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**Coahoma
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Page 1B



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BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY

APRIL 22, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 125

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Two detained in terror hoax

"If we can find out where these people are hearing these rumors from, then we can take action. People who make threats like this need to know they face both school sanctions and possible legal action."

—Police Chief Lonnie Smith



By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

In the wake of a hoax that effectively locked down Big Spring Junior High School Friday, two students have been detained by police. Meanwhile, local school officials are bracing for possible copy cat

pranks.

The incident began Thursday when a student or group of students apparently started a rumor that a student was bringing a weapon or explosive device to the junior high school campus, an action that subsequently prompted several parents to keep their children at

home Friday.

Officials took the rumor seriously, activating the campus emergency response plan which, among other things, locked down classrooms until the threat had passed.

In addition, off-duty investigators

See **THREATS**, Page 3A



From left, Valerie Wagner, Kaley Duncan and Anne-Marie Lugo assist a customer during the annual Keep Big Spring Beautiful Community Flea Market Saturday morning at the Big Spring Mall parking lot.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Agribusiness course to be studied at HC

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard College trustees will consider offering a new agribusiness course at the college when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Tumbleweed Room.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the course would lead to an associate's degree in applied science with an emphasis in farm and ranch management. If approved, it would be the only such course offered at the community college level within a 200-mile radius of Big Spring.

Sparks said the college currently offers a transfer program in agribusiness, but the new course offering would have more real-world ramifications for students.

"This will allow students to go straight to the workforce from Howard College," Sparks said. "We wanted to provide another option for students interested in agriculture. Many of our stu-

Bond election forum slated Monday night

Herald Staff Report

Junior college district taxpayers will be able to ask questions pertaining to the upcoming Howard College bond election when trustees and college officials hold a public forum at 6 p.m. Monday in the East Room of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Voters will decide May 12 whether to approve \$21.6 million in construction and renovation projects at the Birdwell Lane campus.

See **FORUM**, Page 2A

Winn to approach commissioners with 'remedy' to keep constable post

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County Constable Mark Winn is expected to meet with commissioners Monday morning in hopes of finding what he describes as a "remedy" for the petition recently filed to remove him from office.

The petition was filed by County Attorney Mike Thomas in late

March after state officials declined to further extend Winn's deadline to become a certified peace officer.

Winn's qualification for the office of constable, which requires state peace officer certification within 270 days of being elected, came under fire by county commissioners last month. Winn has been in office more than four years without the certification.

Winn said he plans to make a presentation to commissioners regarding a possible solution to his state agency woes.

"I really don't want to go into detail on the presentation prior to the meeting," said Winn. "I'll be offering them another remedy to the situation. That's all I can really

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

INDEX

Business 5-6C
Classified 6-8C
Life 1-4C
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4-5A
Sports 1-4B

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

IMMUNIZATION WEEK

The Department of State Health Services will celebrate National Immunization Week from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. April 23-25.

The Health Department is located at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28-B in the College Park Shopping Center. National Immunization Week promotes the benefits of immunizations and the importance of vaccinating children by age 2. During April 23-25, children will receive a bag of goodies and ice cream provided by Blue Bell. Immunizations given during this week will be free. Parents, bring your immunization record or a note from school. For more information, call 263-9775.

Kennel Club hosting two-day dog show at Garrett Coliseum

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Dorothy Garrett Coliseum is going to the dogs, at least for a couple of days, as the Big Spring Kennel Club prepares to host its annual dog show there April 28-29.

The show, which will depart from last year's four-day schedule for a two-day run, will feature an amazing number of dogs and different breeds, according to show chairman Treasa

What: Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show.

Where: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

When: April 28-29.

Wells.

"Each day will be a separate competition," said Wells. "On the first day, we have 488 dogs scheduled to com-

See **DOG SHOW**, Page 3A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Sunday, April 22, 2007

IN BRIEF

Forsan schedules date for banquet

Forsan High School's All-Sports Banquet will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the high school.

Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are available at the high school office and must be purchased by Thursday, May 3.

For more information, contact Debbie Burton at 457-2223.

Relay for Life ragball tournament slated

The Relay for Life Ragball Tournament has been scheduled for May 12-13 at Big Spring High School's Lady Steers Softball Field.

Teams will consist of five male and five female players. Entry fees are \$10 per player.

Registration is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, with the first game of the tournament set to start at 11 a.m.

Howard to host Region V tourney

Howard College's Foundation Field will be site for the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament to be held May 5-6.

The top four teams from the WJCAC will qualify for double elimination tournament play, with the winner advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Plant City, Fla., May 17-19.

Cancer scramble set for April 28-29

The 2007 Cancer Scramble has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29, at the Big Spring Country Club.

Players can form their own teams for the 4-person scramble or be assigned to a team. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place teams in each flight. Prizes will also be given for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Entry fees are \$75 per player, plus a \$20 cart fee. Private carts are welcome.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Teenage baseball league to begin

The Big Spring Teen Baseball league is now looking for coaches or anyone willing to help with the league this season.

If anyone is interested, call Randy Phillips at 264-6600 or 517-0399.

Baseball umpires needed for season

The Big Spring Umpires Association is looking for individuals interested in umpiring baseball for the 2007 Little League season.

If interested, call Bradley Garrison at 213-1300.

Coahoma's Newton fans 15, one-hits Merkel

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — One might consider the 9-0 win Coahoma's Bulldogettes posted over Merkel's Lady Badgers in District 5-2A softball action Friday something of a moral victory for the visitors.

After all, the Lady Badgers at least forced the Bulldogettes to play seven innings — something

few district opponents have been able to do.

The Bulldogettes jumped on top early, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first inning; added three more in the second; and slapped on another in the third inning before coasting to the easy win.

Freshman pitching ace Heather Newton improved her record to 15-5 on the season, allowing just

one Merkel hit and striking out 15 of the 23 batters she faced.

Offensively, the Bulldogettes scored their runs on 10 hits, Krista Kerby, Shelbi Paige, Janice Gonzales and Laci Sterling leading the way, each with a pair of hits.

The Bulldogettes also capitalized on four Merkel errors.

Gonzales provided the most power for Coahoma with a dou-

ble and a triple to her credit. Paige had a double, while Kerby and Sterling both added triples.

The win improved the Bulldogettes' record to 21-5 on the season and 10-1 in district competition.

They were scheduled to close the regular season at Anson Saturday afternoon.

The loss dropped Merkel to 4-7 in league play.

Bullogs roll past Badgers, 15-5



Courtesy photo

Coahoma catcher Dakota Teaff field a short grounder and prepares to throw to first base during the Bulldogs' District 5-2A baseball showdown with Merkel in Coahoma Friday.

By NICHOLAS HORVATICH
Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma improved their record to 17-7 and more importantly their District 5-2A record to an impressive 9-2 with a 15-5 win over Merkel in six innings Friday night.

Chance Hart, Cory Roberts and P.J. Daylong brought in runs with two RBIs apiece.

Pitcher Donny Garcia also came through in the clutch for the Bulldogs, with a performance that included four shutout innings.

But the key player of the game was second baseman Collin McMillen, who finished the game with 4 runs driven in offensively and, perhaps more importantly, started an impressive second-inning double play to stop Merkel's momentum.

McMillen's heroics drew praise from Bulldogs coach Brad Harman. "Collin is one of our most consistent players on After the game," he said, noting that McMillen improved his batting average to .580 on the season with the performance.

But Harman's praise wasn't solely centered on McMillen, as he added he was impressed with the entire team's play.

The Bulldogs will play their final home game of the regular season Tuesday, playing host to Midland High School's junior varsity in a game set for a 6 p.m. start. Coahoma will then close out the regular season on the road Friday when they travel to Anson for their 5-2A finale starting at 7 p.m.

Aggies knock off Oklahoma State, 4-2

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Kyle Nicholson struck out nine and Kyle Colligan and Luke Anders each had an RBI and scored a run Friday night as Texas A&M defeated Oklahoma State 4-2.

Nicholson (9-1) allowed two runs on eight hits in 8 1-3 innings to pick up the win for the Aggies (32-8, 9-6 Big 12).

Four of the hits came in the ninth and led to two Oklahoma State runs and a break in Nicholson's 24-inning streak of not allowing an earned run.

Ben Feltner went 4-for-4 for the Aggies.

Colligan doubled in Blake Stouffer in the first and then scored on a double by Anders to give A&M a 2-0 lead. The Aggies added a run in the second and the sixth.

Tyler Mach opened the top of the ninth for Oklahoma State (29-

10, 8-5) with a single and pinch runner Dusty Harvard scored on Matt Mangini's triple. Mangini scored on a throwing error by Stouffer.

Kyle Thebeau earned his fourth save of the year.

Jeff Breedlove (0-2) took the loss, giving up four runs on 11 hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Nebraska 7, Texas 0

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Tony Watson threw a complete-game two hitter and three Huskers homered as Nebraska beat Texas, 7-0 on Friday night.

Watson (4-2) had six strikeouts and no walks for Nebraska (23-15, 8-8 Big 12 Conference). Ryan Wehrle had a career high four hits and drove in four runs for the Cornhuskers. Wehrle hit a three-run blast in the fourth inning that scored Andy Gerch

and D.J. Belfonte. The home run was Wehrle's fourth this season.

Gerch homered and scored two runs, while Mitch Abeita hit his first home run of the year.

Texas (31-12, 12-4 Big 12) managed only three baserunners the whole game. Jordan Danks had a hit and reached on an error, while Chance Wheelless also singled.

The win bolstered the Cornhuskers' push for the post-season against the fourth-ranked Longhorns, which boasts the Big 12's top pitching staff and second-best offense.

Kyle Russell, who leads the nation with 21 home runs and entered the game hitting .359 with 52 RBIs, was held hitless in four at-bats.

Nebraska played without pitchers Charlie Shirek and Mike Harmelink, who were suspended by coach Mike Anderson for the

weekend series after being cited and arrested Friday by university police for vandalism.

Nebraska has 15 games remaining this season, 13 of which will be played in Lincoln.

Missouri 11, Baylor 4

WACO (AP) — Kyle Mach and Jacob Priday combined for seven of Missouri's 18 hits Friday night to help lead the Tigers to an 11-4 victory over Baylor.

Mach went 4-for-5 with three RBIs, including his second homer of the year. Priday went 3-for-6 with two RBIs.

Missouri (27-11, 8-5 Big 12) led 5-0 before Baylor got on the board in the sixth on a triple by Beamer Weems that scored Chase Gerdes.

Missouri added two runs in the

See BIG 12, Page 3B

26732

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Brandon Garcia, Grand Champion

Scouting for scenery

What kind of photos can you get with a throwaway camera? Pretty decent ones, if the results of some local Cub Scouts are any indication.

Cub Scout Pack 176 recently participated in a photography class and contest sponsored by Hannah Weber, Venture Crew 7 president. The activities were part of her requirements to obtain the BSA Venture Arts and Hobbies Bronze Award.



Hannah Weber

The group gathered at Comanche Trail Park and each Cub Scout was supplied with a disposable camera. They hiked around the spring to take photos of their choosing.

The photos, some of which are displayed here, are evidence that the Cub Scouts had followed their class instruction on the dynamics of good photography.

"Each of the Scouts did an excellent jobs on their projects. I was very surprised and very pleased with the results," said Lyndel Moody, judge. "When you consider their age and the fact that they were using disposable cameras they produced some top-notch photos. It was obvious that Hannah had really prepared them well."

Each Cub Scout was awarded a ribbon and a prize for their achievement. Participants were Bear Cubs Zan Clemmer, 8, Brandon Garcia, 9, and David Williams, 8.

Contest Results

Grand Prize:
Brandon Garcia

First contest
1. Zane Clemmer
2. Brandon Garcia
3. David Williams

Second contest
1. David Williams
2. Brandon Garcia
3. Zane Clemmer



Zane Clemmer, 3rd place



David Williams, 1st place



Zane Clemmer, left, and David Williams show the ribbons they received in Cub Scout Pack 176 photography class and contest. Not pictured is Brandon Garcia.



Zane Clemmer, 1st place

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Obituaries

Jeanatte Ware

Jeanatte Ware, 92, of Dallas, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, April 21, 2007, in a Dallas nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Tony Torres

Tony Torres, 40, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, April 19, 2007, in Llano County. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 WILL HOLD A FISH FRY** Saturday. Plates are \$8 each. Delivery will be between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be held from noon until 3 p.m. at the post, 3208 W. Highway 80. Everyone is invited.

• **A RABIES CLINIC** will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Forsan Fire Station, sponsored by Debra Hill, DVM, of the Western Hill Animal Clinic. Shots are: Rabies, \$6; Booster, \$12; Bordetella, \$13; Parvo, \$8; Distemper, \$6; Feline CVR-C, \$15; and Feline CVR-C and Feline FELV, \$20.

• **MARCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPRING FLING LUAU CARNIVAL** will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 28. There will be all types of carnival booths, a 24-foot slide, jumping castle, food and much more. We'll be celebrating the end of TAKS testing and everyone is invited. Tickets will be sold at the door, four for \$1.

• **THE ACKERLY LUNCH BUNCH** will meet Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. at 14th and Main Church of Christ Fellowship Hall in Big Spring. Lunch will be served. RSVP to 267-1449 or 213-4452

• **A BENEFIT TO DEFRAY EXPENSES** for Clayton Coffman, injured in an accident, will be held at the Ice House, 1612 E. Third St. May 12. Serving of barbecue plates and fish plates at \$7 each will begin at 11 a.m. There will be door prizes, an auction, live music and more.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

offering the course in the Fall 2007 semester," Sparks said. "We're planning on about 15 students at first, and hopefully that number will expand."

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Naming the college's professor emeritus for 2007.
- Program pass rates.
- An update on the college's nursing program.
- The Facilities Master Plan update for the San Angelo campus.
- An update on surplus property.

FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

College trustees and administrators, along with architectural and engineering consultants will be on hand to answer questions and provide details on what would be financed by the bond, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

"I'm certain that the public is interested in what the project consists of and exactly how much it will cost," Sparks said. "I'm sure their biggest question will be, 'How does it effect my pocketbook?'"

For more information on the forum, call 264-5000.

Missing man sought

Midland law enforcement agencies are looking for 77-year-old Ira Stanford Jr., who family members have reported missing. Stanford is described as a black male, 5-10 in height and weighing about 170 pounds. He has a mustache and wears metal frame glasses and is possibly driving a 2005 white Dodge Neon with Texas license plates 184-NGP.

Anyone seeing Stanford or the vehicle is asked to call Kay Therwhanger at (432) 685-7171 or James Johnson at (432) 683-2408.


Lecture series to begin

The first Howard College Foundation Lecture Series will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Hall Center for the Arts on the college campus. Emily Friedman, an independent writer, lecturer, and health policy and ethics analyst, will be the guest lecturer.


The lecture, "Ethical Responsibilities of Health Care Professionals," is sponsored by the Margo Glickman Fund and will be free to the public. It is an opportunity for professionals in the medical field to earn continuing education units and receive top rate information and guidance. For more information or to obtain free tickets, call (432) 264-5161.

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Police blotter

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

- **DARRICK WILBORN**, 36, Sweetwater, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **ROBERT AGUILAR**, 44, 609 Linda Lane, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **FERNANDO VALENZUELA**, 40, Odessa, was arrested on a charge of hindering an officer discharging his official duties.
- **TAMMY PHERNETTON**, 36, 504 N. First, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **GARY WALTER STOVALL**, 45, 201 Grimes, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ROSENDO RODRIQUEZ**, 37, 804 Lancaster, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **ELEUTRIO PADRON**, 58, 2000 Douglas, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **GEORGE KOSTELAZ**, 47, 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.

Weather

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Lows around 50.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

TUESDAY

• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

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Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

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

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

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

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

• 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.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-16-19-31-34.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$31,781.

Winning ticket sold in: Laredo.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Saturday night.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-7-7

2007-2008 Spring Registration for Current Big Spring Students:

Registration packets will be sent home on Monday, April 23, 2007, with your child.

Please return registration packets to your child's teacher or campus office by Friday, April 27, 2007.

This will constitute registration for the 2007-2008 school year.

If you have questions, please contact the principal's office at your campus.

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

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

Rookie's power helps A's take 16-4 win over Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rookie Travis Buck made the Oakland roster out of spring training in large part because of injuries to Mark Kotsay and Dan Johnson.

Johnson should be back in a couple weeks, but Buck's latest performance could solidify his role with the Athletics for the rest of the season.

Buck hit his first career homer and drove in a career-high five runs to help the Athletics stretch their winning streak to four games with a 16-4 victory over the Texas Rangers on Friday night.

Buck added a three-run double and Bobby Crosby doubled in two more during an eight-run second inning.

"Every time I'm in the lineup I expect things out of myself, and I feel the team does, too," Buck said. "I feel like I belong here. It's just a matter of going out and proving it. Of course a game like tonight helps."

Buck made the team out of spring training in his third pro season by hitting .339 with nine RBIs. Buck climbed as high as Double-A Midland last year before a groin injury in mid-July ended his season.

"I'd like to say I'm surprised, but not really," A's manager Bob Geren said. "He looked like a major leaguer from the first day of spring training. He gave us good at-bats."

Oakland had scored 26 runs in its previous eight games before breaking out with a season-high total against Texas.

Shannon Stewart and

Nick Swisher added back-to-back homers for Oakland in the ninth.

The bottom five hitters in the A's starting lineup — Milton Bradley, Buck, Crosby, Jason Kendall and Mark Ellis — combined to go 10-for-16 with 10 RBIs and 12 runs scored.

Oakland put up big offensive numbers despite the three and four hitters — Eric Chavez and Mike Piazza — going a combined 0-for-12.

"I'm happy to see guys getting it going," Geren said. "It was a little bit warmer weather. The guys have been working hard all season."

Oakland starter Joe Blanton (2-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

The Rangers lost for the fifth time in six games as Ron Washington managed his first regular-season game against his former team. Washington was an Oakland coach for 11 seasons before being hired to manage the Rangers last November.

"It wasn't Ron Washington against the A's," Washington said. "You're going to have nights like that. You take a shower and move on." The A's scored four runs in the second, knocking out Rangers starter Brandon McCarthy (1-3). Oakland got a two-run double from Crosby, an RBI double by Ellis, and a run-scoring single from Stewart.

Oakland put up another run against reliever Bruce Chen in the second on Eric Chavez's ground-out, and Buck drove in



MCT photo/Tom Pennington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Texas Rangers catcher Gerald Laird (15) works to calm starting pitcher Brandon McCarthy (20) in the top of the second inning during the Rangers' game against the Oakland Athletics Friday in Arlington. The A's defeated the Rangers, 16-4.

three more with his bases-loaded double to make it 8-0.

McCarthy allowed six runs and four hits in one-plus inning, the shortest outing by a Rangers starter this season and the shortest in his 16 career starts. His ERA

rose from 7.07 to 10.20.

"The ball was staying up," McCarthy said. "It was bad mechanics. I lost focus. I'm concerned that my mechanicals flaws aren't ruining an inning but ruining the game for us."

Buck, 0-for-6 in his pre-

vious two games, added a two-run homer in the fourth off Chen that made it 10-0.

"I've always done well against the Rangers' minor league system, and that made me more comfortable facing these guys," Buck said.

Texas got to within 10-3 in the fifth on Kenny Lofton's RBI single and Michael Young's two-run double. But Ellis' two-run double, Stewart's three-run homer and Swisher's solo shot in the six-run eighth extended the A's lead to 16-3.

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★★★ CARS ★★★

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Hodnett 50th anniversary

The family of David and Annette Hodnett of Big Spring observed their 50th wedding anniversary with dinner at K.C. Steakhouse on Saturday.

The couple were married on April 19, 1957, by the Rev. P.D. O'Brian, officiating a ceremony held at the old First Baptist Church, which was located at Sixth and Main Streets.

The Hodnetts' children — Angela and Conrad Solis of Dripping Springs, Russell and Toni Hodnett of Big Spring and Stacey and Jim Kushaney of Hurst — hosted the anniversary dinner. The late Craig Hodnett was also their son.

Those in attendance were Mrs. Hodnett's mother, Louise Boykin, and sister, Betty Wales, both of Big Spring; their grandchildren, Teran and Kenny Hagerich of Bedford, Jace Nix of Hurst, Eric Kushaney of Flower Mound, Brittany Hodnett of Greenwood and Liana and Miranda Solis of Dripping Springs. Another grandson, Daniel Kushaney, was unable to attend. The two great-grandchildren attending were Macy Lauren and Kenny Dave Hagerich of Bedford.

Mr. Hodnett's two sisters, Sue Elliott and husband, O.C., of Seminole and

Nancy Graves of Odessa, were also in attendance, as were two of his brothers, Richard Hodnett of Vincent and Claud Hodnett of Big Spring. His other brother, Keith Hodnett and his wife, Rosemary, of Dallas were unable to attend.

The Hodnetts are both natives of Big Spring and have lived their entire lives in this area. He was the son of Loyd and Inez Hodnett of Vincent and the oldest of six children. He graduated from Coahoma High School and attended Howard County Junior College. He is now retired, having worked at the Bob Brock Motors as service manager for many years. She was the daughter of Ross and Louise Boykin of Big Spring and the oldest of two children. She graduated from Big Spring High School and Howard County Junior College. She is a registered nurse employed at the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

The couple has many friends in Big Spring and the surrounding area. They have enjoyed many things during their marriage, such as attending events with their children and grandchildren, fishing, boating and visiting with their friends.

Simpkins 50th anniversary

Gene and Frankie Simpkins are inviting their special friends to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with them.

A reception will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at the East Side

Baptist Church, located at Sixth and Settles Streets.

The couple has requested that those attending not bring gifts, saying their friends' attendance is the only gift they desire.

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THREATS

Continued from Page 1A

tors with the Big Spring Police Department joined with the regular patrol contingent to beef up security at the site.

A second rumor began spreading, apparently by cell phone messaging, that a shooting had actually occurred at the school, prompting even more parents to take their children out of school Friday, BSPD officials said.

Shortly after the second rumor began, a school official and detectives took an 11-year-old female into custody for using her cell phone to cause a

false alarm and/or false report, police officials said in a statement.

That afternoon, students were in a locker room when a 14-year-old male started shouting, "He's got a gun," the statement noted. That student also was taken into custody and released to juvenile authorities.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech University tragedy, school administrators and local police have little choice but to take such threats seriously. However, they also are wary of future copy cat pranksters.

"We're worried that there are kids out there who think this is funny, because they might get out of school for a day," said BSISD Superintendent Michael

Downes. "Our concern is, what if they do this again next week?"

Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith echoed Downes' concerns.

"Friday, we had parents taking their children out of school for their own safety," Chief Smith said. "At what point do they take their kids back to school?"

To both men, Friday's incident was anything but a laughing matter.

"This was a form of terrorism, and it infringed on those children's right to an education," Smith said.

"The troubling aspect of this is that the fear factor involved is usually greater than the actu-

al threat," Downes said.

Smith said the BSPD would continue to work with the school district to make campuses as safe as possible, but noted that pranks and false threats make that job more difficult for all concerned.

"If we can find out where these people are hearing these rumors from, then we can take action," he said. "People who make threats like this need to know they face both school sanctions and possible legal action."

A terroristic threat, as defined by the Texas Penal Code, is a third degree felony if the threat is used to shut down a school campus.

Students who issue such

threats, aside from facing possible legal action, also are subject to mandatory placement in the district's alternative education program, Downes said.

But both men stressed that local police and school officials will not discount any possible threat to school safety.

"We are going to continue to take these things seriously," Smith said. "We're not necessarily going to call off school, but we're going to take extra care to provide for people's safety."

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

say right now."

Thomas told commissioners during a previous meeting of the court that the matter, which has been followed closely by state agencies, would come down to how much time TCLOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards) would give Winn to finish his certification.

"This is the second time we've gotten heat from TCLOSE on this," Thomas told the court. "Constables are required to have their peace officer certification completed within 270 days of being elected. Even if we agree to fund his classes, there's no guarantee TCLOSE won't go ahead and ask the state attorney general to petition to have him (Winn)

removed from office."

That question was answered shortly after the meeting, according to County Judge Mark Barr.

"I contacted TCLOSE to see what we could do on this, and they told me they had already given him (Winn) a 30-day grace period," said Barr. "At the end of that period, which is very soon, they were going to ask the State Attorney General to file the petition to have him removed from office."

"I talked to Mike (Thomas) about it, and he said it would be best for us to go ahead and file the petition," said Barr.

"If TCLOSE is going to ask the AG to file the petition, they're basically asking him to do my job for me," said Thomas. "I didn't feel like that was appropriate."

According to Winn, his inability to obtain his peace officer

certification is due to a lack of funding for the office, a shortfall he says violates the Texas Constitution.

"The focus of attention recently has been on me being out of compliance with TCLOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards)," said Winn. "The point I have been trying to get across and the reason for me being out of compliance is that Howard County is out of compliance with the Texas Constitution by not funding the offices of constable."

"I have given many hours of service in answering calls, assisting with accidents and serving as a back-up officer with the sheriff's office with no operating budget for expenses including fuel, equipment, office supplies and others, at a salary of \$240 a year. I have asked the Howard County

Commissioner's Court to provide the funds, which is required by the Texas Constitution, to operate this office. If those constitutionally justified requests had been granted, it would have allowed me to use my personal funds to complete the required courses, take the TCLOSE exam and be in compliance."

Also among Monday's agenda items, County Auditor Jackie Olson will present invoices and purchase requests. Olson is also to present bids for electrical service and asphalt and aggregate.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas will present personnel considerations.

Thomas is expected to make a presentation to commissioners regarding the hot check fund, while Irene Dominguez, director of indigent health care for the county, is to present a pro-

fessional services agreement between Family Nurse Practitioner and Physician Collaborator.

Mike Welling, director of the county's bond program, will meet with the court concerning consideration of a cell phone, while West Texas Centers for MHMR is to request a resolution regarding the mental health crisis in Texas.

The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission is also to request a resolution to admit Pecos County as a sponsoring political subdivision.

Monday's meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

DOG SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

pete. The following day we have 491 dogs scheduled to compete, and more than 150 different breeds will be showcased during the event.

"There was some concern that we wouldn't be able to get as many dogs for the show this year because the change from a four-day event to a two-day event. However, we only have 60 dogs less than we had last year, so we're very pleased with the participation at this point."

Wells said competitors will travel from as far away as New York for the competition.

"We have plenty of people coming from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and the surrounding states," said Wells. "We also have people from California and New York coming. Most of the competitors from those states are traveling through on the dog show circuit, however, so they aren't just coming to Big Spring

for two days and then heading home."

Wells said the competition will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 28, and for spectators wanting to get an inside look at a dog show event, it will be the opportune time.

"The hour before competition begins, the dog owners are all working with their dogs and grooming them, so it's a very exciting time," said Wells. "For those familiar with the Westminster Dog Show, we'll announce the different breeds — something most people like to see on television — at 12:45 p.m. The day's events are expected to end at approximately 3 p.m."

Sunday's activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with the announcing of the breeds at 1:45 p.m. The show is expected to wrap up at around 4 p.m.

Admission is free, but onlookers would do well to remember a few simple rules of dog show etiquette if they plan to attend, according to Big Spring Kennel Club member Tammie Porter.

"Don't bring your pet to the show," said Porter.

"The environment at the show is already extremely stressful for the dogs, so be sure to leave yours at home."

"Also, never touch one of the dogs without first getting permission. They have been trained to be there from the time they are puppies, and they are there to do a job. A hand reaching out to them at the wrong time can present an unexpected distraction. I've seen one touch in the wrong spot mess up an hour of grooming, as well."

While the show may not be a "hands-on" experience for the audience, Porter said it can certainly be an educational trip.

"Most of the breeders and handlers like to talk about their breeds," said Porter. "They can really be a wealth of information for someone, especially if they are trying to decide what breed of dog they want to get for themselves. That's how I decided what breed I wanted for myself, and it was very helpful."

Wells said the show will also feature junior showmanship and obedience

competitions, as well as numerous vendors with a whole slew of dog accessories and supplies.

"There will also be catalogs available for those interested in learning more about the breeds and dogs being featured

in the show," said Wells. "Also, the catalog has contact information for the dog owners, which is really handy if you're interested in purchasing a dog."

For more information

on the show, contact Wells at 432-517-0259.

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

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MCT photo/Jeff Siner/Charlotte Observer

NASCAR driver Michael Waltrip waits in the garage as his crew hurries to prepare his backup car at the Daytona International Speedway in February. NASCAR officials confiscated the primary car of the No. 55 Toyota team as a result of rule violations found during pre-and-post qualifying inspections for the Daytona 500.

Waltrip happy despite miserable start

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Michael Waltrip has been through tough times before.

That is a big reason why the two-time Daytona 500 winner is far from ready to throw in the towel as his new team goes through something more than simple growing pains in NASCAR's Nextel Cup series.

"I've done this a long time and I lost a whole bunch of races in a row before I won one, and there was always times during that part of my career where I would lose my confidence," Waltrip said Thursday at Phoenix International Raceway. "Then, I would do something good and I'd say, 'I can do this.'"

"I've been very, very proud of my mental attitude toward what I'm faced with."

What he has been through so far this year is a cheating scandal, an embarrassing personal accident and on-track failures that might have crushed some first-year team owners.

"I'm doing well," Waltrip said. "I'm happy. I love being a car owner. I really do."

"I want to make a differ-

ence. I want to have this team succeed because I've always envisioned it as being a team that was built as a race fan, which is what I am, for race fans. And, oh yeah, by the way, we're going to have fast Toyotas, too."

Waltrip, looking a bit haggard and a little thinner than when the season began, acknowledges he

See WALTRIP, Page 4B

BIG 12

Continued from Page 1B

seventh, one in the eighth and three in the ninth.

Baylor (21-18, 6-10) cut the lead to the final 11-4 margin in the ninth on a two-run single by Shaver Hansen.

Aaron Crow (5-2) allowed two runs on six

hits and struck out six in 7 1-3 innings for the victory.

Jeff Mandel (5-6) took the loss, giving up four runs on eight hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Texas Tech 1, Kansas 0

LUBBOCK (AP) — A.J. Ramos pitched a complete game shutout to help lead

Texas Tech to a 1-0 win over Kansas on Friday night.

Roger Kieschnick, who went 3-for-4 from the plate, drove in the only run with a single to right field that scored Jason Seefeld in the bottom of the first.

Ramos (8-2) got the win for Texas Tech (23-16, 6-9 Big 12).

He struck out five and allowed only three hits in the game, marking the first complete game shutout by a Red Raider since Bryan Wyatt defeated Texas A&M 1-0 in March 2005.

Andy Marks (3-5) took the loss for the Jayhawks (19-24, 5-11). He gave up one run on seven hits over 6 2-3 innings.

LOCAL BOWLING RESULTS

Men's Caprock

April 16:
Farm Bureau Insurance over Legend Operating, 6-2
Parks Agency over Tough As Nails, 8-0

King Pins over Steamrollerz, 8-0
Jagerbombs over WTP, 6-2
Four Wisemen split Culligan, 4-4
J-Force over The Veterans, 6-2
Bob Brock Ford over Dyer Plumbing, 6-2

BSI split D&W Pump, 4-4
High Individual Game, Kyle Lacey, 286

High Individual Series, Kyle Lacey, 743
High Handicap Individual Game, Kyle Lacey

High Handicap Individual Series, Kyle Lacey, 821

High Team Game, Parks Agency Inc., 910

High Handicap Team Game, Parks Agency Inc., 1040

High Team Series, Culligan, 2494
High Handicap Team Series, Parks Agency Inc., 2944

Standings

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. King Pins | 74-38 |
| 2. Farm Bureau | 72-40 |
| 3. D&W Pump | 70-42 |
| 4. Jagerbombs | 68-44 |
| 5. Culligan | 66-46 |
| 6. BSI | 65-47 |
| 7. Legend Operating | 62-50 |
| 8. WTP | 59-53 |
| 9. Four Wisemen | 54-58 |
| 10. J-Force | 53-59 |
| 11. Bob Brock Ford | 52-60 |
| 12. Parks Agency | 50-62 |
| 13. Tough As Nails | 50-62 |
| 14. Steamrollerz | 48-64 |
| 15. The Veterans | 42-70 |
| 16. Dyer Plumbing | 11-101 |

Men's Wednesday Strikers

April 18
Wanna Bs & Then Some, split,
NOCP, 4-4
Pepper & Salt, over, Trio Fuels, 6-

2
Vagisil, split, Sharp Image, 4-4
The Crew, over, Parks Road Runners, 6-2
High Individual Game, Jimmie Wood, Mike Ramirez and Jim Nipp, 246
High Individual Series, Terry Davis, 683
High Handicap Individual Game,

Jimmie Wood, 268
High Handicap Individual Series, Jim Nipp, 734
High Team Game, Wanna Bs & then Some, 869
High Handicap Team Game, Wanna Bs & Then Some, 976
High Team Series, Trio Fuels, 2423
High Handicap Team Series,

Pepper & Salt, 2714
Standings
1. Wanna Bs & Then Some 172-92
2. Trio Fuels 140-124
3. The Crew 135-129
4. Pepper & Salt 130-134
5. Sharp Image, 128-136
6. Park's Roadrunners 120-144
7. Vagisil 117-147
8. NOCP 114-150

A Bold New Taste

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Participating McDonald's. ©2007 McDonald's

OU-Texas game will stay at Cotton Bowl to 2015

DALLAS (AP) — The annual football game between the University of Oklahoma and University of Texas will be played at the Cotton Bowl at least through 2015, Dallas city officials announced Friday.

Although a formal contract has not been signed, an agreement is in place between the schools, the city and the State Fair of Texas, said Meranda Cohn, chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Laura Miller. The Dallas City Council must also approve the contract.

"Because of its prominent history and unique atmosphere, the setting of the Red River Rivalry truly represents one of the most special games in all of college football," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione said. "We are grateful for the

relationship we share with the State Fair and city of Dallas."

Said Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds, "we look forward to continuing our tradition in Dallas."

The teams have played in Dallas every year since 1929, but it was unclear in recent months if the organizers of the annual game would leave for another venue when the current contract expires after the 2010 game. In February, Cotton Bowl officials announced that in 2010 they were moving the New Year's Day bowl game to Arlington, Texas, site of the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium, set to open in 2009.

Dallas residents voted in November to approve \$30 million in bonds for an overhaul of the Cotton Bowl.

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

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

Contract Bridge

An Ounce of Prevention

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ Q 9 7 2
♦ A 8
♣ K J 10 7 2

WEST
♠ A Q 10 9 2
♥ J 3
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ 8 5

EAST
♠ J 6 5 4
♥ K 4
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ 9 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7
♥ A 10 8 6 5
♦ 10 5 2
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Special circumstances sometimes force declarer to abandon the normal way to play a suit. One of the most important reasons for this is to try to prevent a particular defender from gaining the lead.

Examine this case where West leads the diamond king against four hearts. When dummy comes down, South sees there are two possible losers in spades, two more in trumps and another in diamonds. If he loses all of them, he goes down two.

On the more positive side, how-

ever, declarer notes that he is far more likely to lose one trump trick than two. Furthermore, if everything goes well, he may also be able to discard a loser or two on dummy's clubs.

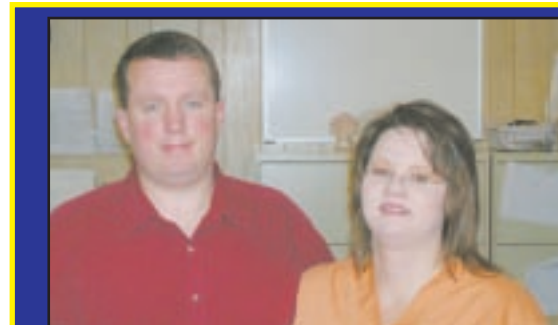
The problem for South from the start is to try to keep the defenders from scoring four tricks before he can take 10. To this end, he must find a way to stop East from gaining the lead and returning a spade through the king.

Accordingly, declarer ducks West's king of diamonds at trick one to prevent him from later putting East on lead with a diamond. After West exits with a diamond to dummy's ace, South's next concern is how to tackle the trumps.

Ordinarily, with this trump combination, declarer might play the ace and another heart. But here, given the circumstances, there is too much danger that East might gain the lead with the king. At trick three, therefore, declarer leads dummy's trump seven and lets it ride after East plays low.

West wins with the jack but is helpless. Whatever he returns, South picks up East's king on the next trump lead and easily makes the contract. In fact, if West does not cash his ace of spades after scoring the trump jack, declarer finishes with an overtrick.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I read the letter that person wrote about when the Roughnecks was here. I did not see what she was talking about. When the player was hurt there was no laughing, but concern and applause when he got up.

The thing that I did not like was when the prayer was said at the beginning, the San Angelo team dropped to one knee and the Roughnecks did not.

But what embarrassed me the most was all the boos that went out from the residents of Big Spring. That did not come from the San Angelo fans.

So, Big Spring, you should be ashamed of yourself. We try and teach our children good sportsmanship and that was not the way to do it. All in all, though, I had a great time and hope that they come back.

MARILYN MIEARS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

AARP Tax-Aide has just completed another very successful year. An undertaking such as this is almost impossible without the help and support of many individuals and organizations.

We would like to thank Leslie Grantham and the staff of the Senior Citizens Center for making us feel so welcome and for all their help throughout the tax season.

We would also like to thank the media - KBST and KBYG and a very special thanks to the Big Spring Herald and especially Thomas Jenkins for the fantastic publicity given our program. And we cannot forget the many individuals

who took advantage of our free service. This year we had 219 taxpayers visit us and we completed 194 tax returns. We thank them for all of their support of our program.

I would also like to personally thank the 16 Tax-Aide volunteers who gave so willingly of their time and talents. They are the lifeline of Tax-Aide and the reason why the program is so successful.

Thanks to everyone involved in our program. We will see you next year.

GLORIA HOPKINS
COORDINATOR
AARP TAX-AIDE

TO THE EDITOR:

Even though I am not from Texas, I lived there temporarily at one time and have visited there a couple of times since.

The last time I was there was Joe Heflin's father-in-law's 75th birthday.

I am very glad to hear how involved Joe is in the legislative process of his state.

WAYNE T. ENGLAND
EUREKA, CALIF.

TO THE EDITOR:

Although I do not live in District 6, I would like to encourage voters in District 6 to vote for Jeff Broman for the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees.

With four sons in the Big Spring school district, Jeff has a vested interest in the BSISD. He is very involved in his children's activities and educational endeavors.

For those of us who no longer have children in See LETTERS, Page 5A

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we turn over our lives to You, Lord, we look forward to the excitement of what will come.

Amen

Prairie dogs an economic tool?

We can't beat 'em; we may as well join 'em. I'm talking about dogs. I own a pair of rat terriers. Dog dogs. Big Spring, like it or not, owns thousands and thousands of dogs. Prairie dogs. More likely, they own Big Spring.

It's not necessarily a great combination, planes and prairie dogs, but the old air base has been home to these oversized rodents for decades. They are everywhere out there.

Just since I've moved to Howard County - and many, many years before, I am sure - various methods have been tried by the powers that be to reduce their population. The controversial vacuuming up of the critters comes to mind. It's more humane than poisoning them or shooting them, but the thought of the cute little animals being sucked 300 miles an hour through a hose into a tank - even if it is padded inside - doesn't sit well with a lot of folks.

When I was a youngster in Stamford, we'd often visit relatives, many of whom lived in the country. That's what cotton farmers do, most of them.

Anyway, on our drive there, or to the lake, we would often take a route that would wind past a natural prairie dog town.

Dad would always say, "Now

look for the prairie dogs right around this curve." And then he'd go on for 20 minutes about what bad varmints they were and how many cattle or horses had suffered an untimely death because they broke a leg stepping into a prairie dog burrow.

Prairie dog towns, natural and man-made, can still be found throughout West Texas. And there are outfits - this is really a bit difficult for me to comprehend, but it's true - that offer prairie dog hunting. One such "ranch" is in Marathon, where they advertise, "This is a great opportunity to practice target shooting, relieve some stress, or just burn through a few hundred rounds of ammo in the off season."

A few hundred rounds! At prairie dogs?

Of course, they make sport of it because they are shooting from 100 to more than 350 yards away. Yeah, right.

But, hey, if that raises your eyebrows, consider that this ranch charges up to \$1,500 per person - lodging and meals provided, of course.

I'm not suggesting we set up a shooting ranch at the airport. No, that might be a bit drastic, but I wonder if there is a way to turn our prairie dog community into something that might be of benefit.

Consider this, plucked off the Internet: A 2004 Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau study indicated that Lubbock's Prairie Dog Town in Mackenzie

Park was the fifth-most-visited attraction in that city by visitors who lived elsewhere. That's pretty interesting, huh?

The Web site didn't have any recent numbers, nor did it say how many people actually visited the little city within a city. But in 2004-2005, the prairie dog town got a major sprucing up from Premier Golf - the company that manages Lubbock's Meadowbrook Golf Course. They added a pavilion and a viewing area, bus parking, fencing, sidewalks and ADA accessibility. I assume that is for visitors, and not prairie dogs who might have trouble getting around.

Snyder, 45 miles or so to our north, still "operates" a Prairie Dog Town in Towle Park and the last time I was over there, they had made some renovations. Nothing fancy, but it did enhance the looks of the place - some benches, signs telling about the animal's habitat and Don't Feed The Prairie Dogs! Things like that.

Is that a feasible idea for Big Spring at all - to enhance an unused portion of our airport for a prairie dog town? Maybe somewhere near the entrance? ('Cause there is a truckload and then some of the critters greeting anyone who drives in.)

It's just a passing thought, and maybe not a very good one. It's probably been batted around before.

I know we have the small prairie dog town at the Big Spring State

See MCCLELLAN, Page 5A



Tired of paying for another's sins

I'm tired of paying for Don Imus' sins. Imus, who has made a living out of offending people over the radio airwaves, recently lost his job as host of a radio talk show after usually racially insensitive terms in describing members of the Rutgers University women's basketball team.

Now, if Imus was a disc jockey at some backwater radio station just south of Nowhere, Fla., his outburst would have been bad enough. But Imus hosted a show that was broadcast nationally, which meant millions of people had the opportunity to hear his racist crap.

Of course, said remarks brought a great deal of outrage from the African-American community - and rightly so. I'm a big fan of freedom of speech and expression, but even I will argue that there's some limits to that freedom.

For example, you can't yell, "Fire!" in a crowded movie theater and you can't make comments designed to incite a riot. Those kind of comments are strictly forbidden.

And while there's not set-in-stone law that states you shall not call a group of African-American women "nappy headed hos," common sense and discretion should steer you away from such slurs.

I know, common decency never stopped Imus and his ilk before,

but one can always hope.

Anyway, Imus made his comments, much outrage was registered and he eventually lost his job.

Here's my problem with all this:

I am not going to suggest that all is sweetness and light when it comes to race relations in this country, but even the biggest cynic has to admit we've come a long, long way in the past 50 years or so.

Over the years, race relations in this country have improved - far too slowly for some, granted.

When I was a small child in the early 1960s, the casual use of racial slurs was nothing to get upset about. And, I'm very ashamed to say, I was not ashamed to utter them.

Mind you, I didn't hate black people, and I certainly didn't wish any harm on them. But I was ignorant to the subject, and that was almost as bad.

It never occurred to me just how plain hateful some of those comments were, so I unwittingly compounded a serious problem.

I was a co-conspirator, willing or otherwise, in the wrong cause.

And I don't consider myself unique in this respect. I'm sure many of my fellow Caucasians who grew up during that time look back on some of their actions and comments with regret.

Thank God for Martin Luther King Jr. - and television.

With his civil rights campaign in the 1960s, Rev. King held up a mirror to this ignorant white child and helped open his eyes, just as

he did for millions of people across the country, relieving them of the ridiculous notion that the color of their skin somehow made them superior to others.

There was not one thunderbolt moment when I finally saw the light. Instead, it was a gradual process which in some respects is still ongoing.

The point to all this, however, is not that there aren't any race relation problems in this country - Lord knows that isn't the case - but that things are better in ways both profound and subtle compared to our recent past.

And then Don Imus had to open his big mouth.

Say what you want about Imus' right to free speech, or how "gangsta rap" degrades African-American women as much if not more so than what Imus said.

Those are all valid points.

But every time an Imus pops up out of the woodwork and spouts something hateful, we in White America are reminded that we still have work to do.

Comments such as those Imus made cheapen not only African-Americans, but their white brethren, also. We, meaning Caucasians, are forced to re-examine and/or defend our belief systems to determine if we are still a bunch of ignorant yahoos.

And, to be honest, we really should be getting past all that now, shouldn't we?

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

Biggio's slam gives Astros their fifth straight win

By The Associated Press

Forget the first seven innings. These days, the Astros are making the final two count.

Craig Biggio's first grand slam in 13 years came with one out in the ninth and Houston beat the Milwaukee Brewers 6-5 Friday night for its fifth straight victory.

On Thursday night, Houston rallied from 6-2 down with five runs in the eighth and one in the ninth to beat Cincinnati 8-6. The night before, the Astros scored five in the eighth and one in the ninth for a 7-2 win over the Reds.

"You just get the feeling on the bench that something's going to work," manager Phil Garner said of the Astros' late-game heroics.

On Friday night, the runs almost didn't come.

If Biggio's shot had traveled 6 inches fewer, center fielder Bill Hall said he would have had it. Hall tried a leaping grab and came up just short, looking up in the sky in disbelief.

"I took a good route to it and I just tried to jump and catch it," Hall said. "I just missed it by 6 inches or maybe even a little less than that."

Biggio's third career grand slam came on his 2,945th hit.

"It's not something that I do a lot, that's for sure," Biggio said. "I was just trying to get the ball up in the air a little bit and definitely got the bonus out of it. It was just one of those crazy games."

In other NL games Friday, it was: St. Louis 2, Chicago 1; Atlanta 7, New York 3; Cincinnati 2, Philadelphia 1, 10 innings; Washington 6,

Florida 5, 14 innings; San Diego 11, Colorado 1; San Francisco 4, Arizona 2; and Los Angeles 9, Pittsburgh 1.

Chris Burke led off the bottom of the ninth with a bunt single off Matt Wise (0-1). Adam Everett walked on four pitches while trying to sacrifice Burke over.

Brad Ausmus also tried a sacrifice bunt, but catcher Johnny Estrada couldn't throw out Burke at third, loading the bases with no outs. Reliever Greg Aquino struck out pinch-hitter Mike Lamb before Biggio's slam into the Brewers' bullpen in left-center field.

"He threw me a breaking ball, and I was able to just get it far enough," Biggio said.

It was almost all for naught.

Former Astros closer Brad Lidge walked Tony

Gwynn and Rickie Weeks to begin the ninth, and after a strikeout, Prince Fielder homered down the right field line to cut the lead to 6-5.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Braden Looper allowed five hits in seven innings, Preston Wilson hit a long two-run homer in the seventh and visiting St. Louis snapped a four-game losing streak.

In just his fourth major league start, former closer Looper (3-1) outpitched Ted Lilly (1-2) and Jason Irsinghausen worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Braves 7, Mets 3

Tim Hudson was downright stingy over eight sharp innings and Chipper Jones hit a two-run homer for Atlanta.

Kelly Johnson also had

two hits as the Braves moved into first in the NL East by winning the opener of the weekend series between the top two teams in the division.

Reds 2, Phillies 1
10 innings

Scott Hatteberg hit a two-out, solo homer that tied it in the ninth, and Brandon Phillips singled with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to lift host Cincinnati.

One out away from closing out a combined one-hitter, Tom Gordon (0-1) gave up Hatteberg's homer on a belt-high, 3-1 pitch, the closer's first blown save in two chances. In the 10th, Gordon walked Javier Valentin with one out in the 10th, Ryan Freel followed with a single, and Adam Dunn walked.

Nationals 6, Marlins 5
14 innings

Chris Snelling singled off first baseman Mike Jacobs' glove to drive in Ryan Church from second in the 14th inning for visiting Washington.

Church singled to right off Lee Gardner to lead off the 14th and stole second. On Snelling's two-out single, second baseman Jason Wood quickly retrieved the ball off Jacobs' glove and fired home, but Church slid in safely when Matt Treanor couldn't handle the throw.

Jesus Colome (2-0) picked up the win for the Nationals with three scoreless innings. Saul Rivera recorded his first save.

Lee Gardner (0-1), the Marlins' eighth pitcher, took the loss for Florida.

WALTRIP

Continued from Page 3B

took on a huge task in jumping into Cup with a three-car team in Toyota's first year in the series.

Asked if, knowing what he knows now, he would still go with three teams, Waltrip said, "Heck yeah."

"All the problems we've had, we more or less brought on ourselves. We know that the model in this garage area is four teams, to be able to spend effectively and be able to compete against the team that have those types of resources.

"It doesn't have anything to do with how many teams we have, it has to do with some of the turmoil and problems we've faced since we started this endeavor back in Daytona."

Waltrip's team was caught cheating at Daytona, resulting in a big fine, a points loss and crew chief David Hyder and team director Bobby Kennedy suspended indefinitely by NASCAR.

Then, earlier this month, an embarrassed Waltrip was charged with reckless driving and failing to report an accident, both misdemeanors. Waltrip said he fell asleep at the wheel of his personal car and woke up to find it overturned in a ditch.

On the track, little has gone right for Michael Waltrip Racing, either.

Waltrip has not qualified for a race since the season-opening Daytona 500. He missed again

Thursday at Phoenix, qualifying 38th out of 50 drivers and ninth out of 15 drivers vying for eight spots in the 43-car field.

Rookie teammate David Reutimann did make it on time qualifying 25th. He has now made five of eight starting fields but has yet to finish better than 33rd in a race.

The third Waltrip driver, Dale Jarrett, has driven in all seven previous races and started Saturday night, too. But he had to use the fifth of six allowable past series champion provisionals and has not finished better than 22nd in a race since Daytona.

"We haven't done a very good job of complementing Dale Jarrett," Waltrip said.

"Reutimann and I don't get to race much and he's out there pretty much on his own. First of all it

hurts me worse for (sponsor) NAPA because I know they trusted me and they wanted me to do this job for them and we haven't been able to perform for them.

"Then it hurts me worse to sit on the toolbox and watch Dale Jarrett out there running terrible. That's not what he's all about."

Asked if he has considered putting another driver in his No. 55 Toyota Camry, Waltrip said he has "considered everything in the world that could make this team successful.

"But, other than considering it, it hasn't gotten all that far with me because I believe I have the right people in place in management. I feel that I've got the best shot of anybody I know around here of getting this car in the race. So I want to be

that guy who gets in it and goes and tries to do that."

There have been a couple of key changes, though.

This week, Waltrip made Buddy Sisco, formerly Reutimann's car chief, his crew chief.

Waltrip has also reduced his race-weekend TV jobs.

"We just had our post practice deal in there and talked about things we might change and things we might do," Waltrip explained. "I've taken my

focus from running off and doing TV shows and doing things like that at the racetrack to being right here with my guys all the time. Hopefully, that will pay dividends as we go forward."

That doesn't make Waltrip particularly happy, though.

"I wish you knew how much I love doing TV," he said. "It makes me happy doing it. It's a relief, a release. Some people go hunting, some people go boating, some people go on vaca-

tion. I like to do TV."

But Waltrip said he realizes that he has to manage perception as well as reality.

"I have to make sure that the people that are paying me to race my car are comfortable with who I am and what I do as far as my attention to the details goes," he said. "We've certainly got a big hill to climb, but I'm into it, I'm engaged and I love the opportunity that is here for us if we can just turn this thing in a good direction."

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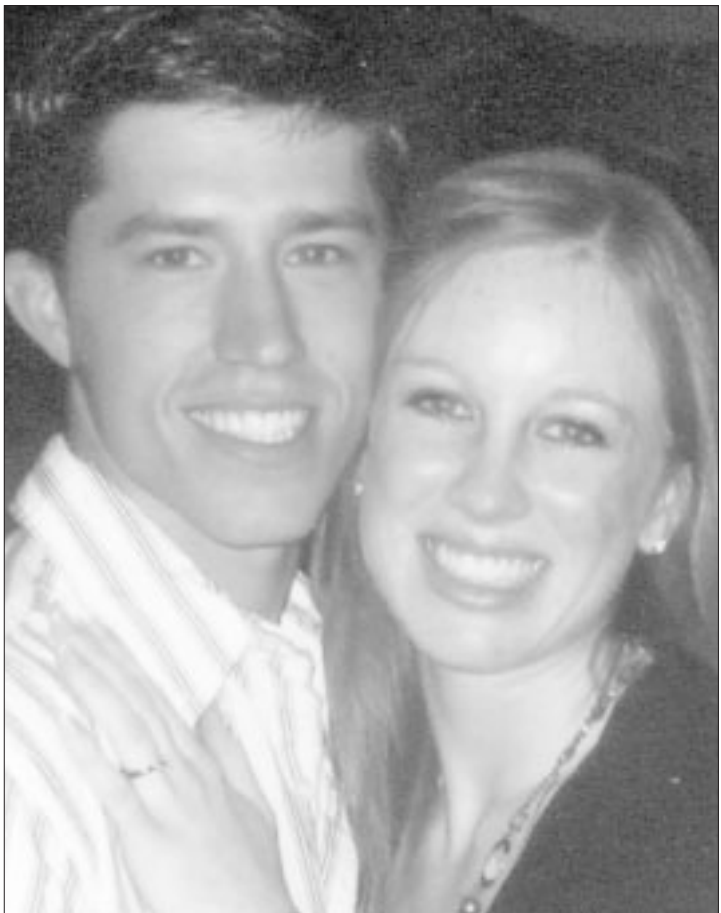
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Johnson-Schuelke

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wiczorek and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson announce the approaching marriage of their daughter Brooke Nicole to Clint Blair Schuelke, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schuelke.

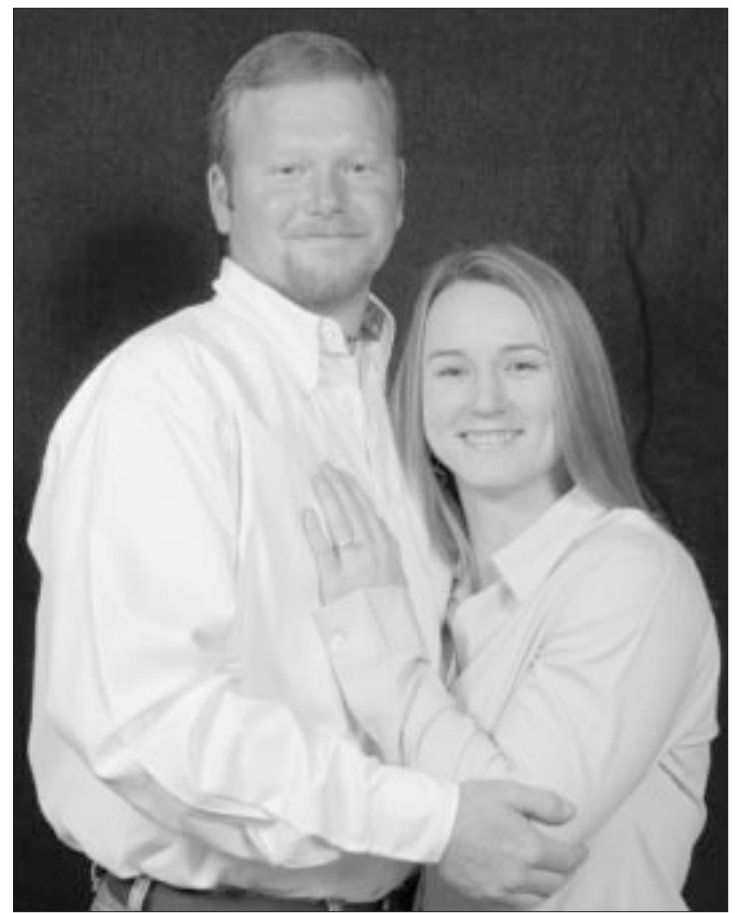
The ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, June 15, 2007, at Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, N.M.



Rodriguez-Bair

Bradley Andrew Bair and Lidia Renae Rodriguez, both of Big Spring, will be married at 5 p.m. June 8, 2007, at the Dora Roberts Community Center located in the Comanche Trail Park.

Lidia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Mendez. Bradley is the son of Sandra Bair and the late Kerry Simpkins.



Stewart-Harrison

Howard and Vicki Stewart of Big Spring are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Suzanne Stewart of Floydada, to Jason Glenn Harrison of Floydada.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Ina Stewart of Big Spring and the late H.D. (Hunka) Stewart, and the late John and Nancy Annen.

The prospective groom is the son of Rex and Beverly Harrison of Floydada and grandson of Milton Harrison and the late Jo Harrison, and Dwight and Ruby Snider of Amarillo.

They will be married at 7 p.m. July 7, 2007, at the Lubbock Country Club.

Weddings

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Walker-Slaymaker

Becky Jo Walker and Jason D'Wayne Slaymaker exchanged wedding vows Saturday, March 31, 2007, at 5 p.m. at the Hillcrest Baptist Church in San Angelo. The Rev. Bob Elliot performed the ceremony with Mike Harris providing a special musical performance.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Walker of Stanton. She is the granddaughter of JoAnn Turner of Garden City and Ray Walker and the late Susan Walker of Big Spring.

The groom is the son of Emma and the late Orville Ray Slaymaker of Houston. His grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. William Slaymaker and the late Addie Hatchet.

Instrumental music was pre-recorded by Ryan Walker, the bride's father, pianist.

The bride was given away by her father, Ryan Walker. She wore a Maggie Sotero gown of white diamond satin. The one-piece, strapless satin gown had an asymmetrical waist and corset back with a sweeping train. The gown was embellished with bugle beads on the top band, down the front overlay and around the train. She wore her late grandmother's pearls, a ring that had belonged to her maternal grandmother, a ring belonging to the groom's mother and her mother's pearl bracelet.

The matron of honor was Kelly Mitchell of Panhandle. Bridesmaids were Kelly Ammons of Houston; Lacy Walker of San Angelo, sister-in-law of the bride; Melinda Garcia of Portland; and Tanya Wilson of Sanger. Their gowns were two-



Mr. and Mrs. D'Wayne Slaymaker

piece copper satin ensembles, subtly accented with sequins.

Flower girls Emily Ammons and Madison Wilson wore dresses of ivory satin with copper bolero jackets.

Zachary Slaymaker of Clovis, N.M., a nephew of the groom served as best man. Groomsmen were Steve Ammons of Houston; Robb Walker of San Angelo, brother of the bride; Curt Pouyer of Magnolia; and Corey Moore of Levelland.

The ring bearer was Ethan Ammons. Ushers were Jeremy Lowe; Jonathan Kirby, a cousin of the bride; and Jano Mitchell.

The bride graduated

from Coahoma High School. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Angelo State University and is employed by the Region 15 Education Service Center in San Angelo as an early intervention specialist.

The groom graduated from Houston Waltrip High School and is currently a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo.

A reception was held in the fellowship hall of

Hillcrest Baptist Church. The tables were covered with white cloths and were topped with decorations of the wedding colors, copper and blue. An assortment of sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres and fruit were served.

The bride's table was decorated with six cakes in a display of candles and flowers.

The groom's cake, chocolate marble, was decorated with the Air Force insignia.

Following a Caribbean cruise, the couple now resides in San Angelo.

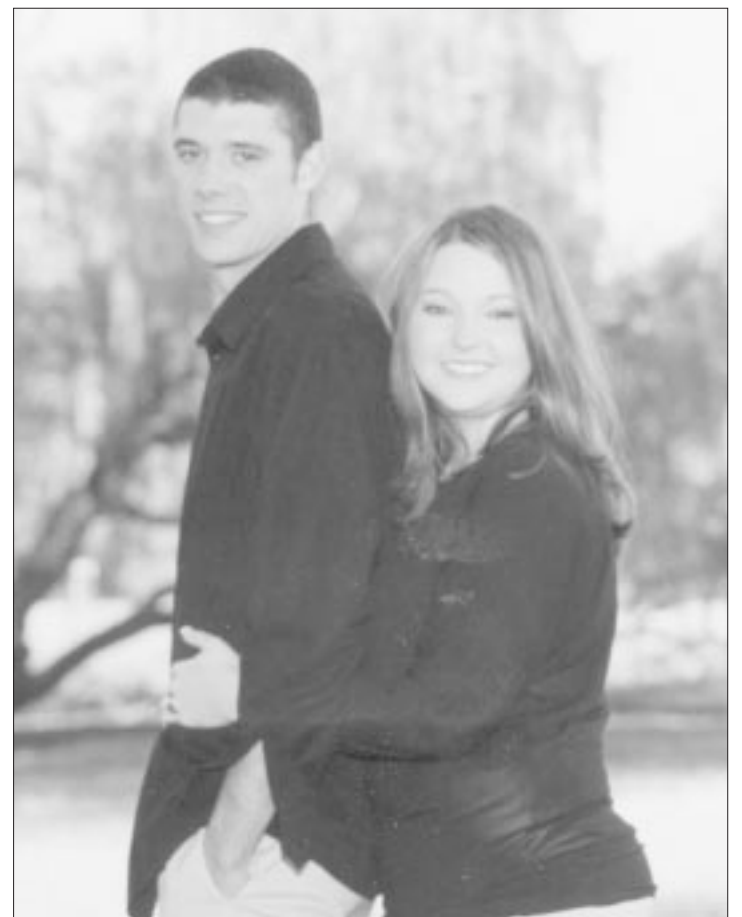
2007-2008 Spring Registration for Current Big Spring Students:

Registration packets will be sent home on Monday, April 23, 2007, with your child.

Please return registration packets to your child's teacher or campus office by Friday, April 27, 2007.

This will constitute registration for the 2007-2008 school year.

If you have questions, please contact the principal's office at your campus.



Moore-Madison

Kaci LeAnn Moore of Stanton and Brent Anthony Madison of Lenorah are planning to be married at 7 p.m. June 16, at First Baptist Church in Lamesa.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Ernie and Rena White of Lamesa and Michael and Christine Moore of Greenwood. Her grandparents are Betty Singleton and the late John Singleton of Lamesa and Milton and Joan Moore of Welch. She is the great-granddaughter of Joe Stringer of Lamesa.

The groom-elect is the son of Roy and Faye Madison of Lenorah. His grandparents are Eldon and Georgia Welch of Tarzan and Jo Madison and the late Dick Madison of Lenorah. He is the great-grandson of Mrs. Jack Glaze of Tarzan.

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

school, we should remain interested in the future of others' children and grandchildren as well as the fiscal responsibilities of our community.

Our school board members make decisions impacting our school district and our community and Jeff Brorman has the knowledge and leadership abilities to make informed, reliable decisions with the best interest of everyone at heart.

SHELANE ROBERTS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Texas Rep. Joe Heflin should be applauded for putting Texans first by protecting and promoting reliable electricity in our state.

Last week, the Texas House passed a proposal that ensures investors interested in buying the regulated utility TXU Electric Delivery abide by commitments to take care of the "poles and wires" that deliver electricity to homes and businesses. Without proper maintenance, reliability is seriously compromised. The proposal also requires timely, meaningful review and approval by the Public Utility Commission prior to the close of future mergers and acquisitions of state-regulated utilities.

Reliability of electricity is not only important for Texas consumers, but is critical to our state's employers and the hundreds of thousands of jobs they support. A single, brief interruption in electricity can cost millions, diverting precious resources from workers and economic development.

We thank the Representative for his sound judgment and commitment to the reliable power that is so critical to our state's prosperity.

TONY BENNETT
CHAIRMAN
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS
AUSTIN

TO THE EDITOR:

As parents we want basic things for our children. We want them to grow up knowing that they are loved. We want to provide them opportunities in life to reach their fullest potential. And we want them to be healthy and happy. There are many things parents want to give their children. But good health is perhaps the greatest gift. Vaccination is one of the most important ways a parent can protect their child's health.

Vaccines are one of history's most successful and

**Tell us what you think. Send your e-mailed letters to:
editor@bigspringherald.com**

cost-effective public health tools for preventing serious disease and death. Diseases that were once common place, such as polio, measles, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria and rubella, are now only distant memories for most Americans. Today there are few reminders of the suffering, disabilities and premature deaths caused by diseases that are now preventable with vaccines.

Immunization coverage among children in the United States is the highest ever recorded for most vaccines. High immunization coverage translates into record or near record low levels of vaccine-preventable disease.

Our success also means that many parents don't understand the importance of childhood immunization and what diseases can be prevented. Most of today's parents have never seen these diseases and the suffering they can cause and, therefore, are less concerned about the need for immunization compared to other parental priorities. However, these diseases are not diseases of the past. They are still with us and circulating in many parts of the world.

We can prevent more diseases than ever before, yet despite recent gains in childhood immunization coverage, more than 1 million of our nation's 2-year-olds are still missing one or more of the recommended immunizations. Each day 11,000 babies are born who will need to be immunized against 13 diseases before the age of 2.

Low immunization coverage is an issue that impacts the entire community. Therefore, community resources, and more importantly, community participation is essential to increasing immunization coverages. A decision to vaccinate a child is a decision to not only protect that individual child, but to protect the community as well by reducing the spread of disease to those who have not been vaccinated either by choice or because of medical reasons, such as children with leukemia.

Parents and health care providers must work together to ensure that all children are fully immunized.

Physicians need to talk with parents about the importance of immunization and to be willing to answer their questions about vaccine risks and benefits. Every visit should be seen as an opportunity to vaccinate and reminders should be

given to parents when immunizations are due.

To help the advance of vaccine coverage for children, the Department of State Health Services will observe National Immunization Days on April 23-25 between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. each day. Vaccines will be free of charge and each child will receive something special to take home with him or her.

SANDY SAMUELS
IMMUNIZATION NURSE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Today, April 16, we lost a very dear and loving friend. It is not yet known what happened to her, but she had RSD, a very horrible disease that kills millions of people every day.

I only wish doctors here would learn about it and

help the ones that live here with it. I have tried to get the doctors here to learn about it and I have taken information to the hospital. They refuse to read or even learn about it. My daughter has this horrible beast that lives in her, and her 10-year-old daughter is scared about what is going to happen to her mother.

RSD is a very real and horrible disease. We have even tried to have fund raisers, which were a great success, but the awareness is still not out there in Big Spring.

People that you tell of this do not or do not want to believe you. They say it is all in your head and that you are crazy. In one way, being crazy is true, because RSD can and will drive you crazy — to where you do not want to live anymore.

Wake up doctors. Please

learn about this. It is and can be 100 times worse than cancer.

How many more people have to die from this?

We like to hold fund raisers and send the money to RSD awareness research, just as Relay for Life does. I have two web sites that you can go to and learn about it — www.rdsda.org and rsd-hope.org.

Please hear our cries and open your minds to this horrible beast that keeps its victims in horrible pain 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

MARILLYN MIEARS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We are trying to get back in touch with some old friends of ours that we used to write to many years ago. We had been writing to each other for a

few years and then we came over to Big Spring to meet them in 1992, but since we moved we have lost touch with them and would dearly love to know how they are getting on now.

The couple in question are Linda and Terry Lee. They used to live in the Ponderosa Apartments before moving to East 16th Street (or it could have been West 16th Street). Terry's mother is called Jeany and she also has three other sons.

We would love to be able to get back in touch with them and show them photos of our two sons who were only small when we saw them, and now they are grown men.

If any of your readers could help, it would be appreciated. Please help us if possible. Our e-mail address is: colin.spindler1@btopen-world.com.

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McCLELLAN

Continued from Page 4A

Park, and that's great, but hey, is bigger better? Could something at the airpark possibly bring more tourism to our city?

By the way, there are a lot of burrowing owls out there, and rabbits, all living in joyous harmony, no doubt.

If you drive out to take a look, swing a right after the entrance and go all way to the terminal, and past it, if you like.

Don't hang around the prison unit, it makes the guards nervous, and rightfully so. They have a tough job, so don't make it more stressful for them. They WILL check you out if you loiter in their immediate area. Just pass on by at a normal speed; there are plenty of prairie dogs to

see before and after you reach that area.

One last thing ...

I spent some time at our airpark last week just watching the prairie dogs' heads pop up and down like jack-in-the-boxes and listening to their high-pitched barks and squeaks.

Hours later, I was relaxing at home when I felt a rustle behind me and heard a loud "eke!"

I darn near held on to the ceiling with my fingernails and toenails, but came crashing down, not into a horde of prairie dogs, but beside our rat terrier, Chase, playing with his squeeze toy.

I swear he was grinning at me.

To contact News Editor Bill McClellan, call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail him at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

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BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call John Moseley, 263-7331, Ext. 230, or leave a voice mail.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 5C
Sunday, April 22, 2007



Doris Huibregtse, third from left, received the Jack Y. Smith Award — Big Spring State Hospital's most coveted volunteer award — during Tuesday's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Presenting the award are, from left, Edna Faye Smith, Steve Smith and Ed Moughon, hospital superintendent. The award is named in honor of Jack Y. Smith, an early volunteer and husband and father of Edna Faye and Steve.

Huibregtse named top state hospital volunteer

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Longtime volunteer Doris Huibregtse was presented with the Jack Y. Smith Award Tuesday during Big Spring State Hospital's Volunteer Awards Luncheon.

The luncheon is the hospital's gift to the volunteers who donate thousands of hours of their time each year to improve the lives of hospital patients.

Longevity and statewide awards also were presented during the yearly luncheon which coincides with National Volunteer Week.

Statewide awards were formally presented last month at the volunteer's yearly conference in Kerrville, but hospital officials like to give local recognition at the April luncheon, said Billie Christie-Morgan, director of community relations.

Ruth Nanny earned the Down and Dirty Award for her willingness to tackle the messiest of jobs; Dorothy Sheppard won the Dreamer Award for her innovative ideas; and Shirley Bodin was presented with the Most Organized Award for always staying on task.

Huibregtse also won the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year within the Department of State Health Services Volunteer Services Council in addition to the local Jack Y. Smith Award.

Huibregtse has served as chairman of the Volunteer Services Council for 10 years and has donated more than 3,000 hours of volunteer work to the hospital, Christie-Morgan said.

"She is so deserving of this award," Christie-Morgan said. "She has done so many things for the patients that no one ever knows about."

Steve Smith, the son of Jack Y. Smith, presented the award along with his mother, Edna Faye Smith, to Huibregtse during the luncheon ceremony.

"The first time the Jack Y. Smith Award was presented was in 1973," Smith said. "Throughout those years many volunteers spent countless hours making lives better for the hospital's patients."



Above Shirley Bodin (left) and Dorothy Sheppard admire their Most Organized and Dreamer baskets presented Tuesday during the hospital's annual Volunteer Services Council luncheon. They were recognized locally for winning state awards earlier this year. Also pictured are Bill Bodin and Suzanne Markwell. At left, volunteer Ruth Nanny looks over the basket she received for winning the Department of State Health Services Volunteer Services Council Down and Dirty Award.

Herald photos/Valerie Avery

And this year's recipient is no exception."

Jack Y. Smith was one of the earliest volunteers for Big Spring State Hospital who championed the hospital's mission to people in the area and the state, Christie-Morgan said.

"He was a great volunteer and the award that is given in his memory is the most coveted award presented each year to one of our volunteers," she said.

Volunteers earning pins

for hours donated during their tenure with Big Spring State Hospital were: Murlene Williams, 25,900; Robin Hallman, 6,152; Bill Wallace, 5,700; Shirley Bodin, 4,334; Doris Huibregtse, 3,011; Ruth Nanny, 2,913; Jobeth Corwin, 2,600; Suzanne Markwell, 2,000; Dorothy Sheppard, 1,772; Nancy Patrick, 1,621; Thomas Corwin, 1,417 and Pat Dickenson, 1,404.

Others were Sharon Gutierrez, 1,300; Gay Smith, 1,369; Doris Smith,

1,117; Charles Smallwood, 1,163; Cyneather Woodruff, 900; Connie Rodriguez, 715; Lucy Flores, 600; JoAnn Hernandez, 550; Mary Hughes, 418; Helen Crandal 486; Theresa Anderson, 452; Linda Nanny, 380; Nancy Kimbell, 329; Rowena Suazo, 248; Lucy Griffith, 227; Dorothy Gilbreath, 221; Ann Russell, 134; Gracie Rushing, 190; Vicki Pitman, 121; and Lee Emerson, 131.

Padded resume can self-inflict career injuries

By JOEL DRESANG

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

A Wisconsin lawmaker who included a misstatement on his official biography suffered embarrassment and frustration when the embellishment

came to light, but employment experts warn that such a slip by a job applicant could be even more disastrous.

State Rep. Terry Musser recently clarified that he did not serve as a Green Beret,

although between two tours of duty in Vietnam, he wore the green beret as part of his uniform while serving with the 6th Special Forces at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Hindsight, I should have put down Signal Company 6th Special Forces, Fort Bragg, and let it go," Musser said. "But then one of the reasons I went further is most people say, 'What the hell is the 6th Special Forces?'"

After a Missouri-based advocacy group challenged Musser's reference to the Green Beret in his official biography, Musser, a Republican, issued a clarification.

Now he hopes others learn from his experience.

"Unless you're trying to lie to people, don't try to embellish your record. I mean, you have to put it out there and let people decide at face value," Musser said.

Cases such as Musser's show the premium that jobseekers must put on clarity in their resumes, experts say.

"I think what you put in a resume absolutely has to be rock-solid, concrete verifiable, that if there is any question, that it will immediately throw both your application and your credibility into question," said Dennis Reina, an organizational psychologist and co-author of the book "Trust & Betrayal in the Workplace."

"I can't believe that people, especially with the vast resources that are available at the fingertip, would still go out — and I don't mean this in Musser's case — and stretch, falsify, make a false claim, however you'd want to phrase it, something on a resume. It's a surefire way to never get a job, once it's discovered," said Evan Zeppos, president of a

Milwaukee public relations firm.

"Hopefully, if it's still going on, it's in a small minority of people who stay unemployed, because you don't want someone like that in any organization," Zeppos said.

Jude M. Werra, an executive placement specialist in Brookfield, Wis., catches about 10 percent of job candidates misrepresenting their credentials. Since 1995, Werra has published a twice-yearly Liars Index, measuring the degree to which executives embellish their academic achievements.

"It is relatively consistent that people continue to do it," said Werra, who reviews between 200 and 300 resumes a year. "It's kind of unclear why an individual would misrepresent that when it's so easy to check."

Generally, people who feel they need to exaggerate their experience tend to think they can't be accepted for who they are, said Reina, who's based in Vermont and includes among his clients such organizations as Kimberly-Clark Corp. Such lack of trust in themselves can make people less trustworthy to others.

"Trust begets trust, and betrayal begets betrayal," Reina said. "And betrayal is a breach of trust or the perception of a breach." Perception is part of the equation, Reina asserted, because there's a heightened sensitivity to whether someone should be trusted.

"I think there's a real phenomenon out there these days that we tend to be quick to judge, quick to make assumptions, jump to conclusions and point the finger in blame," Reina said.

Labor market conditions also might have some effect on resume fudging.

Richard Coughlan, an authority on business ethics and associate dean for graduate business programs at the University of Richmond in Virginia, says stiff competition can motivate job candidates to be more "creative" in presenting their qualifications. Werra said tight hiring markets can tempt employers to overlook due diligence on applicants.

But employers also are

See **LIAR**, Page 6C

Sick days: Getting the flu is just the beginning

Are you sniffing and sneezing? Feeling achy or feverish? Maybe you have the flu. If so, the Centers for Disease Control would like you to stay home — take a break from errands, school, and work so you don't make other people sick.



VICKY LOVELL, PH.D.

If your employer doesn't offer you paid sick days, though, following this advice can be very expensive. Maybe you won't be paid for any time you have to take off. For min-

imum-wage workers, missing \$75 for staying home a couple days could mean not being able to pay the electric company, or skipping on food at the end of the month. Or, even worse: being fired for holing up in bed with the sniffles and a box of tissues.

These are the consequences that tens of millions of work-

ers face in the United States. Nearly half of all workers do not have a single paid sick day. Their employers want them to stay on the job even when they have the flu or some other contagious disease. And, ironically, some jobs with the most face-to-face public contact have the least flexibility about keeping germs out of

the workplace. For example, six of every seven food-service workers have to choose between going to work when they're sick or staying home without pay, possibly jeopardizing their employment at the same time. (So, while the very nice person who will be your

See **SICK DAYS**, Page 6A

Frances Wheat honored with resolution in Senate

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN — Senator Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, has announced Senate Resolution 715, honoring San Angelo District Director Frances Wheat for her decade of service to the people of Senate District 28.

Wheat is retiring this summer and relocate to Midland to be near her family.

A Big Spring native, Wheat served as the district director for Big Spring during her first several years with Sen. Duncan. The latest round of redistricting removed Big Spring from SD 28 and replaced it with San Angelo. Wheat moved to San Angelo and quickly became a fixture among the movers and shakers in that community. She was named district director for San Angelo and continued her service.

Much of her work included representing the senator at events and meetings. Sen. Duncan credited her with "serving as the senator" on the occasions when he needed to be at multiple locations at once.

"Frances is a treasure and a valued member of Team



Wheat

Duncan. We will miss working with her enormously," Sen. Duncan said on the Senate floor. Sen. Duncan arranged to surprise Wheat on the Senate floor this week with a visit from her family and reception in his office.

The Senate resolution passed in Ms. Wheat's honor read in part:

"The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Frances Reagan Wheat for her many achievements and contributions to our state; and whereas, a fourth-generation Texan, Frances Wheat is a graduate of Big Spring High School and of Baylor University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in home economics; she taught home economics at Big Spring High School and served as a home economist for the Texas Electric Service Company; and ... served her hometown of Big Spring in numerous ways over the years. She volunteered for the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and served as president of the Howard County Heritage Museum and of the Big Spring (Area) Chamber of Commerce, as well as of the Rotary Club; and ... is well known for her devotion to the senator and his work in West Texas."



HERALD photo/Lane Bond

Renay Peters Joubert, a singer well known for her renditions of American gospel and spiritual music, performs for Big Spring elementary school students Friday morning at the Municipal Auditorium. Joubert also performed with the Big Spring Symphony at 8 p.m. Saturday evening in the auditorium. Tickets, available at the door, cost \$15, \$10 and \$5

Six locals among those attending TRTA annual convention

HERALD Staff Report

Six members of the Big Spring-Howard County unit of the Texas Retired Teachers Association were among the more than 1,000 public education retirees who gathered in Austin for the TRTA's 34th annual convention.

The four delegates from the local unit were Bo Fryar, the group's incoming president; Bettie Cox, first vice president; Loma

Jean Wynn, second vice president; and Jean Slate, secretary.

Joining the local delegates were Janice Bond, a past District 18 TRTA president, and Myrtle Lee, the local unit's legislative chairman.

They joined the more than 700 delegates in giving State Rep. Joe Heflin and his colleagues a standing ovation when it was announced during the legislators breakfast that the Texas House had

approved contribution to the TRS fund at 6.7 percent and for retired teachers to get a 13th check this year.

The Texas Senate would have to pass both measures before they would go into effect.

During the past 12 years, the Legislature has only made minimum financial contributions allowable under the Texas Constitution to the TRS pension trust fund, which pays benefits to more

than 250,000 retired educators and will in the future provide retirement benefits to more than 700,000 active school employees.

The TRS of Texas pension fund has more than \$106 billion in assets and is the seventh largest pension fund in the country.

Despite being one of the

largest and best funded pension plans in the U.S., the TRS has not been able to provide benefit increases since 2001.

"This is a very popular event with a great message: It's time to help those who gave so much in Texas public schools," TRTA State President Aubrey Cherry said dur-

ing the breakfast. "The State of Texas is in a position to do that this legislative session and we want to tell these public officials that waiting six or seven years for an annuity increase is long enough. Retired educators gave so much to Texas and we should never forget their service."

Enrollment for BSISD students begins Monday

Enrollment for current Big Spring Independent School students begins Monday.

Pre-registration of kindergarten through 11th grade students will be conducted Monday through Friday, April 27.

A preprinted enrollment form as well as a nurses' information form will be sent home with students on Monday. Please verify the information and make necessary changes.

Return both forms to school by Friday, April 27.

Kindergarten Roundup or school registration for BSISD students who will be attending kindergarten for the first time next year will be conducted during the week of May 7 through 10.

Please bring immunization records, birth certificate and social security card to the campus located in your current atten-

dance zone. To find out what elementary school is in your attendance zone, call 264-3600.

On Tuesday, May 8, all five elementary campuses — Bauer, Kentwood, Marcy, Moss and Washington — will be open until 7 p.m. to accommodate parents who may not be able to come to the school during school hours.

For more information, call 264-3600.

Club News

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Kathryn Wiseman presided over the April 2 meeting of Keep Big Spring Beautiful at Howard College.

The invocation was provided by Wayland Pierce.

After minutes and financials, Wiseman asked for committee chair designations which are: Pat Simmons, beautification/clean-up; Sandra Rhodes-Bartlett, fund raising/finance; Barbara Brumley and Janell Davis, public awareness; Loyce Phillips, Wayland Pierce and Wenda Christopher, education; Todd Darden, Parry Hall and JoAnn Staulcup, recycling; Jan Hansen, business and industry; and Todd Darden, law enforcement.

Other committees have yet to be decided.

Debbie Wegman reminded the group of the Vocal Trash concert including the local talent of the Kings Men, New Dimension and the Big Spring High School drum line.

Hall reported that six more pallets of e-waste were packed and ready to be shipped. Another work day may be needed to finish the project.

Simmons discussed the Trash-Off, a district-by-district cleanup and the projected "eye-sore" effort. She also encouraged members to recruit businesses to join and assign a person to be active.

Phillips said the group will hold another tree planting at the schools with a 25 percent discount from supporting member, Johansen's Nursery.

Gloria Blackburn reported on the flea market set for April 21. Rhodes-Bartlett said things were going well for the golf

tournament, also set for April 21. Tickets for men's and women's golf shoes are still available.

Bobby and Gloria will join Hansen and Wegman in working on a \$15,000 Hamburger Helper Hometown Grant. Those funds would probably be used to purchase a camera to be placed at spring at Comanche Trail Park.

The "Love Our Lake" cleanup has been scheduled for May 12.

TOPS 21

TOPS meeting opened at the Dora Roberts Center April 16 with Alex Sechelski presiding.

Prayer was given by Hughetta Roberts. TOPS pledge was led by Olnee Menges. KOPS pledge was led by Gladys Russell. The welcome song was sung by all.

Hughetta Roberts gave the roll call. TOPS had a net loss of six pounds. Duffy Yancy was best loser for TOPS with a loss of 3 1/2 pounds. Gladys Russell was best loser for KOPS with a loss of 3/4 pounds.

Jennifer Shaffer gave a report on newcomers and it was decided what literature would be placed in the packet. Carol Smith will write a paragraph for the Supporters column.

Smith asked for volunteer to give programs at the meetings. Yancy will give a program April 23; Smith April 30, Russell, May 7; and Menges, May 14.

The club welcomed a new member. The program was given by Olnee Menges on building self-esteem; "You are Someone Special." The meeting adjourned with the closing.



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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Sherri Key, broker and owner of United Country Heart of the City Realtors (holding scissors), joined by her staff of associates, as well as members and representatives of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, cuts the ribbon on one of the newest businesses to join the local Chamber. Key will be joined by staff members Kim Pollard, broker; Pat Hardison, agent; Traci Ryan, agent; Kara Freeman, agent; Denice Batla, agent; and Kristi Hines, office manager.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Bealls Manager Agmed Ramirez, with scissors, is joined by store employees and representatives of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce as he cuts the ribbon to announce the grand re-opening of the store at Big Spring Mall.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Jason and Rose Lamb, with scissors, co-owners of Lamb's All-Works, cut the ribbon to announce the grand opening of their business earlier this week. Also shown are representatives of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.



Herald photo/Valery Avery

Cutting the ribbon at the Don and Marilyn Newsom Family Lodge at Big Spring State Hospital are members of the Newsom family, Gary Don, Beverly, Lea and Kent, along with representatives of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ambassadors. The recently renovated lodge, built in 1993, was rededicated Tuesday.

LIAR

Continued from Page 5C

at fault for not doing more to keep applicants honest, Werra said. "It doesn't help the employer not to verify," Werra said. "You know, it's the old Reagan quote: 'Trust but verify.' It behooves employers to do the verification."

For his part, Musser said he has been careful to state other aspects of his background — for instance, making a point

of saying he "attended UW-La Crosse" from 1973 to 1976 rather than claiming he had graduated from there. "I always dotted the i's and crossed the t's on stuff like that, but it's like this one I got lackadaisical on," Musser said of his Green Beret reference. "I guess that's what's frustrating to me is, why the hell did I? But again, hindsight's 20-20." The worst part, Musser said, is what the publicity has done to his reputation.

"Number one, it overshadows 20 years working for veterans. To some people, that's forgotten," said Musser, who's chairman of the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. "That's not worth it because then it calls into question what you did or what you're trying to do for a group of people. "That, to me, is the hardest part to overcome." The bottom line for job-seekers, Zeppos said, is to be clear and truthful both

in representing yourself and in correcting misperceptions. "Even though it's a very brutal workplace everywhere," Zeppos said, "we still live in a very forgiving society — if you're honest and straightforward."

AVOID THESE MINEFIELDS
Experts warn jobseekers to watch these potential trouble spots on resumes:
— Education: Be clear and accurate on degrees earned and years and schools attended.

— Chronology: Honestly explain gaps in relevant work experience. Beware of overlapping employment dates. Don't stretch dates to conceal brevity.
— Experience: Don't fabricate job titles.
— Accomplishments: Use strong action verbs

and specific examples — but don't exaggerate.
— References: If you offer people who would vouch for you, clear it with them first.
— Associations: If you're not currently a member, say so.

SICK DAYS

Continued from Page 5C

server today may have taken enough medications to appear flu-free, their germs are still on the lookout for new hosts.)

This is important for children, too. Most children today live in families where all the parents are employed. When a youngster gets the flu or pink-eye, a parent's care means a speedier recovery. But too many parents have to think twice about missing work to comfort a sick child — because staying home means less income, or maybe even being fired. Sometimes the risk is just too great. Pumped up on meds so they appear healthy and sent off to school or child-care as usual, these kids drag through the day while parents anxiously await a call telling them to take their child home.

Little kids are typically the first in a community to show signs of the flu, and they are very effective little disease vectors, with their inherently tactile dispositions and poor sense of personal hygiene. If they can be kept home until they're no longer contagious, disease spread can be limited. But parents need some basic support from their employers in the form of time off with pay to nurse their children back to health and isolate them from their playmates.

Lots of other people rely on employed spouses, parents, or others to help get to the doctor, for comfort and care during a hospital stay, or to

attend to critical care needs. More than 21 million workers are caregivers for disabled adults and elderly persons. These fragile individuals' health emergencies cannot be confined to non-work-hours. Without adequate paid sick days, however, the decision about being at work or providing much-needed care can be very difficult. And someone is likely to lose, whichever choice is made. Health concerns are always of key import to individuals, but there's a societal interest as well. This is perhaps most obvious with the flu: We

are all better off when people avoid public contact while they're contagious, so more of us can stay healthy. With other circumstances, like an aged parent who needs help managing their diabetes, or a pre-schooler suffering an asthma attack, health-care resources are used more efficiently when families can provide timely care. But more than that, we all know that having families take responsibility for one another is the right thing. They just need a little help from the boss sometimes to make that possible. Some cities have begun

to take action. San Francisco voters told employers to step up to the plate. Proposal F, which gives all workers at least 40 hours of paid sick time (those in bigger businesses will have 72 hours), was endorsed by over 60 percent of voters. At least in one city, workers will be able to take the CDC's advice and keep their sniffles and sneezes at home.

Dr. Vicky Lovell is the director of employment and work/life programs for the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Happy Earth Day, fellow Earthlings! The Sun King visits the Earth sign Taurus now, and the moon is fittingly in the sign of mothers, Cancer, to help us feel the strong presence of Mother Nature. So talk to a rock if you're so inclined. Converse with a mountain. Listen to the secret messages revealed to you in a handful of dirt.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Too many days in a row without the excitement of intrigue is a recipe for the blues. You need a mystery, and fast! The universe provides on this order. Your job is simply to get curious.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not putting up with a thing. Delegate the tasks you don't feel a pas-

sion for, or that don't sufficiently challenge you. Tonight, you'll learn something you never knew about a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just when you thought you'd felt it all, your heart is tugged in new directions. Thoughtful, sacred silences keep you in control. It's not what you say, but how able you are to follow through that really matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel fabulous! Socializing provides you the opportunity to learn from an expert. Furthermore, your broad view of the world makes you attractive to a wide variety of people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Oh dear, there you go again, waiting around for someone with a notoriously cavalier attitude toward time. But when your plan does finally start to click into motion, you'll realize it was a very good one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). You're encouraged to put your talent on display. You could even be financed by someone who believes in you. So take it all the way. Make an impression that'll put you in the big leagues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You care about doing the right thing. But don't let others take advantage of your goodwill by making you feel guilty. Hold on to the awareness that not every problem is yours to solve.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You rise to the occasion. Not because there's a reward in it for you, but because it's your nature. So when you find out there really is a reward, it's a pleasant surprise. Accept graciously!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things happen for you whether or not you take control. So don't force it. Insisting it go your way could keep you from something that was better than what you originally wanted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Light makes a difference in your attitude. Get outside and soak in some natural rays. Tonight brings a puzzle. You intuitively bypass obvious clues and go straight for the answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A friend with cash to burn wants you to join in the fun. Fine, if she's paying, but don't feel you must match her, dollar for dollar. Remember that you're also gracing this person with the gift of your amusing company.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're open to exploring a relationship that seemed like a bad idea just yesterday. It may still be a bad idea, but no one can say you weren't willing to offer a second chance.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: There are two Earth Days a year. One was named by the United Nations and is celebrated around the world on the vernal equinox, which is the day the sun enters Aries, usually

March 21. The other Earth Day started in the United States, but is now celebrated by 175 countries and falls on April 22, when the sun is in the Earth sign of Taurus. This Earth Day the Cancer moon is giving out hugs and free emotional connections to our planet for anyone willing to try to relate to her. Also offering free gifts this week will be Mercury, the messenger planet, and Pluto, the dwarf of dormant forces. These two planetary players happen to be happily accentuating one another's strengths, and the result should be the kind of breakthroughs that help you define the previously indefinable, name the previously unnamed and loudly declare your destiny. So say you've wanted to get involved in something that seemed so out of your normal realm that you couldn't even figure out the first step. This week you hit your hand to your head and say, "Oh! Now I

get it!" Steps one through 100 suddenly seem obvious.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The pixie charm of Shirley MacLaine is a trait related to Mercury in childlike Aries. Was MacLaine making up all that stuff about her past lives to get publicity, or does she really believe she was once Cleopatra, was it? Venus in Pisces shows her reverence for spirituality. Her astrological inclinations suggest she would never make a mockery of a belief system, especially not her own.

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: My son and daughter-in-law are parents of a darling 3-year-old girl, "Fiona." My problem is watching them give her everything she wants, and her consequential behavior. They rarely say "no," and when Fiona causes a scene in a public place, it is very embarrassing. The other night, they had to pick up their dinner and go home from a restaurant, because Fiona wanted to walk around, and when told she couldn't, she had a fit.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

My son and his wife are expecting another child in the fall, and I want to talk to my son about this. Having two children behaving like Fiona will be horrible. My husband has such a problem tolerating his granddaughter that he would rather not see her.

Should I try to discuss this with my son, or should I keep my mouth shut? I am so torn. I never thought they would be so ignorant about a child's behavior. I know how people feel about spoiled kids. I just want the best for them all. Please help me do the right thing. — Just a Grandma

Dear Grandma: Three-year-olds can be difficult and prone to tantrums. Fiona will outgrow this stage, but it can be unpleasant while she's in it. We don't recommend you criticize Fiona to her parents. They already know she's a handful and will ask for advice if they want it. Love her as best you can, and when her behavior is more than you can tolerate, make your excuses and leave.

Dear Annie: I have been a homemaker for the past 22 years, so I am not familiar with the current workforce etiquette. My oldest son finished college and is looking for employment. After having an interview, what is the proper procedure for the employer to get back to him? How long does he wait to hear? My son follows up his interviews with thank-you notes or e-mails. Don't you think it is rude for the employers not to give him a response to let him know if he has the job or not? There is nothing wrong with them telling him that the position has been filled so he isn't left hanging.

There are many articles about how someone should present himself for an interview, but I think it's time for employers to learn how to behave after the interview is over. How long does it take to

say "yes" or "no"? Am I just old-fashioned? — Job-Seeker's Mom

Dear Mom: This is a common complaint. Many employers do not bother to tell prospective employees when the position has been filled, and yes, this is rude and terribly inconsiderate. If your son has not heard from the interviewer after one week, he should call or e-mail and ask what the status is. If he hears nothing after another week, he should assume the position has been filled and look elsewhere.

Dear Annie: I have to reply to "Holding My Nose," who complained that her daughter's friend is not very clean and smells terrible. She is angry with this girl's parents.

I could be that girl's mother. I, too, have a beautiful daughter, and no matter how many times I asked her to shower regularly, she would not. She thought I was just nagging her and that other people didn't notice the odor.

What finally helped my daughter was the genuine concern of one of her friend's mothers, who gently commented on her aroma. She now showers regularly and makes sure to wear clean clothes every day. — Fresh as a Daisy

Dear Fresh: Thanks for letting our readers know that sometimes, no matter how awkward, it is a kindness to gently tell someone when they have body odor.

Dear Annie: My husband of nine years has a brother, "Daniel," whom I have never been comfortable with, but have tolerated. My husband's sister will not allow Daniel in her home, and another

brother will not even speak to him.

Daniel lives several hours away and recently invited himself to visit for the weekend. He brought his new girlfriend, whom we did not invite or want to stay with us. He also brought his two daughters, ages 13 and 3, and left them unsupervised while he slept on the couch or stood outside and smoked. And he expected me to do his laundry.

The worst part is Daniel's foul mouth. Despite reminding him to keep it PG in front of our children, Daniel and his girlfriend constantly talked about sex. He made disgusting innuendos out of everything. On the third day, Daniel swore at my children because they accidentally woke him from his nap. That was the last straw. I told my husband I wanted Daniel out. He left, but refused to speak to me or even wave goodbye. What really upsets me is that the very next day, my husband talked to Daniel as if nothing had happened.

I don't want Daniel in my home again. Furthermore, I don't want my husband speaking to him because it seems disrespectful to me. My husband disagrees. Do I have an obligation to allow Daniel into my home? Am I wrong to think my husband is betraying us by allowing such behavior without any repercussions? This is causing quite a rift. — Lisa from California

Dear Lisa: Daniel sounds like a creep. You do not have to have him in your home, nor do you have to see him (those are the repercussions), but please don't tell your husband to cut off contact with his brother. That is not your decision to make, and your husband will resent you if you demand it. He can see Daniel on his own.

Dear Annie: I've been dating "George" for four years, and I love him dearly. His family is very kind, but they have a couple of habits I find inappropriate.

The first is snorting.

When their noses are stuffed, which seems to be a good deal of the time, they snort constantly. When we're at a restaurant, I'm embarrassed and more than a little grossed out. They also pick their teeth in public with those little plastic flossers.

George used to snort, too, but I finally told him it is rude, and he has, for the most part, quit. Is snorting medically required for some people? Is snorting and tooth picking considered rude, as my mother always taught me? Is there a way to kindly tell these people to knock it off? — Nauseated

Dear Nauseated: Um, no. You can ask George to suggest to his parents that they see a doctor about their sinus congestion (it could be allergies), and to pick their teeth in private, but otherwise, all you can do is decide if

you want to be seen in public with them. Sorry.

Dear Annie: I just moved to a new area, and every time I call to refill my prescription medications, I am required to come in for another office visit.

I have been taking the same two medications for years, and they do not require constant supervision. This leads me to conclude that the doctors in this area are only after the whopping \$166 office visit fee.

I am angry that I need to take time off work to see a doctor once a month, just for her to whiz in, ask two questions and then authorize my refills. Do doctors not make enough that they have to run a scam like this? — V.

Dear V.: Doctors often want to see patients, especially new ones, to make sure the medications are

working, that they are being taken properly and that there are no side effects after longtime use. However, there is nothing wrong with asking your doctor if she can prescribe more pills at a time so you don't have to come in as often.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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HERALD

National news in brief

Family of Virginia Tech gunman say they feel 'hopeless, helpless and lost'

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Some have called him a loner, but Sun-Kyung Cho says her younger brother was quiet and reserved. She grew up with Seung-Hui Cho, but now says she feels as if she no longer knows him.

From afar, she learned her brother was the gunman who went on a rampage at Virginia Tech, killing 32 people before committing suicide to cap the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history. Now, with her parents, she is "living a nightmare."

"We are humbled by this darkness," Sun-Kyung Cho said in a statement issued Friday to The Associated Press. "We feel hopeless, helpless and lost."

It was the Chos' first public comment since Monday's massacre. Raleigh, N.C., lawyer Wade Smith provided the statement to the AP after the Cho family reached out to him. Smith said the family would not answer any questions, and neither would he.

"I actually feel sympathy towards their family," said Virginia Tech freshman Andrea Hacker, 19. "A lot of people are probably looking down on them now, but they have no reason to."

Police: Truck bomb aimed at electoral headquarters failed to explode

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — A truck bomb aimed at electoral commission headquarters ran into barriers and failed to explode hours before the start of Nigeria's presidential vote, the national police chief said Saturday.

Voting centers opened despite the attack and the last-minute arrival of some of the 65 million ballots. In a lagoon-side slum in the sprawling city of Lagos where fishermen live in stilt houses, voters dropped their tally sheets into clear plastic boxes. Elsewhere, electoral workers were still scrambling to unpack ballots.

Police Inspector General Sunday Ehindero said that the commission attacker pointed the truck loaded with fuel and gas cylinders toward the headquarters and placed a rock on the accelerator before jumping from the vehicle, which was stopped by barriers and a power pole before reaching the building in the capital, Abuja.

Ehindero called for calm. "I'm calling on all Nigerians to go about their civil duties ... peacefully," he said.

Analysis: U.S. troop boost that was billed as a short-term 'surge' may be extended

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is laying the groundwork to extend the U.S. troop buildup in Iraq. At the same time, the administration is warning Iraqi leaders that the boost in forces could be reversed if political reconciliation is not evident by summer.

This approach underscores the central difficulty facing President Bush. If political progress is not possible in the relatively short term, then the justification for sending thousands more U.S. troops to Baghdad — and accepting the rising U.S. combat death toll that has

resulted — will disappear. That in turn would put even more pressure on Bush to yield to the Democratic-led push to wind down the war in coming months.

If the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki does manage to achieve the political milestones demanded by Washington, then the U.S. military probably will be told to sustain the troop buildup much longer than originally foreseen — possibly well into 2008. Thus the early planning for keeping it up beyond late summer.

More than half of the extra 21,500 combat troops designated for Baghdad duty have arrived; the rest are due by June. Already it is evident that putting them in the most hotly contested parts of the capital is taking a toll. An average of 22 U.S. troops have died per week in April, the highest rate so far this year.

13 people indicted for roles in New York City restaurant credit card fraud totaling \$3 million

NEW YORK (AP) — The diners didn't know it, but their credit cards were going to pay for more than their meals, prosecutors said.

Waiters in about 40 restaurants, in New York and elsewhere, quietly recorded customers' credit card information and passed it on to people who used the information to make more than \$3 million worth of worth of illegal purchases, according to prosecutors.

Thirteen people were indicted Friday on charges stemming from their roles in the credit card fraud, prosecutors said.

The credit card account information was stolen from customers who visited restaurants in Manhattan's Chinatown and other parts of the New York metropolitan area, as well as eateries in Florida, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Some members of the group stole customers' information; some made the counterfeit cards; others shopped for merchandise; and finally someone bought the goods for cash, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

Morgenthau said 12 of the 13 people indicted are in custody and are expected to be arraigned Monday. All the defendants are being charged with fourth-degree conspiracy, punishable by up to four years in prison. Seven are also being charged with second-degree grand larceny.

Los Angeles Times to cut some 150 jobs amid recent earnings report, newspaper says

LOS ANGELES (AP) — About 150 jobs at the *Los Angeles Times* are expected to be cut next week amid a recent earnings report from parent Tribune Co. that show slumping revenue, the newspaper reported.

The cuts, expected to be announced Monday, would constitute more than 5 percent of the work force and include 70 newsroom positions, unnamed *Los Angeles Times* executives said Friday in a story posted on the newspaper's Web site.

Newspaper executives believe many of the cuts will come through voluntary buyouts.

After the reductions, the newspaper will have about 2,625 employees.

Gunman kills hostage, then himself at Johnson Space Center

HOUSTON (AP) — NASA officials who examined their security measures following the deadly shooting at Virginia Tech are trying to figure out how a contract worker sneaked a handgun into the Johnson Space Center and killed another employee before shooting himself.

A gunman with a snub-nosed revolver barricaded himself in a building that houses communications and tracking systems for the space shuttle. He shot himself once in the head more than three hours after a Friday afternoon standoff in which he shot a man and took a woman hostage, police said.

"Right now we're trying to understand why this happened, how this happened," Mike Coats, director of the Johnson Space Center, said in a news conference.

NASA spokesman Doug Peterson said the agency would review its security.

To enter the space center, workers flash an ID badge as they drive past a security guard. The badge allows workers access to designated buildings.

NASA and police identified the gunman as 60-year-old William Phillips. He apparently had a dispute with the slain man, Police Chief Harold Hurtt said without elaborating.

NASA identified the slain man as David Beverly, a 62-year-old NASA worker. Beverly was shot in the chest and was probably killed "in the early minutes of the

whole ordeal," police said.

Beverly's wife, Linda, said her husband of 41 years was an electrical parts specialist who felt working at NASA was his calling.

"His intellect and his knowledge, David really felt he was contributor," she said.

When not at work, she and her husband did everything from riding motorcycles to sailing on Galveston Bay.

"He's probably the most exciting person you'd ever meet," she said. "We loved being together."

Her husband had mentioned Phillips before, but she declined to say in what regard. Linda Beverly said it wouldn't be fair to Phillips.

The second hostage, identified by NASA as Fran Crenshaw, a contract worker with MRI Technologies, escaped after being bound to a chair with duct tape. She who worked in the same general area and was presumably taken hostage after Beverly was shot, Hurtt said. She works for does engineering, information management and logistics support.

"She was very courageous, a calming influence in this whole issue and apparently was a very positive relationship between her and the suspect because he at no time that we know of threatened to do injury to her," Hurtt said.

Phillips, an employee of Jacobs Engineering of Pasadena, Calif., had worked for NASA for 12 to 13 years.

State news in brief

Baby released from hospital after being mutilated

HOUSTON (AP) — An infant whose genitals were severed in an attack his mother blamed on the family's miniature dachshund has been released to the care of an aunt.

The nearly 3-month old boy will live with his father's older sister until permanent custody is decided by a Harris County court. The aunt will supervise all contact between the baby and his father, Camden Gothia, according to Child Protective Services.

Gothia and his sister discussed the baby's care with doctors at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital on Friday. The infant must use a catheter and the dressings on his wounds must be changed regularly, said CPS spokeswoman Estella Olguin.

The baby has been hospitalized for five weeks and authorities continue investigating the March 13 mutilation. He was found on a bed in his mother's suburban Houston apartment covered in blood, with his genitals were severed and a deep cut in his upper leg. The severed body parts were never found.

His father was at work and his mother had been caring for him.

The baby's mother has not been charged but was forbidden contact with him after testing positive for drugs. His father must complete parenting classes before CPS will consider giving him custody of his son, Olguin said.

Judge's ruling puts all Texas Vioxx lawsuits on hold

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 1,000 personal injury lawsuits filed in Texas over the once-popular pain medication Vioxx were put on hold Friday after a judge ruled the drug's manufacturer had given adequate warnings about the drug.

State District Judge Randy Wilson, based in Harris County, granted a motion by Merck & Co. Inc., the drug's manufacturer, to dismiss part of a lawsuit filed by Ruby Ledbetter.

Merck's attorneys argued a 2003 Texas law prevents Ledbetter from claiming she wasn't properly warned about Vioxx.

The law, passed as part of tort reform

efforts, says a drug manufacturer is not liable in allegations it failed to provide sufficient warnings about its product if the drug in question came with warnings approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Friday's ruling put Ledbetter's case, which was set to go to trial in May, on hold. But Travis Sales, one of Merck's attorneys, and Tommy Fibich, one of Ledbetter's attorneys, both said Wilson had previously told lawyers in the case that such a decision would put all Texas cases on hold until appeals courts rule on the issue.

"The court got it right," Sales said. "It goes to the heart of what Merck has always said. Merck gave proper information to the FDA and the FDA made proper labeling decisions based on what was there at the time."

Fibich said although the judge ordered an expedited appeal in the case, he thinks that process could still take up to two years to complete.

Court officially clears man of Dallas County rape

DALLAS (AP) — A man who served seven years in prison for a rape he was later cleared of has been formally exonerated by an appeals court, his attorneys said Friday.

Andrew Gossett is the 28th person exonerated through DNA in Texas since 1994 — the most than any other state, according to the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions.

Gossett is the 12th person exonerated by DNA testing since 2001 in Dallas County — where the Innocence Project of Texas is being given unprecedented access to review the cases of hundreds of inmates.

Gossett was sentenced to 50 years in prison for the February 1999 sexual assault of a woman who identified him as her attacker.

In December 2006, testing on evidence from the rape concluded Gossett was not the man who raped a woman after jumping into her vehicle while she waited for the light to change at an intersection, the Innocence Project said in a statement.

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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth
David Canales Jr., 501 E. 17th, Big Spring
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
Isabel Cervantes, 805 N. 16th, Lamesa
Andrea Clardy, 2401 Ave. L, Snyder
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos, Midland
Priscilla Domino, 2832 Waco, San Angelo
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder
Fermin Lopez Flores Jr., 600 N.W. Seventh St, Big Spring
Matt Fuentes, 3843 Penbrook No. 107, Odessa
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo
Rebecca Ann Morales Gomez, 1606 E. Fifth Street, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey M. Grams, 224 LeLon Lane, Springtown
Joseph Granados, 538 Westover Road, Big Spring
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Dana L. Holguin Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312

Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Lucas Shane Hughes, No. 1 Courtney Place, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy 71, La Grange
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Traci Rene Martinez, 1402 Mt. Vernon, Big Spring
Daniel Eugene Mata, 101 N.E. Ninth Street, Big Spring
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Christopher Jay Mendoza, 1419 E. 11th, Big Spring
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
George T. Palmer, 1310 Mobile, Big Spring
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 1810 Owens, Big Spring
Keyana Cooley Rincker, 1905 Wasson Apt. 56, Big Spring
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustabo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring

Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Sasha M. Trevino, 2605 Cindy, Big Spring
Tracy Jacqueline Trevino, 3306 Auburn, Big Spring
Sandra Smith Tuitt, 2501 Barksdale, Big Spring
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois Apt. 160, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. M. Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin County Road 4925, Leonard
Perry Lee White Jr., 200 Collins Road, Big Spring
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

District Court Filings:

Diana S. Fernandez vs. Rene Joseph Fernandez, divorce.
Daniel Freshour vs. Stacey Freshour, divorce.
Sandra Duck vs. Nathan Lloyd Duck, divorce.
Henry Franco vs. Lisa Ann Franco, divorce.
Hudson and Keyse LLC vs. Hebrew Jones and Vivian Jones, accounts, notes and contracts.
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. In Re order of foreclosure vs. Rocky Salazar, Jimmie Salazar, Roque Medellin Salazar, Jimmie Charlene Salazar, c/o Alvaro Martinez Jr., accounts, notes and contracts.

Marriage Licenses:

Oscar Manuel Madrid Jr.,

25, and Sabrina Sylvia Valencia, 22, both of Big Spring.
Juan Rodriguez III, 18, and Kayla Jean Brownfield, 18, both of Big Spring.
Boyce Lee Horton, 48, and Bernice Castillo Darden, 49, both of Big Spring.
Jim Rangel, 35, and Louisa Marie Paredes, 36, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: Shirley Matthews
Grantee: Jonathan Lewis
Property: Lots 21-23, Block 3, Original Town of Coahoma
Date: April 11, 2007

Grantor: Ignacio Hernandez and Olga Hernandez
Grantee: Adrian Hernandez and Maria Hernandez
Property: A tract out of Section 34, Block 32, T-1-n, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 12, 2007

Grantor: Consuelo Maria Sanchez
Grantee: Maria Lucila Sanchez de Gonzalez
Property: Lot 2, Block 112, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: April 12, 2007

Grantor: Joshua Ontiveros
Grantee: Christie Larson
Property: Lot 8, Block 7, Douglass Addition; Lot 1, Block 6, Douglass Addition
Date: April 12, 2007

Grantor: Christina Alvarado
Grantee: Frances Ramirez
Property: Lot 6, Block 12, Cedar Crest Addition
Date: April 13, 2007

Grantor: Janace M. Scott, Danny E. Kirby and Lynda K. McDonald
Grantee: Kerr Management Inc.
Property: Lot 1, Block 1, Belmont Addition
Date: April 13, 2007

Grantor: Cheryl Clinton
Grantee: Cruz Diaz
Property: A 1.06 acre tract out of Section 19, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 13, 2007

Grantor: Cheryl Denise Turner Sparks
Grantee: Jerrod P. Beall and Stacy Beall
Property: Lots 18 and 19, Block 2, College Park
Date: April 16, 2007

Grantor: Mary Alphene Gressett
Grantee: Clifford M. Qualls
Property: Lot 21, Block 2, Hayden Addition
Date: April 17, 2007

Grantor: Mary Alphene Gressett
Grantee: Clifford M. Qualls
Property: lot 8, Block 2, Hayden Addition
Date: April 17, 2007

Warranty Deeds With Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: Bud Romine and Darcy Romine
Grantee: Robert David Anderson
Property: A 6.05 acre tract out of Section 46, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 11, 2007

Grantor: Charles Ray McKinney

Grantee: J.C. Wall
Property: Lot 19, Block 29, College Park
Date: April 12, 2007

Grantor: Ida Marie Cochrane, Melvenia LaVerne Heith
Grantee: Aaron Duane Bullock and Melanie Bullock
Property: The S/2 of Section 34, Block 32, T-3-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 13, 2007

Grantor: Jean Broughton
Grantee: Lee Erich Byerly and Angela Byerly
Property: Lot 15, Block 8, Highland South
Date: April 13, 2007


Grantor: Peyton Sedberry and Mindy Sedberry
Grantee: Vergil H. Garcia
Property: Lot 12, Block 2, Hayden Addition
Date: April 17, 2007

Grantor: Larry J. Smith
Grantee: Jake Smith
Property: Lot 7, Block 5, Mittel Acres
Date: April 17, 2007

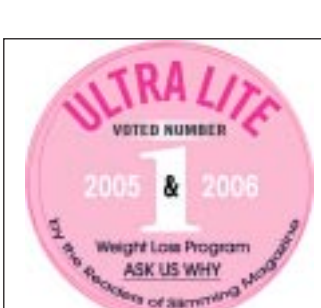
Grantor: Martha Geneva Turner
Grantee: Angelica Ortiz
Property: Lot 2 and the W/2 of Lot 3, Block 6, Wasson Place
Date: April 17, 2007

Grantor: L.O. Blakeny and Pattie Blakeny
Grantee: Emma Bermea
Property: A 1 acre tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date: April 17, 2007

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