# LETTERS

Dear Editor,
"Flame On!"

Do you remember the cartoon superhero "Torch" of the Fantastic Four? Instant heat - no smoke? White-orange heat engulfed in a flaming roar? That's what it was like. How things can change in a matter of seconds.

I would like to somehow express my most grateful appreciation to the people of Hico and the surrounding communities for your sincere concerns, thoughts, and prayers.

I thank those who are at my side in my physical recovery at present.

I recognize each of you, along with the doctors and caregivers at Parkland Hospital, as I experience 110% recovery very soon.

As serious as the burns were, they are only bruises by comparison to the burn victims I saw at Parkland.

I come from this once again blessed with life and, hopefully new insight as to how fragile the balance of life is.

I consider myself a rich man.

I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you for your support.

Don't waste your moments and love your neighbor. They are your life-line.

With brotherly love,
Bodie Parks
Carlton

To Hico ISD teachers and staff on the attendance at the downtown motorcade 11-19-09 to honor former student Shawn Hefner:

I want to tell you how much I appreciate what you do on a daily basis. The actions of you and your students yesterday downtown were great. I have had a number of calls, e-mails and personal comments about how well the students acted and the great job that all of our teachers and faculty did. Too often, people refer to us as only teaching "The Test." Yesterday was proof that you teach so much more. Patriotism being one of the greatest. So many people were moved by the presence of our students and staff and the respect that each of you showed.

Again, thank you for everyday but especially yesterday. You truly are an amazing group of people.

Rod Townsend
Hico ISD Superintendent

Dear Jerry,

Thank you for your excellent News Review, I look forward to it weekly.

I especially enjoy it as my husband, Jack Vickrey and his family even are natives of Hico, and we spent many days visiting while his mother continued to live there.

Jack was always proud of the very good education he received and felt his Hico schooling gave him the background to become the fine lawyer he became.

Jack would certainly be proud of the great ratings Hico schools have, as I am.

Thank you again for a most enjoyable newspaper.

Anita Vickrey and family
Houston

Dear Jerry,

The community of faith joined hearts and hands on Saturday, Nov. 21, to provide a free Thanksgiving lunch. Although the people of First United Methodist Church provided the location and the food, the members of the area churches helped in a variety of ways.

Joy Bates and Nellye Gripp planned, organized and brought to fruition, with the help of many great volunteers, a meal to fulfill a command from Jesus "to give a luncheon or dinner and invite those who would not repay you."

The celebration of the lunch was the churches joined together to be the church to serve our neighbors as disciples of Jesus. The choir of voices from several churches filled the building with the sounds of Thanksgiving. Other people offered their gifts of music as well. We served over 290 people.

Thank you to all who came to eat. Thank you to all who served in all the ways in which you were needed. Our prayer for the community of Hico is that as you were nourished by the food that you were especially nourished by the love and grace of God.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Sharon Robertson
Pastor First United Methodist Church
Hico

**LETTERS POLICY**
The Hico News Review welcomes letters to the editor for publication. They must be signed and have a telephone number for verification. **UNSIGNED LETTERS ARE NOT PUBLISHED.** We reserve the right to refuse or edit all material submitted for space, language, or legal requirements. Letters political in nature are not printed the week prior to an election. Two weeks must pass between subsequent letters by the same writer. Writers are cautioned to refrain from personal attacks on individuals or businesses.

**LEADERS ct. fr. p.1**

--petencies, diagnose leadership strengths and gaps and develop leadership talent to strengthen performance and produce results.

"We work with school administrators around the country," said Mike Evans, president of Chorus, Inc., which is the parent company of the Hallmarks program. "They go through an assessment, then a series of training and development. The leadership development training helps school administrators to be the most effective leaders they can be to maximize student learning."

"I've always believed in improving and setting goals and getting better," Stegall said. "This program has helped me understand my weaknesses as a leader and look at them from a different perspective. What I thought were my weaknesses might not have actually been my weaknesses. I also learned how to use my strengths to improve my weak areas."

Stegall said the program not only helped her in her professional life, but her personal life as well.

"I know I'm a better leader now and am more effective with teachers and students," she said. "The changes I've seen in myself through this is that I'm more willing to face confrontation and face situations that are difficult. Instead of sending an email when something is wrong, I am able to confront issues in a way that's respectful for them but in a way that I still get my point across.

"Every time we had a session, I came back the next day and applied something to my school and my personal life. My goal is to take what I learned and share with the teachers. I want to model how I want my teachers to treat the students in their classrooms."

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The Hefner family would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support during this most difficult time. The support has been so great that we will never be able to thank everyone. From the Marines and the Patriot Guard Riders, David Hall and his Liberty Bell, the Hico community at large, to friends we have never met who sent cards and lifted us up in prayer, we very much appreciate you all. This community should know that even the Marines were impressed with the local support. We have been swamped with your well-wishes and gifts, and ask that you understand if formal thanks are a little slow in coming.

Lance Cpl.
Shawn Hefner, USMC

**COUNCIL ct. fr. p.1**

--that action at at this week's special meeting.

The outlets are utilized every year by Texas Steak Cookoff participants, so officials felt it would be a good idea to have the outlets installed. But with the City Hall renovation project getting close to finished, council members are looking closely at money to make sure they hit the budgeted $690,000.

"The people that really, really need power at the Steak Cookoff generally tell us beforehand, and we can set those people up close to downtown so they can plug in to the poles down there," said City Administrator Lambert Little. "It really just boiled down to the money — council members are looking very closely at everything right now."

Also discussed was an apparent discrepancy in billing for drywall and installation brought up at a previous meeting by Councilman Mike James. The discrepancy is expected to result in a refund to the city of about $3,000.

Council members also viewed carpet samples, and discussed the new brick work on the front of the building. There has been some discussion as to whether the new front brick wall should be torn down and replaced because it "balloons" out in the center. Council members decided to take more time to think about what should be done before taking any action on the matter.

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