of several newspaper articles. The Heritage Museum in Big Spring is having a Pat McCormick tribute in April.

LANNY
J. DAVISTUMBLEWEED
SMITH

Howard College taking on some 'first' for the new year

Who's ready for a brand new year? Who's ready to try something new in 2007? Who's ready to make and keep some new year's resolutions? We now find ourselves standing on the brink of a brand new year ready to jump off into a year full of "firsts" and new adventures. With January being the "first" month of the year and the time to reveal plans for an exciting year, I couldn't think of a better time to share a few "Howard College firsts" with you this week.

When the Workforce Education department began planning for Spring '07 and Fall '07 class schedules, they went out on a limb and added a couple of new courses that are a "first"

for Howard College! With the field of technology growing faster than we can blink an eye, Howard College is working diligently to "keep the pace." One way we are doing this is through the addition of two new workforce education classes: Gaming and Computer Forensics.

Now don't get too excited...the Gaming class really isn't about playing games all day — although that might be fun too — but the class does cover all aspects of developing games that

other people will play. This is a new and upcoming field of study that is certain to see future growth and Howard College is right on target in bringing this class to you through our traditional on campus setting or via our online availability.

For all you CSI fans, if part of your new year's resolutions was to make a career change, you might want to check out the new Computer Forensics class. This class will teach you how to properly obtain evidence with electronics and correctly submit them for court evidence. You will learn skill sets that will begin to prepare you for your very own crime scene investigation job. Although this class

is only offered in the traditional on campus setting, I'm sure it will be a huge success as Howard College works to develop this line of training.

If talking about "firsts" here at Howard College, I have to take a moment to brag on one of our other first time successes — a student named Joe Baker. Joe, one of our shining star students who came to use from River Oaks has won the 2006 Playfest Playwriting contest with his play titled "A Yellow Butterfly." The play, a story about his grandfather and the first winning play by a Howard College student, will soon be performed by the Howard College Theater Department... look for that great opportunity

HOWARD HAWKLINES

coming soon!
In December, Howard College began the "first" parent/student Orientation for concurrent dual credit classes. Although the class opportunity has been around for a while, the parent/student orientation was a first for us as we try to reach out and educate parents and students alike on the benefits and options available for concurrent class work. The first orientation was held in December and others will be scheduled for January as we work with all districts in our service area to better prepare the students and parents for a successful

concurrent/dual credit class experience.
We are standing on the brink of a new and exciting 2007 here at Howard College and we are anxious to share this with you, the communities and people we serve. We are here to help you experience a few new "firsts" in your life as we share some of our own "firsts" as well. The Spring semester is a great way to jump start to new things and we're ready to get started! Until next time...Howard College: For Learning, For Earning, For Life!

Cindy Smith is director of information at Howard College.



CINDY SMITH

Why not check this out? At the county library

The holidays are all over and the library is back in the swing of things. Starting off the new year of 2007 are some books on all things Texas. Reviews are taken from various sources, including Amazon.com, Midwest Book Review and the book itself. These are excellent books to take on a trip as they do not have a particular story line.

"Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival" (976.4 COX M) by Mike Cox is a gripping account of 20 of the most devastating disasters in the history of the state of Texas. Cox, an acute observer, recounts these stories of tragedy through the eyes of a news reporter. His accounts are readable, compelling and engaging.

He covers a period of more than 400 years of Texas history in the book. The account begins with the wreck of three Spanish ships off the coast of South Padre Island in 1554, and concludes with hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2006. Although Katrina came

ashore in Louisiana, the impact of Texas hospital-ity and the supreme effort to aid the 400,000 evacuees demonstrated that in adversity Americans unite in the effort to save lives and restore property.

The author provides an amazing number of prints and photographs that reflect the disasters, debris, and destruction of flash floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards and explosions. Twisted houses, buildings leveled, smoke and fire damage are only a few of the results shown in these illustrations.

"Texas Constables: A Frontier Heritage" (363.209 HAT A) by Allen G. Hatley is a compelling history of a the Texas Constable, a branch of law enforcement quite distinct from the better known Texas Rangers and the town marshals that dominate the legends and lore of Texas law enforcement.

From the establishment of the Texas Republic to its transformation to being the Lone Star State, down to the present day, "Texas Constables" offers a compendium of facts, personalities and events that will prove deeply engaging for both the history and the western history buff. "Texas Constables"

is a welcome and valued addition to the annals of Western Frontier history in general, and the history of Texas law enforcement.

"Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas" (365.976 BLA E) by Edward A. Blackburn, Jr., takes readers to each of the 254 counties in the state, presenting brief histories of the counties and the structures that housed their criminals. He provides general information about the architecture and location of the buildings and, when possible, describes the present uses of those that have been decommissioned.

Interviews with local officials, historians, and newspaper publishers have yielded colorful anecdotes for many of the jails. Revealing photographs of many of the old jails have been gathered from local and archival sources, and Blackburn himself has

taken pictures of extant buildings. Together, these words and images not only provide a survey of the way Texans have housed their criminals, but also, with the aid of thumbnail maps of county locations, offer residents and tourists throughout the state a guide to a fascinating aspect of architectural and cultural history. Our own Bill Jennings was interviewed for this article on Howard County's jail.

"Texas Women on the Cattle Trails" (976.405 MAS S) edited by Sara Massey tells the stories of 16 women who drove cattle up the trail from Texas during the last half of the 19th century. Some were young, some were old (over 30). Some took to the trails by choice; others, out of necessity. Some went along to look at the stars; others, to work the cattle.

Some made money and built ranching empires,

but others went broke and lived hard, even desperate lives. The courage of Margaret Borland and the spunk of Willie Matthews, the pure delight of Cornelia Adair viewing the buffalo, and the joy of Mary Bunton gazing at night constellations on the open range offer new insights into womens' experiences of the West.

For the most part, these were ordinary women doing the best they could in difficult frontier conditions. They did not see themselves as living in unusual times or participating in "romantic" lifestyles, although the women who actually took to the trail were few in number.

Like the cowboys on cattle drives, they faced dust and heat, thirst and exhaustion, rustlers and Indians, stampedes and prairie fires. Drawing heavily on the accounts

of the women themselves, the authors of these chapters vividly illustrate the complexity and diversity of womens' experiences on the cattle trails.

Their stories of cattle drives and moving cattle to distant pastures add an important chapter to the story of life in the real Old West. This is not a review, merely a description of a fascinating book for those who love the Old West and womens' history.

Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.. The Internet/Video room closes 30 minutes before closing.
The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Call 264-2260 or visit www.howard-county.lib.tx.us for more information.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

Genealogy workshop set Saturday

Special to the Herald

Saturday, the Midland Genealogical Society is offering a cost-free Winter Workshop at the Midland County Public Library at 301 West Missouri. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the first session at 10 a.m. Four workshops will be presented, with participants able to choose two. All workshops will be repeated during the two one-hour sessions.

Workshops offered will be Beginning Genealogy, Betty Edgar; Intermediate Genealogy, Joan Cobb; The Midland Library Genealogical Collection, Marie Humphrey; and Advanced Computer Research, David Miller.

The Beginning course gives new genealogists tools to trace their family tree, where to look, and

how to document information. The focus will be on how to research court records, both online and in the backrooms of the courthouse in Intermediate Genealogy. Midland's Librarian of Special Collections will introduce participants to materials available at the site, where they may be found, what is available online, and how to use inter-library loan. With the Web Master for the MGS as guide, attendees will use computers as information is given about genealogical websites and how to access them in Advanced Computer Research.

At the close of the second session, volunteers will be on hand in the Genealogical Library to assist anyone who wishes to do research following the workshop.

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American Profile

It's a man's world

It's been celebrated in movies and on TV as the unofficial "men's club" in cities and towns all across America. Small, friendly and unpretentious, barbershops still offer up bargain haircuts and manly conversation. Plus, Kevin Guest House and easy pot roast.

American Profile

► World news briefs

Philippine military chief confirms killing of top al-Qaida-linked militant wanted by U.S.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A top al-Qaida-linked militant accused of masterminding the kidnapping of three Americans who was long wanted by U.S. and Philippine authorities has been killed, the military said Wednesday.

Jainal Antel Sali Jr., popularly known as Abu Sulaiman — a top leader of the Abu Sayyaf rebel group — was fatally shot in a fierce gunbattle Tuesday in a clash with army special forces, military chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said.

Sulaiman is the highest-ranking Abu Sayyaf commander killed by U.S.-backed troops. Washington had offered up to \$5 million for his capture.

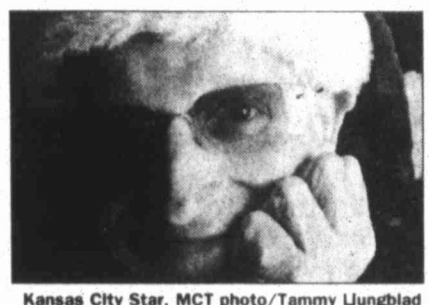
"We have resolved that this group and their major commanders must be finished off, that this notorious group should see its end," Esperon told a news conference.

Sulaiman allegedly helped plot a February 2004 bombing that triggered a ferry fire, killing 116 people in Southeast Asia's second-worst terror attack.

Secret Santa, Larry Stewart, dies

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (MCT) — Larry Stewart, who rose from poverty to wealth and became Kansas City's Secret Santa, handing out crisp \$100 bills to people in need at Christmastime, has died.

Stewart, 58, had fought cancer of the esophagus since April. He died Friday at St. Luke's Hospital.



Kansas City Star, MCT photo/Tammy Ljungblad

Stewart, who lived in the suburb of Lee's Summit, Mo., didn't let his illness keep him from one last spending spree this Christmas season, giving away a total of \$100,000 to strangers who responded with hugs, tears and whoops of joy.

Just before Thanksgiving, Stewart went public with his identity for the first time in his 26 years as Secret Santa.

He knew this could be his last "sleigh ride" and wanted to tell people how, years ago, a kind diner owner slipped him \$20 when Stewart was homeless and hungry. That gesture inspired him years later to give away his own money.

"I know Larry's on the best sleigh ride now," said friend Ray Wynn, a Kansas City fire captain who accompanied Stewart on his missions.

Sharing out of love with someone, especially a stranger, was what Stewart loved doing most of all. All told, he handed out more than \$1.3 million, on top of numerous donations to charities.

Stewart had hoped going public would inspire more selfless giving by others. It could be \$100 or \$5, cookies for a neighbor or a favor for someone who was down.

Republicans face uncomfortable vote on Bush's new plan to increase troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bruised by the elections and divided on the Iraq war, Republicans will find themselves in a tough spot when Democrats force them to go on record for or against President Bush's troop strategy.

Democratic House and Senate leaders intend to hold votes to gauge GOP opposition to Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq. Senate leadership is expected by Thursday to propose a resolution denouncing the plan, with debate planned around the same time Bush delivers his State of the Union speech next Tuesday.

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the House will follow suit with its own resolution.

The resolutions would likely be a symbolic expression of Congress but would not affect the Pentagon's war budget or challenge the president's authority over U.S. forces. Such votes could be a shot across the bow to Bush, who said Jan. 10 that the extra troops are needed to protect U.S. interests in Iraq.

The resolutions also would help Democrats measure GOP support for more aggressive legislative tactics, such as cutting off funds for the war.

Thousands in several states shiver without power in wake of winter storm; toll reaches 54

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — Hundreds of people huddled down in emergency shelters and thousands stuck it out in darkened homes after a winter storm that left 54 dead in nine states.

About 340,000 homes and businesses in several states were still without electricity late Tuesday after a storm that brought ice, snow, flooding and high winds to a swath of the country from Texas to Maine.

At the First Baptist Church in McAlester, Okla., where most of the city's 18,000 residents have lacked power for four days, residents huddled under blankets and in front of space heaters.

"If it wasn't for the shelter, I don't know where we'd be," said Tara Guzman, 38, while playing board games with her four children. "We're tough; we lasted when the power went out until (Monday). We brought mattresses out in the living room and cuddled."

Subfreezing temperatures were expected to continue in the state Wednesday, with little sunshine to aid in melting the ice until Thursday or Friday, said National Weather Service meteorologist Kevin Brown.

Inspector general documents health and safety shortcomings at detention facilities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities failed to maintain adequate health and safety standards for some of the suspected illegal immigrants housed at five detention centers, according to an audit report by the Homeland Security department's inspector general.

The report released Tuesday found health care violations at four of the five sites inspected and environmental health and safety concerns at three of the five.

It found noncompliance with "general conditions" of confinement at all five, "including disciplinary policy, classifying detainees and housing together detainees classified at different security levels."

The report said Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials failed to provide non-emergency medical care for some inmates in a timely matter and sometimes improperly limited access to relatives, lawyers and immigration authorities.



Lexington Herald-Leader, MCT photo/David Stephenson

Railroad cars continue to burn following a train derailment in Brooks, Ky., Tuesday. Four CSX locomotives and 80 cars, some carrying flammable liquids, derailed and exploded.

Flames and smoke continue to billow early Wednesday from a derailed train in Kentucky

BROOKS, Ky. (AP) — Thick, billowing smoke and flames fed by volatile chemicals leaking from a derailed train belched into the sky early Wednesday, frustrating officials long after the accident shut down a highway and forced evacuations.

With water appearing to be of little use in putting out the flames, fire officials expected it would burn out by Wednesday morning and then cleanup operations could begin.

"The amount of water that we're flowing is just ungodly, and it's not making a lot of headway, to be quite honest," said Rob Orkies, fire chief of the Zoneton Fire District in Bullitt County.

The accident Tuesday caused no serious injuries, but at least 11 people near the crash site south of Louisville checked themselves into a hospital and were soon released, authorities said. Officials asked

residents within a mile to evacuate.

The blaze produced a large column of black smoke in the mostly rural area. Television footage showed several blazing CSX cars stacked across the rail lines and flaming liquid flowing down ditches from the mangled tanker cars.

Man being held in Phoenix serial killings is charged with 9 murders, 15 sexual assaults

PHOENIX (AP) — The top prosecutor in the Phoenix area told residents that the rash of serial attacks that put the region on edge for months was finally over.

Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced Tuesday a 74-count indictment against Mark Goudeau, a former construction worker police suspect was the area's serial "Baseline Killer."

The charges, which include nine counts of first-degree murder, 15 counts of sexual assault and 11 counts of kidnapping, stem from crimes committed between August 2005 and June 2006 throughout the Phoenix area.

"The reign of terror has ended," Thomas said. "The quest for justice has just begun."

Contract Bridge

Solving a Diamond Dilemma

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 4
♥ K 8 7
♦ A K 6 2
♣ K 10 7 3
WEST
♠ Q 9 8 5
♥ Q 9 5
♦ Q J 9 7
♣ 6 2
EAST
♠ K J 10 3 2
♥ J 10 6 4 2
♦ 8
♣ 9 5
SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ A 3
♦ 10 5 4 3
♣ A Q J 8 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♦ 1♦
2♦ 2♦ 4♦ Pass
5♦

Opening lead — five of spades.
When faced with the combination 10-x-x-x opposite A-K-x-x, you can't be sure how many tricks you will win or lose in the suit. The answer depends on how the missing cards in the suit are divided.

You will lose no tricks if either opponent was dealt Q-J alone. In all other cases where the suit breaks 3-2, you lose one trick, and when the suit divides 4-1 or 5-0, you usually lose two tricks.

In most deals, declarer has no control over the number of losers in the suit. But in some deals, declarer can manipulate the play so as to lose only one trick even though there

appear to be two losers.
An example of the latter case appears in today's hand. From the outset, all of declarer's attention should be riveted on the diamond suit. The contract depends on not losing two diamond tricks, since a spade must be lost in any case.

South notes that if the missing diamonds are divided 3-2, the contract is sure to be made. All of his thoughts should therefore be focused on finding a line of play that would protect him against a 4-1 break.

The spade lead is won with the ace, and two kinds of trumps are taken. The A-K of hearts are cashed, and dummy's last heart is ruffed. A low diamond to the king and a spade back create a position where it no longer matters how the diamonds are actually divided.

East cannot afford to win the spade because he will have to yield a ruff-and-discard. He therefore ducks, and West wins the trick.

West must now lead a diamond. If he leads the queen or jack, South allows him to hold the trick, secure in the knowledge that if East follows suit, the contract is made, while if East fails to follow, West is ended. And if West leads the nine, declarer simply plays low from dummy.

Virtually the same ending develops if East started with Q-J-x-x. He would win the spade, be forced to start the diamond suit and run into the same dead end.

Tomorrow: Creation of an illusion.
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► Odds and ends

NEW YORK (AP) — Looks like he knocked on the wrong door.

A man was arrested Tuesday on charges of attempted burglary and car theft after he rattled the doorknob and pounded on the front door of the head of the police union, authorities said.

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association head Pat Lynch's wife, Cathy, answered the door, and the man, Anthony Joseph Genovese, tried to talk his way into the house by telling her his wife was in labor in their car and he needed money, Lynch said.

When she refused, he told her he needed money for other reasons, but when the family's large

dog came to the door he walked back to the car, Lynch said.

Feeling uneasy, Cathy Lynch telephoned her husband, who returned home and contacted their police precinct to see if there was any information on the man or his

vehicle. It turned out the car had been reported stolen, so police arrested Genovese and a woman who was waiting inside it, Lynch said.

Genovese, of New York City's Queens borough, also was being held on suspicion of burglary.

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Texas briefs

Coastal city passes sex offender restrictions

PORTLAND (AP) — The coastal town of Portland has joined a growing number of Texas cities to set limits on where certain convicted sex offenders are allowed to reside.

The City Council on Tuesday adopted new rules that restrict people convicted of sex crimes involving children from living within 1,000 feet of schools, parks and day care centers.

The ordinance, which took effect immediately, limits the offenders to only a few of the city's neighborhoods. "They have options," councilman John Vilo said of the offenders. "They don't have to move to Portland."

More than a dozen Texas cities have adopted ordinances prohibiting certain sex offenders from living around schools and other places where children gather.

State Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, in September asked Attorney General Greg Abbott to clarify whether cities have the authority to set such limitations. She made request on behalf of several cities that have adopted or are considering the restrictions. Abbott is expected to issue an opinion early this year.

Deliberations on driver's sentence to continue today

HOUSTON (AP) — Whether there was an intent to kill 19 immigrants trapped in a sweltering trailer and whether it was done in a depraved and cruel manner are some of the questions jurors continue to grapple with as they decide on a possible death sentence for a truck

driver.

Jurors were set for a fourth day of deliberations today in the retrial of Tyrone Williams.

He was a key figure in what became the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt. Nineteen illegal immigrants who were locked in his trailer for hours eventually died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation.

Jurors only worked for about four hours Tuesday because of concerns about wintry weather in the Houston area.

They have deliberated a total of about 18 hours since last week.

The jury is deciding whether to sentence Williams to death, life in prison without parole, or to let a judge issue a sentence that could range from no incarceration to life in prison without parole.

Convicted San Antonio cop killer facing execution today

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Jim Smith and Fabian Dominguez became friends back in 1992 when both were in the cadet class training to be police officers in San Antonio.

Dominguez wound up getting elected class president by his peers.

"People obviously felt he was a good leader," says Smith, who remembers his buddy as fun-loving and "as good at taking a joke as giving one."

Smith, 42, now 14 years on the job, planned to be in Huntsville on Wednesday evening to honor his friend by standing outside the prison in Huntsville where the man convicted of gunning down Dominguez was set to be put to death.

"It's not a vengeance thing," Smith

says. "It's justice is finally being served."

Johnathan Moore, 32, would be the second inmate executed this year in Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state.

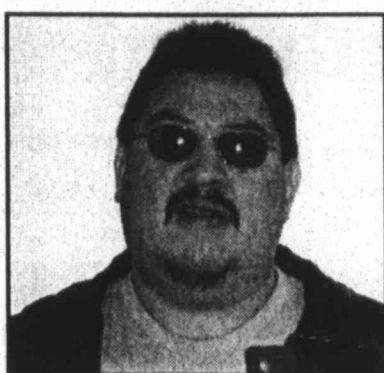
Dominguez, returning home after working his overnight shift, was killed in January 1995 after spotting a suspicious car parked backwards in the driveway of a home in his neighborhood.

He pulled behind it, drew his .40-cal-

iber service revolver and ordered the three young men inside the car to get out. When they refused, he walked over and took the keys from the driver, then went around to the other side.

"I could see that this guy was wearing a police uniform," Moore, then 20 and a passenger in the front seat, later would say.

Moore pulled out his own .25-caliber automatic and opened fire as Dominguez confronted him.



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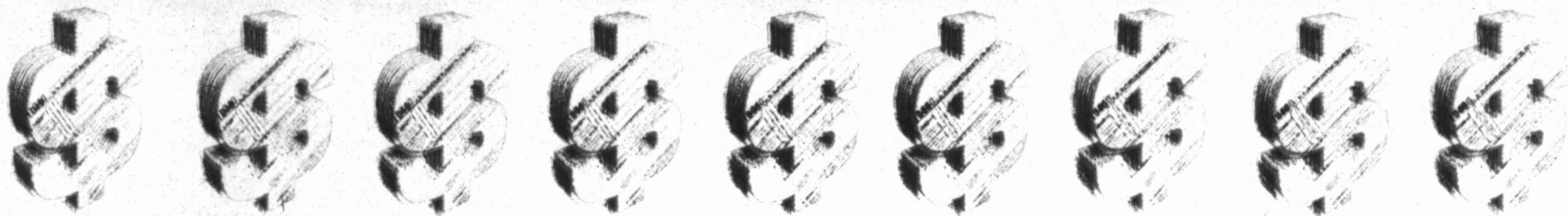


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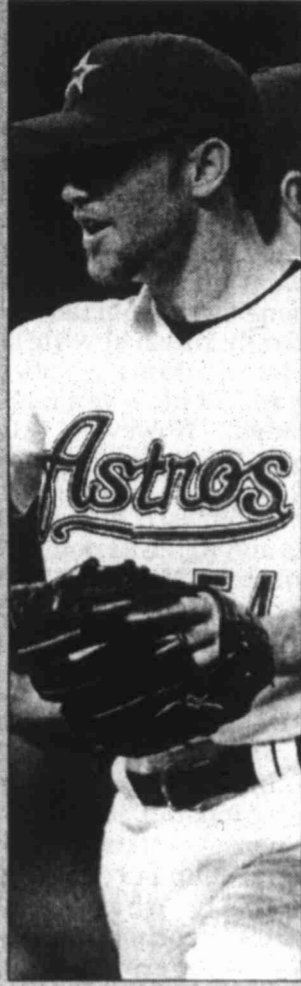
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IN BRIEF

Brad Lidge signs contract with Astros



Brad Lidge agreed to a \$5.35 million, one-year contract with Houston, avoiding arbitration following a rough year in which he temporarily lost his job as closer the season after helping lead the Astros to their first World Series.

Lidge was 1-5 with a 5.28 ERA and 32 saves, and his struggles led manager Phil Garner to adopt a closer-by-committee approach in mid-August. Lidge blew a career-high six save chances, including four before the All-Star break.



Chris Webber signs with Detroit Pistons

Chris Webber signed a prorated contract for the veteran's minimum in the hopes of adding a championship to his NBA resume.

The five-time All-Star, who grew up in Detroit and played at Michigan, became a free agent after Philadelphia cut ties with him by buying out the final 1 1/2 years of his contract last week.

Webber will make about \$650,000 to play the rest of the season with the Pistons. He agreed to give the 76ers \$2 million this season and \$2 million next season when he was due to make about \$43 million over the two years.

Mavericks streak past Rockets

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — The Houston Rockets were willing to take their chances riding the shooting of Tracy McGrady.

The Dallas Mavericks didn't need to rely on any one player. Their team approach worked just fine.

Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard played their usual starring roles and Devean George made the biggest plays off the bench, slowing McGrady in the second half and hitting the consecutive 3-pointers that sent the Mavs rolling toward a 109-96 victory over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

McGrady scored a season-high 45 points, but his solo act wasn't enough — not when Dallas was able to get 30 points, 10 rebounds and six assists from Nowitzki, 28 points from Josh Howard and still 14 more from George.

George was 4-of-5 on 3-pointers, including a pair that started a 15-2 spurt that helped the Mavericks tie it. The Rockets hardly challenged him.

"I didn't think he could make that many in a row," Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo said.

George gladly made them pay. After one particular basket, he looked offended at not having been covered.

"I just got a little fired up," he said. "They left me wide open, so I had to knock them down."

George also was a big part of a swarming defense that frustrated McGrady into shooting 7-of-16 in the second half after he'd gone 10-of-13 in the first half.

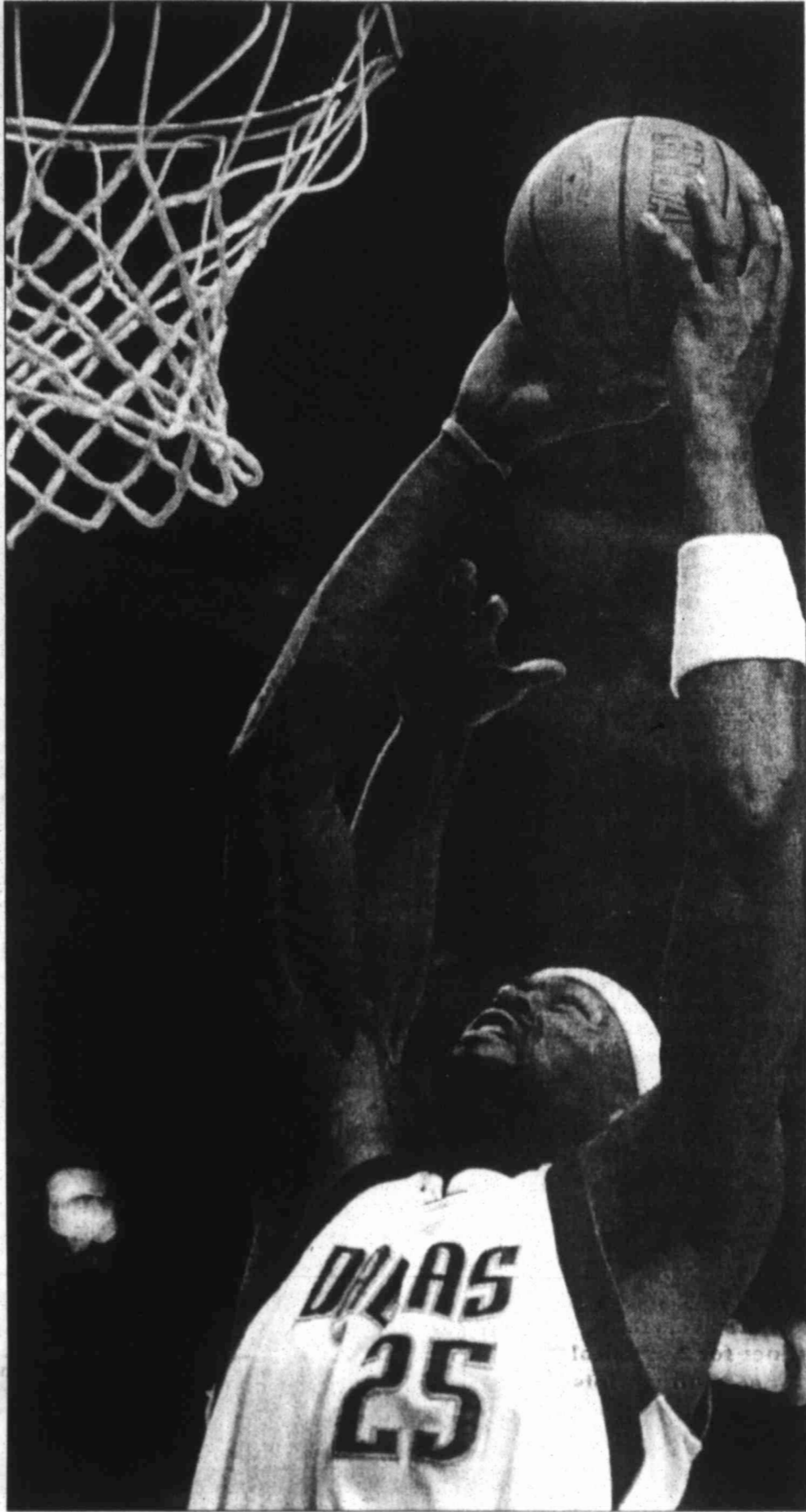
"As a role player, my job is to see what's missing and provide it," George said.

As a star player, McGrady may have tried doing too much.

McGrady scored Houston's first 12 points and 16 of 18. Problem was, his surge prevented any of his teammates from getting into a groove. No other Rockets player had more than a single basket until there was 1:51 left until halftime.

In the second half, the Mavericks began mixing up his defenders and sending different guys at him on double teams. After Nowitzki sparked a 20-4 run that put the game away, McGrady headed for the bench with 2:14 left. He went to the locker room soon after because of a stiff back that he insisted was "nothing major."

"It's pretty frustrating to lose when you play well like that," McGrady said. "They're a great



MCT photo/Stewart F. House/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Mavericks' Erick Dampier (right) goes up for a dunk against the Houston Rockets at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007.

team, we knew that. That's why I attacked early. But it wasn't enough. We still have a ways to go before we catch up to this team."

Dallas avenged a 31-point loss at

Houston earlier this season and tightened its claim as the hottest team in Texas.

See MAVS, Page 2B



MCT photo/J. Conrad Williams Jr./Newsday
Andy Roddick releasing pressure while battling Mikhail Youzhny in the third sets of a semi-finals match in Arthur Ashe Stadium in 2006.

Federer, Roddick, Williams cruise into the third round

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — The early jitters are over.

Roger Federer, Andy Roddick, Amelie Mauresmo and Serena Williams all posted straight-set victories Wednesday to advance to the third round of the Australian Open, serving notice they're rounding into form after some opening-match nerves and glitches.

But Marcos Baghdatis, last year's losing finalist to Federer and a crowd darling, was ousted by Gael Monfils of France, who shrugged off a sore foot to advance 7-6 (5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-0.

Roddick and Williams set up showdowns with tough opponents. Sixth-seeded Roddick beat Frenchman Marc Gicquel, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-4 and next faces 2005 Australian Open champion Marat Safin, who is seeded 26th after a knee injury kept him from defending his title last year.

"When I saw the draw, I think I expected to play Marat," Roddick said. "I think we're both maybe better than a third-round matchup against each other. But that's the way it shakes out."

Safin was shaky in going the distance for the second consecutive match, benefiting from a rain break to rally from a set down to oust Dudi Sela of Israel 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-0 in a match with 20 ser-

vice breaks.

Play was halted with Safin serving at 5-6, 30-30 in the fourth set. After the roof was closed, Safin came out sharp, serving an ace on the first point and running through the tiebreaker against Sela, who lived down to his No. 202 ranking the rest of the way.

"If the rain doesn't come, I was lost," Safin said.

Baghdatis, seeded 11th, couldn't hope for such intervention, as the roof stayed closed for his match against the 20-year-old Monfils, who was plagued last year by a stress fracture in his left foot and sprains to his right.

Monfils took the first two sets, mixing whiplike groundstrokes with deft, well-disguised drops shots, and windmilling his arms after key points to get the crowd wound up.

Then the left foot started bothering him again, and he sought treatment after dropping the third set. Baghdatis' supporters from Melbourne's large Greek community were roaring and it looked like he might rally.

But Monfils ran off the last six games, grabbing his face in near disbelief when Baghdatis hit a forehand long on match point.

Defending woman's champion Mauresmo, seeded second, beat Olga Poutchkova 6-2, 6-2 and next faces unseeded Eva Birnerova.

Handing over a family business at over 300 mph

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

— We've seen men named Earnhardt and Andretti build auto racing empires with an eye on the horizon, trying to picture the day when one of their sons would go zooming by.

John Force did the same over the last two decades, but with a twist: On Tuesday, the biggest name in the drag-racing game handed the keys to one of the family cars to his 24-year-old daughter, Ashley.



JIM LITKE

"A lot of people want me to say, 'I'll kick dad's butt,'" Ashley said over the telephone from California, taking a break from her daylong media blitz. "Not so fast."

"I've been around long enough to know he's won dozens of races he had no business winning. So the only thing I'll say about that is I've learned from the best."

Pause. "But I've seen him acting all goofy in a robe and slippers, too," she laughed. "So maybe he won't seem quite as intimidating to me as he does to a lot of guys out here."

The 2007 drag-racing season opens Feb. 8 in Pomona, Calif., and ends there in early November. Somewhere in between, at one of the nearly two dozen tracks where the NHRA Powerade Series puts down stakes for the weekend, 14-time series winner and defending champion John Force and rookie Ashley will wind up waiting at the same traffic light.

Once it turns green, each will be trying to keep a funny car traveling at speeds over 300 mph glued to the center line of the quarter-mile road stretched out before them. They will be part of the four-car team John Force owns, but they won't be teammates, at least not for the 4.5 or so seconds it takes to reach the finish line.

"The tough thing is, when I look at her in the cockpit, those are the same fierce little eyes I'd see when we put her on a tricycle the first time," John Force said. "She's not a yeller and screamer like me. She handles pressure a lot different than I do."

When Ashley won her first big race two years ago in Indianapolis, still competing on the NHRA's Triple-A circuit, John got so emotional he ran behind the grandstand and threw up.

"By the time I found Ashley, she was sitting there all calm," he recalled. "She just looked at me and said, 'I did like you always told me: Step on the gas when you see amber, and either you win or you don't.'"

Force is 57, but he won't be retiring anytime soon. Not only does

See FORCE, Page 2B

Saints coach keeps dream season in perspective

By BRETT MARTEL
AP Sports Writer
NEW ORLEANS — Sean Payton barely cracked a smile as he incited bursts of laughter around him.

The subject was the New Orleans Saints' lack of playoff experience, and how they overcame that to beat Philadelphia in an NFC second-round playoff game last Saturday night.

Payton mentioned rookie guard Jahri Evans, who was drafted out of Bloomsburg, a Division II college, last spring.

"It was probably his best game of the year," Payton said of Evans' blocking against the Eagles. "So his postseason experience against East Stroudsburg was pretty good."

Payton exudes the air of an all-business, disciplinarian, but he had to have a sense of humor to think he could stay sane as a rookie head coach.

When he took the job,

the Saints were a mess, and because of Hurricane Katrina, so was their home city.

If there was anything attractive about starting one's head coaching career here, it was that the Saints had nowhere to go but up. Still, few could have envisioned Payton taking this franchise to never-before-seen heights in his first season; their game in Chicago on Sunday marks their first appearance in an NFC title game since the franchise's inception in 1967.

The Saints had gone 3-13 in 2005 and prognosticators universally picked them to finish at the bottom of the NFC South Division, even after they lucked out and got Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush in the draft.

"For me as a first-year head coach coming out of training camp, you're just anxious to start the schedule to see how you stack up," Payton said.

"You really don't know." Payton did have an advantage in promoting hard work, attention to detail and a team concept. He could point to the fans — people looking for a symbol of hope and renewal as they struggled to rebuild their lives and their city.

"This is a tough town to accomplish some of the things you want to in football because you have some distractions. You can go down to Bourbon Street and the French Quarter. You have casinos. You have the daiquiri stands," Payton said. "Hopefully, you bring the right type of player in here that understands what's important."

Payton's rise to fame has been as quick as the Saints' turnaround.

While he was a decent quarterback in high school in suburban Chicago and in college at Eastern Illinois, he never amounted to much as a

pro. Payton appeared in three games as a replacement player for the Bears during the 1987 players strike.

He spent nine seasons as a college assistant, with stopsall over the country. He then jumped to the NFL as an offensive assistant with Philadelphia for two seasons, the New York Giants for four and the Dallas Cowboys for three, learning from two-time Super Bowl winner Bill Parcells before taking his first shot as a head coach.

From there, he spent nine seasons as a college assistant, with stops at San Diego State, Indiana State, Miami of Ohio and Illinois. He then jumped to the NFL as an offensive assistant with Philadelphia for two seasons, the New York Giants for four and the Dallas Cowboys for three, learning from two-time Super Bowl winner Bill Parcells before taking his first shot as a head coach.

One year later, he's the NFL Coach of the Year, having done what has never been done before by taking a team with 13 losses in the previous season to an NFC championship game.

Now he needs one more victory to pull off one of the greatest sports stories of all-time: The Saints in their first Super Bowl during their first season in New Orleans after Katrina. Of course, doing that will require beating a Bears team led by 2005 Coach of the Year Lovie Smith.

Payton isn't taking anything for granted.

"You understand and appreciate that there are a lot of things that go on to get to this point," Payton said. "It's important to take advantage of the opportunities and to understand that when it's in front of you, it's hard to get here and hard to be in these games. ... That's what probably makes it so gratifying."

MAVS

Continued from 1B

The Mavericks have won five straight games and 18 of 19. The Rockets had won four straight and nine of 10. Nowitzki, who was named the conference player of the week earlier in the day, cracked 30 points for the sixth time in nine games.

McGrady was 9-of-11 in the first quarter. His only basket in the second quarter was a 3-pointer in the final half-minute, but he also got to the line several times.

"They went smaller in the second half, tried to deny me on the pick-and-roll, give me different looks," McGrady said. "Their intensity went up and they took the game away from us."

McGrady finished with 17 baskets, the same number as the rest of his teammates combined. However, his came on 29 attempts; theirs on 46.

Juwan Howard scored 16 points and Rafer Alston had 12. Dikembe Mutombo had 10 rebounds. McGrady also had a team-high seven assists in the loss.

FORCE

Continued from 1B

he have expectations to meet and sponsors to satisfy for five more years, but now he's also trying to build an audience for a real-life comedy series on the A&E network called "Driving Force."

It's a weekly, wacky, half-hour look at the man who planned on having sons struggling to groom three daughters to run his empire instead — younger sisters, Brittany and Courtney, both plan on following Ashley's lead in the next few years.

"So if I'm going to stay in the game and on top long enough for that to happen," Force said with some resignation, "somewhere down the line I'm going to have to beat Ashley."

Ashley is hardly a pioneer in one sense. Three women had reached drag racing's winner's circle even before Shirley Muldowney began regularly clocking male rivals in the 1970s and early 1980s, inspiring "Heart Like A Wheel," the first movie made about a drag racer of either sex. And last season, Melanie Troxel was good enough

to nearly duplicate Muldowney's last series championship title a quarter-century ago.

On the other hand, the John Force-Ashley Force duel will almost certainly mark the first time a father and daughter have competed against each other in pro sports. And in what is definitely a sign of the times, the story didn't even dominate the day's racing headlines, let alone the entire sports section.

Part of it, no doubt, was because NASCAR champion and broadcaster Benny Parsons died the same day. Another part

had to do with drag racing's niche status. And for sheer man-bites-dog quality, the Force family announcement was competing with 72-year-old James Hylton, who returned to the Daytona 500 more than four decades after he first raced there — to try and qualify again.

Even more telling, though, is how accustomed we've become to women in general — and superstars' daughters in particular — making their marks in what were once men-only pursuits. Laila Ali dominates women's boxing the way

her more famous father once did on the men's side. In the WNBA, Cheryl Ford delivers points and rebounds with the same reliability that earned her dad, Karl Malone, his NBA nickname, "The Mailman."

Like those two, Ashley Force has been groomed for success. She spent some of her childhood hanging out at tracks, chose auto shop over home economics in high school, then studied business and marketing while getting her degree from Cal State-Fullerton.

And she is arriving at the right time, as the

NHRA unveils its own playoff series, called "Countdown to the Championship," in 2007.

When she started competing, John Force saw to it that Ashley had topflight teachers, equipment and crews. That influence helped explain her quick success on the track, despite racing part time. But he claims no credit for the quick way she charms sponsors and the media, nor her being good-looking enough to stop traffic.

"Like her temperament," John Force said, "that's something she gets from her mother."

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*** CARS ***

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*** SUV's ***

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Help Wanted

WATER QUALITY Technician The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Water Quality Technician in Big Spring.

Items for Sale CAMPER 1988 Prowler Trailer, 28 ft Self-contained. Excellent condition. \$4,250.00 Cash.

FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK FIREWOOD. Satisfaction Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord & \$150.00 Half Cord.

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NEED A Personal Nanny or Baby Sitter. Many years experience and references available.

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Miscellaneous

LEATHER SOFA, loveseat, 3 pc Table set. New with lifetime Warranty. \$799. 806-549-3110.

MATRESS CLOSEOUT Brand New Still in Plastic Twin Set \$99.00 Full Set \$119.00 Queen Set \$139.00 King Set \$239.00

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YORKIE For Sale: Health guaranteed, shipping is available, delivery. Contact for more information: petsbreed01@yahoo.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE A commercial construction company seeking a full time project expeditor, carpenters and general laborers.

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must see. Call (432)213-2681
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acre near Country Club. Good
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Capricorn energy rules
now. Capricorn is
commonly thought of as a
goat, but legend reveals that
only his top parts are goat
— the bottom half of him is
a fish. Instead of feeling
torn between your ambition
(the goat part) and spiritual
wisdom (the fish part), find
a way to integrate the two
within your being, as
Capricorn has done.

ARIES (March 21-April
19). You're in
an outrageous
mood. If it
can be
overdone,
your
subconscious
mind seems
to be working
in hyperspeed
to figure out
a lavish and
extravagant
way to overdo
it.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20). Recent
excitement has knocked
you out of your usual
pattern. There's comfort in
returning to the routine,
and yet it's not exactly the
same. Perhaps it never will
be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).
Time to once again be your
own supernanny,
separating yourself from
the "kids" who are a bad
influence. This is tough,
especially when the most
persuasive troublemakers
are in your own family!

CANCER (June 22-July
22). If all endings are
beginnings, does that mean
that all beginnings are
endings? You're trying your
best to add people to your
life without changing too
much about the
relationships you already
have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).
You long to feel the crash of
a waterfall, the cool breeze
of northern winds or the
humidity of a rainforest.
Anything but stale, indoor
air. Perhaps you can't
swing a big adventure, but
a mini-break would suffice!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).
Assumptions are
dangerous. When in doubt,
ask. When not in doubt,

ask. You can't be too
careful on days like this,
when the slightest error in
judgment could cost you
hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).
Accept praise. Don't deflect
it to your colleagues and
boss. You deserve a little
recognition, too. Tonight
you're inspired by the
promise of love. You'll go to
impressive lengths to thrill
someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.
21). What was once
adequate compensation now
seems a mere pittance. Bite
your tongue while you do a
little research. You'll need
to make a strong case for
your raise, or it will never
come.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
Dec. 21). Loved ones need
help in overcoming
negativity. Don't indulge
them in their untrue story.
Shed light on the way life
really is. You've got a gift
for frank talk. Thanks come
later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
19). Relationships are
complex and will put you to
the test. You'll make the
strong choice, although it's
hard to say whether it takes
more emotional strength to
hold on, or to let go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.
18). Angering situations
blow over quickly if you let
them — and this is advised.
From opening doors to
steering your car, there are
a lot of things you just can't
do with a clinched fist.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March
20). Staying cheerful will
set a precedent for those
you live with. That doesn't
mean you shouldn't assert
yourself when it's
appropriate. Rivals back
down as soon as you stand
up for your beliefs and your
property.

FORECAST 2007 —
SCORPIO: This year is a
boisterous chapter in your
life, filled with raucous fun
and numerous reasons to
celebrate. You're
emotionally hardy, and
from this place you will fair
well in tougher
environments. You use
your true grit to get the
prize. If you don't know

what you want yet, shoot
for something difficult. It
brings out your best. **LOVE:**
February brings a break in
your favor. You no longer
need to sacrifice your own
comfort to make someone
happy. Those who love you
accept your quirks and
admire your power. Spring
continues the trend. No
changing, coddling or
catering necessary. You're
strong, and that's the way
loved ones prefer you. Leo
and Aquarius people in
particular are fools for your
charms! **CAREER:** In May,
a new responsibility falls to
you. There's a jump in pay
in July. A lull in August
gives you a chance to
renegotiate — or perhaps
decide on another career
trajectory entirely. **ADVENTURE:**
August is your chance to walk
the streets of cities you've
never seen. In September, a
relationship with someone
very different from you is
almost like traveling to a
new world. **FINANCE:**
You're saving to make one
big purchase at the end of
the year. A fabulous
investment in November
will bring returns for years
to come.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:
A comedic actor who brings
just as much intensity to
seriously dramatic roles,
Jim Carrey has earned a
place among an elite group
of Hollywood greats. Is he
satisfied with his home at
the top? Of course not.
Capricorn men at the top of
mountains tend to
immediately seek higher
peaks to climb. Carrey will
continue to create a career
that's as diverse as it is
impressive.

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TOO EARLY FOR EXCLUSIVITY

Dear Margo: My girlfriend
and I started dating during
our senior year in high
school, and now we're both
freshmen in college.
Recently, my girlfriend went
to a party with friends, and
afterward expressed that she
felt left out because her
friends were dancing with
other guys while she was
unable to.

She asked if we could be
in an open relationship so
she could experience
"college life" while still
keeping our relationship
intact. I agreed, as long as
she kept me informed about
what she was doing with
other guys. Fast forward a
few days, and she tells me
that she danced with
and made out with some 25-
year-old guy (we're both
18) at a party after having
a few drinks.

I've told her that I feel
hurt, but she says making
out with me is different
because it expresses
love, while making out with someone
else is just an activity.
We've talked about the
possibility of breaking up,
but we would both prefer to
stay in the relationship and
somehow make it work.

I'm still very much in love
with her, and I don't want
this relationship to end. Any
advice would be
appreciated. — Confused
Freshman

Dear Con: For your well-
being and hers, both of you
should date others so you
will have some basis for
comparison, and this girl
clearly wants to experience
what she thinks of as
"college life." Young people
should not have to work at a
romantic relationship.

If I were you, I would drop
the condition of getting
reports on what she's doing
with other guys because,
one, it's not your business
and, two, it will not do your
head any good.

And take it from your old
auntie: Classifying making
out with the designated
boyfriend as expressing love
but merely "an activity"
with other people sounds
like a bit of a line. — Margo,
analytically

OF MEMORY AND MEMORIES

Dear Margo: My mother
now lives in an assisted-
living facility. She lost her
ability to manage her day-
to-day affairs and also seems to
have lost quite a bit of her
memory. She will be 82
shortly and still believes
that her parents are alive.
(The most recent loss was 25
years ago.)

I live closest to her and
see her on a regular basis,
and also bring her over to
my house for short day
trips. Mom had been living
in a condo after downsizing
from a rather large family
property that had been her
home for almost 50 years.
The condo was sold recently,
and my brother and I (the
only children) put the
remaining furniture into
storage. I brought some
pieces to my house.

Mom thinks she is just
staying at a hotel now and
will be going home soon.
Some days she insists that
the furniture in her room
belongs to the "hotel." When
she comes to visit, what
should we say if she should
notice I have the sofa,
loveseat, cut glass, etc., that
were in her condo?

My sister-in-law thinks
Mom won't remember. I say
that if she does remember, I
am in a jam. I don't want to
upset Mom or lie to her.
What to do? — Hoping for
the Best

Dear Hope: I think your
sister-in-law is right, and,
also, it sounds as if your
mother's memory loss is on
the fast track. If she does
notice objects that look
familiar and asks about
them, you can gently say,
"Yes, Mom, they are just
like yours." No involved
explanation necessary.

The good thing about
short-term memory loss is
that your mother won't
remember she asked the
question, and she won't
remember the answer
either. That is the merciful
side to this heartbreaking
disease. — Margo,
acceptingly

WHEN A TEENAGER IS OFF THE RAILS

Dear Margo: When my
daughter was 14 she met a
boy who, by his own
admission, belonged to a
gang and had committed
several crimes. She became
totally enamored of him and
"fell in love." I believed she
was too young to have a
boyfriend and forbade her to
see him outside of school,
where I had no control.

She is now 16, and we
have moved 900 miles away.
She calls him every night at
9:01 without fail. A few
nights ago, she finally went

to a school function. (She
had been refusing to
participate, saying she was
not comfortable and didn't
have any friends.) The event
did not end until 9:30. As
soon as she got out, she
immediately tried to call
him. He refused to answer
the phone.

When she finally got ahold
of him, he told her he was
through with her because
she was cheating on him,
didn't really love him, etc.
He breaks up with her over
the phone or e-mail at least
once a month. She cries and
calls him constantly,
begging him to take her
back. No matter where we
are or what we are doing,
she leaves to call him at
exactly 9:01.

We have tried counseling,
but she lies, so that has not
helped. She has goals for her
future, such as college. I
asked how this gangster fit
into her plans, and she acted
like she didn't understand
the conflict. I told her that
her attraction to "wounded
birds" will only end in
misery.

My daughter admits she
just isn't attracted to "good
guys" because they don't
need her like the hurt ones
do. I'm at my wits' end. I
don't want her to run away
to be with this jerk, but I
don't want her to hate me,
either. Do you have any
advice for me? — Mom

Dear Mom: A "wounded
bird," huh? This kid sounds
more like a jailbird in the
making. Your daughter
needs to understand that a
criminal gang member is
not a candidate for her
makeover and that you, as
her mother, are forbidding
her to have any further
contact with him.

Just for good measure,
YOU might call him at 9:01
and tell him to find someone
new as the sometime object
of his affections, because
you are putting a stop to
this folie a deux.

Tell your daughter that as
long as she's living under
your roof, your rules
prevail. If by some
unfortunate chance she does
run away to be with him,
she will be back. — Margo,
strictly

WHEN YOUR M-I-L IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERT

Hi, Margo: I was divorced
and recently got married for
the second time, so I am not
unaware of how the in-law
relationship is supposed to
work. The problem is that
my new mother-in-law
thinks she knows
everything and always has
to be right.

If something is mentioned
at a family function, she
always has her two cents to
put in, and if the story is
not exactly the way she sees
it, she corrects whoever is
talking. I dread going to
family functions.

I have never been
confrontational, but now
find myself constantly on
guard. I am even beginning
to feel good when I prove
her wrong! What can I do? I
have spoken to my husband
about it, and he just says,
"When is my mother going
to learn?" That's all the
input I get from him.

She literally is the mother-
in-law from "Everybody
Loves Raymond." Please
help. — At a Loss for Words

Dear At: Your husband's
question is interesting, and
here's the answer: She is
never going to learn because
this has been her pattern
for, what, 40 years? Fifty
years?

Your husband's response
reveals a couple of things.
He is supportive of you,
annoyed with her and
understands there is
nothing he can do about her.
You need to learn this, as
well. I call your m-i-l's
personality type "The
World's Greatest Expert,
and you can either take her
on or do a mental "la la la"
when she shares her
superior insights. — Margo,
tactically

Dear Margo is written by
Margo Howard, Ann
Landers' daughter. All
letters must be sent via e-
mail to
dearmargo@creators.com.

Due to a high volume of e-
mail, not all letters will be
answered.
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ANSWERS

8	3	1	2	9	5	7	6
9	7	4	6	8	5	2	3
2	6	5	7	3	1	8	4
6	9	3	5	7	8	1	2
4	2	7	9	1	3	6	8
5	1	8	2	6	4	3	9
1	5	9	3	4	2	7	6
3	4	6	8	5	7	9	1
7	6	2	1	9	6	4	5

WEDNESDAY

Table with 28 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various programs and their genres.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DO YOU HAVE ANY NON-ACTIVE WEAR?!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"They must be some of that music he doesn't like."

HAGAR



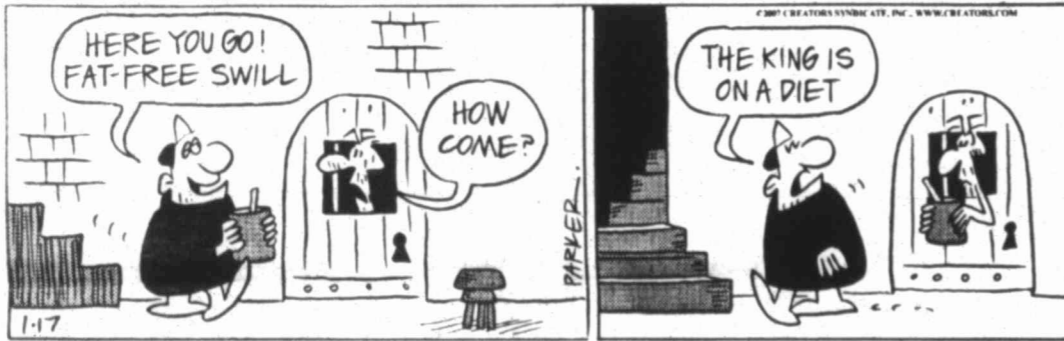
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2007. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 17, 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II.

On this date: In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate.

In 1917, the United States paid Denmark \$25 million for the Virgin Islands.

In 1919, pianist and statesman Ignace Jan Paderewski became the first premier of the newly created republic of Poland.

In 1945, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1961, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower warned against the rise of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1966, a U.S. Air Force B-52 carrying four unarmed hydrogen bombs crashed on the Spanish coast. (Three of the bombs were quickly recovered, but the fourth wasn't found until April.)

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1994, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people and causing \$20 billion in damage.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 85. Singer-actress Eartha Kitt is 80. Actor James Earl Jones is 76. Talk show host Maury Povich is 68. Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer

William Hart (The Delfonics) is 62. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 54. Singer Steve Earle is 52. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 48. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 45. Rapper Kid Rock is 36. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 32. Actress Zooey Deschanel is 27. Singer Ray J is 26. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 25.

Thought for Today: "If there is one basic element in our Constitution, it is civilian control of the military." — President Truman (1884-1972).

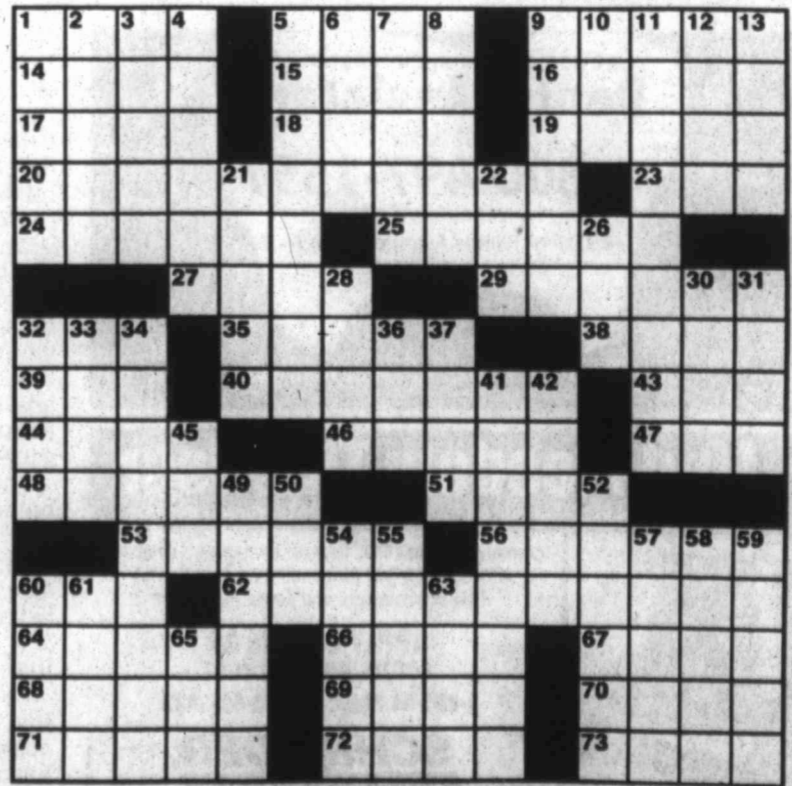
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Answer to previous puzzle: OMEN SWAP SEDAN MAIRE WADE TAUPE EZRA ERIC ATSEA GEORGE MEANY TISP ASLEEP UNUSED ALG BREWET TIGERS ALG BREWET NAVAL GOOD PEAR DIVA OGLED PROSE LET GOFIAT STELL FIFINALS CAUSED LEI GILAMONSTER IDEAL ALAN TORE FENCE MOLD ELIA ENDED ANTS REED

Newsday Crossword

FARM FRESH by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Foray, 5 Injure, as a toe, 9 Spanish hero, 14 Tickle Muppet, 15 a soul, 16 Sculptor's subject, 17 Lunch date, for one: Abbr., 18 Airline to Tel Aviv, 19 Make aware, 20 Chef's natural strainer, 23 Beast of burden, 24 Lengthen or take in, 25 Continuous flow, 27 Strong craving, 29 Votes to approve, 32 Sleep-study acronym, 35 Persian Gulf resident, 38 Angler's purchase, 39 New Haven collegian, 40 In the beginning, 43 Set price, 44 Friend in war, 46 Instruct, 47 Provided with nourishment, 48 Provocative challenge, 51 Bon mot, 53 Elfin creatures, 56 Share a bedtime story with, 60 CCCX quintupled, 62 Nervousness, so to speak, 64 Persian Gulf resident, 66 Mata, 67 Alexei Karenin's wife, 68 Whiny, 69 A Great Lake, 70 Furniture wood, 71 Reply to "Who's there?", 72 Tear, 73 First name in household humor, 9 Engraved with acid, 10 Bud's comedy partner, 11 Choice used car, 12 Egyptian goddess, 13 Puts on, 21 "The March King", 22 La-la preceder, 26 "You've got mail" letters, 28 Clump of feathers, 30 Orchard component, 31 30 Down source, 32 Printer-paper unit, 33 First name in scat, 34 Collectibles-guide chapter heading, 36 Conk out, 37 Baghdad's land, 41 Scampered, 42 Larcenous one, 45 Longing, 49 Calder specialty, 50 Flightless bird, 52 Roof of the mouth, 54 Obsolete anesthetic, 55 Gaze, 57 Railroad-inspired eatery, 58 Coffee-break time, 59 Third-largest Japanese city, 60 Short skirt, 61 "Dam it!", 63 Moran of Happy Days, 65 '60s war zone



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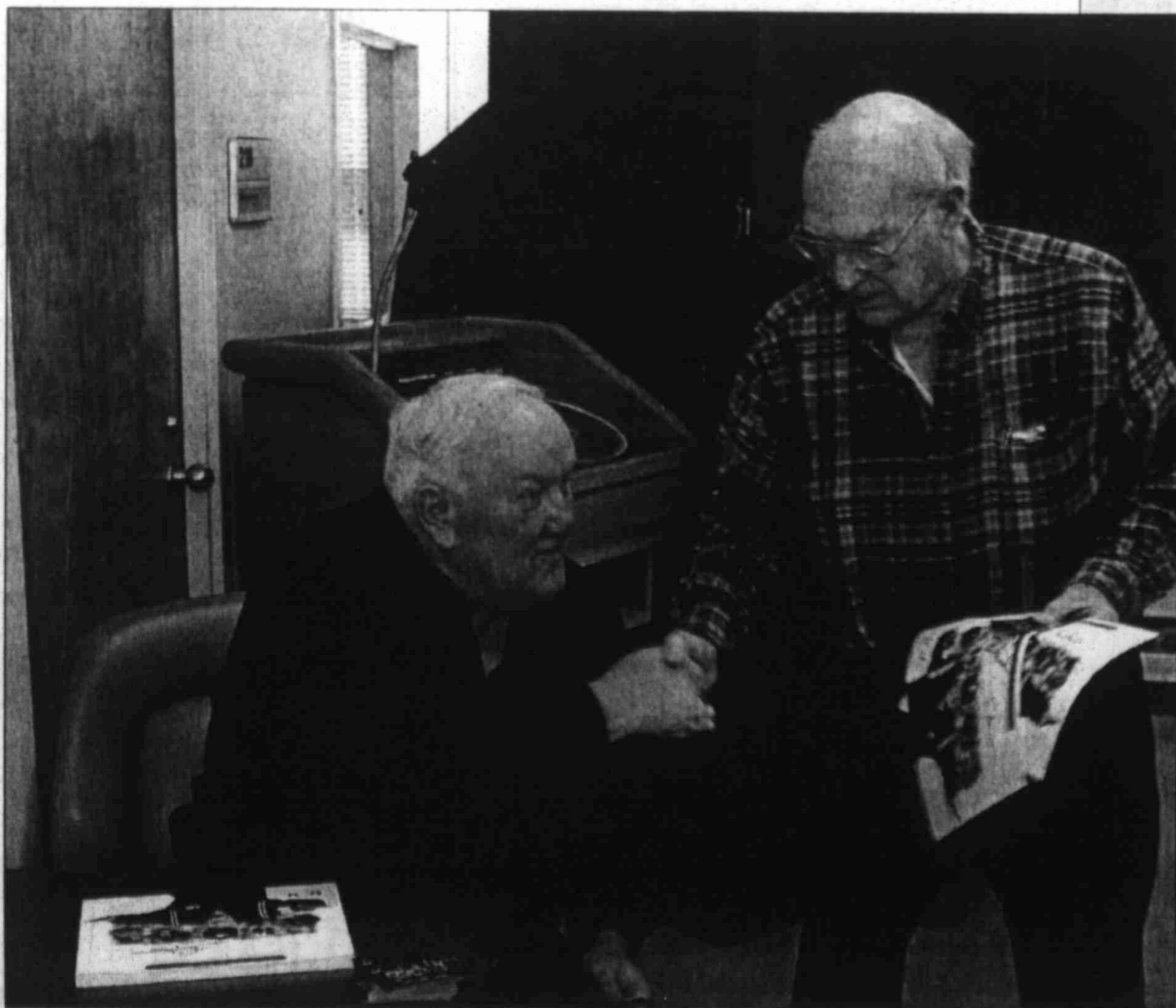
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Help Wanted

A GROWING local home health agency is looking for PRN RNs to do home visits in Big Spring and surrounding areas. Per visit pay and mileage reimbursement. Please come by and fill out an application. Interim HealthCare, 1714 Gregg Street. EOE.

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:
* Crew Technician
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

BOOKKEEPER/ TAX PREPARER needed for local accounting firm. Computer and tax experience skills a necessity. Apply in person at 307-C West 16th, Big Spring.

CARPENTER NEEDED. Call 432-263-6292.

CLINE CONSTRUCTION is looking for the following: Experienced Aerial Construction Workers Non-Electrical, Aerial Construction Ground Helper, also Laborers, Concrete Workers, Plant Hands. Please come by 1807 NE. FM 700 to pick-up an application or call 432-267-6006.

COME JOIN our friendly team at Kate's Fina Mart. Good benefits. Now hiring full & part time. Apply at 1100 N. Lamesa Hwy.



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SERVERS & COOKS NEEDED.
All shifts available
Apply at:
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E.O.E.

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DISHWASHER WANTED. Full time, fast paced environment in retirement community. Must relocate to Midland, TX. Great benefits. Background check. Starting pay, \$10. hr. (432)682-5772.

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Need a job today? Come by a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. We pay competitive hourly wages & put cash in your pocket daily! Working for the other guys? Bring our experience over to Domino's Pizza and get paid top dollar. Part time and full time positions available. Need day hours? Need night hours? We have all shifts available. We work with ALL types of schedules. Senior citizens, college students and homemakers encouraged to apply. **Apply now and get hired on the spot (some restrictions apply). Mention this ad on your application and get free gas!**
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END YOUR DAY MAKING EXTRA MONEY! Work 5:30 p.m.-Midnight two days per week at Jack & Jill Child Care. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

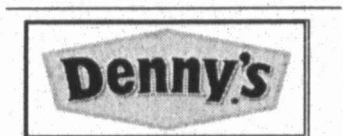
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3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!
Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50, increasing to \$14.25 upon successful completion of 6 months probation. Outstanding benefits include paid Health, Dental & Vision insurance premiums and unlimited advancement. Must be 18yrs old, pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.
Opportunity is a call away!
Call Don Hood @ 432-263-2366
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

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NURSES UNLIMITED, INC. Needs Attendants to assist with personal care, meal prep. and light housekeeping. Part time. Call Aurora M-Th. 8-5, Fri. 8-12, 1-800-458-3257. E.O.E.

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Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Looking for reliable and caring CNA's to join our team. Apply at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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Now hiring for Charge Nurse 2-10 shift. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, TX 79720.

PART TIME clerical worker for busy office, 9:30 to 3:30 Monday through Friday. Phone, computer and customer service skills required. Send resume to P.O. Box 2157, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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Wanted only the top 10%.
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City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
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THE MARTIN County Hospital District of Stanton is seeking a Physician Assistant for employment in a Rural Health Clinic. Please contact Paul McKinney, CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or call (432)756-3345.

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Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Help Wanted

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Girls: Birth-11mo, 12-23mo, 2-3yr, 4-6yr, 7-9yr, 10-12yr, 13-15yr, 16 up. Boys: 0-23 mos & 2-3 yrs
Over 2 MILLION \$\$\$ in cash and prizes awarded yearly! Qualify today to win a \$10,000.00 bond at 2007 finals.
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10:00 AM	Water Aerobics	Water Aerobics		Water Aerobics	
11:00 AM	Water Arthritis		Water Arthritis		Water Arthritis
5:20 PM	Water Aerobics	Water Aerobics		Water Aerobics	
5:30 PM		Pilates		Spin	

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1507 AUSTIN. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$325, \$150 deposit. Call (432) 263-1792 or 816-9984.

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

608 HOLBERT, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Required one year lease, application, references, first & last months rent, \$475.00 month. Contact information at location.

712 GOLIAD. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$550. month, +deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

FOR LEASE 207 North Gregg, 40x100 Building with offices. \$600.00 Month plus deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

Real Estate for Rent
FOR LEASE: Large Building. Beautiful Location. Perfect for Home Health or Medical Supply Company/ Store. Call (432)263-4528 or 296-0277.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN One bedroom + upstairs studio. Near Church/ Grocery. Central air, refrigerator/ stove. Smoking/ pets prohibited \$285. Credit/ background check required. McDonald 432-263-7615 or 263-4835.

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

2600 CARLETON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Central H/A, clean, new fence, & covered carport. Corner lot, quiet neighborhood, a must see. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688 for more info.

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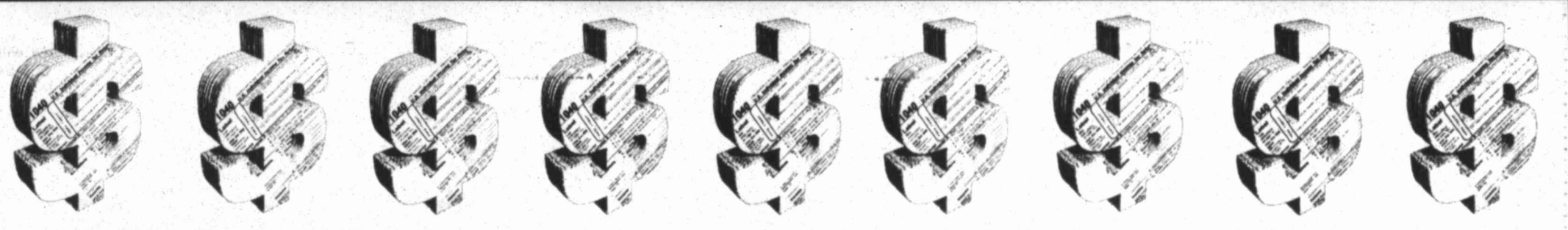
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The Key To Success In 2007



A Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald, Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

Together, we can make a real difference in 2007

Take Action in 2007! That is what everyone in our communities needs to do this year.

You ask, what does that mean? It means get involved! Volunteer on the many projects we have going on in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan and surrounding areas. Volunteers are what make a community a better place and what keeps the many projects happening!

Several community leaders got together to make up the VA Task Force Committee and with all their hard work and commitment to our Veterans and our VA Hospital, they did it! Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson came to Big Spring to deliver the great news. It was a grand day in Big Spring. This is what

happens when you work together as a team for your community.

Several citizens took action and purchased several of the buildings downtown. Kudos to them, they want a better Big Spring and they have taken that first step. Thank you!

The Settles Hotel looks like it will be brought back to life. Many thanks to Mayor Russ McEwen, the City of Big Spring and Mr. Brent Ryan, who are working together to make this a reality, and for their efforts to continue to renovate the downtown area.

Many of us who attended the Vaughan Grisham conference came away with so many ideas; now we are



Chamber Of Commerce

trying to put some of those ideas into play.

Coahoma and Forsan have put together their own RCCI groups and have done a lot for their communities.

The Chamber hopes to take some ideas from the Leadership Programs from Morrilton and Tupelo and implement them into our program. Let's keep up the momentum.

The Chamber works close with many entities, such as the city of Big Spring, CVB, Howard County, Howard College, Moore Development and many more, but one group who accommodated us graciously in 2006 was the Howard County Fair Association.

The Ag Expo & Appreciation Luncheon was held in conjunction with the fair and it was a good thing. We hope to continue that partnership along with the many others. The sponsors that we have had throughout the year have been many, many Chamber members who not only see it as promoting their business, but

they want for the project to continue and make it better every year.

Thank you to all the Chamber members who contributed their time and money towards all of our projects in 2006. Because without them we could not get it done.

A very special thanks goes to outgoing Chamber president Virginia Belew for her guidance, support and friendship. We have both had a trying year personally and throughout the year we have leaned on each other for that extra support.

Her goal was to focus on the Chamber as a whole and the needs of members, and with her direction, we did just that.

To our members and the many volunteers who continue to give me their support and encouragement, thank you. And please, if you have any suggestions or ideas that you want us to try to implement, our doors are always open. Come by and let's talk about it.

To my assistant, Nancy

January 17, 2007

Newell, where would I be without you? You have been my right and left hand. Thank you!

I look forward to working with incoming president Lee George and the entire Board of Directors in 2007. The Chamber always focuses on its members. We have come up with more incentives for our new members and we will be offering educational seminars and ways to get businesses to network with each other.

We continue to ask that you take action and get involved with your Chamber of Commerce and your community.

Remember, it is not what your Chamber can do for you; it is what can all of us do together to better our businesses and communities.

Debbye Valverde is Executive Director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at 263-7641, or by e-mail at debbyev@big-springchamber.org



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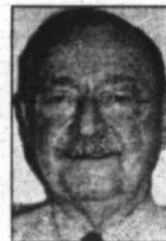


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We're ready to start another successful Chamber experience

From Lee George, president of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for 2007.

For decades, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has fulfilled its mission of promoting the welfare and interest of local businesses and merchants. This, in turn, addresses the interest and welfare of its citizens.



Over the years, we have faced many challenges. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and its members have never failed to meet these challenges head on.

We have memories of these challenges and of the hard-working people who have met them. Most were members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

The board of directors are people who are involved in many other areas of our community. That is why they are on the board. If you need something done, find a busy person to get it accomplished. This year's board of directors is an example.

Terri Johansen is the vice president for Business Development. Terri will have the help

and support of Lynda Elrod, Gale Pittman and Steve Herren.

This year we hope to bring to the attention of our customers the investments the local merchants and businesses have in our community.

They support local sports teams, church activities and area fundraisers of every kind. Terri and her committee will be responsible for Business After Hours; it is a good networking tool for anyone.

They also bring seminars to Big Spring to help business continue training owners and employees. I'm sure Terri and her co-chairs will find even more to do throughout the year.

Justin Myers will be the vice president for Community Development. This committee is responsible for many projects.

The Ambassadors are just one. When you open your business or join the Chamber, they are there to welcome you. Community Development includes the annual banquet and Ag Expo, which is headed by the very capable Ronnie Wood.

Another important event every year is the Health Fair, which is taken care of by Amber Rich and Nancy Jones. Justin will also oversee Leadership Big Spring and Joann Knox is the skills coordinator. Under Community Development is Senior Leadership, taken care of by Nancy Jones and Shannon Nabors.

With all of that, Justin may have one more event this year. Watch for details to come.

Janice Bishop moved from Membership to Cultural Development this year. Yes, we have plenty of culture in Howard County. She will be helped by Debbie Wegman and Skip

Burcham. They will be keeping us informed of all that is going on in the Big Spring area.

This year they plan to showcase some of our local talent as well as continuing to support the local symphony, museum and art shows and other cultural festivals and events that occur in our backyard.

If you are going to have an event open to the public, let them know — they will be sure to get it on the Calendar of Events.

Michael Downes is the vice president for Governmental Development. He will be helped by George Parsley, Bill Crooker and Scott MacKenize.

This committee watches for legislation that affects us and lets us know the effects it could have on our community.

The big event this year will be Big Spring Day in Austin on March 7. Make plans to attend. With a showing like we have had in the past, it will be hard for Austin to forget we are here.

It is a pleasure, but also a little frightening, to be following in the footsteps of the past presidents of the Chamber of Commerce.

Virginia Belew did an outstanding job last year.

I hope to have the support and participation of each member of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and especially the members of the board of directors.

The job couldn't be done without the hard work of our staff — Odell Missildine at the front desk, our newest staff member, Executive Assistant Nancy Newell, and Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

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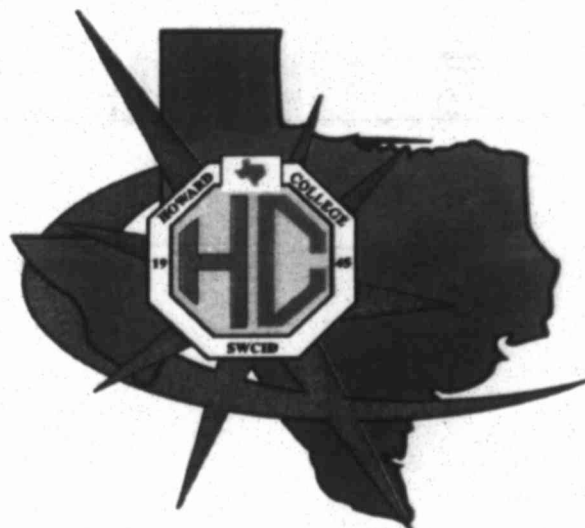
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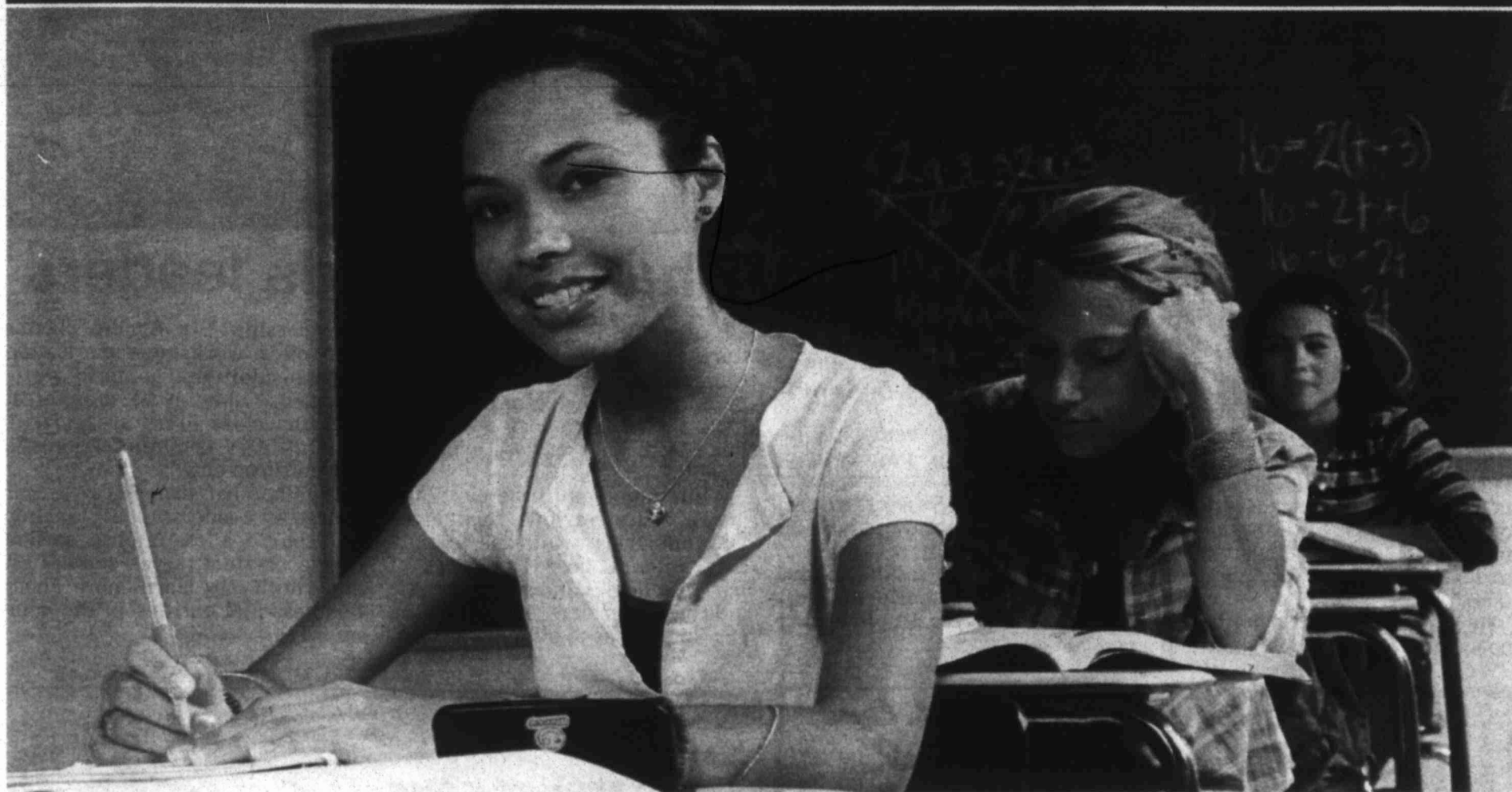
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He's been doing his daily program for more than 35 years, and in doing so, says he has gathered the largest private collection of oral history in the United States. According to Texas Highways Magazine, Tumbleweed has probably recorded the voices of more Texas characters than anyone else.

The native Texan teaches broadcasting and speech at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and is a syndicated newspaper columnist. His three one-man shows have been performed all over Texas, in six other states and in three foreign countries.

He graduated from Baylor with a bachelor's degree in English and



earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. He also studied law at Drake University.

Tumbleweed owns an advertising and production company and has won international recognition for

his work. His honors include two CLIO advertising awards, the governor's award for tourism, the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement Award and two Freedoms Foundation Awards.

He has also been active in his community and is past district governor of Rotary International.

He and his wife Susan have two sons, two daughters-in-law and four grandsons.

Through his radio show, columns and performances, Tumbleweed leaves people feeling good about Texas.



Chamber builds leaders

Leadership Big Spring 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.

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.

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 business and entities in the community.

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Facts you need to know

What is a chamber of commerce?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce: 1) it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and 2) it renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and to the area as a whole.

How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their choice.

The goal of the program of work is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the

economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed to work on active committees to get the job done.

Who is the chamber?

Members — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.

Board of directors — Elected by the membership, these individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber. Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board decisions.

Officers — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The officers provide direction and leadership to the board.

Staff — The executive vice president is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for

employing and managing the staff.

Committees — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

What are the benefits?

— Refers businesses to visitors and callers,

— Helps promote businesses with 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,

— Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information and networking,

— Offers support and awareness of all areas of art,

— Works to increase growth of tourism in Howard County and support local attractions and events,

— Advertises businesses in the membership directory,

— Works with city, county Moore Development and other entities for the betterment of the community,

— Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings,

— Offers promotion and links to business through a Web site.

Membership investment

Membership investment for small businesses is \$250 per year.

For more information

The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or, to learn more about the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, contact Debbye ValVerde at (915) 263-7641 or write P.O. Box 1319.



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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 par-

ticular business but also allows merchants, civic leaders and others 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 Ag-Expo, community luncheons, workshops, seminars, 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.



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