



Moore board ices request from college

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A welding program at Howard College will just have to wait, at least if it's depending on funding from the Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors.

The board voted unanimously Wednesday night to table con-

sideration of a \$300,550 request from Howard College to fund the creation of a welding program.

"It's a good program, don't get me wrong," said Frank Parker, Moore board member. "However, this board is charged with creating economic development in Howard

County, and I'm just not sure that's what this program would do. I'm also not sure if this would be allowed under 4A (economic development) law. Sure, we've done several programs similar to it in the past, but this is a lot more money."

Dr. Jamie Peterson, dean of workforce development for the

local junior college, told the board the program would turn out welders ready to enter a market that is paying between \$35 and \$85 an hour.

"We've done a considerable amount of research on this, and there certainly is a demand for

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"Sure, we've done several programs similar to it in the past, but this is a lot more money."



Parker

2007 brings 'better' budget for local chamber

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Spurred on by a recent increase in membership dues and more income from events and projects, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is moving into 2007 with what officials are calling a "better" budget.

With expenses for 2007 projected at \$172,700 and income expected to reach approximately \$171,000, Chamber Treasurer Mark Morgan said the coming fiscal year is looking up.

"This budget is better than the budgets in years past," said Morgan. "Better" is kind of a funny word to use for a budget, but because we increased our dues last year we have a little more revenue to do things with. Also, over the past three or four years, we've tried to enhance the revenue of the Chamber through our events. We



want to hold events that make money for the Chamber, and as we make money, it takes some of the pressure the membership dues have on our organization.

"Those things kind of came together this year and we have a better looking budget than we've had in the past. We've had to sort of bet on ourselves over the past few years, when we were operating at a deficit. Now we're really close to being able to break even. We're not really in the business to make money, but we don't want to spend more money than we bring in."

According to Morgan, the Chamber is expected to spend \$33,500 on events and projects in the coming year, including the annual Big Spring Day in Austin and the Chamber banquet. That's compared

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WATER MAIN REPAIRS CONTINUE



Ray Bryant, an employee with the city of Big Spring Water Department, works to repair a broken water line at the intersection of 18th and Gregg Street early this morning. More than 50 main water line breaks have been reported in the city since freezing weather gripped the Crossroads area.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County public school enrollment figures			
District	2005	2006	2007
Big Spring ISD	3,735	3,762	3,786
Coahoma ISD	802	763	796
Forsan ISD	655	708	689

School enrollment on upswing

Education officials attribute increase to any number of reasons

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Recent enrollment trends point to an upswing in the number of students in Howard County schools.

Leading the way has been Big Spring Independent School District, which has reported

modest enrollment growth each of the past two years, and is expecting more of the same in the near future.

Superintendent Michael Downes said 3,735 students were enrolled in BSISD classes in January 2005. That number increased to 3,762 a year later and 3,786 in early 2007.

After years of declining enrollment, this turn is welcome news to local school officials, but determining why it has happened is another matter.

"I don't think there's one single component you can point to for a reason," Downes said. "I think

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CISD gearing up for extensive renovations

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School officials here are busy making preparations for the start of about two years of renovations to district campuses.

Voters approved almost \$14 million in building, utility and safety code improvements in November, but it is likely to be late May or early June before any remodeling work begins.



Johnson

Superintendent Jerry Johnson said the district has been visited by personnel vital to the preparatory process.

In the meantime, Coahoma ISD officials will be busy handling a myriad of preliminary details that must be settled before actual construction work starts.

"Last week, the architect was here and visited with the high school staff on renovation plans for that campus," he said. "The surveyors have been on site, and we're expecting the geotechnical people out any day to check on soil samples."

Renovation plans are still being fine-tuned, but the major details on the project include work on all three district campuses, as well as subsidiary buildings. Those

plans include:

- High School — This is where the major portion of the work will be done. There, 20 classrooms — two wings at the campus — will be razed and replaced and a new library/media center will be constructed. The agriculture shop also will be renovated.

Renovation of the building's heating, ventilation, plumbing and air condition-

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Blum's Jewelers One beautiful place For Life's Little Moments Mix & Match

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Obituaries

Arthur "Art" Madewell



Arthur "Art" Madewell, 79, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Kenneth Patrick, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 1, 1927, in Denton and married Rosalene Balch Jan. 7, 1951, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Sept. 1, 2001.

Art had lived in Big Spring most of his life and owned the City Body Shop for 62 years before retiring. Arthur was known in the Big Spring area by many people and will be missed by all who knew him. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include one sister, Alameta Lee of Denton; one niece, Glennes Wilkinson Langford and husband, Fred of Mabank; three great-nephews, Jason Langford, Kevin Langford, and Adam Langford all of Mabank.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

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

Paid obituary

Jerry Currie



Jerry Currie, 76, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Keith Wiseman, retired Methodist minister of Lubbock, officiating, and the Rev. Matt Miles, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, assisting. Interment will follow at Garden City Cemetery, Garden City.

He was born Jan. 12, 1931, in Big Spring and married Delores Howard Bash on Feb. 19, 1983, in Big Spring.

Jerry was the son of William James "Bill" and Maud Currie, a pioneer ranching family. He grew up in Garden City and graduated from Garden City High School as valedictorian. He was involved in scouting as a young man and earned his Eagle Scout and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He attended Texas Tech and the University of Texas and served in the United States Navy. He ranched all of his life in Glasscock and Oldham counties and enjoyed race horses. He had served on the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees from 1966 to 1970. He was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association.

Survivors include his wife, Delores Currie of Big Spring; a son, Bill Currie of Big Spring; a step-daughter, Nicole Bash of Dallas; a granddaughter, Natalie Nichols Stroup and husband, Kayne of San Antonio; a grandson, Will Currie of Big Spring; a sister, Barbara Currie Ratliff of Garden City; and several beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his step-mother, Marie Currie; one daughter, Diana Currie Nichols; and one son, Jerry Jon Currie.

Pallbearers will be Jose Lopez, Chad Mason, Ronnie Wood, Ronnie Broadrick, Marvin Self and Dean Forrest. Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. B. Broadrick, James Currie, John Currie and Jerry Foresyth.

The family requests memorials be made to the Diana Currie Nichols Scholarship Fund at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720; Relay For Life, c/o Diane Wood, 3200 Greenbrier, Big Spring 79720, or the American Heart Association, PO Box 15186, Austin 78761.

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

Paid obituary

David Wayne Green



David Wayne Green, 45, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Floyd Green Jr., pastor of House of Hope Community Church, Colorado City and the Rev. Benjamin D. Watson, pastor of Jordan AME, Denver, Colo., officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

David Wayne was born in Big Spring March 9, 1961, to the Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Green Sr. He attended and graduated from Big Spring High School in May of 1983. In his lifetime, he worked and enjoyed going to the West Texas Centers where he made many friends. He was a member of Bakers Chapel AME Church.

David leaves his loving father, the Rev. Floyd Green Sr.; four brothers, Floyd Green Jr. and wife, Sandra, James Green and wife, Debra, Richard Green and wife, Percilla and Lonnie Green and wife, Connie; four sisters, Mary Watson, his loving sister that took such good care and nurtured him with love, Rosie Green, Claudette Forward and husband, Cleve and Evelyn Wilkins; many nieces and nephews, Ben Watson and wife, Debra, Reginald Anding, Kevin Watson and wife, Misty, Kim Anding and wife, Beverly, Samuel Watson Jr.; a nephew that was more like a brother that took care of him, Gary Green and wife, Abigail, James Bishop Green, D'Angela Green, Stephanie Green, Katherine Green, Alicia Green, Tiffanie Green, Richard Green, Frankie Green, Bryan Wilkins, Clarence Wilkins, Chris Wakefield, Bobby Deman Green and Terrance Green and wife, Crystal; five great-nieces; seven great-nephews; his two aunts, Modette Shields and Mrs. Ruthie Shields; many cousins and a host of friends.

Preceding him in his home going was his mother, Coriene Shields Green; two sisters, Ruby Anding and Eboni Wakefield; one brother, the Rev. Bobby Lee Green; and his grandparents, Harry and Corine Shields and Herman and Christine Green.

The family requests memorials be made to the West Texas Dialysis Center, 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 10, Big Spring 79720 or to a favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

Mary M. Prevo



Mary M. Prevo, 95, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Joel Miller, pastor of North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, officiating.

Mary was born Jan. 18, 1912, in Jefferson County to John Henry and Fannie Frances Pryor and moved to Howard County in 1928 with her family. She married M.C. Prevo March 10, 1932, in Big Spring and he preceded her in death April 12, 1990.

In the late 1950s, Mary opened a foster care home for the elderly and operated it until 1988. She was also a partner with her daughter, Doris, at D&M Garden Center.

In the mid 1950s she and her husband, Calvin, helped in founding Evangel Temple Assembly of God.

Survivors include two daughters, Ruby Bruns and Doris Viererge, both of Big Spring; one son and daughter-in-law, J.C. and Mary Prevo of Tanner, Ala.; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three sisters; and one brother. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **ROBBIN LYNN BARNES**, 17, of 3509 E. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Tuesday on a local capias warrant and a charge of theft.
- **JEANETTE GONZALES**, 19, of Seminole, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of interfering with the duties of a public servant.
- **MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ**, 21, of Parkway Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of interfering with the discharge of a police officer's official duties.
- **WAYNE GREEN**, 26, of 402 S. First Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LISA MARIE MENDEZ**, 39, of 2603 Ent, was arrested Wednesday on a local capias warrant.
- **GARY LEW CHRANE**, 46, of 1502 E. 11th Place, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 1900 block of Johnson.
 - in the 300 block of 19th Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2300 block of Allendale.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 34 inmates at the time of this report.
- **TERRY LYNN DARDEN**, 54, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the area of Valverde Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of East 13th Street. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the area of Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Wren. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Albrook. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported near the 175 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Hangar 25 Air Museum annual membership meeting at 6 p.m., followed by Veteran of the Month reception at 7 p.m.
- Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- **AMBUCS** meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Light and variable winds.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow in the morning... Then a chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs around 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of rain in the evening. Lows in the mid 30s. South winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s.

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

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

Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 3-8-13-26-47-50.
- Number matching six of six: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 2-12-13-14-33.
- Number matching five of five: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-0.

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News briefs

Democrats will try to win Republican support on Iraq war resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats won their first major vote against the Iraq war. Now they need to get some Republicans on board.

A resolution swiping at President Bush's Iraq war plans is headed to the full Senate as early as next week as administration officials and Republican leaders labor to keep the effort from gaining more GOP support.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday passed 12-9 a resolution that dismissed Bush's plans to increase troops in Iraq as "not in the national interest." The vote on the nonbinding measure was largely along party lines, with Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska being the sole Republican on the committee offering his support.

"The president has made his decision," Vice President Dick Cheney fired back in a CNN interview, a response that made it clear the administration would go ahead anyway. "We need to get the job done."

Republicans have been meeting behind closed doors to shore up support for the Iraq war plan. The Senate is tied 49-49 between the two parties, with two independents caucusing with the Democrats. That means either party needs help from the other in order to achieve the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster and advance legislation.

U.S., Iraqi troops kill 30 militants in central Baghdad high-rise buildings

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi troops battled Sunni insurgents hiding in high-rise buildings on Haifa Street in the heart of Baghdad with snipers on roofs taking aim at gunmen in open windows as Apache attack helicopters hovered overhead.

Iraq said Wednesday that 30 militants were killed and 27 captured.

New details also emerged about the downing of a private U.S. security company helicopter on Tuesday, with U.S. and Iraqi officials saying four of five

Americans who died in the incident were shot execution-style. Violence was unrelenting in Iraq on Wednesday, with at least 69 people killed or found dead, including 33 tortured bodies found in separate locations in Baghdad.

On Thursday, a bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded in a predominantly Shiite market area in downtown Baghdad, killing at least four people and wounding 18, police said.

The blast hit the Shorja area around 11 a.m., police said, giving the casualty toll.

Israeli President Katsav seeks leave as prime minister joins chorus seeking resignation

JERUSALEM (AP) — Shaking with fury, Israeli President Moshe Katsav rebuffed growing calls for his resignation Wednesday, saying accusations he committed rape and other crimes were "poisonous, horrible lies" that were part of a broad conspiracy against him.

Katsav asked parliament to temporarily suspend him from office while he fought to clear his name. But momentum was building for lawmakers to open unprecedented impeachment proceedings against the president, and top officials, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, urged Katsav to stop clinging to office and allow the nation to heal.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

United States plans to more than triple economic aid to Lebanon

PARIS (AP) — The United States plans to more than triple its economic aid to the fragile democratic gov-

ernment in Lebanon as U.S. business executives detail new investment and development plans in the tiny, troubled country.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the Bush administration is seeking \$770 million in new aid for Lebanon. The money, which must be approved by Congress, would fund long-term redevelopment and immediate rebuilding from the devastating summer war between Hezbollah militants and Israel.

A 35-nation pledging session was expected to bring in about \$5 billion for Lebanon on Thursday, two days after deadly protests in Beirut offered fresh proof of Lebanon's deep political and sectarian divisions.

Top American business executives are also detailing private investment in Lebanon as part of the Paris session. As one example, Citicorp has pledged \$120 million to underwrite mortgage and commercial lending by three Lebanese banks, Assistant Secretary of State Dina H. Powell said.

Federal enforcers charge former lawman in 1964 slayings of two black teens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Mississippi sheriff's deputy was arrested in the 1964 slayings of two black teenagers who were long believed to have been kidnapped and killed by the Ku Klux Klan.

The former deputy, James Ford Seale, of Roxie, Miss., was named in a federal indictment charging him in connection with the teens' disappearance and deaths while they were hitchhiking in a rural area of the state east of Natchez.

Until recently, Seale was thought to be dead, and the investigation into the two deaths had long been abandoned.

Seale was taken into custody Wednesday and was taken to Jackson, Miss. He is expected to be arraigned today on kidnapping charges stemming from the May 1964 disappearances of Henry Dee and Charles Moore.

Two months after Dee and Moore disappeared, their bodies were pulled from the Mississippi River as part of an FBI-led search for three civil rights workers reported missing about 160 miles away.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

welders in Howard County," said Peterson. "And even if these people did go to work in Midland or Odessa, they would come home to Howard County at night, and that's where they

would spend the majority of the money they make.

"I've talked with officials from the school districts in Big Spring and Forsan, and they support this program as well. The students at those schools who are taking the welding classes they offer are learning the basics, but this

would help them achieve a much higher level of training."

Board President Larry McLellan expressed concerns as to whether the program would receive "long term" support from Howard College.

"As long as there is an economic need, we'll be there to provide for it," said Peterson.

"Businesses in Big Spring need

welders who are ready and able to go to work, especially in the oilfield and construction trades, and they all agree the demand isn't going to slow down any time in the near future. We're also seeing some need in the agriculture industry."

Peterson said the college

hopes to offer the course in late August.

The board also took no action in its ongoing efforts to hire a new executive director for the economic development agency.

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

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

to \$44,800 spent in 2006 and \$46,300 in 2005.

The operational expense for the Chamber is forecasted at \$41,100, up slightly from \$39,600 in 2006 and \$40,100 in 2005.

Administrative expenses took a slight jump,

with \$98,100 allotted for the coming year, in comparison to \$90,310 in 2006 and \$85,772 in 2005.

"We've really tried to look at our membership and tried to give value to our membership," said Morgan. "We've really tried to stress the membership when we make decisions about what we're going to do. It really is all about the mem-

bership, and as we do that our events have been better and we've been able to make more money."

Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said she sees the focus of the Chamber in 2007 taking a community approach.

"We need to work to retain our long-time members and work with them," said ValVerde. "However, to bring in

new members we need to offer them some kind of incentive. Like I've said in the past, it's not, 'What can the Chamber do for me?' It should be, 'What can my business and the Chamber do to better Big Spring and what can I get out of my investment by doing that?'"

"It's a matter of being involved with each other. Our members need to try

to get involved and take advantage of the advertising benefits we have. It's just a matter of getting them involved with the different events we have."

Contact Staff Writer

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ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 1A

the local economy is improving and as a result, we're seeing more people staying in Howard County. Plus, we're seeing young families choosing to raise their children in a rural setting rather than the city. I think a lot of it boils down to quality of life issues."

Coahoma ISD enrollment fell from a peak of 802 in December 2004 to

763 the same time in 2005. However, numbers there are on the upswing as well, as officials reported enrollment in December 2006 at 796.

In comparison, Forsan ISD enrollment has been fairly static, fluctuating between 650 and 700 students for the past several years, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

Forsan is handcuffed by a finite number of available housing, Johnson said.

"Basically, the houses

in our district that have been built are full," he said. "Unless someone wants to build a housing development — which we'd welcome, by the way — I don't think we're going to be growing too much."

Johnson quickly added that no new growth would not necessarily be a bad thing for Forsan.

"We do feel like that's our niche," he said. "We feel like that's part of our attraction — smaller classrooms, more individ-

ualized instruction ... We don't want to shrink, but we don't necessarily want to grow by leaps and bounds, either."

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

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Jean Hanke, 76, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Eagles Lodge Welcomes District 4
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CISD

Continued from Page 1A

ing systems also is scheduled. In addition, a new field house will be constructed and the auditorium and band hall will be renovated.

• Junior High School — Projects there include improvements to the fire alarm and other safety systems, electrical upgrades, new heating and air conditioning and complete bathroom renovations.

• Elementary — Installation of a sprinkler system, plus upgrades to the plumbing, electrical and heating systems.

• Administration building — This structure will be enlarged to house the district's technology department, currently located in the old primary school building. That

building will be demolished.

In addition, tennis courts and parking spaces will be constructed.

"At this point, we're looking at getting more detailed plans put together, which is about a three- to five-week process," Johnson said. "By early April, we should put the

plans out for bids ... We're hoping once we've selected a contractor, we'll have a more firm timeline as to what will happen and when."

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

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The Stamps Quartet
Friday, January 26
7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
705 W. FM 700
You are invited to Come and enjoy an evening of worship with Southern Gospel singing at its very best. No tickets needed ... A Love offering will be taken.

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.

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OUR VIEWS

Bush makes an interesting state address

It is always tempting to take the State of the Union address seriously. It is the Constitution, after all, that requires that the president "from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union," and even if the substance of the address rarely inspires, there is always the spectacle itself: the full chamber, the shouts and applause of the audience, the surprise guests in the gallery.

This year, however, the speech felt even more compulsory than usual. President Bush seemed at times to be going through the motions, reasserting his position or making proposals on a number of issues — immigration, health care, education, the war in Iraq, energy independence — in an effort to remain relevant in the face of a Democratic Congress and plummeting public support. It's difficult to know how many of his ideas will amount to anything. On a few fronts, however, they're either interesting or relevant (though not often both).

Immigration reform is the most pressing domestic business left from the previous Congress. It's also the policy area in which Bush's goal of establishing a "legal and orderly path for foreign workers to enter our country to work on a temporary basis" became more feasible, rather than less so, with the Democratic takeover of Congress.

Given that this is not a new debate, it would have been nice if the president had been more specific. But, in any event, the burden is now on the Democratic congressional leadership to, as Bush said, "resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country." Alluding to the excessively prolonged legislative battle over immigration, Bush was right to plead for a "conclusive" debate on Capitol Hill.

Like his remarks on immigration, Bush's rhetoric on the need for affordable health care was hardly new; he has cited the issue in four previous State of the Union speeches. On Tuesday, Bush did tout two interesting proposals: offering a standard tax deduction that would make health insurance more affordable to workers without benefits, and letting states use some federal health-care funds to provide insurance to low-income residents. Both ideas have merit. Yet both are long shots politically.

It's worth noting that on more than a few items on the president's domestic agenda, the real action is in the states. It's hard to say how much Bush's thinking owes to leaders such as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (on health care) and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (on health care and global warming), but they can claim that they helped put these issues on the agenda. Both problems can only be solved at the national level, so the president's attention is encouraging.

Of course, much of the president's speech concerned Iraq, although he said little that was particularly original or helpful. What happens there, even more than what he said Tuesday night, will be the true test of the president's seriousness and resolve in the months ahead.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we do some soul-searching and regrouping, Lord, with You.

Amen

Biden & Co. lack seriousness on war

Democrat senators Joseph Biden and Carl Levin appeared on "Fox News Sunday" to promote their toothless resolution against the president's troop "surge" in Iraq, but ended up unwittingly reinforcing their party's image as lacking the requisite seriousness to run the war.

Levin said, "It is a political solution which is needed in Iraq. Recent events prove that you can make some political progress perhaps without deepening military involvement by the United States."

While there's no doubt that Iraqi politics are quite relevant, Levin's formulation is precisely backward. Though we've been urging Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to quit protecting Moqtada al-Sadr and his militia, it wasn't until he gave the United States the green light to drop the hammer on the mini-tyrant that Sadr ended his boycott and sent his political flunkies scurrying back to the Iraqi parliament.

So yes, politics matters. But the lesson is that terrorists and lawless insurgents only understand the politics of force. You don't extract results from them by jawboning around a conference table. You either use force or credibly threaten it. Whether our government follows up is another matter, but this is a start, and it wasn't achieved through highbrow diplomacy.

Sen. Biden sidestepped Chris Wallace's question as to whether his and Levin's resolution would embolden the enemy and Osama bin Laden and discourage our troops, as Vice President Cheney suggested.

Biden responded with an ad hominem attack against Cheney, saying, "He doesn't know what he's talking about. He has yet to be right one single time on Iraq."

Fine, Senator. We can stipulate that you still hate Cheney. But how about the question?

Instead of answering, Biden said, "Bin Laden isn't the issue here. The issue is, there's a civil war. Does anyone support using American troops to fight a civil war?"

Sorry, Senator, but our premature withdrawal would serve to validate bin Laden, embolden the enemy and discourage our troops. Bin Laden personally may not be the issue. But the terrorists' attitude does matter, and it will be affected by outcome of the Iraq war.

But Biden and his cohorts obviously can't get past their simplistic view that Iraq is purely a civil war, free from significant external influences, excepting ours, and whose outcome will be free of external consequences. Biden said, "There's an overwhelming consensus that we should de-escalate the war."

Wouldn't it be nice if it were so easy? Biden presents childishly false choices. It's not a matter of whether people are for or against the war in Iraq, as if it is neatly contained and perfectly isolated.

Even if Iraq is partially a civil war, it is much more than that. Even if you choose (wrongly) to believe Saddam Hussein's regime was irrelevant to global terrorism, global terrorists have staked a major claim to Iraq and its future instability and unfriendliness toward the United States.

But the antiwar crowd can't see through the fog they've created by obsessing on the war supporters' supposed motives. They have never understood that the great majority of supporters didn't perceive Iraq to be a war of choice. Iraq was not a playground for imperialistic, neoconservative experiments in the exportation of democracy.

Most war supporters believed — reasonably — that Iraq possessed stockpiles of WMD and was voraciously seeking more. They believed it represented a threat to the United States and its allies and

that its lawlessness and defiance toward the world community had to be dealt with.

They will be quite pleased with a successful "democratic" regime and even hope that it will have a contagious impact on the region. But they didn't primarily base our support of regime change on those goals.

From the beginning, war opponents have overblown the numbers and influence of the "neoconservative," who is just a straw man they've erected as an easy target to attack rather than dealing with the real issues involved.

Regardless of whether Saddam represented a serious threat or whether terrorists cared deeply about Iraq before, Iraq is now an integral part of the global war on terror. We cannot make these truths disappear just by wishing them away. Nor can we end Iraq's relevance to the global war simply by withdrawing our troops and fantasizing away the inevitable disastrous consequences.

Biden & Co. aren't even serious-minded enough to put their legislative money where their mouths are: away from the troops. They insist on hiding behind a meaningless sense-of-the-Senate resolution, to avoid future accountability for their irresponsible advocacy.

Democrats handily recaptured control of Congress, but even with the apparently unpromising slate of Republican presidential hopefuls, Democrats are going to have a very tough time taking back the White House without demonstrating their seriousness (dare I say "gravitas"?) on the war on terror. They cannot vote it out of existence.

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

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ADDRESSES

Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th
Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator

703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

Here comes Hillary, let the fun begin

She's in to win. The national polls have her way ahead of her Democratic opponents.

In a sign of the strength she brings to the table, she has already decided to say no to the government's offer of public financing and begin raising private money for both the nominating and general election campaigns. Since her website launch on Saturday, she has been everywhere: on television, on the Internet and dominating the print press. The media may be in love with Obama, but Hillary is impossible to ignore.

"If her name were Hillary Rodham, we wouldn't even be talking about her," a caller said to me on the radio this morning. I disagree. Of course we'd be talking about a charismatic, second-term Senator from New York; an ambitious woman with substance and style who has worked endlessly to develop the fundraising network and political team to compete at the highest levels. We're talking about Obama, and he has all of two years in the Senate, for all his charisma.

What we probably wouldn't be doing is comparing her to her husband, angling about her marriage and trying to figure out whether she can undo the damage that eight years in the White House with him did to her.

For all the times people will ask, "Is America ready for a woman president?" that really isn't the question. Hillary isn't just any woman. She is an independent woman who achieved her greatest fame through her connection to her husband; a heroine to some and a horror to others; the Best-

loved and most-hated candidate of the crowd. Typically, women candidates worry that they will be perceived as weak. In Hillary's case, the question people ask is whether she is too tough.

At this point, Hillary has two major problems. The obvious one is her negatives: She has to do in America what she did in New York, which is why she's out there listening. In New York, she started with almost half the people saying they disliked her, a situation that literally leaves no margin of error. To win, you need the votes of everyone who doesn't hate you going in, which isn't easy. But she turned that around, dramatically so, even in the most Republican regions of a Democratic state.

The trickier problem may be the system she has to navigate on her way to the nomination. Hillary Clinton is better positioned, politically and substantively, for a general election or a national primary than for the process Democrats have established for picking their nominee.

Sure, she will have an easier time than anyone else meeting the escalating financial threshold to play this game — Hillary's hundred million will probably be easier for her to find than anyone else's. But running first in national polls doesn't mean much in a system that consists of a series of state-by-state contests, many of them dominated by ideologues and true believers who may not easily forgive her centrist stand on the war. Hillary has to move without looking like she is moving for political purposes, to feint left without giving up the center.

The most important thing to remember in understanding how the nominating process works is the basic principle of Hollywood: No one knows anything. The rules

may have been written to produce a certain result, but that doesn't mean they do. Super Tuesday was initially created by Southern states determined to produce a more moderate nominee. The beneficiary, the first two times around, was the very liberal Jesse Jackson.

A calendar that finds big states rushing to move their contests up so as to have an impact on the decision means it is possible that the nomination will be settled earlier than ever. Or not. Iowa could be more important than ever in providing the momentum that means more than money when no amount of money is enough to compete in that many places at once.

On the other hand, it is also possible that with a strong field and so many primaries and caucuses taking place so early, the first stage of the process won't produce a winner at all, turning a sprint into a marathon in which the later states award the prize.

The danger for Hillary is that she will be expected to win everywhere. If she does, from the beginning, she can lock up the nomination, but if she falters, alarmists will declare that the sky is falling on her.

A woman, a black, a Hispanic, not to mention a former vice presidential nominee, two seasoned Senators and the former governor of Iowa make this the strongest field in recent memory. Bill had it easier. Hill's will be more fun to watch.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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DAVID
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SUSAN
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Town and Country gets the job done very well

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel
The minivan market is a good-news/bad-news situation for DaimlerChrysler. There's no denying that the minivan market has tanked: In 2006, about 700,000 minivans were sold, a drop of about 250,000 in just five years.

That's the bad news. But that sagging market has made Ford and General Motors give up on minivans, with Ford already discontinuing the Freestar, and General Motors preparing to phase out the Chevrolet Uplander, Buick Terraza and Saturn Relay.

DaimlerChrysler smells blood. As the architects of the minivan revolution that began in 1984, the company still considers minivans a core product. For 2008, Chrysler and Dodge will introduce all-new minivans, the first complete redesign since its 2001 models. They've invested heavily in these new vans, and though the market downturn has to be cause for concern, the exit of four moderately popular competitors from the market must be taken as good news.

DaimlerChrysler showed its new minivans to the public at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. But those 2008 vans remain works in progress, at least six months from the final sign-off. What about the current minivan?

The fact that the current product still looks fresh — and, frankly, better than the 2008 models I've previewed — speaks to a solid original design. We tested a top-of-the-line 2007 Chrysler Town & Country Limited. Under the skin, it shares a chassis with the Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, and you can outfit a Grand Caravan with enough equipment to put it on par in luxury with the Chrysler Town & Country, which can top \$40,000. A base-model, four-cylinder Caravan SE is one of the best buys in the automotive world right now for those looking for an inexpensive, comfortable people-mover. When you get to the level of the Town & Country Limited, it's hard to call it a bargain, but the company does pack the minivan with a lot of content.

The Town & Country, unchanged from 2006 except for a few new colors, is offered in a regular-length base model that is 189.3 inches long, and is powered by a 3.3-liter, 170-horsepower V-6. The vast majority of Town & Country models sold are extended-length models, which are 200.5 inches long, a half-inch shorter than the Honda Odyssey, which remains the gold standard in minivans.

The Touring and Limited models get a 3.8-liter, 200-horsepower V-6 with a four-speed automatic transmission. That puts the Town & Country behind the competition immediately.

The Hyundai Entourage, for instance, has 42 more horsepower and a five-speed automatic transmission. This disparity will be addressed in 2008 Chrysler and Dodge minivans, but right now, at least on paper, they lag.

Still, our test Town & Country had plenty of power, and got pretty close to the EPA-rated fuel mileage of 18 miles

Base price: \$36,255.
Price as tested: \$40,075.
EPA rating: 18 mpg city driving, 25 mpg highway.
Details: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive minivan with a 3.8-liter, 200-horsepower V-6 engine and a four-speed automatic transmission.

per gallon city, 25 mpg highway. The 3.3-liter V-6, incidentally, is rated at 19 mpg city, 26 highway.

Inside, the Town & Country lacked nothing. Though on the outside it may look a lot like a 2001 model — which cost about \$36,000, so the price really hasn't climbed that much, given the added content



comfortable, very quiet ride that, on the highway at least, made us wonder why minivans have fallen out of favor. Is it the whole soccer-mom syndrome? I don't know, because as long in the tooth as this Town & Country is, it gets the job done as well as any minivan ever has.



— it has considerably more safety and comfort features. Available since the introduction are innovations such as a sunroof, adjustable pedals and — the big one — "Stow 'n Go" seats that fold flat into the floor. These seats are a minor marvel of engineering, and make you wonder what Chrysler will do for an encore in 2008: The answer is, for one, middle-row seats that can swivel 180 degrees, facing the third-row seats. Just the thing for a rolling picnic or card game.

With its seats stowed, the Town & Country offers up to 144 cubic feet of cargo room. With the seats in place, our test van had two middle bucket seats and a third-row bench seat, making for the possibility of seven comfortable passengers. It also had an optional rear DVD entertainment system, Sirius satellite radio and speakers galore. Pretty much everything else was standard with the Limited, including side-curtain air bags, backup sensors, a navigation system, power side doors and tailgate, and leather upholstery. Base price of the test minivan was \$36,255, and the total price with shipping and options was \$40,075. Discounts, big ones, are available.

For that you get a safe,

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Now You See It ...

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ J 10 8 7
♦ A K 6 2
♣ 6 4

WEST
♠ 8 7 2
♥ 6 3
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ K 10 8 3

EAST
♠ 10 6 4
♥ A 5 2
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ J 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 5
♥ K Q 9 4
♦ 8
♣ A Q 9 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
6 ♥

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.
At first glance, it might seem that South must go down one in six hearts, since the club finesse on which the slam appears to depend is destined to fail. But appearances can sometimes be deceiving. With correct play, the contract can be made without doing anything particularly fancy.

Declarer wins the diamond lead

with the ace and cashes the king, discarding a club. He then ruffs a diamond with the queen of hearts and returns the heart four to dummy's seven. Let's assume East takes the ace (whether he wins or not doesn't matter) and returns a club.

South goes up with the ace, leads the heart nine to the ten and ruffs dummy's last diamond with his last trump, the king. A spade is then led to the jack and the J-8 of trumps are cashed, drawing East's last two trumps as declarer discards the Q-9 of clubs!

At this point, South's last three cards are all spades, and he simply cashes them to make the slam. The potential club loser, more imaginary than real, turns out to be a mirage.

The method of play utilized here is called a dummy reversal. Instead of trumping his losers in dummy, which is what declarer usually does, he reverses the procedure and trumps dummy's losers in his hand. In effect, dummy becomes declarer and declarer becomes dummy.

In this deal specifically, South plays the hand as though he is declarer with the North cards at six hearts and East's opening lead is a diamond. The fact that he is physically seated South rather than North should not deter him from adopting what is clearly the best line of play.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Big Spring Little League

Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 30th
At the HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY

Purpose of the Meeting is to elect the president and other board members to begin the

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Big Spring High School Third Six-Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Mistie Aguilar, Mathis Alexander, Cecilia Barrera, Mylia Black, James Bowen, Courtney Boyd, Christopher Brooks, Lauren Bryant, Daniel Budke, Marisa De Los Santos, Ricky Dominguez, Lauren Dorn, Amaris Garcia and Cindy Gonzales.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Frank Acosta, Haley Adams, Derrick Anderson, Robert Andrade, Kayla Arroy, Jessica Barker, Carlee Barraza, Eric Barton, Sabrina Bedell, Natalie Beech, John Bermea, Paden Black, Christine Bledsoe, Samantha, Boehringer, Tori Bohanon and Veronica Bravo.

Big Spring Junior High Third Six-Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Isaac Garcia, Joe Garcia, Nadia Garcia, Nicholas Garcia, Sergio Gatica, Heather Gentry, Selena Gonzales, Sophia Gonzalez, Macy Graves, Delbert Green, Kadrian Grooge, Marvin Gross, Cassie Gunn, Matthew Gwin, Lanny Hall, Justonlee Haney, Stormy Hart, Cortney Heinis, Christina Helsley, Jake Hernandez and Stephanie Hernandez.

Jeremy Mills, Adrienne Moreno, Elgin Moreno, Jacqueline Morgan and Lloyd Morgan.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Meredith Morgan, Chelsy Nanny, Daniel New, Kayli Newell, Ainhlan Nghiem, Meredith Nieto, Zachary Norgren-Mireles, Ricardo Nunez, Phylcia Ochoa, Ashley Oliver and Mike Ontiveros.

Big Spring Junior High Third Six-Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Seventh Grade: Stormy Emery, Sebastian Hernandez, Toby Rodgers, Danielle Strickland, Sydney Winters, Carl Friddle, Zachary Hernandez, Miranada Rodriguez, Matthew Tompkins, Tiffany Gonzalez, Lucy McMurtrey, Anna Scott and Kelsey Weir.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Seventh Grade: Stormy Emery, Sebastian Hernandez, Toby Rodgers, Danielle Strickland, Sydney Winters, Carl Friddle, Zachary Hernandez, Miranada Rodriguez, Matthew Tompkins, Tiffany Gonzalez, Lucy McMurtrey, Anna Scott and Kelsey Weir.

"A-B" Honor Roll Seventh Grade: Tiffany Alaniz, Mark Barsh, Elias Bustamante, Robyn Castle, Jessica Cortez, Kathleen Evans, Ashten Galan, Amanda Garrard, Mario Gonzales, Kasandra Gross, Bianca Hilario, Sierra Hinojosa and Ricardo Juarez.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Trey Lowery, Tadrinna McCallister, Humberto Mier, Jessica Oliva, Audrey Perez, Cole Pittman, Merced Ramirez, Alex Rodriguez, Jacquelyn Alvarez, Charles Beal, Andrea Canisino, Jesi Coates and Johnny Doporto.

Big Spring Junior High Third Six-Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Eighth Grade: Ashley Billings, Deanna Clare, Andrew Fillingim, Joshua Kelly, Courtney Long, Justin Moss, Lucas Ontiveros, Savina Ramirez, Spencer Saucedo, Jackson Watkins, Ethan Yeats and Blake Bromman.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Nicole Davidson, Patrick Flores, Benjamin Klaassen, Meagan McElroy, Andrew Newton, Andrea Paredez, David Rios, Stormie Smith, Jessica Womack, Alyssa Byrd, Taylor Digby, Victoria Gonzales and Mathew Lara.

Parramore, Sabin Potter and Bresha Randle. Logan Adams, Leticia Bazaldua, Wayland Boyd, Mari-Sol Carrillo, Amando Cortez, Chanel Cuvielle, Devon Davis-Locke, Kylie Farmer, Albert Franco, Victor Garica, Harold Gimenez, Richard Hirzel, Taryn Kennedy, Kala Long, Johan McMahon, Jonathan Molina, Sarah Murphy, Victoria Ontiveros, Kristin Perez, Saul Puga and Allen Rice.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Fifth Grade: Kelsie Guinn, Kinsey Wash, Sarah Black, Alesia Hernandez, Tulsi Patel, Tony Solis, Diana Vasquez, Amy Winters, Jahari Vanover, Catherine Harris, Ronnie Baker, Justin Bennett and Thomas Bazaldua.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Sixth Grade: Richard Vasquez, Sarai Cano, Morgan Mitchem, Joseph Morelion, Chelsea Ramirez, Matthew Davila, Caysi Holt, Paige Knowlton, Karina Petrowski, Hannah Spence, Kalob Burnett, Mikey Alvarado, Russell Raymond and Matthew Roberts.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Fifth Grade: Kaegan Baucum, Alexia Luna, Kaylee Roberts, David Sanchez, Tyler Stromberg, Matthew Beal, Austin Calburn, Ryane Colette, Shiloh Creswell, Meagan Graves, Devin Roberson and Molly Walker.

Broman, Maddie Currie, Zachary Ludington, Gabbie Trevino, Brittany Blake, Angelica Cantu, Jacob Davis and Alex Hughes.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Aric Rutledge, Nadya Viasana, Valerie Viasana, Colby Adams, Tucker Durham, Nathan Land, Joshua Morgan, Brandon Warner, Roy Carrillo, Roy Gomez, Izandra Melendez and Matthew Villa.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Christopher Hughes, Terra Kenney, Michelle Morgan, Adriaella Zavala, Justine Delatour, Charles Anderson and Connor Furqueron.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Fifth Grade: Kaegan Baucum, Alexia Luna, Kaylee Roberts, David Sanchez, Tyler Stromberg, Matthew Beal, Austin Calburn, Ryane Colette, Shiloh Creswell, Meagan Graves, Devin Roberson and Molly Walker.

Anisa Cervantes, Hayley Crawford, Kimberle DeHoyos, Andrew (Blade) Franks, A.J. Gonzales, Isabel Juarez, Augustin Jared Paredez, Leo Pena, Julian Ruiz, Tim Thachanall and Summer Quillen.

"A-B" Honor Roll

First Grade: Hope Arguello, Kaitlyn Armstrong, Carlos "Charlie" Correa, Ivan Delgado, Robbie Jean Downing, Jordan Dunn, Sydney Evans, Tristan Myrick, Desiree Saenz and Joshua Stewart.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Second Grade: Noe Arguello, Holder Biemeret, Austin Dannenbaum, Micheal Duffer, Arturo Garcia, Edward Ornelas, Gaven Quillen, Tyson Ramirez, Alejandro Sotelo and Isaac Timmerman.

"A-B" Honor Roll

Third Grade: Isabella Delatour and Destiny Neighbors. Fourth Grade: Karla Carrasco and Alexander Franco.

Bauer Magnet Elementary School Third Six-Weeks Perfect Attendance

Kindergarten: Aleyas Bland, Brian Carroll, Kylee Borchardt, Roert Buschlen, Richard Lopez, Auden Minjarez, Amanda Nieto, Sarah Salazar, Trent Thomas, Brenda Galavan, Mariah Horvatch, Rodeny Martinez, Colton Roberts, Sabrina Rodriguez and Gabriella Torres.

Kentwood Elementary School Third Six Weeks "A" Honor Roll

First Grade: Kalli Hale, Claire Hendrickson, Nolan Dominguez, Kylie Palmer, Dylan Tredaway, Ranen Wilson, Emily Bacon, Elyssa Hernandez, Sam Martin, Johnnie Smith and Avree Tubb.

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IN BRIEF

Howard Hawks return to the court



Howard will be looking for its second conference win tonight as they return to action at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

On Monday, the Hawks defeated Western Texas 84-46, improving their record to 13-4 on the season.

The Hawks will welcome the New Mexico Military Institute to town as the game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

Little League needs board members

Coahoma Boy's Little League Baseball is in need of 2007 Board Members.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Tish Hill at 213-3189 or be e-mail at coahomaps@yahoo.com

The Big Spring Boy's Little League will be holding its annual board meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at the Howard County Library.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Big Spring board positions she attend the meeting or contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

NFL Super Bowl schedule and update

Super Bowl XLI Sunday, Feb. 4 Played at Miami's Dolphin Stadium. Chicago Bears (NFC) vs. Indianapolis Colts (AFC), 5 p.m. central.

Televised on CBS. In the annual Big Game of advertising — the Super Bowl — marketing powerhouse Anheuser-Busch Cos. is the force to be reckoned with, and this year is no different.

The brewer will once again be the largest advertiser during the Feb. 4 matchup with a combined five minutes of ad time for its Budweiser and Bud Light brands.

In addition to its usual stable of Clydesdale horses, the company will also enlist help this year from racing star Dale Earnhardt Jr., some beer-thieving crabs and a scary hitchhiker.

Red Raiders use 3-point shot to down A&M

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer LUBBOCK — Bob Knight's never been a fan of the 3-point shot. But he waffled a smidge after Texas Tech beat the second Top 10 team it's faced in five days.

The Red Raiders hit only seven field goals in the second half of their 70-68 win over No. 6 Texas A&M on Wednesday night but five of them were from beyond the arc.

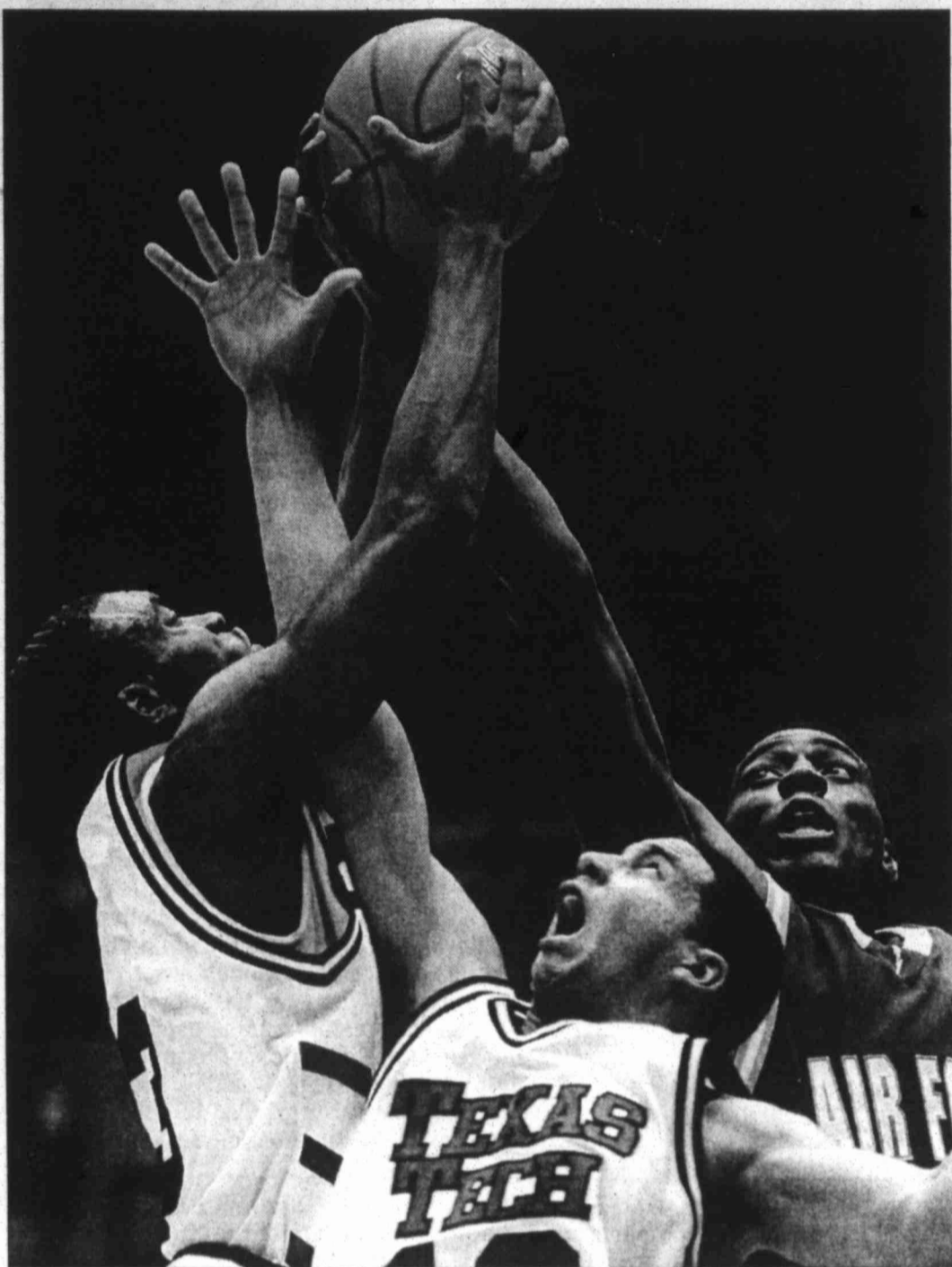
"That doesn't make me feel any better about 3-point shots," Knight said. "I don't like it, didn't like it, not going to like it. It was good tonight, though."

Martin Zeno sank a free throw with 24.9 seconds remaining to put Tech up 68-67. The Aggies had a chance with 9.3 seconds remaining, but Zeno stole the inbound pass from Dominique Kirk to Joseph Jones and was fouled. He sank both free throws to seal the win. He finished 13-of-14 from the line.

Tech beat then-No. 5 Kansas 69-64 Saturday.

"I think it's a unique situation for kids to have been able to beat two highly ranked teams in a five-day period," Knight said. "That was a good thing for our players to see that they could do that."

As they did Saturday, most of the 5,898 students — many who began camping out for tickets Tuesday afternoon — swarmed the floor after the win. That's the most students ever in Tech's United Spirit Arena, which opened in 1999, and they were surrounded by



Texas Tech's Martin Zeno, left, battles of a rebound with teammate Decensae White (13) and Air Force's Dan Nwaelele, right, in the first half of the CBE Classic in Kansas City, Mo., Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006.

a near-sellout crowd. Knight acknowledged that he bought food for some of the students "because I thought they might be (damn) hungry."

The loss snapped the Aggies 11-game Big 12 win streak, the longest in school history.

Tech (15-5, 4-1 Big 12) hit only one field goal in the

final 10:11 of the game, but made 13-of-18 free throws. Darryl Dora hit a 3-pointer with 1:03 remaining to put Tech up 67-66, but Joseph Jones

hit a free throw to tie it at 67.

Aggie coach Billy Gillispie said Knight is a great coach and his offense is a reflection of that.

"We haven't seen a motion offense as well organized," he said. "I mean it's the master offense and the master does a great job of doing it. It's disappointing because we lost and it's disappointing because they got so many foul shots and they made them."

Gillispie said the plan on the inbounds pass from Kirk was to call a timeout if the pass to Jones wasn't open. But he was. There was just a slight adjustment in the play from the way the team has practiced it, Gillispie said.

"He's wide open, you know," Gillispie said. "There's nobody over there on that side. He just made a play where he didn't throw it over there hard enough."

Zeno scored 22 points and John Plefka added 17 to lead Tech.

Acie Law scored 26 points and Kirk had 12 to lead the Aggies (16-3, 4-1).

Defending Tech was tough because "they're just constantly moving," Law said.

"That's a very difficult offense to defend," he said. "They made plays tonight and they made more than we did."

The last time Bob Knight won back-to-back games against teams ranked in the Top 10 was in January 2002, his first

See **TECH**, Page 2B

Sakic leads Western Conference to victory

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — The NHL All-Star game returned after a two-year break, with plenty of goals and a peek at what the league will look like for many years to come.

There were a lot of fresh faces, including Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin — the flashy young duo already being touted as the Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux of their generation.

And there was the debut of the streamlined, more formfitting uniforms that will become standard for all 30 teams next season.

But even with so many new things, some of the league's old guys made the difference in the Western Conference's 12-9 victory Wednesday night.

"Veteran players, we get back in the zone, stay in the middle because (young players) are try-

ing to embarrass us out there," said Minnesota's Brian Rolston, a 12-season veteran in his first All-Star game.

Rolston was one of four West players with two goals. The others were Chicago's Martin Havlat, Columbus' Rick Nash and well-traveled Yanic Perreault of Phoenix, a first-time All-Star who is with his third team in three years and on the sixth stop in 13 seasons.

Joe Sakic, Colorado's 37-year-old center in his 12th All-Star game, had four assists — including helpers on consecutive goals by Nash and Havlat within a minute midway through the second period that put the West ahead to stay.

Crosby and Ovechkin started on the same line and played most of the game together for the Eastern Conference. But they had only one point

See **HOCKEY**, Page 2B



Eastern Conference goalie Martin Brodeur watches a shot go by as Western Conference's Jonathan Cheechoo moves in during the NHL All-Star hockey game at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Wednesday night.

McGrady scores 37 to lead Rockets past Spurs

By ELIZABETH WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Houston Rockets now have a winning streak in San Antonio.

Tracy McGrady scored 37 points and the Rockets beat the Spurs 90-85 Wednesday night for their second straight win in San Antonio.

"It's important to us because we haven't won here in a long time. This is big," McGrady said. "It's big to come to San Antonio and get a win."

It's actually only been a little over a month. The Spurs

had won 17 straight home games against Houston, dating to April 20, 1997, before the Rockets' 97-78 win in their last trip on Dec. 22.

"You never want to be in a game that's close with Tracy McGrady. He can rise up anywhere on the court over just about anybody who's guarding him," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "And he's an unselfish player. If you double team him he's going to find someone else."

Rafer Alston had 19 points and Juwan Howard added 11 as the Rockets snapped a three-game losing streak and ended the Spurs' three-game

winning streak.

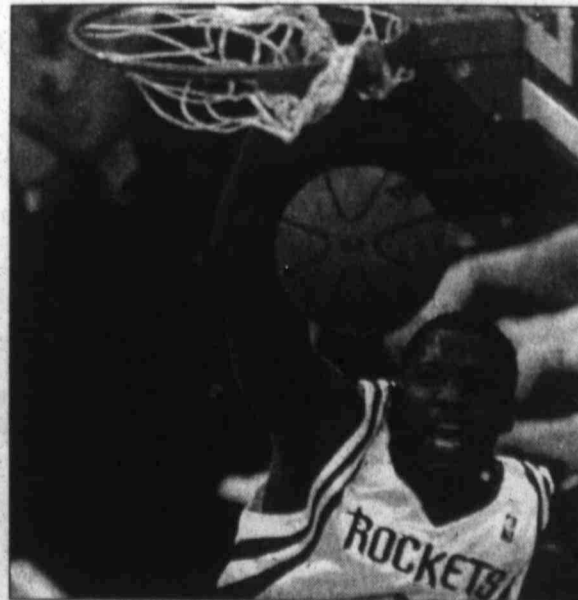
Tim Duncan also had 37 points, a season-high, and added 10 rebounds for San Antonio.

"(McGrady) makes big shots, and he especially enjoys making them against us. You have to hope he has an off night," Duncan said.

Manu Ginobili added 15 points and Tony Parker scored 10 for the Spurs, who hit just 2 of 16 3-point attempts while the Rockets went 6-of-15 from behind the arc.

"We make a run and we get

See **ROCKETS**, page 2B



Rockets Tracy McGrady slam dunks during their game against the Spurs earlier this year.

Longhorns continue dominance of Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Kevin Durant had another big night for Texas on Wednesday, but it was his teammates that finished the job in a 62-61 victory over Nebraska.

The freshman star had 26 points and 15 rebounds but didn't score the last 11 minutes and couldn't even get his hands on the ball on the Longhorns' last few possessions.

Justin Mason hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 2:04 left for the Longhorns, who won for the first time in three games and handed the Cornhuskers their first loss in 10 home games this season.

"We pulled it out," Durant said. "Nebraska was a tough team, especially at home. Anything I can do to help my team, I do it."

Durant, guarded mostly by Marcus Perry, scored 13 of Texas' first 15 points of the second half and then missed the only two shots he took the rest of the game.

"He's finding out people aren't going to give him much," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "He had 26 and 15 and you wonder where it came from."

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said he thought Perry did a good job on Durant.

"What do you say? He's a great player and, obviously, 26 and 15 is

a big night," Sadler said. "We just didn't get it done, and you have to win those games."

Nebraska had a chance to win after Ryan Anderson hit a short jumper to get the Cornhuskers within a point and Texas' D.J. Augustin missed as the shot clock ran down with eight seconds left. But Jamel White missed a baseline runner, and the Longhorns' J.D. Lewis rebounded.

The Longhorns (14-5, 4-1 Big 12), who dropped out of the Top 25 after losses to Oklahoma State and Villanova, picked up only their second win in five true road games. Nebraska (12-6, 1-3) held Texas to its second-lowest point total of the season.

"I'm not going to be satisfied with it," Sadler said. "That's a game we should have won. We made too many mistakes and that's my fault."

Durant, who came into the game averaging 34 points against Big 12 opponents, was 10-of-18 and made three 3-pointers after struggling in Saturday's 76-69 loss at Villanova.

Durant finished his second-half flurry with an impressive alley-oop dunk that put his team up 46-40 with 11:42 left.

"We'd lost two straight games, and we wanted to bounce back and

get a win on the road in the conference," he said. "We did it. Now it's time to get back to Austin."

The Longhorns' biggest lead was 51-43 on Craig Winder's 3-pointer. Nebraska then outscored Texas 14-5, taking a brief lead on Anderson's long 3-pointer with 4:22 left to play in the game.

However, the Longhorns would not be denied.

A.J. Abrams, who hit two big free throws and a 3-pointer late, added 14 points in his 10th straight game in double figures for Texas.

Perry made 5-of-9 3-pointers and finished with 17 points to lead the Huskers. Perry said guarding Durant, an NBA lottery pick if he leaves the University of Texas early, lifted him offensively.

"I loved that challenge," Perry said. "But we could have played a whole lot better. I'm not satisfied with a one-point loss."

Aleks Maric had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Anderson 12 points for Nebraska.

It was Texas' sixth straight win in the series.

"You take them any way you can get 'em, especially when you're on a three-game road swing," Barnes said. "It was not pretty by any means. I thought both teams played their hearts out."

Williams and Sharapova set to meet in Open final

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia — No one should doubt it any longer: Serena Williams is back.

Unseeded after an injury-plagued 2006 that limited her to four tournaments, Williams reached her first Grand Slam final in two years Thursday, beating Nicole Pietrangeli 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the Australian Open semifinals.

Standing in the way of an eighth Grand Slam title — she already has two here — is top-seeded Maria Sharapova. Sharapova turned her semifinal against No. 4 Kim Clijsters into an Australian farewell match for the 23-year-old Belgian, who is retiring at the end of the year, with a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Williams and Sharapova have split four previous matchups. Williams won their last

encounter after saving match points in the semifinals here two years ago before going on to win the title.

In a men's semifinal night match, top-ranked Roger Federer was taking on No. 6 Andy Roddick, who beat him in an exhibition tournament less than two weeks ago.

Ranked No. 81 coming into the tournament after dropping out of the top 100 last year while dealing with a bad knee, Williams guaranteed herself a return to the top 20.

"I can't believe it," the former world No. 1 said. "That's awesome. I'm like a chameleon. I can kind of change and get my game going to whatever the situation is. If I play well, which I don't think I've even reached yet at all in this tournament ... it's really hard for anyone on the women's tour to beat me."

Sharapova certainly isn't taking Williams lightly.

They hit eight of their first 10 shots and went up by a score of 26-17 on a jumper by Zeno at the 8:14 mark. But Texas Tech didn't score another field goal for nearly 6 minutes, allowing the Aggies to claw adn scratch their way back into the game. Texas A&M took its first lead at 33-32 with less than a minute remaining when Martellus Bennett scored inside.

TECH

Continued from 1B

season in West Texas. The Red Raiders beat then-No. 6 Oklahoma State 94-70 and a week later Tech downed Oklahoma 92-79 when the Sooners were ranked sixth.

There were six ties and eight lead changes in Wednesday night's game.

Knight said his team is more experienced this year. In three of Tech's last five games, the Red Raiders have won despite being tied or down.

"We could not have won this game last year," he said. "We're just a better team than we were a year ago."

Tech, which shot 57 percent from the field in the first half, got only seven buckets in the second half. Five of those were from 3-point range, though.

After leading most of the first half, Tech hit a dry spell and allowed the Aggies to come back to tie it 34-34 at halftime. But the Red Raiders weren't as patient as in their win over Kansas on Saturday. They weren't able to score inside and were forced to shoot from 3-point range, but with good results (5-of-10).

HOCKEY

Continued from 1B

between them, Ovechkin's goal in the second period.

"But they're tremendous players," Rolston said. "They're going to carry the torch for this league, and it's great that we have them."

Neither Crosby or Ovechkin were in the NHL when the last All-Star game was played, before the lock-out and then the Olympics last year put the game on the shelf. They were among 20 first-time All-Stars.

They were still the main attractions in the return of the mid-season showcase, but got overshadowed on the ice by the older guys.

"There were 21 goals, you think I would have had one," Crosby said, jokingly. "I guess it wasn't meant to be. I had a few chances, it just didn't work out."

The 19-year-old Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins, who was the top vote-getter for the game, leads the NHL in scoring with 72 points. Ovechkin, the 21-year-old Moscow native, was rookie of the year last season and has 65 points this season for Washington. His 29 goals

are one shy of the league lead.

For all the comparisons already made of Crosby to Gretzky, the only other teenager to lead the NHL in scoring, here's another one: At age 19 in his All-Star debut in 1980, Gretzky also finished without a point.

"That makes me feel a little better," Crosby said. "But it would be nice to get one eventually."

Gretzky went on to become the NHL's career scoring leader.

On several shifts, Ovechkin gave up the puck to Crosby instead of taking shots himself.

"I tried to help him. Next All-Star game, it will happen," Ovechkin said. "There were a couple of times I normally would have shot. But I wanted to play for the fans. I tried to help him but it didn't work."

There should be plenty more All-Star chances for the young sensations — and likely soon.

Daniel Briere, one of three starters from Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo, began the game on the line with Crosby and Ovechkin. While the youngsters struggled, Briere had a goal and four assists and was selected the MVP — playing the rest of the game with a different duo.

"With Sidney and Alex being the future faces of the NHL, I was kind of the other guy with the two," Briere said. "I had fun."

Boston defenseman Zdeno Chara, at 6-foot-9 the tallest player in NHL history, scored two goals for the East squad.

Briere was the fourth straight player from a losing team to be the All-Star MVP, following Sakic, whose hat trick in 2004 wasn't enough for the West in a 6-4 loss.

This time, Sakic's four assists pushed his All-Star total to 16, surpassing Mark Messier's record 14 in 15 games. Sakic moved into third on the list of All-Star points with 22, trailing only Gretzky (25) and Lemieux (23).

His assists on goals by Nash — who split two defenders — and Havlat gave the West a 7-5 lead. They were also among four goals in a 4 1/2-minute stretch against New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur, a nine-time All-Star and NHL leader in goals against average (2.01) who allowed six goals in 16 shots.

"It was great, you can pick anybody you want to play with here," Sakic said. "They got some nice goals for themselves."

ROCKETS

Continued from 1B

the shot clock down and it was either Luther Head or Rafer Alston who hit a big 3 for them three or four steps behind the line," Duncan said.

Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said his team was plagued by a different problem: turnovers. The Spurs scored 19 points off 21 turnovers by the Rockets, and Houston had eight points off San Antonio's 11 turnovers.

"It's not going to be perfect. It's going to be poise. We had issues with turnovers, but we made enough plays to win," Van Gundy said. "I wouldn't say we have an edge. We've won twice."

Houston built a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter and led by double digits with about 3 1/2 minutes left, but San Antonio — with Duncan leading the way — pulled within two.

"I knew my shot was going to be there," Duncan said. "I had to make a couple of jump shots to loosen them up a little bit. Once I made a couple of jump shots early

it was easier to get some stuff done in the post."

"Duncan was fabulous," Van Gundy said. "I thought our guys did as good a job as they could. It just shows you how good he is."

McGrady made a 3-point play with under a minute left. Ginobili answered with a basket and then fouled Alston, who sank both his shots to give Houston a five-point cushion with less than 10 seconds left.

"I thought we played with great intensity and physicality the last 6 minutes of the game when we were down 10," Popovich said. "The first three quarters they played that same way more than we did. In the end they ground the game out better than we did."

Houston's 8-0 run

toward the end of the first quarter kept them within five of the Spurs, who took a 21-16 lead into the second.

The Spurs had a 37-36 lead at halftime. They were led by Duncan, who had 12 points including a last-second basket in the second quarter to give San Antonio the lead. McGrady led the Rockets with 13 at the half.

The teams largely traded baskets in the third and were tied six times. Duncan had 12 points in the quarter.

McGrady also had 12, including three made free throws when he was fouled attempting a 3-pointer, in the third as the Rockets took a 61-58 lead.

Houston pushed its lead to 10 with 9:08 to go in the fourth on Shane Battier's

four-point play. He made a 3 from the corner as he was fouled, then hit his shot from the line.

The Spurs pulled within eight before McGrady scored seven points for the Rockets to put them up 81-68 with 4:47 to go.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The moon in Aries is no shrinking violet — she's more like a thorny Accolade rose in full, bright-red bloom. Attitudes are prickly. People, if approached the wrong way, have the potential to wound one another's delicate egos. But that's part of the risk involved when trying to add something bold and lovely to one's environment.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Get your head into a new relationship, preferably with somebody who's hard to predict — Gemini fits the bill. The freshness this lends to life will force your creativity to the surface where it belongs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Help out younger colleagues. Though they may not appreciate it right

away, there'll be good karma zinging back to you by the weekend. Virgo and Capricorn people are especially receptive to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Wishful thinking is the order of the day. You feel a bit silly — like you're rubbing Aladdin's lamp in hopes that a genie will pop out. But keep polishing that lamp, because magic does really happen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be asked to give a repeat performance. If you do it, you shine even brighter than before. A minor financial miscalculation can be a major pain. Double-check your figures.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Draw up a list of the pros and cons of your current work. Tackle those cons, and see whether putting a new rule in place won't minimize them. You deserve to be spending your days doing what you genuinely enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're a good friend

even when friends are in the wrong. You've mastered loving the sinner, not the sin. But there are instances, and today brings one, when it's better to tell your friend to straighten up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're wondering why someone hasn't jumped at the opportunity to do professional business, or to get down to personal business. The way to push this prospect to the next level is to walk away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're focused, but can easily be knocked off track by well-meaning folks who just need company. Beware of someone sweet and wonderful who doesn't know what he or she wants out of life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your super-smarts are working for you. All you have to do is get quiet, disqualify all excuses and refuse to believe what you want to be true in favor of knowing what really is true.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Time is a

resource you can't afford to waste indiscriminately. Take back control of your schedule. When nosy types ask what you're doing, there's no need to divulge the details.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Dream, scheme and invent. It's your turn to contribute to the body of human knowledge. This you do best by solving the simple problems in your own life!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It seems you've been dubbed the patron saint of difficult people, as these types are drawn to you. It's because you're better equipped to deal with the incorrigible and misunderstood. At least it pays well.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra who has been studying Chinese philosophy. Can my sun sign enrich my studies?"
Yes, and drive them forward, too. If Libra energy were a philosophy, it would be Taoism, the Chinese belief that all of creation consists of a delicate balance between female yin energy and male yang energy. The female forces are receptive, growth-oriented and life-affirming. We use this feminine energy whenever we draw in energy from the outside world and use it for creative purposes, giving form and substance to abstract ideas. Whenever we quietly study a situation, meditate or otherwise withdraw into ourselves, we're exercising our yin self. Yin is the baby inside the womb, growing and gathering strength, waiting for the right moment to take action and venture into the world. Left unchecked, however, unrestrained growth can become monstrous and counterproductive. The act of birthing is an example of yang. Whenever you stop thinking and take action, you're exercising your male energy. Yang is an outward motion, whereas yin is an inward motion. Yang is reflexive, yin is reflective. Yang is

destructive, yin is creative. In order to stay balanced, you need both. Good luck with your studies!

CELEBRITY PROFILES:
Aquarius is an air sign of intellectual energy. Aquarian singer/songwriter Lucinda Williams is the daughter of a poet, and she makes sure that the power of her words matches the power of her chords. This is apparent in her masterpieces like "World Without Tears." The upcoming "West" will again prove Williams' eclectic thoughtfulness. I predict a crossover success.
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a single mother of two who is happy in her life, but I have one problem — my dad's girlfriend, "Sherry." Last year on Father's Day, my sisters and I wanted to take Dad to lunch. However, Dad insisted we call Sherry and ask her permission, which we did. This did not go over well, and we have been in hell since. Sherry threw a fit and stopped speaking to Dad for nearly three months, even though they were living together. Then she moved out and we thought it was over, but the trouble had just begun.

We now are not allowed to visit Dad when Sherry is at the house. She also began accusing us of stealing things. Dad doesn't want us to confront her. In fact, he won't stand up to her at all.

Dad told me that when Sherry was married to her previous husband, she wouldn't permit his children to see him when he was dying. Dad expects us to just be OK with this. Holidays always have to revolve around her and her family. She has even managed to put a stop to Dad attending my children's school events. Whenever she storms out of the house, Dad keeps going back and pacifying her.

Sherry is making our lives miserable. My sister did some "research" on Sherry, and we have records about her past that are not flattering. But we are scared to tell Dad what we know because if Sherry found out, we'd have no chance at all. I can't take much more. Please help us get our father back. — Loving Daughter

Dear Daughter: Your father has decided that his relationship with Sherry takes precedence over the one with you. And he is entitled to have the intimate life he chooses, even if his choice is terrible. If you have information indicating Sherry is abusive or conning Dad in some way, you have an obligation to inform him. But your best bet is to accept that Sherry is part of his life right now. If you can chummy up to her, even if it disgusts you, it could allow for a closer relationship with Dad.

Dear Annie: I'm 13 years old, and my father is in his 70s. People often mistake him for my grandfather, even my classmates.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

If someone asks about my parents' ages, I try to make a joke out of it. (My mother is in her 40s.) They automatically assume something nasty and ask questions that are very personal and often stupid.

Is there a correct way to tell people he's not my grandfather, and also a way to tell some nosier people to bug off? — Upset and Confused

Dear Upset: If people refer to Dad as your grandfather, correct them nicely, saying, "He's my father." If you want to add, "Isn't he great?" that would be OK, too. Anyone who asks nosy questions should be ignored with a polite stare and a frozen smile, and then change the subject. You don't have to respond to these inquiries, no matter who asks or how many times the question comes up.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "A Self-Conscious Wife," who didn't want to wear the sexy clothing her husband had purchased for her because she wasn't "as svelte" as she used to be. Your answer was right on. She should try it. She may be surprised and pleased with the response.

Her husband doesn't see her as she sees herself in the mirror. He sees her the way she looked when they first met. This is a trick the mind plays on lovers. I noticed it years ago when my late wife's picture appeared in the local paper. I complained that it didn't do her justice, but my friends insisted it looked just like her. Over the years, I knew she had aged and gained weight, but when I looked at her, I still saw the beautiful young woman I fell in love with. I call it "lovers' eyesight." I can't be the only hopeless romantic out there. — Old Man with Young Vision

Dear Young Man: We're sure you're not, but we

appreciate hearing from you. It reassures our readers. Thanks.

Dear Annie: "Unlucky in Kentucky" lamented the lack of sex in his marriage, and the best you could do was tell him to take his wife's needs into account? You should have added, "because you are a man and yours don't count."

Believe it or not, men have feelings. A wife may feel like an object, but sometimes a man begins to feel like nothing more than a paycheck. "Unlucky" is already starting to emotionally detach himself from his wife. Soon, he will believe she no longer cares about him, and he'll justify searching for someone else. Sex is an essential part of marriage. How many people would marry if it meant no more sex once the ceremony was over? — On His Side

Dear His Side: Men often use sex to show their love, but women use nurturing. When sex is minimal, the man feels rejected. But when a woman takes care of the house and kids with little help from her husband, sex becomes a chore. Read on:

From Claremont, Calif.: Why did you give him an out? The sex was "great and plentiful" before children came along, which tells us that she's got so much more to do now, she's too tired to have sex. If he's not even touching her, how can she possibly feel wanted, let alone sexy? Here's what would make her feel loved: HELP OUT. Take out the trash, clean up the dinner dishes, give the kids a bath. Pitch in without complaint, even when you don't feel like it, and you may be pleasantly surprised at the response.

Pennsylvania: "Unlucky" complained of little sex after 10 years of frequent sex. Your answer? It's his fault. When she wanted sex before, I doubt she made his favorite meal or brought him flowers. Tell him to get used to it. Most marriages are like that.

Indiana: "Unlucky" has been married 20 years and complains that his wife doesn't have time for intimacy. Throw up! He is a self-centered ass. I think I've been married for 40 years to this guy's daddy. After my husband and I had three children, he did nothing but sit in his recliner waiting to be called to the dinner table.

I worked 45 hours a week, did all the housework, got up at night with the kids, ran carpool and helped with homework. When the children grew up, there was absolutely nothing left. Nothing.

Kentucky: My husband and I just celebrated our 46th anniversary. With few exceptions, we make love at least once a day, and here's why: When the kids were little, he changed diapers and took over at bedtime with stories. He cooks and cleans

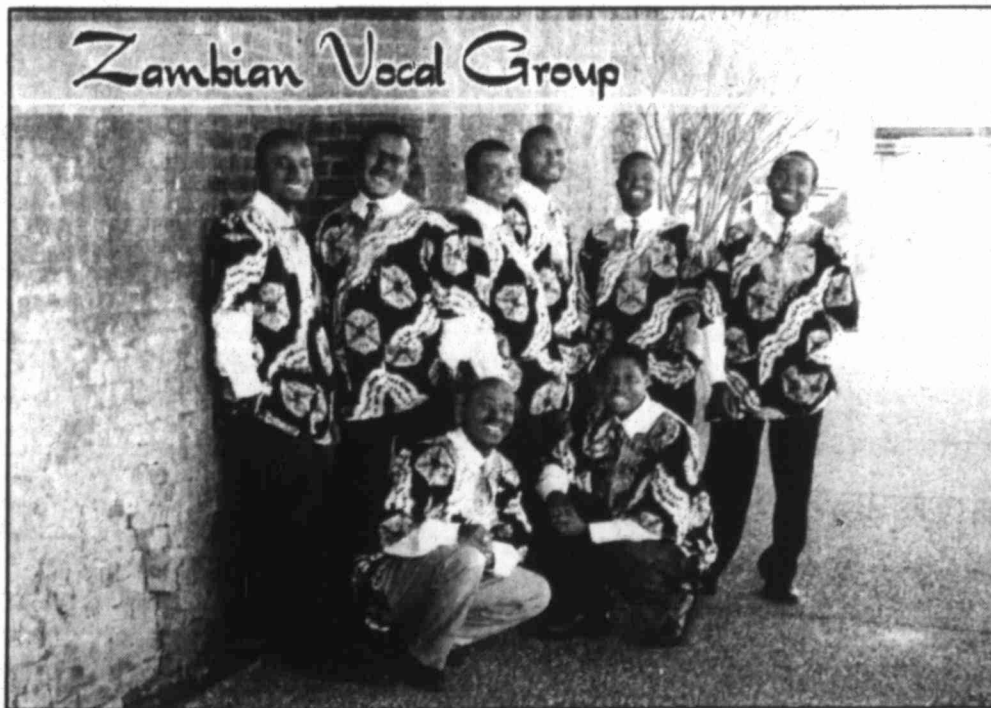
as much as I do. He takes care of himself, eats healthily and exercises. He has never belittled me, raised his voice or used sarcasm. He lets me know every day how much he loves me and how marrying me was the smartest thing he ever did.

California: "Dave" and I were together for nine years, but two kids in two years just wore me out. I struggled with frustration over his mostly unchanged life, while I was on call 24/7.

"Unlucky" has legitimate sexual needs, and he must help his wife understand how to meet them. Once my husband understood how important it was for me to see him spend time with our family on weekends instead of racing off with his friends, everything changed. The older the kids get, the happier we are.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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THURSDAY

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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2007. There are 340 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 25, 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

phone service. In 1946, the United Mine Workers rejoined the American Federation of Labor. In 1959, American Airlines opened the jet age in the United States with the first scheduled transcontinental flight of a Boeing 707.

president of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, is 79. Actor Dean Jones is 76. Country singer Claude Gray is 75. The former president of the Philippines, Corason Aquino, is 74. Blues singer Etta James is 69.

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

Newsday Crossword

IN THE NURSERY by Robert H. Wolfe

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' words, including 'VIPs' wheels', 'Carried communicator', '1964 Summer Olympics site', etc.