



## What he said

On the hurricane survivors...

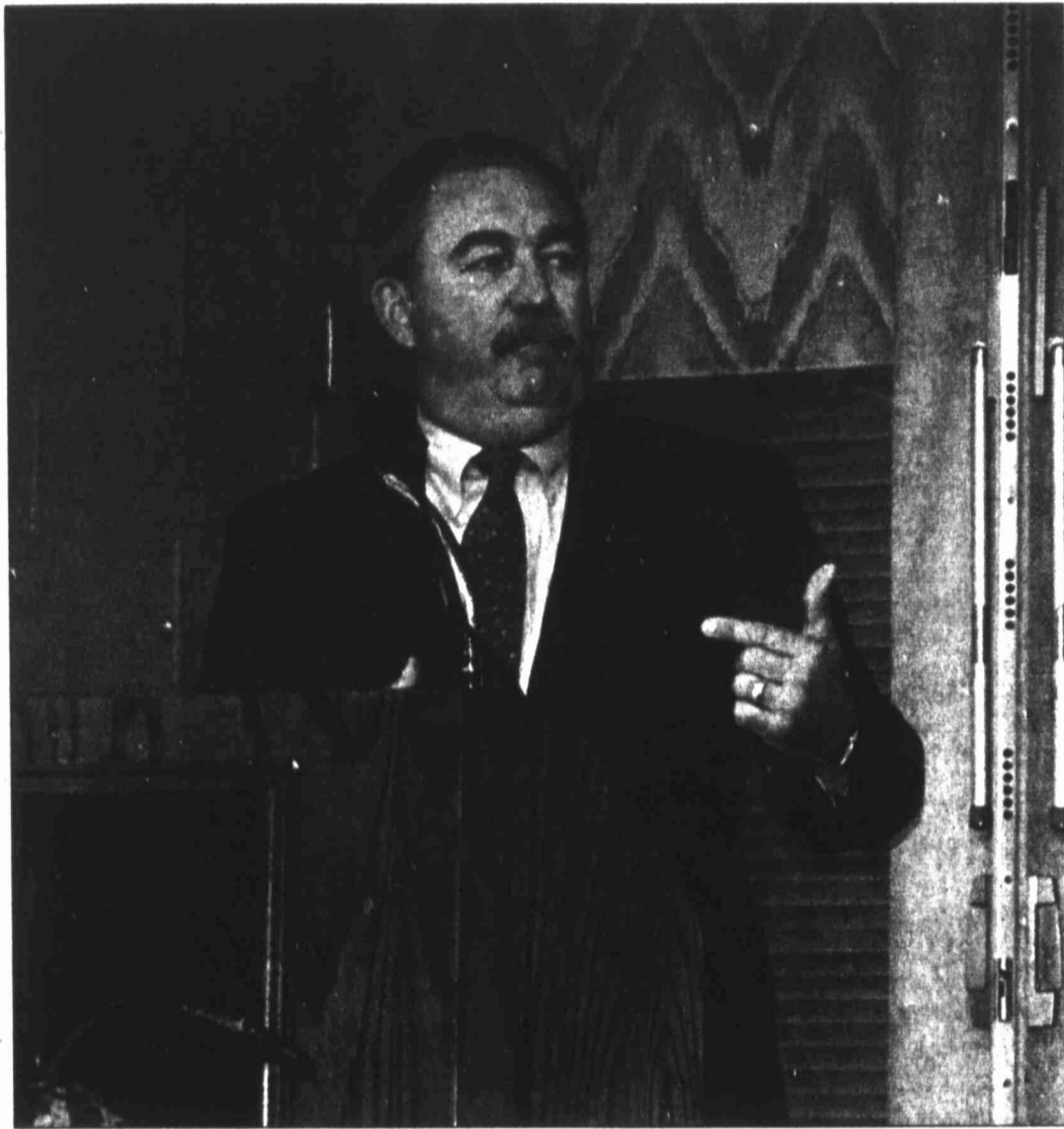
**"We were ready for them, and that task is impossible. It can't be done, and we did it."**

On the jail issue...

**"My hope is that we can all take a step back, put personalities aside and make sure we're doing what is best for the taxpayers of Howard County."**

On citizen responsibility...

**"I close today by asking each and every one of you, what are you going to do to make Big Spring all it can be?"**



Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen recalls 2005 and explains his vision for 2006 during Tuesday afternoon's Community Luncheon at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

## Mayor says city's future is 'up to us'

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

"We are on the cusp of greatness. How this plays out is up to us."

That's the message delivered Tuesday afternoon by Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, as he gave the State of the City Address during the annual Community Luncheon, organized by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. McEwen took a look back at many of the events of 2005 during the presentation, hitting on some of the high — and low — points of the past year.

"Last year, the Dora Roberts Foundation funded a pilot program to get rid of dilapidated and abandoned buildings,"

said McEwen. "Last year, 20 buildings were removed from our community, and that's paying dividends for us. Our city looks better... And we'll continue that, as the funds have been provided for this year."

"The citizens of Howard County continue to fight hard for the VA Hospital," he added. "There was a task force formed and they gave testimony at the LAP (local advisory panel) meeting last September. And what was so amazing about it is they were heard so loud and clear, that it became part of the report we had. Now that is being proactive on an issue where you can sit back and be reactive."

See MAYOR, Page 3A

## Developer won't pursue Settles renovation

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

The only down note to an otherwise upbeat State of the City address was the announcement that a California-based land developer has decided not to pursue renovation of Big

Spring's Settles Hotel.

During his address Tuesday, Mayor Russ McEwen said the city has terminated its agreement with Evos Homes because the developer decided renovation of the historic hotel was not feasible at this time.

The city council voted by a

narrow margin in June to finance a number of studies to determine the viability of turning the Settles into a home for retail businesses and low income housing.

McEwen said termination of the agreement, which would have cost the city a maximum

of \$55,000, was mutually agreed upon.

"They (recently) let us know they didn't think the plan was economically feasible," McEwen said. "I called (Evos' director) a few days later and ... asked them if they wanted to terminate the agreement, and

they said they did."

Back in June, McEwen considered the contract a risk worth taking, an opinion he continued to hold Tuesday.

"It was their opinion that they just didn't have the cash flow necessary for the project," he said.

## Council approves pacts with Siemens, CRMWD

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved first reading of a resolution that will enable the municipality to enter into an energy conservation agreement with corporate giant Siemens Building Technologies, one that could save the city more than \$5 million.

The council — with District 1 Councilwoman Stephanie Horton not present — voted unanimously to authorize Mayor Russ McEwen to execute a performance contracting agreement with Siemens Technology. The council also gave a unanimous nod to a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement, an escrow agreement and related instruments, con-



Nobles

stituting the financial side of the program.

The program — which uses funds saved through energy conservation to pay for improvements to city structures — is expected to save the city approximately \$5.6 million over the next 15 years.

"This allows the city to improve its buildings — meaning lighting, air conditioning and water meters — without the need to increase capital or budget. Without having to raise tax rates, raise water rates. We're doing it all out of your current operating budget," said Chad Nobles, an account executive with Siemens. "The beauty of

the process is we guarantee you, as a city, the results. If we don't make those savings that we promised here today then we have to cut the city a check for the difference."

McEwen said he's excited with the project and what it could mean for the city.

"It's great to be able to go into things we need to do in the city of Big Spring and not have to go back to the taxpayers and tell them they have to fund it," said McEwen. "We're going to be able to fund these projects through savings and increase revenues that we should have been collecting."

Also in the realm of conservation, the council gave final approval to a resolution that will give

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

## FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Herald file photo

The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home will celebrate its five-year anniversary Friday, March 24, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. State and local dignitaries will be present for the event, which is open to the public. Following comments and other activities, the public may tour the facility — one of six state veterans homes in Texas.

## Trustees expected to approve calendar

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to approve a calendar for the 2006-07 school year when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday at the high school board room.

The calendar trustees are expected to OK includes an earlier-than-usual start date, a two-week break for the



Downes

Christmas holiday and an end to the school year by Memorial Day.

Trustees recently sought and received a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to start the new school year Aug. 14, a week before state guidelines.

Superintendent Michael Downes said. The early start date will

allow the district to end the first semester before students break for the Christmas holiday, as well as making time for a week-long Spring break in March and one-day observances of Labor Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day and Good Friday.

The proposed calendar also calls for classes to let out for summer on May 24, with high school graduation following the next day.

Teachers will precede students to class with a week of in-service training beginning Aug. 7.

Also Thursday, trustees will consider a change in policy regarding how many days of school a student can miss because of extra-curricular activities.

Downes said BSISD currently allows students to miss 12 days of classes

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## Obituaries

## Dixie O'Briant Townzen



Dixie O'Briant Townzen, 75, of Midland, died Monday, March 13, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 16, 2006, at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel in Stanton with the Rev. Bob Porterfield officiating.

The family will receive friends and relatives today, March 15, 2006, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

The family suggests memorials made to the Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702.

She was born Feb. 28, 1931, in Roby.

Dixie attended Stanton schools and attended Howard County Junior College. She owned and operated the Music Box along with other businesses.

She was a member of the American Legion and Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include her daughter, Danon Kaler of Midland; two grandsons, Jesse Caddell and Joseph Caddell, both of Midland; one great-grandson, Ridge Wayne Simmons Caddell of Abilene; her brother and sister-in-law, Milton "Rip" and Juanita Lewis of Big Spring; several nieces and nephews; and her sweetheart, Arnold Pillows of Midland.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Reba Johnson, Joyce Wells, Marion Enfield and one brother, Cody O'Briant.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

## G.T. Warren

G.T. Warren, 87, of Odessa passed away Thursday, March 9, 2006, at his residence.

He was born Sept. 8, 1918, in Eula to Grace Howell and M.S. Warren.

During his early years, G.T. worked for Wasson Clothing, Lincks Foods and Cash Wholesale in Big Spring. He moved to San Diego, Calif., in 1941 and worked on B-24 bombers for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation.

He married Marie Beasley, his high school sweetheart, in Yuma, Ariz., Dec. 7, 1941. They were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Lynda in February of 1944.

G.T. entered the U. S. Army in September of 1944. He was assigned to the 7th Army, 3rd Infantry Division as a machine gunner and fought throughout France, Germany and Austria.

He was wounded at the Comar Pocket in France and received numerous awards before returning to Abilene in 1947.

They were blessed with a second child, Terry in 1948 while G.T. worked for West Texas Wholesale Supply as a warehouse manager. In 1952, they moved to Odessa and G.T. continued to work as a sales representative in the West Texas and New Mexico territory.

In 1978, G.T. and Marie moved to Ruidoso, N.M. He retired in 1988. They moved back to Odessa to be near their kids and families in 2002.

Preceding him in death are his parents, brothers, Carlos and Curtis and sisters, Estaleen Rice and Leta Metcalf.

G.T. is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Marie; daughters, Lynda Fournier and husband, Jacques of Palm Beach, Fla.; son, Terry Warren and wife, Phillis of Odessa; grandchildren, Melissa Warren Weaver and husband, Lance of Lubbock and Russell Warren of Odessa; great-granddaughter, Amie Weaver; brothers, Dr. Charles Warren and wife, Shirley of Big Spring and Billy Warren of Dallas; sister, Wanda Erickson of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews; and special dog, Max.

The family wants to thank Dr. Patel, RN Jennifer, charge nurse Susanne at Alliance Hospital and Rhonda, Kendra and Johnnie with Odyssey.

A private ceremony for the family will be held at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa.

*Paid obituary*

## Dixie Blissard Sims

Dixie Blissard Sims, 85, of Rayville, La., formerly of Big Spring, died March 9, 2006. Services were 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, 2006, at Rayville United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Freeland officiating. Interment followed in Rayville Masonic Cemetery.

She was born March 2, 1921. She was a member of Rayville United Methodist Church and the Something More Sunday school class and a former Miss Big Spring 1939.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Zola May Blissard; husband, DeSha Sims; daughter, Sherry Sims Williams; brother, Doris Blissard; and sister, Irene Deatheridge.

She is survived by her daughter, Jacklyn Sims Branch and her husband, Larry G. of Rayville, La.; a son, Hoytt DeSha Sims Jr. and his wife, Mary of Rayville, La.; son-in-law, Sam O. Williams of Rayville, La.; sisters, Betty Bain of Big Springs, and Joann Ridgway of Lubbock; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, La., St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or The Rayville United Methodist Church.

Arrangements were under the direction of Mulhearn Funeral Home in Rayville, La.

## Around Town

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

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

## Police blotter

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

• **STONEY CASSELMAN**, 44, 1601 Benton, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ADRIAN JEROME PERRY**, 38, no address given, was arrested on warrants from Collin and Dallas counties.

• **PHYLLIS ANNETTE MCGEE**, 45, 2412 Alabama, was arrested on capias warrants.

• **JASON HEYER NEUMAN**, 32, no address given, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1100 block of Goliad and the 2300 block of Wasson.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 300 block of 19th.

• **FRAUDULENT USE OR POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 600 block of Tulane.

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday:

• **THOMAS BRADLEY CATES**, 37, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of harassment and a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 5400 block of Opal Lane.

• **RECKLESS DRIVER** was reported on West Interstate 20.

## 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 700 block of Northwest Ninth. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported at U.S. Highway 87 and Angela Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 700 block of West Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Peters. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Northeast Second. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1800 block of Alabama.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 4000 block of Armstrong.

• **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell.

## Take note

• **ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION** at 6 p.m. Friday at the Eagle's Lodge, 703 W. Third. \$5 admission and food will be served until 8 p.m. Call 263-6862 for more information.

• **VICTIM SERVICES VOLUNTEER TRAINING BEGINS MONDAY** through March 25 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. These individuals assist victims of domestic crime as well as sexual assault. Volunteers carry pagers and work with law enforcement. For more information, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

• **AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY** begins at noon Saturday. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. Dine in or carry out available. \$7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• **UNITED WAY ANNUAL MEETING** is 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the Dora Roberts Community Center. New officers and board members will be installed. RSVP by March 14 to 264-5201.

• **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** for 21-month-old Madysyn Hillger, in care of her grandmother, Debra Hillger. Madysyn has been diagnosed with a rare neurological genetic disorder, Rett Syndrome. Donations will be applied to travel, medical and lodging expenses. For more information, call 264-7340 or 316-1024.

• **CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY**, a community-wide memorial service, is set for noon until 12:45 p.m. Wednesday at Comanche Trail Lake, presented by Odyssey Healthcare. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the Old Settler's Pavilion. Call 263-5999 for more information.

• **LIFE AFTER LOSS**, presented by Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., continues Monday and is scheduled for the next five weeks from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. each

## Bulletin board

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

## TODAY

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

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

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

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 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 Runnels.

• 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 Citizen's 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

• 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.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. North winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast in the afternoon.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy in the evening. Then mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the mid 40s. East winds around 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s. East winds around 15 mph.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.

## Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$56 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$42 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 27, 28, 30, 42 and 50. The Mega Ball number was 22.

\*\*\*

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-27-33-35-36.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

\*\*\*

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-1-1

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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"Remember...you deserve the best!"

## MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

McEwen also about the ongoing construction of the H College Performing Center and the effort to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, as well as the annual American C Society Relay for which has drawn accolades year after year.

According to McEwen, the high point for Big Spring 2005 came at some of the lowest points, as it scrambled to respond to the tragedy on the Coast and local of learned the city had passed over by the Air Force for a pilot training program.

"One of the great things that happened to us in the past year could have looked at as a failure if it wasn't," said McEwen. "Our community did that they were going to put a bid in for training for the Force, and we did it."

We came together and partnered with the Air Force. We came together and gave all that we possibly could. I before you today you left nothing on the table. It was all there we didn't get the job. However, we found what we, as a community can be because we came together.

"To this day, the things that I have been proud of (Hurricane Katrina) effort are overwhelming," said McEwen. "A lot of citizens got together the Friday before Day to put together an effort to help out the people. We didn't have Chalmet County. I never heard of Chalmet County, but guess Friday night we had our first meetings. Saturday night we bus loads of evacuees from Chalmet County were ready for the task that is impossible to be done, and it."

As McEwen has focused on 2005 to 2006, said one of the problems facing Big Spring and I County is one nationwide — voter turnout.

"We need to vote in great numbers," said McEwen. "Laura and I went to meet with national government officials."

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MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A

McEwen also spoke about the ongoing construction of the Howard College Performing Arts Center and the efforts of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, as well as the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which has drawn national accolades year after year.

According to McEwen, however, the highest point for Big Spring in 2005 came at some of its lowest points, as a nation scrambled to respond to the tragedy on the Gulf Coast and local officials learned the city had been passed over by the U.S. Air Force for a pilot training program.

"One of the great things that happened to us over the past year could be looked at as a failure, but it wasn't," said McEwen. "Our community decided that they were going to put a bid in for pilot training for the Air Force, and we did that. We came together and partnered with Boeing Aircraft. We came together and gave all that we possibly could. I come before you today to tell you we left nothing on the table. It was all there, and we didn't get the project. However, we found out what we, as a community, can be because we came together."

"To this day, the emotions that I have because of the (Hurricane Katrina) effort are overwhelming," said a glassy-eyed McEwen. "A group of citizens got together on the Friday before Labor Day to put together an effort to help out the evacuees. We didn't know Chalmet County. We had never heard of Chalmet County, but guess what? Friday night we had our first meetings, and Saturday night we got two bus loads of evacuees from Chalmet County. We were ready for them, and that task is impossible. It can't be done, and we did it."

As McEwen changed his focus from 2005 to 2006, he said one of the largest problems facing Big Spring and Howard County is one shared nationwide — voter apathy.

"We need to vote, and vote in great numbers," said McEwen. "When Laura and I went to Israel we met with national government officials over

there, and they were lamenting the fact that their voter turnout had gotten down to 90 percent... They were trying to figure out what to do to get their voter turnout up.

"We, as a country, go to the world and say, 'This is the way you should do it.' We are a democratic society, yet we really and truly set the poorest example of voter turnout. I talked to so many people in this last election, and they told me they didn't think they would vote now but they will vote in November. That's a sad commentary on who we are... Until we can get true voter turnout, we're not doing what we need to do as a community."

McEwen said a public vote on whether to transform the local economic development agency, Moore Development for Big Spring, from a 4-A to a 4-B taxing entity is also a vital part of the future.

The current struggle to design and construct a new county jail also weighed heavily in McEwen's view of 2006.

"It makes sense to have a jail instead of two jails. It just makes economic sense. Why would we not do this? Plans were studied and designs were come up with, and all of a sudden controversy hit, and we did not make a decision," said McEwen. "Guess what? Since the 1980s, that decision to make no decision has cost this community and this county millions of dollars. We are again faced with the prospect of building a jail that could be used by the county and the city to house their prisoners. The city can get out of the jail business."

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we need to get it right. No one has a monopoly on good or bad ideas. There are strong differences of opinion on this issue. I would like to be in the position to bring a proposal from the commissioner's court to the council that we look at a joint law enforcement facility. I don't know if it is financially feasible. I don't know if it's a good idea. That being said, it does not make sense not to look at every single alternative while we're looking at this issue. My hope is that we can all take a step back, put personalities aside and make sure we're doing what is best

for the taxpayers of Howard County... There should be no other agenda."

The recent announcement of a \$8 million downtown project funded by private investors will also play a large role in the future of Big Spring, according to McEwen.

"I know of no rural community with any vitality that hasn't revitalized itself from within. Downtown is the soul of a rural community, and when your soul dies, you die," said McEwen. "The one ingredient that has been missing is private investment."

News of the impending downtown development couldn't come at a better time, according to McEwen, who also announced that Evos Homes, the company that was under contract with the city of Big Spring to perform structural and environmental testing at the historic Settles Hotel, had recently pulled the plug on the agreement.

In the end, according to the Big Spring mayor, 2006 will be all about having the courage to make tough decisions.

"I come to you today at a time that is unique in all of our history," said McEwen. "We face critical decisions in the coming years that will shape the future of Big Spring and Howard County. In some cases we'll actually make a decision that will impact our future viability. In other cases we'll decide not to decide, and that is a decision also. We'll say it's too painful and too difficult, so we're not going to make that decision."

"Today I challenge you to consider decisions that need to be made and encourage you to thoughtfully consider all alternatives... There are no right or wrong answers. There are answers. We must not beat each other up. We must take the emotion out of it and make the decisions we need to, or we're doomed to failure."

"We are on the cusp of greatness. How this plays out is up to us," McEwen told the audience sternly. "I close today by asking each and every one of you, what are you going to do to make Big Spring all that it can be?"

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

Students spend spring break doing hurricane cleanup

BEAUMONT (AP) — Students with various church groups from around the state are spending their spring break this week in Southeast Texas helping with cleanup and rebuilding following Hurricane Rita.

While most of Megan Burne's friends are enjoying beach parties in Mexico, the 18-year-old high school senior from Fort Worth said she decided to spend her time painting a home in West Orange.

"It's not as much a relaxing time, but it feels right," Burne said.

Borne is one of about 80 volunteers from Baptist churches in Beaumont, Austin and Fort Worth who are repairing hurricane damaged homes this week.

Colleen and Debi Adair, mother and daughter, were grateful for the help in fixing their home.

"It means so much," said Debi Adair, a 49-year-old Orange County jailer. "It's really a boost to my faith. We've never met these people before, and here they are."

Showing some responsibility?

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) — Whoever broke retiree Charlotte Papenbrock's windshield has made her believe that Spring Breakers can be rowdy, but also genteel.

Papenbrock, a "Winter Texan" from Blue Springs, Mo., was dismayed to find that the rear windshield of her 2004 Buick was busted.

"Initially, I was upset," she said in

Tuesday's online edition of the Island Breeze. "It was really smashed in. There was glass everywhere."

She called police to report the crime, but in the end didn't need uniformed help.

The mysterious perpetrator, presumed to be a Spring Breaker, left \$200 worth of 20-dollar bills on the car's back seat, along with a note reading "Here you go. I'm sorry."

Papenbrock used the money to repair the windshield.

"Tell those kids I'm very proud and their mothers would be too," Papenbrock said.

Officials reviewing proposal

after management shake-up

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Tom Green County commissioners will take another look at a proposed faith-based prison after changes in the prison's management team.

County Judge Mike Brown said he still believes in the concept of a new 620-inmate prison in the San Angelo area, but said the plan has become "shakier."

The company selected to build the prison, Corrections Concepts Inc., replaced its chairman last week. Bill Robinson was reassigned to be the company's vice chairman, while Forrest E. Watson is taking over as chairman and chief executive officer.

Also, Jack Cowley, director of Alpha for Prisons and Re-Entry USA, said he will no longer work with Corrections Concepts and the county to select a warden.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

because of extra-curricular activities, a policy similar to those at Andrews, Lubbock Estacado and Wolfforth Frenship high schools, but considerably less than those at San Angelo Lake View and Plainview schools.

Downes would like to see the number of missed days allowed increase, primarily because of distances students have to travel to other schools.

"One of the problems is that our (UIL) district is so spread out, that our students who participate

in these events, especially at the sub-varsity level, will have to miss at least part of a school day," Downes said. "When you have to travel 147 miles like we do to Plainview, we're going to miss some classes."

Noting that district and state academic standards require students participating in extra-curricular activities to keep their grades at an acceptable level, Downes sees little trouble with extending the local policy.

"If the students are able to participate in multiple activities, and keep their grades up, they should be allowed to play."

In other business

Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Teacher contracts for the 2006-07 school year.
- Bids for athletic supplies and equipment.
- Enrollment report.
- Reports on the district's technology program, wellness program and athletic uniforms.

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

the Colorado River Municipal Water District first right of use for the city's effluent water, part of a district-wide reclamation project.

According to Todd Darden, director of public works, the water CRMWD is asking for rights to be currently being "thrown away" by the municipality.

"The purpose of this amendment is for each member city — Big Spring, Odessa and Snyder — to grant the district first right to use of

the city's surplus effluent water generated by each of city," said Darden.

"Big Spring's surplus effluent comes from our wastewater discharge at the treatment plant just off 11th Place and FM 700. Currently, we are permitted by the state to discharge all wastewater into Beals Creek, which is then diverted by the district into Evaporation Lake, which they call Red Draw, which part of the district's system."

"The water that could be reclaimed through Beals Creek alone amounts to 1.8 million gallons a day," John Grant, manager of CRMWD, recently

explained to the council. "All three projects would reclaim 12,000 acre-feet of water in a year."

The council also approved:

• Final reading of an agreement with the West Texas Water Ski Club.

• Emergency reading of an application to the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission for the Solid Wastes Grants Program.

• First reading of an agreement with Rick E. Boiles as Moss Lake caretaker.

• Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing an intensive archeological survey of Moss Creek Lake.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

### Commissioners need to regroup, get back on track

As Mayor Russ McEwen closed his State of the City Address Tuesday, he posed an important question — what are we going to do to make Big Spring all it can be? It's important that each of us ask ourselves that question or a question very similar: What can I do to positively impact this community and those around me?

The mayor, in his speech, listed projects where individuals and groups in Big Spring have done some wonderful things such as city beautification, reaching out to hurricane and cancer victims and standing strong on behalf of our veterans and the Veteran's Hospital. And he mentioned areas — voter apathy leaps to mind — where we need to improve.

Every time something positive has happened in this community, it is because people had a goal, worked together to overcome roadblocks and refused to give up.

Right now, there are roadblocks in front of the Howard County Commissioners Court as to how to go forward with a jail project. Each man and woman on the court knows that the issue will not go away. However, differences of opinion have stalled the issue. Outside parties have tried to influence those directly involved. And, it seems that not everyone is working from the same set of figures provided by architects, consultants and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

The mayor made a strong appeal Monday for those concerned to "take a step back, put personalities aside and make sure we're doing what is best for the taxpayers of Howard County."

He also encouraged commissioners to at least look at a jail project involving the city. It's something that gets mentioned, but keeps falling off the table before the city ever gets an opportunity to sit down for a discussion.

It's time for each member of the commissioner's court to ask themselves, what they can do to make Big Spring — and Howard County — "all that it can be," especially where the jail project is concerned. Then they should shake hands, roll up their sleeves and get to work in a positive and resourceful manner.

As for the rest of us, let's look to where we can do some good in our community. Then, let's resolve to do it.

## How To Contact Us

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## So you want to be a blacksmith?

John Frederick has a blacksmith shop just outside his house between New Summerfield and Jacksonville.

"We're 40 and plumb," says John, who wears a bowler hat and an old western shirt and vest. "We're 40 miles from nowhere, plumb in the middle of nothing and that's just really good."

John and his wife Polly live on land that's been in Polly's family for generations. There used to be a community nearby called Lone Star.

"It was a town called Skintight and in the 1860s or 70s they applied for a federal post office. The post office department said they couldn't use Skintight, so they named it Lone Star."

John has made a living as a blacksmith for more than 40 years,



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

creating everything from ornate staircase railings to jewelry.

"The secret to this is don't tell anybody what you're making before you get done, because if you tell them it's a widget and it comes out a widget then you've got a problem."

John is now teaching others how to do blacksmith work. In his classes, he tells students if they don't see color in the steel, quit hitting on it.

"It's too cold. It goes red, orange, yellow and white. It kinda gives you a range so you'll know how hot it is. Cherry red is 1,450 degrees and white heat is 2,500 or 2,600."

Students pay \$350 for a two-day class on either Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays. He shuts down his school after April because he says it's just too hot to work in a blacksmith shop during warm months.

"May through August you don't want to be in a blacksmith shop."

He starts his classes in September.

His students come from as far away as California and from all walks of life.

"We've had college professors, doctors, lawyers, police officers and a dentist. They build a fireplace poker, a heart trivet, a single tine barbecue fork with a twisted handle, a double tine fork, a railroad spike knife and a pair of blacksmith tongs. You're gonna work these two days. You're not going to lollygag around. The class is limited to four people. You take the projects home with you. Everybody gets a 32-ounce cross peen hammer that I set up for you in the shop. You take that home with you, too. It's a pretty good deal. If you don't like the blacksmithing, that's OK because you're gonna get two good home-cooked meals by my wife Polly."

John and Polly recently moved to the country from Hico, where they had a store and blacksmith shop. You can contact Frederick's Blacksmith School at 903 721-7962. The mailing address is RR5 Box 2088, Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

## Lock up the uranium — now!

Yammer all you want about who runs our ports. If you really want to keep an American city safe from a terrorist nuclear bomb, it's time to lock up the world's supply of highly enriched uranium. Fast.

Right now, piles of this stuff are sitting in about 40 different countries, sometimes protected by nothing more than a guard and a fence.

It only takes about 100 pounds of highly enriched uranium to make a bomb as powerful as the one at Hiroshima. And a 100-pound bomb, maybe the size of a computer, doesn't even have to pass through a port to get into the United States. It can be driven across the border in a minivan, or quietly rowed onto a deserted beach. So much for worrying about who's running the ports.

The Dubai debate "is kind of focusing on the last 15 minutes of the problem rather than the first 15," says William Hoehn, Washington office director for Ransac, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the control and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

"Securing material at its source is a lot easier than trying to recover material after it has been lost or stolen."

So why hasn't the United States been working to secure these stockpiles?

It has. It just hasn't been doing this fast enough, says Laura Holgate, who used to run the international weapons reduction program for the feds.

"The material [highly enriched uranium] is the one thing standing between terrorists and nuclear bombs," says Holgate, who is now vice president of the nonprofit Nuclear Threat Initiative.

"Setting up the bomb, transporting it and setting it off are all easy compared with just getting the raw material to begin with." And yet, she adds, the United States is only securing about three or four countries' stockpiles a year.

At this rate, it could take another 10 years before all the world's

nuclear material has been secured — 10 years during which the terrorists will be trying to get their hands on it.

Why can't we just go in and get it first? Well, part of the problem is that the government is not precisely sure where all of the uranium is, says Ransac's Hoehn. The other obstacle is simply this: political will.

To speed our global cleanup would require the kind of bipartisan outrage currently focused on port security.

Certainly, securing our ports is important because a bomb could pass through them. But securing the material to make those bombs is even more basic. And crucial.

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

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## Can't even win a war of words

"Together, America can do better." When you hear that, do you feel inspired?

I didn't think so. The Democratic Party's current slogan seems to be leaving most people cold. It apparently went down well in focus groups, but that's only because the focus groups probably consisted of the recently embalmed and the alternative slogan was "Together, America can achieve mediocrity."

Watching the Democrats stumbling around in search of a "message" is the only thing more agonizing than watching the Republicans destroy this country. Five years of Republican-controlled government have brought us an unwinnable war, a global reputation in tatters, incomprehensibly irresponsible fiscal policies, shameful neglect of our neediest citizens and a government incapable of coping with either natural disaster or terrorist threats.

Yet somehow the Democratic Party still can't do any better than "America can do better."

"You can do better" is what you say to a dim child whose grades were even worse than expected. Is this really the Democrats' message to the nation: that we don't need to be quite as pathetic as we now are, though excellence is certainly beyond our reach?

This slogan speaks not of hope but of hopelessness, of scaled-down ambitions, of dreams deferred and dreams denied.

It's the smallness of it that kills me. This nation began with a dream — a crazy, risky, breathtaking dream of freedom, justice and equality. Sure, we've never truly achieved that dream, but for much of the last century, it's been the Democratic Party that has helped keep that dream alive. So how can

it be that, today, Democrats don't seem to stand for anything at all?

Part of the problem is ambition and cowardice, which together make a lethal combination. Too many would-be Democratic leaders think that "playing it safe" is the way to go. They're fine with criticizing the administration, but the minute they take any flak themselves, they go scurrying back into their holes.

In place of a willingness to take risks and speak from the heart, they offer a craven and misguided dependence on polls, focus groups and "expert strategists."

Exhibit A for this was John Kerry's astonishing campaign-trail failure to stand up for his own anti-Vietnam War beliefs. As far as his campaign strategists were concerned, the only permissible references to Kerry and Vietnam were those lauding his military valor. But Kerry's worrisome inability to own his own past beliefs left even many Democrats queasy about his candidacy and rendered him vulnerable to Republican charges of hypocrisy and disingenuousness.

Had Kerry spoken out honestly and courageously instead of just playing games with flags and staged salutes at the convention, the smear campaign of Swift Boat Veterans for Truth would have gotten no traction and Kerry might be president.

So far, the Democratic Party seems to have learned little from Kerry's defeat. Hillary Clinton continues to parse her words on Iraq while saving her carefully calibrated enthusiasm for a ban on flag burning.

If Democrats really want a better message, they've got to stop being so technocratic and careful and

learn how to be passionate and brave. Of course, they need policies, but they also need a little poetry.

The irony is that for a brief moment in the summer of 2004, Kerry actually hit upon a decent campaign slogan: "Let America be America again," a phrase inspired by Langston Hughes' poem of the same name. But the right quickly attacked, using Hughes' 1930s flirtation with communism to discredit the poet, the poem and any phrases or sentiments inspired by it. The result? Kerry disowned the slogan as quickly as he had disowned his own past antiwar convictions.

But if the Democrats want a new slogan for 2006, they could do worse than rescue Hughes' poem from the scrapheap:

Let America be that great strong land of love. . . .  
O, let my land be a land where Liberty  
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,  
But opportunity is real, and life is free,  
Equality is in the air we breathe. . . .  
O, let America be America again  
—  
The land that never has been yet —  
And yet must be. . . .

You don't need to share all of Hughes' youthful opinions to find that his poem captures the sorrow and the hope we should all feel and reminds us that the dream is still ours to reclaim.  
And as a message, "Let America be America again" sure beats "Hello, you've reached the Democratic Party. We're not home right now."

Rosa Brooks is an associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law.

## Razzm

Special to the Hera

Big Spring Hospital's Relay for Life team — Mind, Body, Soul — raised more than \$500 during its Annual Relay For Life Razzmatazz.

Nearly 40 children participated in the Fund-raiser, which had children to appear on stage in their Super Best and sing and recite their ABC's. They answered questions by emcee Lisa Broome. "It is an opportunity for children to gain confidence and develop self-esteem and confidence appeared on stage," said Billington, Relay For Life coordinator. "And parents and grandparents are able to capture memories and money to fight cancer for our community."

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life event is held each year in communities across the money to fight cancer in their region. Team members compete in a race to raise the most money for the fight.

## Ethics

by DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Stung by scandal, Republican leaders at least a temporary on privately funded for lawmakers, with a requirement for lobbyists to disclose food, drink and other they bestow on members.

Lawmakers also be required for the time to disclose they direct federal be spent on projects, officials Tuesday night, they attempt in years in a practice known earmarking.

The changes are several the GOP ship embraced Tuesday night, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity, worked to curb Democratic charges of "culture of corruption."

## Failed dam i

KILAUEA, Hawaii — One person was and up to seven were missing in rain-weakened dam on this western Hawaiian island, sending a muddy water, debris down the tainside and pre-fears about the other dams.

The water cut off to and from thousands rural houses and condominiums



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NEW

# Razzmatazz raises more than \$500

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life team — Mind, Body and Soul — raised more than \$500 during its 4th Annual Relay Rascal Razzmatazz.

Nearly 40 children participated in the Feb. 18 fund-raiser, which allows children to appear on stage in their Sunday Best and sing songs, recite their ABC's or answer questions posed by emcee Lisa Brooks.

"It is an opportunity for children to gain self-esteem and develop some confidence appearing on stage," said Linda Billington, Relay Rascal coordinator. "And parents and grandparents are able to capture lifelong keepsakes and raise money to fight cancer in our community."

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life event is held each May in communities raising money to fight cancer in their region. Teams compete in a race to raise the most money for the charity.

Big Spring State Hospital's team typically is one of the top teams, Billington said by hosting the pageant, scheduling employee luncheons and conducting bake sales.

"The Razzmatazz is one of our favorite events," she said. "The children will just wow you with their personalities and charm. And even if you do not have children, just coming as a spectator helps raise money for this event and you have a relaxing, mesmerizing show to watch."

Winners of this year's event were:

0-12 months, females: Alexcia Divine Munoz, daughter of Leonard and Vanessa Munoz, first place; Sophia Biddison, daughter of Marty and Michelle Biddison, second place.

0-12 months, males: Juan Luis Rodriquez, son of Juan and Sylvia Rodriquez, first place; Sebastian Martin, son of Jeff and Genesis Martin, second place.

13-23 months, females: Mercedes Rodriquez, daughter of Israel and Amber Rodriquez, first

place; Alejandra A. Gutierrez, daughter of Alex and Abby Gutierrez, 2nd place.

13-23 months, males: Bryson Paul Kinsey, son of Paul and Brandy Kinsey, first place; Iain Joshua Preston, son of Joshua and Yvette Preston, second place.

2-3 years, females: Erin Lynn Yeats, daughter of Jeremy Yeats and Tiffany Miller, first place; Averi Alyson Tredaway, daughter of Cody and Kelli Tredaway, second place.

2-3 years, males: Jaden Woods, son of Brandon and Lindsay Woods, first place; Shane Deel, son of Jim and Jolene Deel, second place.

6-8 years, females: Keelee White, daughter of Marie White, first place; Karleigh Marie Moore, daughter of Michael and Jacque Moore, second place.

6-8 years, males: Nicholas Allen Billington, son of Dennis and Linda Billington, first place; Raul Robles IV, son of Natividad Robles, second place.

9-11 years, females: Miranda Jennings,

daughter of Mike and Heather Jennings, first place; Kaidie Saverance, daughter of Bryan and Tonya Watson, second place.

Each child received a participation ribbon, certificate and a coupon for a free ice cream cone.

Judges for the event were: Bill Birrell, Brandi Stewart, LaWanda Hamm, Ricky Beltrain, Mildred Franklin and Olga Solis. Judges were either cancer survivors or fighting cancer.

Each judge was presented with a plant donated by local nurseries.

An added benefit this year was a photographer taking photos of each participant following the awards presentation. Participants and their families were able to purchase photos with a percentage of the proceeds going toward Relay for Life.

# Death toll stays at 11 as state braces for more firefighting

McLEAN (AP) — Firefighters weary from three days battling wildfires that chewed away at 840,000 acres of the Panhandle braced for more difficulty as forecasts called for a return of strong winds.

"We're preparing for the worst," McLean Volunteer Fire Chief Clifford McDonald said. "The winds and all the burning embers we got, it could be bad."

Winds from the south were expected to pick up today with gusts of up to 40 mph. But the humidity will be as much as two times higher than Sunday when flames first erupted.

John Cockrell of the National Weather Service in Amarillo said the danger will not be as explosive as Sunday. There's a slight chance of rain in the weekend forecast.

Eleven people have died and numerous structures have been destroyed by the fires that have scorched the region. Preliminary estimates put the number of dead horses and cattle at 10,000, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission.

By Tuesday, nearly 840,000 acres of grassland had burned. In the 24 hours since midday Monday, the state responded to more than 200 fires covering 191,000 acres. Those blazes destroyed 15 homes, forced the evacuation of 45 people and closed at least one highway.

More state resources were being deployed, boosting the totals to 26 aircraft dropping fire retardant, 55 bulldozer crews clearing brush and digging trenches, 13 fire engines and more than 350 firefighters.

# Ethics measures proposed

by DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent  
WASHINGTON

Stung by scandal, House Republican leaders want at least a temporary ban on privately funded travel for lawmakers, along with a requirement for lobbyists to disclose the food, drink and other gifts they bestow on House members.

Lawmakers also would be required for the first time to disclose when they direct federal funds to be spent on pet projects, officials said Tuesday night, the first attempt in years to rein in a practice known as earmarking.

The changes are among several the GOP leadership embraced Tuesday night, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, as they worked to counter Democratic charges of a "culture of corruption."

Speaker Dennis Hastert's office issued a statement announcing he would speak publicly on the lobbyist legislation after the rank and file had a chance to review it this morning.

It was not clear when any of the proposals would reach the House floor, but the agreement around the leadership table signaled a renewed determination by Republicans to respond to an issue that flared unexpectedly early in the year.

Companion legislation is pending in the Senate.

Lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea on corruption charges in January sent shudders through Republican ranks and led to former Majority Leader Tom DeLay's decision to step down from his House leadership post.

Hastert vowed then that legislation to curtail the influence of lobbyists

would be a priority item.

Apart from provisions relating to lobbyists, Republican officials said Tuesday night the leadership was calling for new restrictions on political organizations that currently can accept unlimited donations from individual contributors. The proposal would place a cap of slightly more than \$27,000 on contributions, along with a requirement that donors be disclosed by name.

Republicans claim that Democrats benefit far more than the GOP from such groups, and tried unsuccessfully late last year to reduce their clout.

The new disclosure requirement on gifts would apply to food, drink or other items lobbyists give lawmakers, according to officials. Otherwise, the House gift rules would remain unchanged.

# Failed dam in Hawaii causes one death, seven missing

KILAUEA, Hawaii (AP)

— One person was killed and up to seven others were missing when a rain-weakened dam failed on this western Hawaiian island, sending a wall of muddy water, trees and debris down the mountainside and prompting fears about the safety of other dams.

The water cut off access to and from thousands of rural houses and luxury condominiums along

Kauai's rural north shore. At least two homes were swept off their foundations and several hundred feet of the island's main highway were washed out.

"Sounded like a 747 jet crashing here in the valley, all the trees popping and snapping and everything," said John Hawthorne. "It was just a horrendous sound, and it never quit."

Search crews recovered

the body of an unidentified adult male. Up to seven people were missing and residents said one family whose home was swept away is missing several children.

Gov. Linda Lingle, who planned to tour the area this morning, signed a proclamation Tuesday extending state disaster programs and services to the residents affected by recent rains and flooding.

# Health And Well-Being

## Restoring Continence and Confidence

### Dr. Rudy Haddad

Board Certified in Urology  
Fellow American College of Surgeons



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

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

An estimated 17 million American women share a common healthcare concern: the uncontrolled flow of urine from their bodies, a condition known as urinary incontinence. For some women, the condition is brought on with coughing, sneezing or exercise. For others, it is a strong urge to urinate and an inability to make it to the bathroom in time. For all of these women, the effects can be devastating.

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

"Stress urinary incontinence limits lifestyles and relationships because of the embarrassment that accompanies odor and wetness," explains Dr. Rudy Haddad of Haddad Urology clinic. "Typically the symptoms worsen over time, and so lifestyles and relationships are further compromised as the condition progresses."

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

Stress urinary incontinence occurs when there is uncontrolled urine leakage during a physical activity like lifting, sneezing or coughing. It typically is the result of hypermobility, a shifting of the urethra and bladder neck from their normal positions, and intrinsic sphincter deficiency, a condition in which the urethral sphincter is unable to close tightly enough to hold urine in the bladder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Following in his brother's footsteps

## U.S Army soldier joins his brother's unit to honor, remember his loss

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
KRT

FORT HOOD - Out in the dusty scrub of Bell County, as Humvees and Bradleys churn across the hills and roads of Fort Hood's range, Staff Sgt. Reyes Sanchez puts on his brother's boots for the day.

Size 8-wide. "Same pant size and hat size too," Sanchez said of himself and his brother. "Medium regular uniforms, large T-shirts."

They had big plans in the Army, big brother Reyes and little brother Rene.

They visited the recruiter together in Abilene, took the physical the same day, had the same drill sergeant. They both went into armor, choosing to earn their stripes as cavalry scouts. They moved from Army post to Army post together over the years, occasionally serving in the same unit.

Retirement, after at least 20 years, would be together. They'd share a going-out party, maybe go into business together afterward.

But Reyes Sanchez is wearing his brother's boots now.

A remotely detonated bomb on a bridge inter-



Staff Sgt. Reyes Sanchez, above requested to be transferred to his brother's, Staff Sgt. Rene Ledesma's old unit, after Ledesma was killed in Iraq while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in March 2004. Sanchez commands his soldiers, below, during a training mission at Fort Hood in Killeen.

are natives of the Rio Grande Valley. Born in Edinburg and raised in Pharr, the brothers came from a working-class family of seven brothers and one sister.

They have different last names because Sanchez carries his mother's maiden name. Ledesma carried his father's name.

Their father, Esteban, worked for an oil company but the family also did migrant farm work part of the year, picking vegetables and fruit.

When the children got into secondary school, their father took a job in Abilene and the family moved north.

Ledesma and Sanchez were close, more like best friends. They hung out together and served as listening posts to each other their whole lives. No decision, however minor, was made without consulting the other.

"We were like one," Sanchez said.

A few years after the brothers left Abilene High School, Ledesma went to work in Austin at the auto mechanic shop that Sanchez owned. But the benefits and pay weren't that good, especially after they started families, and the Army had both from their perspective.

In 1996, they went to see a recruiter in Abilene, started working out together and signed on. At the time, Ledesma was 26, Sanchez 30.

See SOLDIER Page 7A

### VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING SCHEDULED

Victim Services has scheduled volunteer training for the week of March 20-25 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. These individuals assist victims of domestic crime as well as sexual assault. Volunteers carry papers and work with law enforcement.

For more information, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

### A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MUSIC: GEORGE GERSHWIN'S "PORGY AND BESS"

with the Big Spring Symphony Chorus is scheduled for 8 p.m. April 8 in the Municipal Auditorium. For more information, contact Dr. Keith Graumann, symphony conductor, at 267-1626 or e-mail Graumann@cox.net.

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Flying to help others

In the 1980's, groups of pilots began organizing around kitchen tables to give life-saving flights to people across the country. Today, Angel Flight flies nearly 25,000 of these "mercy" missions. Plus, the killer bee guy and chicken Kerali.

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life



vened in 2004, and Staff Sgt. Rene Ledesma was dead.

Instead of giving up his and his brother's dreams, Sanchez channeled his grief in an unusual way — he took his brother's job in the 1st Cavalry Division.

"I want to finish what we started," he said.

The Army, 492,000 strong, is full of brothers, cousins, even a mom and son.

But rare is the brother who moves into the same unit in which his brother was killed in action.

It happened Aug. 23, the day Sanchez signed in with 1st Platoon, Alpha

Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry, otherwise known as Apache Troop.

Ledesma fought and died with 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry, but under a restructuring of the 1st Cavalry Division last year, it was redesignated the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

Sanchez's wife, Debra said her husband was a "very angry" man for a time after Ledesma's death. But for reasons she does not understand herself, her husband's attitude about continuing in the Army changed with that one act.

"I know the fact that they told him he could go

to Rene's unit was a lot of motivation for him," she said.

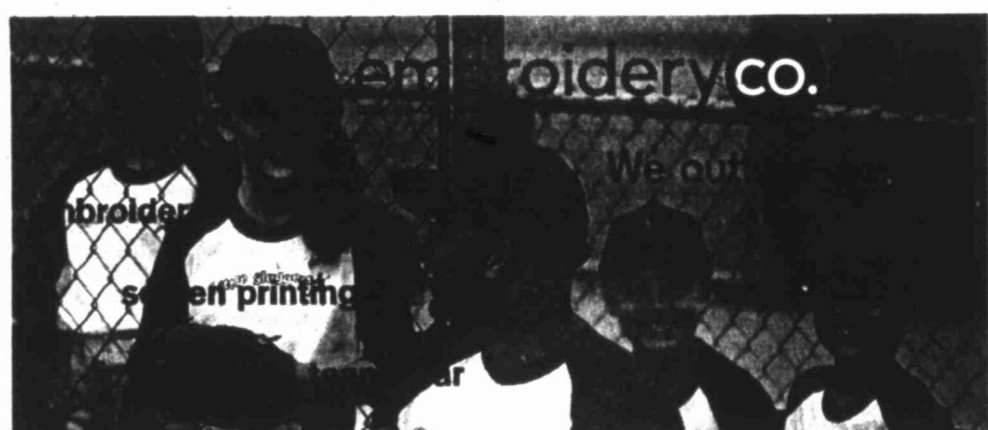
For weeks now, Sanchez's troop has been preparing as if it might go back to Iraq later this year or next, although it has received no orders.

Sanchez, still openly grieving for his brother, may find himself in the uncomfortable position of returning to the place of his brother's death.

Does he want to go back?

"No, not really," he said. "But if it happens, it happens. I will go if they need me. How could I face my soldiers if I didn't?"

Sanchez and Ledesma



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## Soldier

Continued from Page 6

"Basically we sa dare you to do Sanchez said. "And of us never back from a dare. Anyone ever dares me on brother will lose."

Ledesma went to training first, at Knox, Ky., and his l er followed two m later. Sanchez end with the same sergeant.

It would set a pi for the next few ya

Their first assign was with the Battalion, 34th A Regiment at Fort Kan. For a time, families lived next d each other, their forming a close bon

From there, they l Germany, all Sanchez lived Baumholder and Le in Schweinfurt, sep by about 200 miles.

After three years seas, Ledesma got to report to th Cavalry Division a Hood. Sanchez put Fort Hood too.

"We decided it wa to go home," he sai

Sanchez, who be to a unit in th Infantry Division Ledesma and their lies saw one anothe quently, barbecuin taking weekend trij

In March 2003, t Infantry Di deployed to Iraq, ar just as the invasiv concluding and the pation beginning.

After a year, S came home. But Le had already gone deployment with Cavalry Division.

"He left in Febr he said. "I didn't see him."

Ledesma — Dez, men in the unit Apache Troop's man.

Easygoing, he lo tease people, just how they respon see if they could ta

Soldiers liked to him about their ca os because ev agreed that Dez "kickin'."

He referred to ev as "guy," a S slang word use "dude," and exhib casual confidence, ularly with the jun diers he supervise

"If things got too ful, you could count on him to c joke," said Staf Justin Miller, a friend of Ledesma'

On May 15, Ledesma was ridi his head and torso the Bradley F Vehicle he comma a patrol drove c road in Baghda Ledesma's vehicle beneath an over bomb was detonate



**Soldier**

Continued from Page 6A

"Basically we said, 'I dare you to do it,'" Sanchez said. "And both of us never back down from a dare. Anyone who ever dares me or my brother will lose."

Ledesma went to basic training first, at Fort Knox, Ky., and his brother followed two months later. Sanchez ended up with the same drill sergeant.

It would set a pattern for the next few years.

Their first assignment was with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment at Fort Riley, Kan. For a time, their families lived next door to each other, their wives forming a close bond too.

From there, they left for Germany, although Sanchez lived in Baumholder and Ledesma in Schweinfurt, separated by about 200 miles.

After three years overseas, Ledesma got orders to report to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. Sanchez put in for Fort Hood too.

"We decided it was time to go home," he said.

Sanchez, who belonged to a unit in the 4th Infantry Division, and Ledesma and their families saw one another frequently, barbecuing and taking weekend trips.

In March 2003, the 4th Infantry Division was deployed to Iraq, arriving just as the invasion was concluding and the occupation beginning.

After a year, Sanchez came home. But Ledesma had already gone for his deployment with the 1st Cavalry Division.

"He left in February," he said. "I didn't get to see him."

Ledesma — Dez, to the men in the unit — was Apache Troop's funny man.

Easygoing, he loved to tease people, just to see how they responded, to see if they could take it.

Soldiers liked to consult him about their car stereos because everyone agreed that Dez's was "kickin'."

He referred to everyone as "guey," a Spanish slang word used like "dude," and exhibited a casual confidence, particularly with the junior soldiers he supervised.

"If things got too stressful, you could always count on him to crack a joke," said Staff Sgt. Justin Miller, a close friend of Ledesma's.

On May 15, 2004, Ledesma was riding with his head and torso out of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle he commanded as a patrol drove down a road in Baghdad. As Ledesma's vehicle passed beneath an overpass, a bomb was detonated.

He was 34 when he died. Sanchez took the phone call from Ledesma's hysterical wife that evening at his house. The chaplain was at her door.

He drove to his brother's house, about a mile away.

"I don't think anybody who has ever gone through that will forget what it feels like," he said. "I don't wish that on nobody."

After a service on post, Ledesma was buried in Killeen Memorial Cemetery.

"It was closed casket," Sanchez said. "That's how bad he was."

Sanchez, who saw what Ledesma's widow, Martha, and two children were going through, was sure he needed to get out of the service. It wouldn't be fair to his family to stay in. Besides, he was angry, very angry, at the Iraqis, at the service, at his brother's death.

"I thought, 'I can't go back to Iraq, and I don't want to be reminded of it all the time,'" he said. "My wife said, 'It's up to you.'"

In April, President Bush came to Fort Hood, as he has done repeatedly on holidays in Crawford, to meet with relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq.

Sanchez and his family were waiting for Bush in the education center on post when Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of Fort Hood, walked in.

"Staff sergeant, who do we have here today?" Metz said, according to Sanchez.

"Sir, this is my sister-in-law, my mother, my father," Sanchez said he answered.

"You're here to meet the president?" Metz said, according to Sanchez.

"So I told him about my brother."

After visiting with Metz and the president, Sanchez said the general suggested that he move to his brother's old unit. Sanchez needed no convincing but still assumed that the comment wouldn't lead to anything.

"Next thing you know, it's a done deal," he said. "I couldn't believe they did it."

At the front of Apache Troop's office is a color portrait of Ledesma in cavalry hat and a plaque with his biography.

"Rest Well in Fiddlers Green, My Friend," it concludes.

"That's where all cav troopers go when they die," one soldier offered as explanation.

When Sanchez reported to Apache Troop, he met the commanding officer, Capt. Lexie Gibbs. Told the story of these two brothers, he couldn't believe it either.

"It surprised the hell out of me," Gibbs said. "But I respected him for

making that choice."

Sanchez gets no special treatment, no free pass because his brother was killed in action. Not that he needs it anyway.

Men who have known both brothers said Ledesma never rode soldiers as hard as Sanchez does. In the Army, it falls to the sergeants to enforce standards, and few do it better or with more serious authority in Apache Troop.

Gibbs remembers one of the first encounters he had with Sanchez.

He asked a soldier to take care of something — exactly what, he can't remember anymore — and then walked away. Sanchez must have heard the soldier grumble or



KRT Photos/Tom Pennington  
A plaque, above, honoring Staff Sgt. Rene Ledesma hangs in the troop headquarters at Fort Hood in Killeen. Ledesma, was killed in Iraq while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in March 2004. After Rene's death, Staff Sgt. Reyes Sanchez, Ledesma's brother, requested to be transferred to his brother's old unit. Sanchez, left, dismounts his Bradley Fighting Vehicle during a training mission at Fort Hood in Killeen.



maybe he just didn't move quickly enough. Gibbs never knew.

All he heard was Sanchez stand up and below: "When an officer gives you an order, you get up and do it! Now!"

He is a different soldier, Sanchez said, since his brother's death. Of the two, he was always the more serious one, but he's become more focused, more demanding, he and his wife said.

"I know what it feels like to lose someone, so it's made me a harder soldier," he said. "I am going to ride these guys so nothing happens to them over there."

It's changed him as a man too. He feels a greater appreciation for his wife and three children and for the frailty of life. He sees his sister-in-law almost every day and said that his teenage niece and nephew know whom to call if they need a father's help.

"I made a promise to him that I would take care of his family," he said. "He made the same to me, that if anything happened to me, he would take care of mine."

But being in the Army, wearing the uniform every day, seeing the men his brother served with daily, has not been easy or without pain.

He ran straight at his grief, not away from it,

and that carries a price. A few weeks ago, his platoon had to practice how to respond when a Humvee blew up on patrol.

In December, two soldiers with his old unit in the 4th Infantry Division, soldiers he "raised from private," were killed in Iraq.

"Sometimes I ask him, 'Did I make the right decision? Talk to me, man, let me know if I was right,'" he said.

With the hurt that comes with serving in the Army, sometimes there's also solace, in being near people like Miller.

Miller, a Clearwater, Fla., native who is acting platoon sergeant, keeps a photograph of Ledesma in his office. He and a buddy, Staff Sgt. Sean Jarvis, had Ledesma's call sign, Red 6, tattooed on their arms.

Motivations can be hard to explain or even understand, but that is part of why Sanchez wants to be near the men who served with Ledesma. They honor him by not forgetting him.

So Sanchez pulls on his brother's boots every day, the closest he can get to finishing what he and Rene started.

"I feel like he's right next to me," he said. "We just keep moving on one step at a time together."

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# Library News

**M**ore Science Fiction is in: From David Weber, we have received volumes 1 through 11 of his Honor Harrington Series. The complete list of books can be found in the New Book Binder.

Honor is an admiral in the People's Republic of Haven's Navy and sort of like Richard Sharpe in the Sharpe's Rifles series, she is sent on suicide missions. Do come in and check this series out.

"The River of Doubt," (AUCC 918.113 MIL C) by Candace Millard is the story of Theodore Roosevelt's humiliating defeat as a presidential candidate in 1912.

In order to remove that stain from his honor, he is determined to undertake a punishing physical challenge: to explore the unexplored upper reaches of the Amazon River.

If you think the TV show Survivor is rough, just wait until you listen to Teddy's travails. This book has had excellent reviews in many prestigious papers, an honor for a first time writer's debut.

Some newish mysteries are also in: "Running With the Dead," by Jay Brandon; a new Mary Higgins Clark, "The Second Time Around;" "Dead Aim," by Iris Johansen; two by the Kellersmans: "Stalker" and Jonathan's "The Web;" and finally but certainly not least, "The Cat Who Went Underground," by Lilian Jackson Braun.

computers or perform repetitive motions can sometimes sustain injury to the wrist, hand and forearm.

"End Your Carpal Tunnel Pain without Surgery," (616.856 MON K) by Kate Montgomery will help immensely. Included is a daily regime to prevent and treat repetitive strain injuries.

The author of "Rich Day, Poor Dad" has written another book "Rich Dad's Guide to Investing" (332.024 KIY R). Robert T. Kiyosaki will fill you in on the what and why of investing in any number of commodities, funds, stocks, real estate, etc. There is quite a bit of number crunching to do, but well worth the effort I feel sure.

Sarah Dunant's first novel, "The Birth of Venus" took place in Renaissance Italy. Her second novel "In the Company of the Courtesan" is in the same time period, but with a different twist.

Escaping from the sacking of Rome in 1587, La Fiammetta and companion have only the clothes on their back and the jewels hidden, *ahem*, well hidden.

Fiammetta and Bucino seek refuge in Venice. Starved, stinking, her beauty destroyed, Fiammetta despairs "but

through cunning, will, Bucino's indefatigable loyalty and the magic of a mysterious blind healer called La Draga, she eventually recovers."

Dunant's characters, "the steely courtesan whose glimpse of true love nearly brings her to ruin; the shrewd and passionate dwarf who turns his abnormalities into triumph; and the healer whose mysterious powers and secrets leave an indelible mark on the duo" are irresistible throughout their shifting fortunes.

Stephen King's new book "Cell" is pretty spooky. The king of horror's homage to zombie films (the book is dedicated in part to George A. Romero) is his goriest, most horrific novel in years, not to mention the most intensely paced.

Casting aside his love of elaborate character and town histories and penchant for delayed gratification, King yanks readers off their feet within the first few pages, dragging them into the fray and offering no chance to catch their breath until the very last page.

King will tap into readers' fears of technological warfare and terrorism. Mobile phones deliver the apocalypse to millions of unsuspecting humans by wiping their brains of any humanity, leaving only aggressive and destructive impulses behind.

Those without cell phones, like illustrator Clayton Riddell and his small band of "normies,"

must fight for survival, and their journey to find Clayton's estranged wife and young son rockets the book toward resolution.

The Library has several copies so the wait will not be too long.

A couple of books on cassette are also in. You may have seen the movie with Tom Hanks and Leonardo DiCaprio, "Catch Me if You Can."

Now you can listen to the book by the same name. Written by Frank Abagnale, it is the witty story of a consummate con-artist.

Angela Thirkell was a prolific writer who skewed the upper-classes of Edwardian England. In a wartime episode of an imaginary village in Barseshire, she writes of the machinations of weddings, infatuations and romance.

This is a specialized genre and perhaps not to everyone's tastes. The title is "Cheerfulness Breaks In," (AUC THI A) by Angela Thirkell.

*The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.*

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

## Forsan math team returns with two UIL trophies, more

Special to the Herald

The Forsan High School Math Team, coached by Susan Alexander, came home from the San Angelo Lake View UIL meet with two trophies, one for first place Number Sense team and the other for first place Calculator team.

They were also the fourth place team in the mathematics contest.

Winning medals in number sense were: Audrey Montgomery, second place, 12th-grade division, Jonathan Purcell, first place, and Courtney Holdampf third place, in the 11th-grade division, and Vince Penick, second place, ninth grade.

Receiving medals in the calculator contest were: Seth Johnson, third place, 11th grade and Charlene Stanley, second place, 11th grade. Ribbon winners were Jeremy Robbins, sixth place and Tim Ballard, seventh place.

In the mathematics contest, Montgomery won a second-place medal. Purcell and Stanley won fourth-place ribbons, Robbins, seventh place and Johnson, eighth place.

## Policies for life! submissions

The *Big Spring Herald* accepts submissions for publication in the Friday and weekend edition.

Church and Club News should be concise and may not be written in first person. The goal of Church News is to inform the public about upcoming church events and opportunities. Club News is published to inform the public about meeting times and locations as well as activities. All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number.

Wedding, 50th anniversary, engagement and quinceañera announcements with photos are published within three

months of the event in the *Big Spring Herald's* weekend edition at no charge.

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

All submissions are due by noon each Wednesday for Friday or weekend publication and will be edited for content, style and space. An information sheet for submissions is available at the Herald office.

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

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

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# MARCH RED TAG SALE

(All Prices Have Been Reduced)

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- 2005 Ford Taurus SE - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, 18,000 Miles. **Was \$16,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - White w/Leather, All Power, Only 9,000 Miles. **Was \$30,995** **NOW \$28,995**
- 2005 Ford Mustang - Red Fire Clearcoat, V-6, Automatic, Sport Pkg., Spoiler, All Power, CD, 13,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$20,995**
- 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Cloud 9 White Clearcoat, Automatic, Air, Speed Control, All Power, Tilt, 20,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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### \*\*\*\*\* CARS \*\*\*\*\*

- 2004 Ford Mustang GT - Red, Cloth, 5 Speed Manual, All Power, Local One owner w/13,000 Miles. **Was \$22,995** **NOW \$21,995**
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- 2003 Toyota Avalon XL - Seafoam Green, All Power, One Owner w/43,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$19,995**
- 2002 Ford Focus SVT Hatchback - Black, Leather, 6 Speed, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
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- 1998 Nissan Sentra 4-DR. - Maroon, Automatic, Local One Owner w/69,000 Miles. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**

### \*\*\*\*\* TRUCKS \*\*\*\*\*

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- 2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Tan, V-8, Cloth, All Power. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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- 2005 Ford Escape XLT - Light Green, All Power, Local One Owner w/14,000 Miles. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$19,995**
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- 2003 Ford Explorer XLS - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2003 Ford Escape XLT - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2002 Chevrolet Blazer L.S. 4-DR. - White, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
- 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter, w/Leather, Loaded, One Owner w/45,000 Miles. **Was \$21,995** **NOW \$20,995**
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- 2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White, Leather, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$20,995** **NOW \$18,995**
- 2001 Ford Explorer Spt 4X4 2-DR. - Blue, All Power, w/57,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 1999 GMC Suburban - Tan w/Leather, All Power. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$9,995**

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# SP

## IN BRIEF

**BSHS baseball sets date for "Meet the Steers" night**

The Big Spring ball team will "Meet the Steers" night Wednesday, March 15, at the high school baseball field from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Besides the school baseball being introduced, area little league teams will also be organized. There will be a hamburger and including chips and drink for \$5.

**Lady Steer Booster meeting announced**

The Lady Steer Booster Club meet Monday at the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m.

All parents of involved in volleyball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Policky at 433-3800.

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

The Big Spring Softball Assoc will be holding signups to register the upcoming season each Saturday through this week from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league for girls and women 14 and up. The registration fee is \$10. There is a \$5 discount for a second child. For more information, contact Shafer at 432-2131.

**Umpires needed for B.S. softball season**

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is looking for umpires for upcoming season. If interested, contact Luci Ramirez at 466-3670.

**Coahoma sets date for alumni baseball game**

The Coahoma Bulldogs will bring their first alumni baseball game Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma ball field.

The softball alumni game will be that day beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information or to play baseball game, contact Donna Ma at 432-394-453.

Contact Coahoma softball coach Dickenson at 517-0300.

**Coahoma sets date for softball signups**

The Coahoma United Girls' Softball Association will hold signups in divisions in volleyball and T-ball Thursday at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups also take place on Saturday, March 21 and March 25.

For more information, contact Pat Robb at 393-5622.



### IN BRIEF

#### BSHS baseball team sets date for "Meet the Steers" night

The Big Spring baseball team will have "Meet the Steers" night next Wednesday, March 22, at the high school baseball field from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Besides the high school baseball team being introduced, the area little league teams will also be recognized. There will be a hamburger supper including chips and drink for \$5.

#### Lady Steer Booster meeting announced

The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Carol Policky at 432-466-3800.

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

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season each Saturday through this weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women ages 4 and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

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

#### Umpires needed for B.S. softball season

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming season.

If interested, contact Luci Ramirez at 432-466-3670.

#### Coahoma sets date for alumni contest

The Coahoma Bulldogs will be hosting their first-ever alumni baseball game Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma baseball field.

The softball team's alumni game will also be that day beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information or to play in the baseball game, contact Donna Mansfield at 432-394-453.

Contact Coahoma softball coach Robby Dickenson to play softball at 517-0604.

#### Coahoma sets dates for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will begin registration for all divisions in softball and T-ball Thursday at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups will also take place Friday and then again March 21 and March 23.

For more info, contact Pat Robinson at 393-5622.

## Roberts' arm, bat leads Coahoma past BSHS



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Coahoma senior Kall Roberts delivers a pitch to the plate Tuesday in Coahoma during the Bulldogettes' 5-1 win over Big Spring. Roberts allowed just two hits and struck out eight as she earned the win on the mound.

### • Bulldogettes use big inning to down Lady Steers in Coahoma

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Bulldogettes softball team has been close to taking down I-20 rival Big Spring the past two years — losing in extra innings last season — but a strong pitching performance and timely hits Tuesday in Coahoma gave Class 2A's eighth-ranked team a victory over the state-ranked Lady Steers as the Bulldogettes won, 5-1.

And Coahoma's strong play against Class 4A teams continued. The Bulldogettes beat Andrews, Crowley and others earlier this year and can now add No. 3 Big Spring to the list.

"We like to play the bigger schools because it gets us ready for district play," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "We'll play anybody really. We're not concerned with how big of a school they are."

Big Spring's struggles at the plate continued as the Lady Steers got just two hits off all-state senior pitcher Kall Roberts.

"We're struggling to hit right now, but everything else is fine," said Big Spring head coach Jennifer Reyes. "Our defense is doing what it is

supposed to do."

Roberts threw all seven innings for Coahoma and allowed one unearned run while striking out eight and walking two.

"She's been pretty dominant lately and when she needed a pitch tonight she got it," said Dickenson.

The Bulldogettes scored the first five runs of the game. They started off the scoring in the second inning as Roberts led off the frame with a triple to the left field fence. She later scored on an RBI fielder's choice by sophomore Christie Rich.

Coahoma added four more runs in the third inning. Big Spring starter Mandy Walker, a senior, ran into trouble in the inning as she hit two batters, walked another and allowed a single to senior Ashle New.

Junior Ami Martinez reached on an error to start the inning and advanced to second after sophomore Janice Gonzales was hit by a pitch. New singled to load the bases and then Roberts got an RBI after she was hit by a pitch.

Senior Liz Conley walked in another run as Gonzales crossed the plate. Freshman Laci Sterling knocked in the final two runners of the inning on a two-RBI field-

See RIVALRY, Page 2B

## Bulldogs come from behind again, score five runs in seventh

### • Coahoma withstands early errors, gets win over former rival Crane

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Bulldogs are beginning to make coming from behind a habit, but as long as the Coahoma baseball continues to record wins under those circumstances no one will complain about it.

The Bulldogs trailed former district rival and state-ranked Crane 6-2 heading into the seventh inning, but scored five runs in their final at-bat and stole a 7-6 win at home Tuesday night.

It was the third time this year the Bulldogs have come from behind in the seventh inning to record a victory.

"The guys had confidence because they had been there before," said Coahoma head coach Brad Harman. "This team believes they can come back and get the job done if they have to."

Crane began the season ranked in the top 10,

while Coahoma started out ranked No. 23.

"This was a huge win for us," said Harman. "We had a little bit of motivation because they're ranked pretty high and we wanted to send a message that we're pretty good too when we want to play. It took us awhile but we were finally able to prove it."

Three errors in the second inning caused the Bulldogs to get down 5-0 early as Crane grabbed a commanding lead.

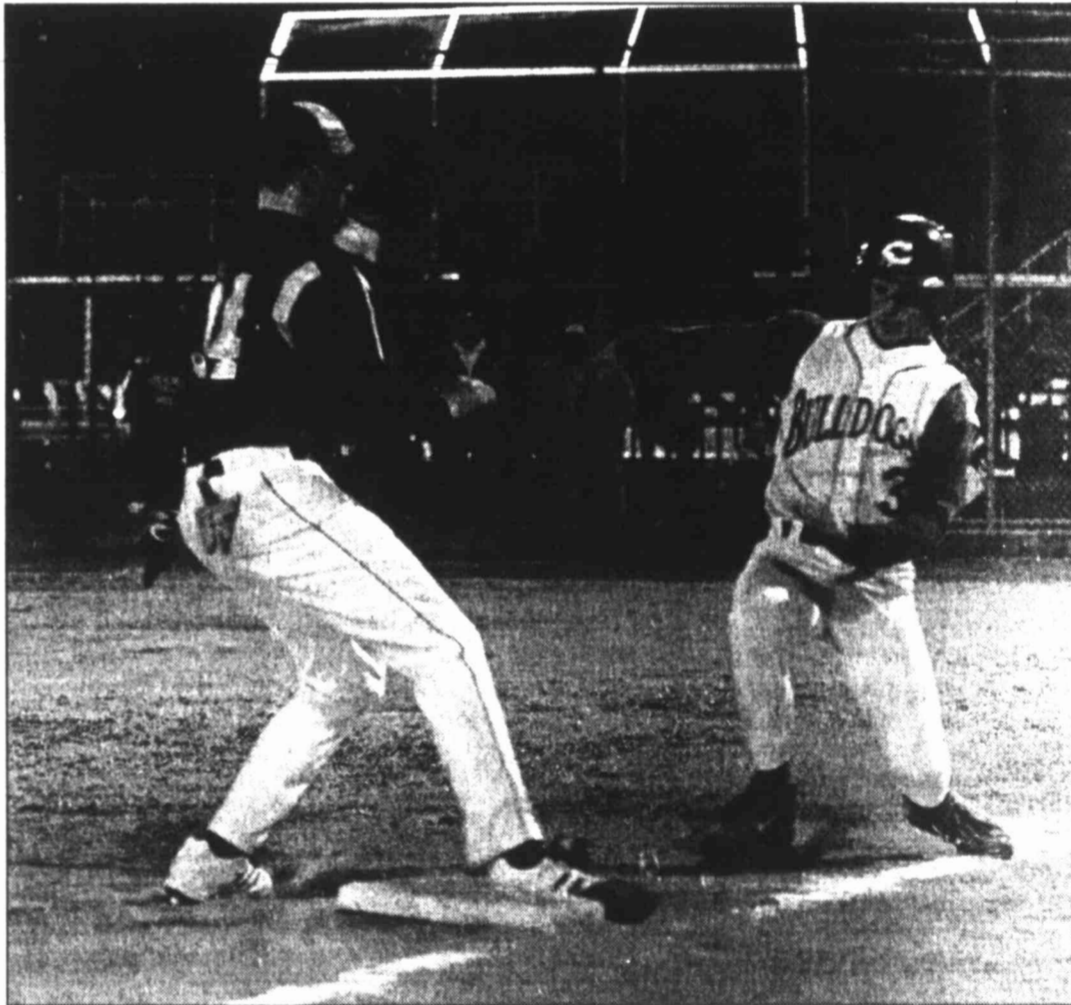
"We made some big errors in the second inning to give them a big start," said Harman. "Take away that inning and we didn't play bad defensively."

Coahoma scored one run each in the fourth and fifth inning to get back into the game.

Collin McMillan started off the fourth inning with a double and then was pinch ran for by Dakota Teaff.

David Hughes moved Teaff to third on a sacrifice and Teaff later scored on a passed ball.

The Bulldogs' second



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler  
Coahoma freshman P.J. Daylong, right, tries to get back to third base Tuesday in Coahoma during the Bulldogs' come-from-behind win against former district rival Crane. Coahoma was down 6-2 heading into its final at-bat but scored five runs in the seventh and won, 7-6.

run was scored by freshman P.J. Daylong. He doubled to start the inning and later scored on a passed ball.

Junior Blaine Kerby began the five-run seventh inning with a double and then senior Cody

Griffith walked. Kacee Coberly came through next with an RBI double which scored Kerby and then after a walk by freshman Donnie Garcia, Griffith scored on a throwing error. Coberly and Garcia scored the

final two runs of the game as Hughes delivered the game-winning two-RBI single.

The Bulldogs had eight hits and six were doubles, but they also struck out

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

## Miami trades for Culpepper; Dallas, Philly cut receivers

### • QB Brees bolts to Saints, signs six-year deal, shakes up draft

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Daunte Culpepper's seven up-and-down seasons in Minnesota came to an end.

The Vikings agreed to trade the three-time Pro Bowl selection to the Miami Dolphins for a second-round draft pick, less than a week after Culpepper — who is still rehabbing his injured right knee — said he

wanted out. Miami released last year's starter, Gus Frerotte. He would have cost the team \$4.38 million against the salary cap this year.

Culpepper is coming off a nightmare season that ended Oct. 30, when he tore three ligaments in his knee during a game against Carolina.

The Vikings were under pressure to deal Culpepper before the end of the month, or they would have been forced to

pay the \$6 million bonus that was negotiated after the 2004 season.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles released the exiled Terrell Owens, ending a tumultuous, two-year relationship with the wide receiver.

Owens was due a \$5 million roster bonus on Wednesday, so the Eagles had to cut him or trade him before then to avoid paying him the money.

Owens was kicked off

the team in November following a series of incidents and infractions, including repeated criticism of quarterback Donovan McNabb.

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys released receiver Keyshawn Johnson, avoiding a \$1 million bonus he was due and possibly creating room for Terrell Owens in the lineup and the locker room.

Johnson, a favorite of coach Bill Parcells, was

scheduled to make only \$1.5 million this season.

Johnson turns 34 this summer and is coming off a solid season. He led the team in receptions with 71, and had 839 yards and six touchdowns.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Free-agent quarterback Drew Brees agreed to a six-year contract with New Orleans, providing the Saints with a proven replacement for Aaron

See NFL, Page 2B

# MAR

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# 2006

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

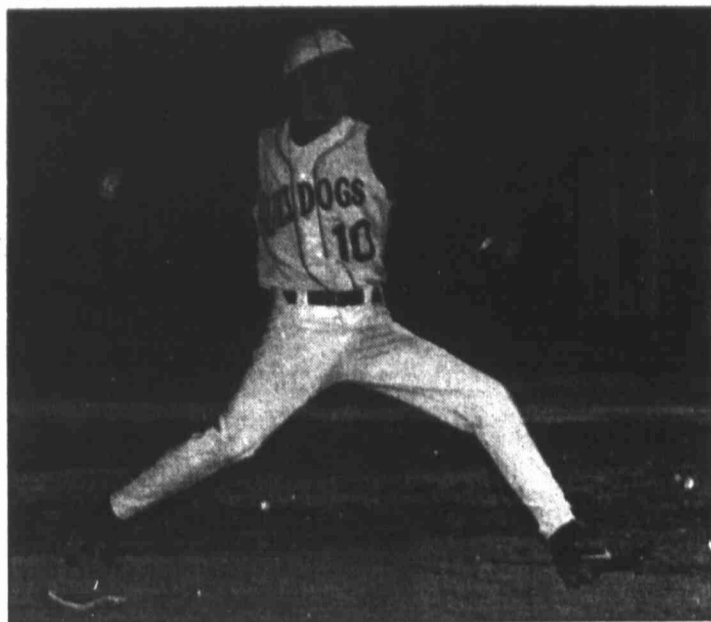
10 times.  
"We hit the ball hard, but we struck out way too much," said Harman. "We swung at some balls that weren't strikes."

Coberly started on the mound and lasted only two innings because his defense let him down.

He gave up five runs — none of which were earned — on one hit, but walked three and struck out one.

"He wasn't pulled because he wasn't doing well," said Harman. "I just needed to make a change."

The change was to go to senior Tad White, who was the beneficiary of the come-from-behind win as he earned the victory on the mound after giving up just one run — a home run in the sixth inning —



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma senior Tad White delivers a pitch to the plate against Crane Tuesday. White struck out 10 batters in five innings and improved to 6-0 this year as the Bulldogs won the game in their final at-bat with five runs in the seventh inning.

in five innings. He struck out 10 batters and improved to 6-0 on the year after giving up just three hits.

Kerby had two doubles and an RBI to lead Coahoma at the plate. Hughes had two RBIs and the game-winning single, while Daylong, McMillan and Coberly all doubled.

Daylong and McMillan each stole one base and Coberly added an RBI.

The Bulldogs finish their nondistrict season Friday at home against Sweetwater at 7 p.m.

The District 4-2A season begins Tuesday as the Bulldogs take on the Stamford Bulldogs in Coahoma.

RIVALRY

Continued from Page 1B

er's choice. Conley was thrown out at home to end the inning.

"We got timely hits tonight and were able to get a big inning which always helps," said Dickenson.

Walker, who used to play softball in Coahoma, took the loss on the mound for Big Spring. She was pulled after the fourth inning after giving up four runs on three hits. Walker walked three and struck out five.

She played the game with a lot of emotion and motivation, but could not get it done.

"Mandy came out with a lot motivation, but I think she tried to win it by herself and pressed too much," said Reyes.

The Lady Steers scored their only run in the fifth inning as Magen Watten walked and then scored on an error.

Big Spring's only two hits came from senior Courtney Rodriguez. She went two-for-two with a walk.

Roberts led Coahoma with a triple, two runs, a hit by a pitch and an RBI. New singled and scored and Gonzales singled, scored and was hit by a pitch.

Big Spring freshman



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Heather Policky swings at a pitch in the dirt against Coahoma Tuesday. The Lady Steers lost the game, 5-1.

Shelbi Stewart, who pitched the final two innings of the game for the Lady Steers, was hit in the nose with a ball before the game began and did not start the game in the field. According to Reyes, she will be fine though.

Big Spring is now 13-7 overall and begins District 4-4A action Friday at home against Lake View.

"We started off hot with our bats, but cooled off at the Killeen Tournament and are still cold," said Reyes. "We are going to work on it a lot the next two days. Once we get the bats back we'll be fine. Everything else is there."

Coahoma improves to 11-4-2. It travels to Clyde Friday and begin District 4-2A play at home against Stamford next Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Five members from the Coahoma powerlifting team advanced to regionals this season. Front row, from left: Jerrica White and Chelsea Gonzales. Back: Skyler Mundell, Jake McCain and Gus Yanez. Yanez finished fifth in his 114-pound class, but Coahoma did not qualify anyone for state.

Parker leads Spurs past Hornets

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker had 20 points and 11 assists, Brent Barry made four 3-pointers and all six shots from the floor, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the fading New Orleans Hornets 96-81 Tuesday night.

The Spurs (50-14) maintained a share of the lead in the Southwest Division and the top record in the Western Conference with the Dallas Mavericks, who beat Cleveland Tuesday.

The Hornets (31-32) have lost a season-worst seven

straight games and are 2-9 since the All-Star break. They have fallen below .500 for the first time since Jan. 28 and are 0-6 in March — with Tuesday's game being only the second one on the road this month.

Chris Paul and Marc Jackson each scored 16 points for the Hornets, who trailed by seven points with 7:43 left in the game but were outscored 17-9 the rest of the way.

Jackson, a center acquired in a trade with New Jersey Feb. 23, made his first, four shot

attempts to help the Hornets get off to a fast start. They opened the game 8-of-11, but made 10 of 25 the rest of the half.

San Antonio outscored the Hornets 43-25 the rest of the first half to take a 13-point lead at the break.

Barry, who came off the Spurs' bench with the Hornets holding a five-point lead, went 4-of-4 in the half, with three of those 3-pointers.

San Antonio was 7-of-21 from 3-point range. New Orleans was 1-of-6. The Spurs also were 23-of-30 from the foul line.

Mavericks shift focus after injuries to Harris, Howard

By JAIME ARON  
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks are suddenly less concerned about earning the top seed in the Western Conference. Their focus now is on going into the playoffs healthy.

Injuries to starting small forward Josh Howard and backup point guard Devin Harris forced the priority change.

Both tried to come back and instead got hurt again, prompting team officials to decide Tuesday to let the players rest until the last few weeks of the regular season.

"Both of those guys are out indefinitely," coach Avery Johnson said before facing the Cleveland Cavaliers. "I trusted some different sit-

uations (before), but now I'll bring them back when I want to."

Howard has been hobbled by a strained left hamstring. He missed four games, then left after playing 12 minutes Sunday night in Sacramento.

Harris has a strained left thigh. After also missing four games, he aggravated it Saturday night against Utah in his third game back.

Making matters worse for Dallas, starting guard Adrian Griffin will miss several games with a strained hamstring and reserve Keith Van Horn still isn't back from a knee injury that's kept him out since March 3.

Dallas was tied with San Antonio for the best record in the West and in the Southwest Division going into play Tuesday night.

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

Brooks.

Brees injured his throwing shoulder with San Diego in the final game of the season. He underwent surgery and said last weekend he will take four or five months to be ready.

That contract guarantees money only in the first year. It calls for the Saints to pay Brees about \$60 million over the life of

the contract, including a \$10 million bonus up front and a \$12 million option in the second year.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — David Givens, one of Tom Brady's primary targets on two of New England's Super Bowl winners, signed a five-year, \$24 million deal with the Tennessee Titans.

The Titans also agreed to terms with six-time Pro Bowl center Kevin Mawae on a four-year, \$13 million deal.

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2006





WEDNESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (64)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormanta	News	Raymond	Betty Swann	News-Lahrer	Extremes	Classica	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Live Access	Phil of Future	College	College	Ghost Hunters
7	Ent. Tonight	Whee-Force	Peregina	Bones (CC)	Survivor	Tierra de Pasiones	Biggest Loser	Raymond	Update/Israel	Swathling Van	Everything You	Movie: The	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Tarzan	NIT First	NIT First	Ghost Hunters
8	Loat (CC)	Loat (CC)	Alborada	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Corazon Part	Law & Order	Raymond	Light of the	Alles at War	MyBusters	Movie: The	The Shield	Law & Order	Girlfriends	College	College	Ghost Hunters	
9	Invasion	Invasion	Don Francisco	My Wife-Kids	CSI: NY	Decisiones	Law & Order	Raymond	Sea and-City	Charlie Rose	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The	The Shield	Movie: Blade II	Comicview	Life Derek	Michigan at	Mavericks at	
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	10 Movie: Blast	The Hour of	Sign Off	Everything You	Movie: Blade	The Shield	Movie: Blade	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	Tennis: Pacific	SportsCenter	
11	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	Backdoor (CC)	Late Show	Late Show	News	Past (CC)	Dr. Swallow	Sign Off	Everything You	Movie: Blade	The Shield	Movie: Blade	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	Early Rounds	Movie: 7 Days	
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y	Becker (CC)	Show	Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien	12-10 Movie: A	Update/Israel	Sign Off	Everything You	Movie: History	Real TV (CC)	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	Baseball	World Classic	Gameright	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"EVEN IF I DID FIND A MONSTER UNDER MY BED, JOEY, MY MOM WOULDN'T LET ME KEEP IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"But don't quote me on that."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



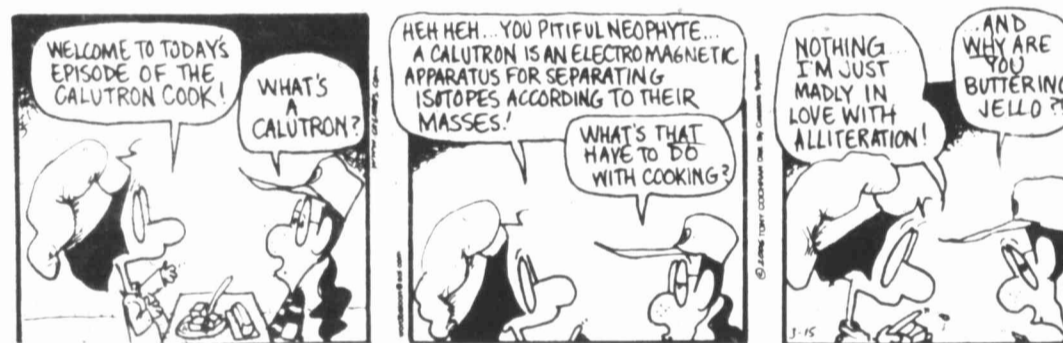
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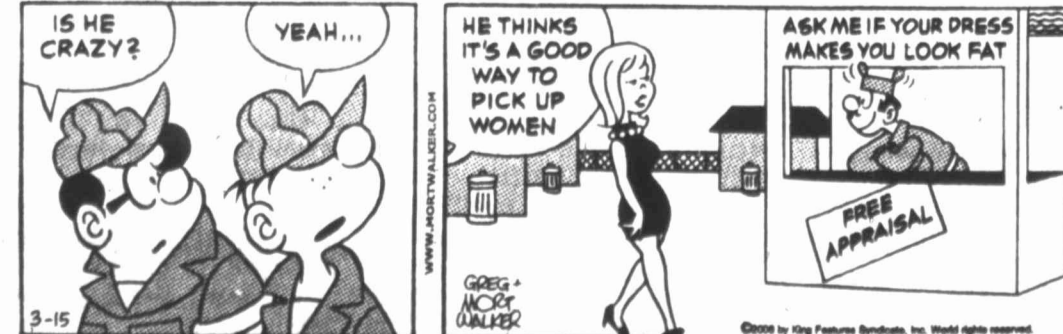
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 15, the 74th day of 2006. There are 291 days left in the year. This is the Ides of March and the day the buzzards return to Hinckley, Ohio.

Today's Highlight in History: Fifty years ago, on March 15, 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady," starring Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins and Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, opened on Broadway.

On this date: In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1767, the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, S.C.

In 1913, President Wilson

held the first open presidential news conference.

In 1919, the American Legion was founded in Paris.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.

In 1964, actress Elizabeth Taylor married actor Richard Burton in Montreal; it was her fifth marriage, his second.

In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives began a 90-day test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Carl Smith is 79. Former astronaut Alan L. Bean is 74. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 73. Jazz musician Cecil Taylor is 71. Actor Judd Hirsch is 71. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 66. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 65. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 63. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War) is 60. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 59. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 51. Actress Park Overall is 49. Movie director Renny Harlin is 47. Model Fabio is

45. Singer Sananda Maitreya (formerly Terence Trent D'Arby) is 44. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 43. Singer Rockwell is 42. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 38. Rock musician Mark Hoppus (Blink 182) is 34. Actress Eva Longoria is 31. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eye Peas) is 31. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 29. Rapper Young Buck is 25. Actor Sean Biggerstaff is 23. Actress Caitlin Wachs is 17.

Thought for Today: "People are, if anything, more touchy about being thought silly than they are about being thought unjust."

— E.B. White, American author and humorist (1899-1985).

Answer to previous puzzle

END	LPS	MEOWS
ROUSE	EEE	OLDIE
INTRO	TAC	ALONE
COCONUT	CUSTARD	
ASH	SUERS	
AZTEC	ETS	BRA
APPEASED	STOLEN	
NEPAL	SIR	AVAST
TELLON	NEGLECTS	
ERE	NET	CLERK
MARIE	BRO	
CHOCOLATE	CREAM	
ARUBA	EPA	DIRGE
RUMOR	NIL	LOREN
EXPEL	TDS	YDS

Newsday Crossword

747 SEATING by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Reindeer herders
- Hotfooted it
- Melville's whaler
- Everglades wader
- Gymnast Korbut
- Scale down
- Where to find TV dinners
- One of the Smothers Brothers
- Miniature-golf shot
- Roofing pro
- Buffalo Bill
- Weightlifter's exercise
- Head over heels
- Young girl
- Sheer fabric
- Actress Winslet
- Tanning-lotion letters
- Place to find bargains
- Sweetie
- Be abundant
- Stiller's mate
- Disreputable nightspots
- Army radioman's nickname
- Long-eared equines
- X marks it
- Italian city
- Abbr. on a phone
- Bullring cry
- Fast-food restaurant feature
- Fall tool

DOWN

- Took off
- "Farming" starter
- Year-end formal
- Dispenser candy
- Avoid, in a way
- Easy mark
- Whodunit's essence
- Freudian concern
- Most scoutmasters
- Beehive's locale
- Waste maker, maybe
- Van Gogh locale
- Brewpub lineup
- Hosiery shade
- Mont Blanc's range
- Fountain offering
- Allergy symptom
- contendere
- Creditor's claim
- Ceremonial staffs
- Tabloids couple
- Dry, on wine labels
- Patella's place
- Have top billing
- Exec's extra
- Become threadbare
- Off-road goer, briefly
- Marketplace
- In order
- Digs deeply
- "Understood"
- Cast out
- "Male" word form
- Clear wrap
- Sports-shoe feature
- Gumption
- Hobo fare
- Algerian port
- Jazz singer Anita
- Letterhead symbol
- Fancy jug
- The Sopranos network
- Code-cracking org.

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BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER

Char

Board say forum if th

By BILL MCCLELLA  
News Editor

Big Spring Commerce board agreed Wednesday the fray over wh

Landscape archit is on the design

TAKS: looking

Big Spring IS trustees meet to 5:15 p.m. in the school board ro

By STEVE REAGA  
Staff Writer

Call it a case news and could news.

Preliminary from the first Texas Assess Knowledge and (TAKS) student in, and they Spring Ind School District scoring above st age in one area, ishing behind th the other.

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- Sports 1-2E

To reach us: Please call 263-a.m. to 5 p.m. If you miss our 263-7335 before noon Sunday.