

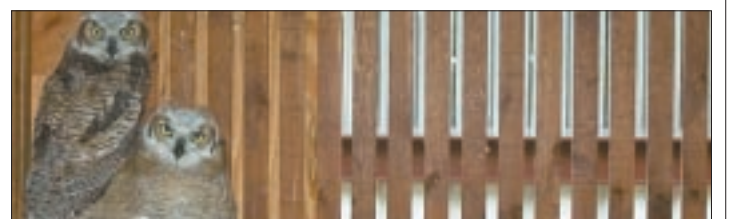
T.O. unlikely to miss Bill Parcels

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Whoos at the wildlife center?

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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY

MAY 15, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 145

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Jail test slated for Wednesday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A test of the recently reworked smoke evacuation system in the Howard County Jail will have to wait at least one additional day, as the engineer in charge of the product said the trial will be held Wednesday.



Barr

Originally slated for today, the test is expected to be completed sometime Wednesday morning, according to Nick White, the engineer in charge of the project.

"We're having to go in and reinforce some of the duct work," White said Monday morning during the county commissioners meeting. "There were some concerns that exposed portions of the duct work could be

ripped out and used as a weapon by the inmates, so we're reinforcing it with some angle iron.

"We should be ready to test the system Wednesday morning. After that, we can call Brandon Wood with the Jail Commission in so they can perform their test of the system and get everything checked off."

The court recently contracted with Anthony Mechanical to repair the jail's smoke evacuation system for approximately \$223,000. According to County Judge Mark Barr, the jail could be reopened as soon as the end of the month.

"Depending on how it does, we'll call the jail commission in to do their test around May 17," said Barr. "After that we'll go through a process of cleaning everything up and making sure nothing potentially harmful is left



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Nick White, owner and operator of N.D. White Engineering Inc., reports on efforts to make the Howard County Jail's smoke evacuation system operational during the court's meeting Monday morning. A preliminary test of the system is scheduled for Wednesday.

behind. It's possible we may have prisoners back in our jail as soon as the end of the month."

The county jail was shut down by the Texas See JAIL, Page 3A

Tax revenue to city jumps 37.3 percent

Attributed to increase in audit collections

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

In what is being attributed largely to audit collections, sales tax revenue to Big Spring shot up more than 37 percent for the month of May.

The revenues are those reported as of March 31, and include monthly as well as quarterly filings.

"If it had not been for the audit collections, the city would have seen an increase of about 10 or 11 percent," said Peggy Walker, city secretary.

After all, audit collections are usually in the \$200 to \$300 range and

sometimes up to \$4,000 or \$5,000, she said. But monies collected after audits this time amounted to \$95,000.

"The State Comptroller's Office would not say what company or companies this was collected from, only how much was collected," Walker noted.

It's good news for the city and Moore Development For Big Spring, which suffered a rocky start in 2007 — witnessing deficit revenue in February and March, compared to a year ago. Revenues were up 11.17 in April, however, and this month's 37.33 percent increase puts Big Spring's up year-to-date by 9.3 percent.

See REVENUE, Page 3A



Walker

Gutierrez, Nichols top grads at Sands

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

ACKERLY — Sands High School has announced its top graduates for the 2006-2007 school year.

Erik Gutierrez, son of Emma and Pete Gutierrez, is class valedictorian with a grade point average of 96.13.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, which he served as vice president, participated in the gifted and talented program and was class president his junior and senior years.

Gutierrez was named Academic All-



Gutierrez Nichols

See GRADS, Page 3A

YOUNG EAGLES GO SOARING



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Steve Clinton shows Dawson and Malori Ewing around his plane before taking both aloft as part of the Hangar 25 Air Museum's Young Eagles Program Saturday morning at the Big Spring Airport.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Tuesday, May 15, 2007

IN BRIEF

Forsan, Coahoma schedule playoffs

Coahoma's Bulldogettes and Forsan's Lady Buffaloes have both officially set the dates, times and locations of their regional semifinal state softball playoff games.

The Bulldogettes (28-5) will take on Tahoka's Lady Bulldogs in a one game playoff at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in Snyder.

The Lady Buffs will face Seymour's Lady Panthers in a best-of-three series starting at 7 p.m. Thursday at Abilene Christian University. Game 2 is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday with a third game, if necessary, to be played approximately 30 minutes after the second game.

Lady Steers sports banquet rescheduled

Due to the Lady Steers softball team advancing in the playoffs, the Lady Steers Sports Banquet has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 21 at the Big Spring High School cafeteria. There will be a time allotted for picture taking starting at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the ATC or by contacting Mique Yarbar at 213-5259 or Brenda Claxton at 816-9803.

Lady Hawk basketball camps scheduled

Howard College women's basketball head coach Earl Diddle will host three girls' basketball camps this summer.

The Little Hawk Camp begins on June 4. The four day camp will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. This camp is for girls entering kindergarten through third grades in 2007 and costs \$50.

The Individual Day Camp also runs from June 4-7, with an afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. This camp is for girls entering grades 4-8 and costs \$60.

The Shooting and Position Camp is for girls entering grades 7-12 and costs \$60. It begins June 18 and runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. until June 21.

For more information or to register, please contact Earl Diddle at 264-5043 or Eric Rodewald at 816-4327.

Lady Steers summer softball camp set

The Lady Steers will be holding their All-Skills Softball Camp June 4-7 at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex. Each day's activities will last from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The camp is for girls going into 1st grade thru going into 8th grade. It will be administered by the Lady Steers head softball coach Jennifer Reyes and assistant coach John Sparks.

Cost for the camp is \$45 and will include a camp T-shirt.

For more information contact John Sparks at 270-2711.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2B

Suns fight back, even series 2-2

By **ELIZABETH WHITE**

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The series between the Phoenix Suns and San Antonio Spurs has been marked by bumps, bruises and harsh words.

A forearm by Robert Horry to Steve Nash in the closing seconds of the Suns' 104-98 win Monday night in Game 4 escalated the tension to a whole new level.

The Suns, who trailed by as many as 11 points, had taken the lead for the first time in the second half on consecutive behind-the-back feeds from Nash to Amare Stoudemire that made it 100-97 with 32 seconds to play.

As Nash started to bring the ball up the court after Manu Ginobili missed the Spurs' fourth straight shot, Horry hit him with a forearm that knocked

him into the scorers' table and had players from both teams rushing to the scene.

"I was trying to skate between him and the boards and he got me with a nice hip check," Nash said. "What can I say? It was a pretty nice check."

Horry was promptly given a flagrant foul and ejected and the Suns' Raja Bell was given a technical.

The Suns closed out the win to even their best-of-seven series with the Suns at 2-2.

Game 5 is Wednesday in Phoenix and will surely carry much of the tension that has characterized the Western Conference semifinals so far.

The incident with 18 seconds left in the game overshadowed Phoenix's late 12-1 run to close out the game.

"It was a great win, a

gutsy win. They were playing extremely well that second and third quarter," Nash said. "We had a hard time stopping them. They were hitting a lot of 3s and big shots. ... Somehow we managed to hang in there and give ourselves a chance to pick up our defense, pick up our offense."

The Spurs led 97-92 with 2:22 to play on a rebound basket by Tim Duncan, their last field goal of the game.

"(The Suns) were very aggressive," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "They got to the bucket easier than they did earlier in the game. They just played very well, very aggressively down the stretch."

The Suns outscored the Spurs 32-18 in the fourth quarter.

"It says a lot about this team. We just battled all night," said Phoenix's

Shawn Marion. "I think we didn't get any breaks. We just found a way to get over that hill and pull it out."

Nash and Amare Stoudemire connected on a couple of behind-the-back passes for layups that gave the Suns the lead for good, the first with 53 seconds left, the second with 32 seconds to go that made it 100-97.

After Horry's ejection, a free throw by each team made it 101-98. The Suns kept possession and Nash added another free throw with 16 seconds to go.

Marion added two free throws with 7.4 seconds left.

It's possible there could be suspensions from the league for players leaving the bench after Horry fouled Nash.

Stoudemire was caught on replays well off the bench but he said he was on his way to the scorer's

table to check in when the incident happened. He said he's "just a little" worried about a possible suspension.

"I was just doing what the coach told me. He told me to check in," Stoudemire said. "I just got to say my prayers tonight."

The Spurs led by as many as 11 points. They missed nine of their last 10 shots, including the last six during Phoenix' closing run.

"We've been in this situation before. We did a good job to get the lead. Late in the game we didn't do a good job," Spurs guard Bruce Bowen said. "We have to do a better job of tightening up more than anything else."

Stoudemire led the Suns with 26 points, while Nash had 24 points and 15 assists.

See **NBA**, Page 2B

Ewing to be honored at Rockhounds' game tonight



Courtesy photo
Coahoma's first baseman Stehen Ewing, left, will be honored as the NewsWest 9 Star Athlete of the Year at tonight's Midland Rockhounds game. The game starts at 6:30 p.m. Ewing is a senior at Coahoma High School and was a key member of the Bulldogs' Area Championship team this season.

Millwood headed back to DL as Rangers lose

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Kevin Millwood's first start since coming off the disabled list was short and frustrating for the Texas Rangers.

Millwood gave up a first-inning grand slam to Casey Kotchman and left after five outs with an aggravated hamstring in the Los Angeles Angels' 7-2 victory over the Rangers on Monday.

Millwood (2-4), who had been sidelined since April 28 with a strained left hamstring, allowed four runs and three hits with three walks.

"I kind of misstepped, actually to the first batter in the game," Millwood said. "It got sorer as I went on. In the second inning, I couldn't get out over my front leg. It's not easy to pitch that way."

Jered Weaver (2-3) allowed six hits in a season-best seven innings for the Angels. He struck out five, walked two and threw 57 of 87 pitches for strikes.

Hank Blalock hit his fourth homer in the fourth inning and Brad Wilkerson homered off Darren Oliver in the ninth for Texas.

"That's the best I've felt

all year," Weaver said. "Everything was consistent. I feel like I'm back to normal. Getting a 4-0 lead in the first takes the pressure off the pitcher's shoulders."

The Angels took three of four from Texas in the series and have won six of seven against the Rangers this season.

The grand slam was the second of Kotchman's career. He has 11 home runs in three major league seasons, including three this year. He has two homers in three career at-bats against Millwood.

Kotchman, who walked in his other three plate appearances, attributed his success to working with hitting coach Mickey Hatcher.

"There was something in my setup with my feet that was affecting my balance," Kotchman said. "It's let me swing free and easy."

"The three walks, that's more my role on the team, to get on base. That's what's expected of me."

Reggie Willits and Gary Matthews Jr. walked and Orlando Cabrera singled

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

T.O. unlikely to miss Parcels

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Terrell Owens was asked what he got out of his only season with Bill Parcels.

"Nothing, really," T.O. said Monday, the last day of the Dallas Cowboys' first minicamp since Parcels retired.

Owens obviously isn't going to miss Parcels, and has already noticed how different things are under new coach Wade Phillips.

"Everybody knows he's a laid-back coach, obviously a little different than Bill. ... I don't think you have to be a disciplinarian to get your point across," Owens said. "I think having a new head coach is good for everybody."

"It's a little bit more relaxed. I think you can tell that by the atmosphere in the locker room. I don't think I just have to

really spell it out for you, but I think it's very evident."

After two operations this offseason to repair a torn tendon in his right ring finger, the same one he broke while blocking in a game in September, Owens surprised many people by taking part in the three-day minicamp.

T.O. caught passes and participated in all offensive drills without any problems from the finger.

"I didn't know if he was going to be able to practice or not," Phillips said. "But once he was cleared (by doctors), he practiced well."

When Owens had the second offseason surgery in March, he wasn't expected to be catching passes until the second minicamp in June, and maybe not even until training camp in late July.

"I don't know if I have

special healing powers, or what the case may be," he said.

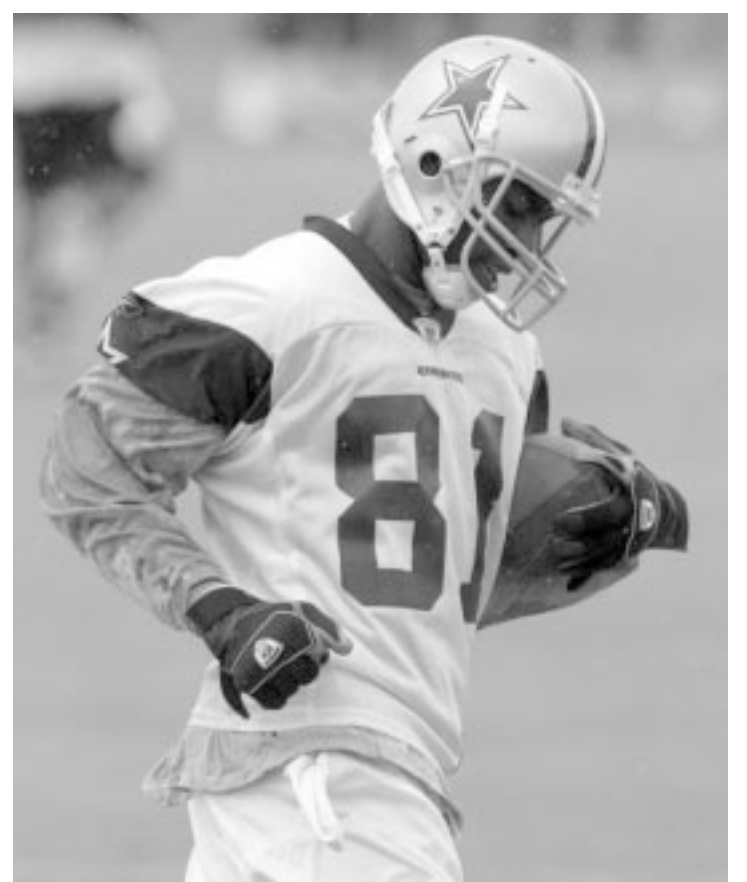
Owens plans to continue doing rehabilitation on his finger, but admitted that he had already caught balls from former NFL quarterback Mike McMahon in Florida before doctors cleared him for the minicamp.

With Parcels gone, Owens apparently couldn't get wait to get back on the field.

"Come out here and try to get a little work, get back to the team atmosphere. I think everybody is kind of excited about this season," he said. "If I wasn't ready, then I wasn't going to practice."

Parcels isn't missing Owens either.

In a New York Daily News column published over the weekend, Parcels said the Cowboys



MCT photo/Richard W. Rodriguez
Dallas Cowboys receiver Terrell Owens runs with the ball after a play during Cowboys mini camp in Irving Monday.

See **T.O.**, Page 2B

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

Thursday...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s. East winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s.

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

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

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

Take Note

• **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 WILL HOLD A FISH FRY** Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be from noon until 3 p.m. Plates are \$8 each. Everyone is welcome.

• **THE WORKFORCE NETWORK HAS FUNDING AVAILABLE** for training and employment with competitive wages for youth in Howard, Borden and Glasscock counties. Enrollment will be held at the Workforce Network, 310 Owens in Big Spring from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. May 21. You must bring copies of your birth certificate, Social Security card and picture ID if you have one. You must have a parent with you if you are under 18 years of age.

• **CROSS STITCHERS ARE NEEDED** to stitch a square for the annual Howard County Fair quilt. The quilt theme this year is "Animals of Texas." Stitchers may pick up a pattern kit, containing everything they will need to finish the square, from the Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry. Squares need to be completed within the next several weeks to allow time to piece the quilt together and get it quilted. Funds raised through tickets sold on the quilt go to pay the expenses associated with the Howard County Fair. The fair will be Sept. 26-29.

• **ALL CREATURES SANCTUARY AND RESCUE** has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Highway 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. See John Kimberly, manager or Cruz Rodriguez, metal specialist, to make your donations. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. The sanctuary is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina Brand Dog Foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account also set up with Howard County Feed and Supply at 701 E. Second St. For donations of coastal or grass hay for a rescue horse.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

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

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

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

Correction

In Monday's election results column, Danny Martin and Sissy Franklin were listed as the winners in the Coahoma ISD trustee election. James White and Franklin were the winners in the election.

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Police blotter

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

Note: An activity log was not available at press time

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, age not provided, of 5300 Sterling Road, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **VINCENT SMITH**, 18, of 4200 Birch, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- **TRAVIS MELTON III**, 27, of 217 Sandlin Road, was arrested Monday on three local capias warrants.
- **ADOLFO GARZA**, 24, of 1506 Avion, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to identify.
- **JAMES JOHN NEWSOM**, 49, of 4211 Lintner Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ARTHUR CALLOWAY**, 17, of 1301 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on two local citations and a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 49 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SAVAS THOMAS CHAPA**, 40, was arrested Monday on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
 - **HENRY CASTILLO**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for failure to identify - giving false information (two counts) and bail jumping - failure to appear.
 - **FRANK LEE JACKSON**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
 - **OSCAR MANUEL DOMINGUEZ**, 27, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
 - **PAULA SUE BAKER**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
 - **LINDA CHRISTENE RODRIGUEZ**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of interfering with public duties.
 - **CYNTHIA WHITE**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **DAVID ARREDONDO**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
 - **PEDRO VASQUEZ**, 33, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of assault with intent to cause bodily injury - family violence and no insurance.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service refused.

Support Groups

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.

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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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

- TODAY**
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
 - Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
 - Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - 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.
 - Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Rannels.
 - American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
 - Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
 - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

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

- SATURDAY**
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
 - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 - Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-9-17-19-21.
Number matching five of five: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-13-16-30. Bonus Ball: 12.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$225,000
Winning ticket sold in: Marble Falls.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-5-9.

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T.O.

Continued from Page 1B

signing Owens last year "was not my decision. I had to do the best I could with him, which is what I tried to do."

Owens said it doesn't matter what Parcels is saying now, and that it doesn't bother him.

"It's funny, people can say a lot of things when they're gone," T.O. said. "It's really not surprising, but why would he say it now? I'm pretty sure you guys asked him that question before."

During the first two days of minicamp, Owens declined interview requests. He said he had nothing to say and that he "might" talk in June — which would have been after he is due a \$3 million roster bonus for 2007, when he is scheduled to make \$5 million.

But with reporters and television cameras surrounding his locker Monday, Owens talked for nearly 20 minutes and made his most extensive comments since the season ended with a first-round playoff loss to Seattle and Parcels decided to retire.

Owens caught 85 passes for 1,180 yards and an NFL-leading 13 touchdowns — the best season

by a Cowboys receiver since Hall of Famer Michael Irvin caught 111 passes for 1,603 yards and 10 TDs in 1995, Dallas' last Super Bowl season. But Owens also led the league with 17 dropped passes.

"I could have played better, but I'm not the one to really harp on why I had the season I did," Owens said. "I'm not going to say why I had the drops I had. I knew the reason, but I didn't take the time out to make that an excuse. ... I played through an injury that I didn't really talk about, I didn't care to talk about."

There was also plenty going on with T.O. off the field last season, from an accidental drug overdose to him falling asleep in meetings and talking about not knowing the playbook.

Still, he's happy to be in Dallas.

"Definitely, no doubt," he said. "We achieved the goal of getting to the playoffs. It was unfortunate the way we lost, and everything happens for a reason. Who knows. Had we gone deeper into the playoffs, we may not have a new coach."

Last year, Dallas was knocked out of the playoffs in the first round by Seattle after the now infamous botched Romo snap.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

to set up Kotchman's slam. Los Angeles has gone ahead in the first inning in each game against Texas, outscoring the Rangers 17-0.

"After the first inning, there's still eight more to play," Texas' Michael Young said. "We've got plenty of time to go out there and score runs."

After a 33-minute rain delay in the third, Los Angeles stretched its lead to 7-0 by scoring three times against Willie Eyre. Mike Napoli hit an RBI double and Tommy Murphy followed with a two-run single for the Angels.

Rangers manager Ron Washington was not optimistic about when Millwood would pitch again.

"Hamstrings are tough, and he uses his legs so much that we need his legs healthy," Washington said.

Kotchman was among a couple of Angels who had a strong series against the Rangers, making up for a rare off one by Vladimir Guerrero.

Guerrero has 21 homers and 51 RBIs in 61 career games against the Rangers, but drove in just one run in the series.

Maddux in Cy Young form

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Greg Maddux had a vintage pitching performance, looking like a four-time Cy Young Award winner.

Maddux needed only 96 pitches to throw a five-hitter and help the San Diego Padres beat Cincinnati 7-1, handing the Reds their fourth straight loss.

He retired the first 16 batters he faced, struck out five and walked none. He picked up his 109th career complete game and first since Sept. 27, 2005, for the Chicago Cubs in a 5-3 loss at Pittsburgh.

"You can probably turn back the clock five, 10, 15 years, and you've seen games like that out of him before," Padres manager Bud Black said. "Maybe a little different style, but still the same substance. He was efficient, threw strikes, had them off balance, pitched in, pitched out, pitched up, pitched down. It was an outstanding game."

Maddux also picked up win No. 336, putting him six behind tying Tim Lincecum for ninth on the career list.

"He was throwing 83 miles an hour and making guys look silly," said Cincinnati's Scott

Hatteberg, who was 0-for-4. "He had a lot of movement on the ball. He was hitting corners all day, with the ball going whichever way."

At Washington, Jason Bergmann almost made history in picking up his first major league win as a starter.

Bergmann took a bid for a no-hitter into the eighth inning, leading the Nationals over the Braves.

He cruised through the first seven innings, but Brian McCann hit a lead-off homer in the eighth. The right-hander responded by retiring the next three to get out of the inning.

"It wasn't like it was a big deal," Bergmann said. "You try to limit the number of hits you give up. If it's zero, it's fine. I wasn't going for the no-hitter at all."

At Washington, Bergmann came out for the ninth inning and departed after pinch-hitter Matt Diaz singled. Jesus Colome got two outs before Edgar Renteria singled to bring up Andruw Jones, who struck out after being ahead 3-0. It was Colome's first save of the season.

John Smoltz (5-2), who turns 40 on Tuesday, pitched well for the Braves before he dislocated his right pinky finger tagging Austin Kearns during a rundown in the

bottom of the seventh. X-rays were negative.

"It was just fluky," Smoltz said. "I don't know how it happened. It happened so fast, and the next thing I know, I'm looking at my hand going 'oh no' — and I'm coming off the field."

Smoltz worked 6 2-3 innings, allowing two runs and four hits.

At San Diego, Mike Cameron and Josh Bard each had two hits and two RBIs for the Padres, who led 7-0 after five innings.

"Runs are a beautiful thing," Maddux said. "We got a lot of runs early, so every pitch, the game is not on the line. That's a good feeling."

Matt Belisle (3-3) allowed 10 hits in five innings for Cincinnati. He struck two and walked one.

Phillies 8, Brewers 6

Pinch-hitter Wes Helms hit a tiebreaking single during a six-run eighth inning to rally Philadelphia past Milwaukee.

Pat Burrell hit a two-run homer, Chase Utley had a key two-run single and the host Phillies won for the fourth time in five games. They're 14-9 since a 4-11 start.

J.J. Hardy hit his NL-leading 12th homer and Johnny Estrada also connected, but the Brewers' bullpen blew the lead.

NBA

Continued from Page 2B

"Today we did it. We have to do it two more times," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Tonight, we played a little bit better and a little more desperate. We got over the hump. They're a great team."

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 23 points and Tim Duncan had 21 points and 11 rebounds.

The Spurs entered the fourth quarter leading 80-72.

Marion's dunk with 1:31 to go brought the Suns within one, and Stoudemire's first layup put the Suns up 98-97. It was their first lead since 3:38 left in the second quarter, when they were up 38-37.

Marion was largely absent offensively early on, scoring just three points heading into the final quarter. His 3 with 8:33 to go, followed by another basket, brought the Suns within 85-80 with 7:51 to play. Marion finished with 12 points, nine in the fourth, and 12 rebounds. Kurt Thomas had 14 points, Bell had 12 and Leandro Barbosa added 10.

"The guy was all over the place," D'Antoni said of Marion. "He came up with some good buckets. Didn't score a lot, but got 12 rebounds. He was just everywhere, everywhere."

Stoudemire, who sat much of the second half of Saturday's Game 3 with foul trouble, picked up his fourth and fifth fouls just four seconds apart in the fourth quarter. He

went to the bench with 6:54 left in the game.

Notes: Many Spurs fans were wearing a dab of black under their left eyes in support of Ginobili. The display mimicked Game 2, when a local radio station passed out bandages for Suns fans to wear over their noses in support of Nash after his injury. ... The Spurs' bench outscored the Suns' reserves 28-16

Cleveland 87, New Jersey 85

LeBron James had 30 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, and Cleveland moved one victory from its first Eastern Conference finals appearance in 15 years by beating New Jersey 87-85 in Game 4 on Monday night

Larry Hughes added 19 points and Zydrunas

Ilgauskas had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who can wrap up the best-of-seven series at home Wednesday night.

Vince Carter had 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Nets, but was 6-for-23 from the field. Jason Kidd wasted his career playoff-high 17-rebound performance by shooting 2-for-13 and scoring five points, while Richard Jefferson had 15 points but was only 3-of-12 from the field.

New Jersey had only three field goals in the fourth quarter. Carter lost the ball out of bounds with 1.9 seconds left and the Nets trailing by two.

Mikki Moore had a career playoff-best 25 points for the Nets, who will try to become the ninth NBA team to erase a 3-1 deficit.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Country Club holding benefit golf tourney

The Big Spring Country Club will be holding a benefit golf tournament for cancer patient Pano Rodriguez May 20. The first tee time will be at 9:30 a.m.

The tournament will be a 4-man scramble with a \$20 entry fee. Players will be allowed to pick their own team.

For more information contact Sammy Reyna at 267-5627.

Magers-Powell camp scheduled

Rose Magers-Powell, the Big Spring High School Hall of Fame volleyball star and 1984 Olympian, will again be conducting a volleyball camp at BSHS this summer.

The camp is scheduled for July 30-Aug. 1 with sessions for middle school playres from 9 a.m. to noon and the high school players' session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The fee will be \$125 per player.

Players can register online and get additional information on the camp by going to Magers-Powell's website, www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

Texas Tech schedules summer sports camps

Texas Tech University has scheduled several sports camps for this summer.

The Tim Siegel Tennis Camps are set for June 2-6 and June 17-21. The overnight camps are for players 8 to 17 of all abilities.

WBU schedules tryout baseball camp

The Wayland Baptist University baseball staff is holding a tryout camp for graduating high school seniors and college players with remaining eligibility interested in

becoming a part of the Pioneer baseball program.

The camp is scheduled for Saturday, May 26 at David and Myrt Wilder field, located on the WBU campus in Plainview.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the tryouts to follow at 9:00. There is no cost. For more information or to make reservations, contact Coach Josh Milner at 806-292-1690 or 806-291-1158 or email him at milnerj@wbu.edu.

Caprock AAU Qualifier scheduled

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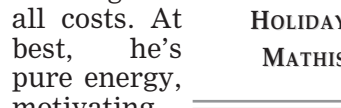
Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., May 23, 2007, on the following:
Baseball Supplies
Softball Supplies
Boys Track Supplies
Girls Track Supplies
Golf Supplies
Tennis Supplies
Training Room Supplies
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on June 11, 2007, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5361 May 8 & 15, 2007

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars in Aries is lawless. As the brawny Roman warrior with no scruples, every military leader wanted this brute on his team because he loved winning at all costs. At best, he's pure energy, motivating us to move through obstacles by endowing us with courage and fearlessness. Give Mars permission to invigorate your goals.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're on fire. Use your passionate stars to trailblaze new paths for your personal success. The next five weeks bring impressive accomplishments. You're changing without trying.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe you're not so great at expressing your anger — it unexpectedly erupts when you don't mean for it to. Perhaps you didn't even know you were frustrated. Now you do! Knowledge is power.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can always find a tender place in your heart for the sap who has a "kick me" sign stuck on his or her back. You'll find it pretty easy to remove the sign without drawing a lot of attention to it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you were a torpedo,

you'd be headed to the moon — you have that much focused ambition to accomplish over the next five weeks. You'd also show up on someone's radar, especially those challenged by your strength.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What you once needed to protect and keep to yourself you now release into the atmosphere like a bunch of butterflies. Hire a PR person or become your own. Hold nothing back. What you share openly multiplies your good.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're emitting powerful vibes. This could manifest as renewed physical appeal, too — you're attractive to people you wouldn't have thought would go for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can argue, there's no doubt about it. Over the next few days, try out this idea: "Your wrong doesn't make me right," and the flip, "my right doesn't make you wrong." It works both ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your planets give you the equivalent of a double espresso shot. Burn up your energy, and you burn out. Do a slow burn instead. It's better for the body and better for the long haul ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're an exhibitionist at heart. Even if you've never before considered the dramatic arts, during the next few days you're surprised at how much

drama you've got in you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Pushing around furniture is far more gratifying than pushing around people, an obvious but practical reminder. So you can't remember why you love the annoying people you do, but the love is there. It's hiding in plain sight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When Tom Petty wrote "I Won't Back Down," he was singing through painful feelings of loss. You'll find that turning up the volume on your own tenderness is equally useful now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know better than to go grocery shopping on an empty stomach. Likewise, distinguishing want vs. need over the next few weeks is tricky. Staying well fed on all levels is one way to deal.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jamie-Lynn Sigler is a complex beauty. This girl-next-door has a dramatic emotional life. Her moon in people-pleasing Libra is a close neighbor of secretive Pluto. Borrowing sugar from Pluto is uncomfortable for light and easy Libra because Pluto forces her to confront the darkness behind the light. Roles that allow her to develop her depth and vulnerability take Sigler to the next level.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I work for an organization that takes on worthy, but controversial, issues. Over the years, we have been at odds (sometimes legally) with the state.

Here's the problem. There is a professional gentleman who works for the state and to whom I am very attracted. I have sensed that there is interest on his part, too. I have a high regard for this man, but due to our jobs, we have often been on opposite sides of the issues.

I would very much like the opportunity to have a personal conversation with him and get to know him better, but I worry he might get into trouble if he becomes friendlier to me. Government agencies can run roughshod over employees if they step

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals for the **Food Service Department** until 4:00 P.M., May 23, 2007, on the following:
Bread Products
Milk
Chemical Supplies
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on June 11, 2007, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5362 May 8 & 15, 2007



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

out of line. I certainly do not want that to happen to my friend, nor do I want to cause him any discomfort.

It upsets me to think that a job situation could stand in the way of what might be an amazing relationship. I would be more than willing to find different employment if that were the only obstacle. However, I don't know how to find out without risking everything. What are my options in this delicate situation? — Juliet

Dear Juliet: It's possible Romeo is quite attracted to you, but it's also possible he's giving you that impression because he thinks it will gain him an advantage in future negotiations. Since his job is the one at stake, we think you should allow him to make the first move. But there's no harm in flirting while you wait.

Dear Annie: A co-worker and I share the same work space. Our desks are so close, we are aware of each other's actions. The problem is, this person picks his nose. He doesn't even try to be subtle about it.

It is very difficult for me to confront him. He is highly educated and a professional, and it amazes me that he can be so inappropriate. Any suggestions? — Peter Piper

Dear Peter: The next time you see him pick at his nose, whip out a tissue and offer it, saying politely, "Do you need

this?" Do it each time, and he'll get the message. If not, ask your supervisor if you can move your work space.

Dear Annie: I am so fired up right now. My daughter turned 19 last weekend. Her co-workers and friends treated her to a night out that included "adults" buying her alcohol shots. I did the "Mean Mom" thing and checked up on her. When I discovered she'd lied about spending the night at a girlfriend's, I called her cell phone and tried to persuade her to come home. One of her friends' mothers called me back and said my daughter would be fine with her friends and co-workers. Forget about the car, the possible accidents that could happen, being charged by the police — I am supposed to understand that kids will be kids. It's a "rite of passage."

When did the only way to have fun turn into being drunk? Find a local pizza place or movie theater, but not a bar. I am not sorry that I checked up on her. I am not sorry I tracked her down after three hours, calling every phone number I knew. I am not sorry because she is here today, embarrassed, but alive and well.

I am not a prude. I enjoy a drink with dinner out, but I think it's so sad that I am in the minority. I only hope my daughter can one day see that no one could love her more than I do. — Mean Mom

Dear Mom: Buying shots for a 19-year-old is illegal. Those "friends" who plied her with drinks, not to mention the bar owners, could have been arrested and certainly would have been held liable had your daughter been hurt or caused harm on her way home. Good for you for not being afraid to be the bad guy. We suspect your daughter appreciates you more than you know.

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University of Texas at Austin fires financial aid chief

By **LIZ PETERSON**

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — The University of Texas at Austin fired its financial aid director Monday after determining his ownership of stock in a loan company violated university rules.
Associate Vice President Lawrence Burt

has been on paid leave since early last month, when he was named as part of the New York attorney general's investigation into the \$85 billion student loan industry.
Burt has denied wrongdoing. He did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.
The firing followed a

monthlong University of Texas System investigation that found Burt placed a subsidiary of the loan company at the top of several preferred lender lists without any apparent justification.
The subsidiary — Student Loan Xpress — actually trailed many other companies in terms

of volume, customer service and default rates and only led the pack in the number of "treats" provided to financial aid staff, the investigation found.
The investigation by UT System General Counsel Barry Burgdorf found Burt owned 2,300 shares in Education Lending

Group Inc., the former parent company of Student Loan Xpress. That includes 1,500 shares he bought from a friend shortly before adding the lender to the preferred list.
Burgdorf found no direct evidence that Burt accepted the stock in exchange for adding

Student Loan Xpress to the list.
"Nevertheless, the timing of the transaction in relation to Student Loan Xpress' inclusion on OSFS lender lists raises suspicion and, at least, creates the appearance of impropriety," Burgdorf said in a report on his investigation.

REVENUE

Continued from Page 1A

By the numbers: The city took in \$650,770.61 for May compared to \$473,861.77 for May 2006. For the year, Big Spring has slipped past the \$2 million mark, at \$2,322,234.20. Those figures include the entire amount sent to the city, which then passes a portion on to Moore Development For Big Spring.
Coahoma received \$13,105.56 this month, up a whopping 61.3 percent compared to the \$8,124.80 taken in for May 2006. For the year, Coahoma has received \$43,388.24, up a hefty 38.52 percent.
Forsan took in \$7,416.02 this month compared to \$6,774.03 for May 2006. For the year, Forsan has brought in \$34,903.69 and is 1.89 percent below last year's total through the fifth month.
Abilene raked in \$3,389,154.34 this month. Compared to the \$3,070,779.44 check received in May 2006, the Key City posted a hike of 7.28 percent.
Abilene has brought in \$14,401,454.04 for the year, up 7.28 percent.
Brownfield all but evened out this

month, witnessing a 0.99 percent decrease when comparing the \$116,634.81 received to the \$117,801.78 received in May 2006. For the year, Brownfield has received \$438,467.50 for the year, and is a scant 0.17 percent below 2006 totals to date.
Colorado City received a substantial hike of 23.12 percent, comparing the \$61,620.06 the Mitchell County seat rang up this month to the \$50,047.30 it tucked away in May of 2006. For the first five months of 2007, Colorado City has received \$230,961.58, up 11.05 percent.
Fort Stockton took in \$214,359.42 this month, a substantial 31.1 percent increase when compared to the \$163,496.11 received in May 2006. For the year, the home of Paisano Pete has brought in \$842,592.41, up 16.91 percent.
Dawson County's largest community, Lamesa, pulled in \$128,121.09 this month, up 7.92 percent compared to the \$118,707.87 it received in May 2006. So far for 2007, Lamesa has received \$485,052.76, up 10.75 percent.
Lubbock, home of the late great Buddy Holly, received \$4,656,205.00, up 3.03 percent when compared to the \$4,518,841.80 taken in during May 2006. For the year,

Lubbock has pulled in \$20,092,683.09, up 4.55 percent.
Midlanders witnessed an increase of 19.39 percent, comparing the \$3,421,583.06 received this month to the \$2,865,883.25 taken in for May 2006. For the year, the Tall City has pulled in \$14,073,557.77, up 11.98 percent.
Monahans posted a 1.45 percent increase in May. The Ward County seat received \$119,366.79 this month compared to \$117,656.60 a year ago. For 2007, Monahans has taken in \$579,395.00, up 12.16 percent.
Odessa received \$2,189,792.56 this month, an 8.87 percent increase compared to the \$2,011,382.08 taken in a year earlier. For 2007, Odessa has received \$9,271,203.23, up a healthy 15.1 percent.
Pecos, home of the West of the Pecos Museum, archived a chunk-sized 33.03 percent increase in rebates this month, comparing receipts of \$128,813.17 to \$96,826.31 a year ago. For the expanse of 2007, the Reeves County seat has posted \$500,080.57, up 21.51 percent.
Chalking a 10.74 percent increase comparing last May to the present was San Angelo. The city received \$1,851,023.73 this month and \$1,671,420.22 in May

2006. For the year, the home of Angelo State University and a Howard College campus has received \$7,901,293.66, up 6.96 percent.
Snyder, of white buffalo fame, witnessed a 20.3 percent increase when comparing this May's rebates of \$240,634.27 to last May's rebates of \$200,021.80. For the year, the Scurry County seat has received \$908,473.11, an increase of 10.31 percent.
Stanton has had deficit checks each month except for on in 2007, and this wasn't that positive month. The home of a few old soreheads took in \$32,850.46 this month compared to \$20,265.12 in May 2006, a deficit of 18.41 percent. For the year, Stanton has received \$105,713, and rebates are down for the Martin County seat by 22.68 percent.
Finally, Sweetwater received \$270,997.75, up 6.32 percent compared to the \$254,881.00 the city took in during May 2006. For the year, Sweetwater has topped the million mark with \$1,109,203.89, up 4.06 percent.
Bill McClellan can be reached at 263-7331, ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

Editor's Note: the following figures represent sales tax revenue to the city of Big Spring, less revenue passed on to Moore Development For Big Spring. In the accompanying article, the figures include revenue both to the city and Moore Development.

Payment Received	Sales Generated	% Change Over Prior Year	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-00
December	October	6.811%	\$282,190.79	\$264,196.88	\$215,157.10	\$210,707.32	\$203,115.86	\$199,951.45	\$170,378.92	\$207,308.85
January	November	16.166%	277,794.90	239,136.49	220,398.04	209,418.50	187,580.61	186,238.39	187,335.81	196,429.13
February	December	-8.478%	408,411.79	446,243.59	332,486.32	329,667.90	296,259.45	301,304.32	328,198.37	277,468.72
March	January	-4.981%	276,419.00	290,907.92	223,279.85	209,102.02	196,846.22	187,008.82	179,919.71	197,561.87
April	February	-11.76%	290,972.00	261,722.65	218,851.27	209,466.16	167,977.59	194,016.01	188,223.36	202,323.28
May	March	37.333%	488,077.96	355,396.33	344,322.92	303,259.14	279,216.75	282,210.89	328,784.22	268,032.33
June	April			271,462.56	237,523.44	222,359.75	216,332.57	196,265.22	202,322.09	196,182.02
July	May			287,299.01	236,155.41	229,318.52	236,579.19	219,912.08	198,956.24	199,901.96
August	June			357,075.59	349,713.95	319,957.43	267,457.78	390,358.89	293,156.88	268,763.30
September	July			281,081.56	234,497.43	229,364.72	198,953.96	199,792.71	195,386.56	193,646.47
October	August			286,965.40	245,357.24	232,908.08	203,220.67	170,737.40	196,333.98	202,197.76
November	September			385,515.33	335,928.50	313,018.07	276,539.32	273,503.20	298,658.55	282,919.07
Actual Collections			\$2,023,866.44	\$3,727,003.31	\$3,193,671.47	\$3,018,547.61	\$2,730,079.97	\$2,801,299.38	\$2,767,654.69	\$2,692,734.76

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

Commission on Jail Standards in November, after the facility's smoke evacuation system failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests in 2006.
The jail also failed to meet state requirements that call for a standpipe in the jail to deliver water

to firefighters and a door that swung in the wrong direction. However, these pair of problems have since been corrected, leaving the smoke evacuation system the lone obstacle standing in the way.
Since the jail's closure, inmates of the Howard County Jail have been housed in other counties, including Dickens,

Glasscock and Lamb counties, at considerable expense to the county.
"If you add everything up, including the housing expenses, overtime and the repairs being made in the jail, we're looking at this closure costing the counting close to \$1 million," said Commissioner Jerry Kilgore. "It's had a tremendous impact on our budget, and as we

begin looking at next year's budget, we're going to have to find a way to make some of it up."
According to totals released by the sheriff's office Monday morning, inmate housing costs have reached more than \$272,000, with fuel for transporting inmates topping more than \$6,000 and overtime for jail employees more than \$8,000 for

the month of April alone.
Also Monday, commissioners called for a budget workshop to be held Thursday. The meeting is expected to get under way at 1 p.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

GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

State in both football and basketball his junior and senior years and was active in golf, track and Future Farmers of America, as well. In addition, he was voted Most Likely to Succeed and was named to the SHS Who's Who list.
He plans to attend the University of Texas and major in Business Management.
Salutatorian for the class is Garrett Nichols,

the son of Lesli and Martin Nichols, who is graduating with a GPA of 95.65.
Nichols is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the gifted and talented program. Also, he was a member of the SHS student council. He competed on the Sands University Interscholastic League Academic team.
In athletics, he participated in football, basketball, track and tennis.
Nichols was voted Mr. SHS, Most Handsome and Who's Who this year.

He plans to attend Midland College and major in Radiology.
Graduation for the Sands High School class of 2007 will be at 8 p.m. Friday, May 25 in the

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

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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.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Americans hold key to lowering gasoline prices

At a time when the cost of crude oil is dropping, Americans are paying record high prices for gasoline. On the Gulf Coast, according to the Energy Information Administration, gasoline prices rose 17 cents a gallon in a week, 54 cents for the year. Houstonians pay 28 cents a gallon more than they did last week, but 3 cents less than they did this time last year, when they really took a beating at the pump.

Americans pay an average 25 percent more for gasoline now than they did at the start of the year. The seasonal rise is usually no more than 7 percent.

If the normal cycle does not account for the run-up, who or what is to blame?

One factor is puny refinery output. Industry analysts report that storms, repairs and maintenance (and perhaps a little Machiavellian behavior on management's part) have held U.S. refinery output to about 89 percent of capacity. Inventories slid as the peak demand of the summer driving season approached. Some people's fear of a shortfall and some well-positioned people's desire for it applied upward pressure on prices at the pump.

If the motorist really wants to assess all blame for high prices that can be assessed, he must look to himself. Americans drove 3 percent more miles this March than they drove in March 2006. That rising demand at a time of limited supply would all but guarantee high prices even if refiners were going all-out.

If Americans want to bring down prices, all they need to do is drive less. If everyone ceased driving one day a week car-pooling, electronically commuting or taking mass transit instead demand would drop 15 percent. Universal adherence to the principle cannot be expected, but much smaller drops in demand have been known to bring significant price cuts.

Analysts report that the outlook for lower prices is good. As refineries come back on line or increase production, supply goes up and prices moderate.

Democratic leaders in Congress, embodied by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, champion conservation but apparently do not understand that high prices are a necessary incentive to the conservation of energy. If energy is cheap, people will use it extravagantly.

The Democrats' desire to focus public dissatisfaction with rising gasoline prices on the administration is understandable, but not their faulty policy analysis that rests on the assumption of low energy prices.

In these days of partisan bickering and gridlock, Washington politics is almost irrelevant to the price of gasoline. If Americans want lower prices, they hold the means to attain them by adjusting their habits.

THE CHRONICLE
HOUSTON

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
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- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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- 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

May we toss our plans into the air if they don't include You, Lord.

Amen

Whose and what hearts and minds?

The capture of the "Fort Dix Six" has inspired liberals to dust off and republish their "hearts and minds" mantra, which might sound wonderful to some, but bears more sober consideration. Before we can even consider whether winning hearts and minds is a remotely realistic goal, we need to determine whose hearts and minds we're talking about and what "winning hearts and minds" actually means.

Do liberals mean we should convince existing terrorists that diplomacy is a superior path to achieving their goals? That tolerance of other religions is the morally superior position? That women are entitled to dignity and equal rights? That the United States and Israel really aren't that evil? That their extreme brand of Islam is misguided?

Surely we can all agree that if we're talking about existing jihadists, these goals are quixotic. You are never going to tame a large percentage of "holy warriors" — and there are more of them worldwide than we would like to think. It's not like they haven't thought about it and considered the options. It's not like these types haven't been around for more than a thousand years.

Or, are liberals talking about winning the hearts and minds of potential terrorists? If so, do they plan on sending ambassadors from the National Education Association (NEA) to Middle East madrassas, where children are being indoctrinated to hate the West? The NEA would first have to purge itself of its own contempt for Western civilization.

Or, are they talking about send-

ing Christian missionaries in droves to evangelize? You've got to be kidding. Christian missionaries are Christian fundamentalists, and those fundies, we're told, are as bad as Muslim fundies.

Perhaps what liberals mean by winning hearts and minds is that we should do a better job of getting our own house in order and showing the rest of the world we are not "ugly Americans": imperialists, militarists or torturers. We are a loving, tolerant, multicultural society that doesn't start "pre-emptive wars of choice" against sovereign nations or interfere in "civil wars."

But here, again, that could be an unreachable goal, since many liberals believe — and are broadcasting loudly and clearly throughout the world — that we have become imperialists, torturers and militarists, and that we are intermeddling in a civil war in Iraq. Even if we were to all adopt the predominantly secular liberal vision (God forbid) and try to persuade jihadists of the superiority of moral relativism, multiculturalism, tolerance, diversity and licentiousness, we'd have an even tougher time converting jihadists and potential jihadists, who are utterly hostile to all of that. But assuming, for the sake of argument, that this impossible goal were possible, it would still take centuries. In the meantime, the IEDs and body bags would grow exponentially as a result of our reckless appeasement.

However muddled this concept of "winning hearts and minds" is, it does highlight the gravity of the ongoing debate about the nature of the enemy (and whether he is truly even the enemy), and whether we should meet this enemy (or non-enemy) with military violence on the one hand, or appeasement, diplomacy, or, if all else fails, measured law enforce-

ment on the other.

This is not to suggest we Americans shouldn't put our best foot forward. But to a great extent we are already doing precisely that, by helping Iraqis to establish self-rule and the wonderful humanitarian work we are performing in Iraq and elsewhere. Sadly, you'll never hear about either of these from the mainstream media, who are obviously committed to suppressing news that will enhance America's international image.

The reality is that we are at war against a vicious, relentless and implacable global enemy whose mission, partially like our Cold War enemy, is world domination and submission. By underestimating its resolve and its global reach, by pretending it is not the primary causal agent in the Iraq war and behind nearly every act of jihad throughout the globe, including inside the United States, we handicap ourselves even more than we already are in fighting a conscienceless enemy that fights asymmetrically and targets innocent civilians.

To get a real glimpse of the way liberals are viewing this global war all you have to do is listen to their analyses, envisioning the enemy, in its entirety, as Osama, the Taliban and a mere handful of others.

All you have to do is observe their painful efforts to legislate away the Iraq theater portion of the global war on terror.

If and when the war shifts more prominently to our shores, will they suggest we withdraw from here, too?

It's time for us all to wake up.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Ken Burns' own World War II

All I can say is that it's a good thing it's Ken Burns. If the micromanager and pseudo-censors representing the politically correct Congressional Hispanic Caucus were taking on a lesser filmmaker, who knows what would happen? At least it's relatively easy for PBS, the Public Broadcasting System, to stand behind the best documentary artist in America. In this climate, the second-best might not fare so well.

The current controversy centers around Ken Burns' forthcoming film, "The War," which focuses on how the people of four American towns were affected by World War II. Famous historians everywhere have supported the project. Burns, who has created epic "poems" about everything from sports to the Civil War, seems poised once again to capture the country's imagination in a seven-part series.

Of course, I haven't seen it yet. But neither have the people protesting that PBS shouldn't support Burns or air his series because, from those four towns, none of the people who go to war are Hispanic.

I kid you not. It's not that he says anything bad about Hispanics. No racist slurs, ugly comments, derogatory references. But how dare Burns pick his own towns and his own people without making sure everyone was represented? Who does he think he is, the storyteller or something?

They've even formed a committee to demand that Burns redo the

film, which took him six years to make and is now completely done. "Defend the Honor Campaign" it's called, and its only purpose seems to be to attack a guy who went so far as to offer to add additional material at the end of the movie to include Hispanics — as if this were an encyclopedia and not a movie.

That's right. Burns could have justifiably told these folks where to go and what to do when they got there, which is what any number of people I know in the television business would have done. Instead, in a meeting last month, he sat with his critics and tried to come up with an acceptable compromise that would not involve tearing his movie apart (he described it as grafting an additional limb on a child), but would recognize the contribution of Hispanics to the war effort.

But that wasn't good enough. They want the additional materials to be in the movie, not an addendum to it.

So what did they do? Did they, in that fine American tradition, decide to make their own movie, to tell the story a different way, a way that meets what they see as a false idea with a true one, and win in the marketplace of ideas?

No. They got a bunch of Congressmen and women who should have other and better things to do, and who have no business telling artists who to include in their films, to send threatening letters demanding that PBS not show the film unless Burns does what they tell him.

From the great liberal tradition of inclusiveness to the great liberal tradition of censorship if you don't get what you want.

It's one thing to have a private group protest what's included in a

film. If activists and professors need something to do, and this is the best they can do, so be it. But members of Congress, who are bound by the Constitution to stay out of the business of telling people what they can think or say, should keep their hands off the content of programming, particularly in the case of PBS, which depends on the government for financial support.

The danger is not that broadcasters will ignore Congress, as PBS has announced it plans to do in this case, but that they will listen too carefully. The high-stakes issues involved in government regulation of the broadcast industry create the danger that even indirect criticism may have a chilling affect on free speech. Here, there is nothing indirect about the criticism. Members of Congress have taken it upon themselves to judge the content of what should be shown, which is as close to the definition of censorship as you can get.

Hispanic Americans have real issues to worry about in America today, starting with immigration reform, equal employment opportunity, education, health care, etc. Ken Burns is the least of their problems.

And people who call themselves leaders, much less take an oath to uphold the Constitution in the process, should be expected to recognize that.

The whole incident leaves you feeling sorry for Hispanics — not because they've been left out of a PBS film about what happened 50 years ago, but because their leaders today leave so much to be desired.

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Bird Poop:

Injured owl knew when it's job was done

Beginning with small sticks and twigs, she carefully placed them in the crotch of a large elm. The bowl created by the triple fork of this stately tree had provided a nesting area for years. After pulling buff-colored down from her breast, she placed the feathery cushion among and on top of the criss-crossed wood. This would be the scant lining for her nest.



BEBE MCCASLAND

As the tree began to bud and leaf out, she was constantly brooding, during cold and stormy weather, the three eggs she had laid. Instinctively, she knew to keep the center of the nest dry and warm.

Nestled and almost hidden from a distance by numerous stately elms, the ranch home attracted wildlife because of water. Spending the weekend in the solitude offered by the vast sections of open land, the owner noticed the nest as she walked outside to sit on the porch. "Looks like we're going to have another family," she mused.

Chosen for its natural hollow, the elm near the cistern had served for more than 10 years as a nest site by the great horned owl family. The human family had enjoyed watching this yearly event and had even photographed the nest and its young from a second story window. One year, after a cold, wet spell, nestlings had died because water had been trapped in the crook of the tree. A drainage pipe was installed to insure the nest would remain dry during



Courtesy photo

Even in captivity at the wildlife center, the great horned owl, Virginia (on the right), watched over, protected and fed her offspring (two of which are on the roost.) Her presence during their development insured they would be healthy and releasable..

adverse weather conditions in the future.

Weeks passed. A phone call from the ranch confirmed there were three young in the nest.

With the morning sun warming the nestlings, the mother owl could finally rest after a night of hunting. Keeping her ravenous babies supplied with food was a constant challenge. Fortunately, mice, rats and cottontail rabbits were plentiful. As the avian family settled for a long day's sleep, the mother, partially hiding her young, seemed to blend into the bark. Nature had given her the necessary camouflage to protect both herself and her family.

The more the owl hunted mice near the ranch house, the more she brought attention to herself. Leaving the nest and flapping her great wings, she would sail low over the lawn and close to the hedge just outside the porch. Mice would scurry to avoid her sharp talons, but her reflexes and keen

vision were not to be denied.

One evening her silent, swift flight was interrupted by the ranch dog coming from the east side of the yard. Barking, the blond canine that greeted everyone to the ranch charged at the owl as she grabbed an errant rat and flew back up to the tree. As it stood on its hind legs in an effort to reach the nest and the trespassing creature, the dog continued to bark. The man and his wife, who live behind the ranch house, decided to check on the dog. After seeing it at the base of the tree, they realized it was barking because the owl was hunting in its territory. With the bird unreachable, they thought the dog would settle down and that would be the end of it.

During several more nights, the performance was repeated. Each time the man or woman checked on the front yard, the dog was yelping at the mother owl. On

several occasions, they had seen the great horned owl swoop down and grab a chunk of hair from the dog's back. Soon, he'd find a rabbit to chase and forget about the bird. The barking continued longer than normal the next night. Fearing that a different creature might be outside, the man knew he'd better see what was there.

Entering the front yard, he noticed that the great horned owl was on the grass. As she popped her bill, the dog would bark, start forward, then back up as loud, numerous hoots came from her throat. The owl's large head and glaring yellow eyes made the dog tremble. With her prominent ear tufts straight up, her white throat patch swelling with each "Hoo, hoo," and her legs extended with open feet warning of sharp talons, she reminded the dog that it had better keep its distance. As he grabbed the dog's collar to pull it

back from the owl, the man noticed the bird's wing. He figured the dog had turned abruptly when attacked by the owl, and had succeeded in disabling his tormentor.

After he locked the dog in his back yard, the man returned. To look again at the twisted extremity made his stomach churn. Knowing he could not leave the owl on the ground, he went to the barn for a large animal trap. His gloved hands picked up the protesting owl and placed it inside. In the morning, he'd call the owner to get help for the mother and the three nestlings left in the tree.

"The mother owl is injured. She can't hunt, and the babies need to be fed," came the desperate plea from the owner. After being advised by the director at South Plains Wildlife Center in Lubbock to bring the three chicks and the mother as soon as possible, we headed to the

ranch. A look at the owl's injured wing told us that it could not be repaired. Once I was able to get the bird out of the trap, we placed her in a large dog carrier with the nestlings that I had taken from the tree.

Grateful to the owner and her husband for taking the owl family to the wildlife center, we learned that a decision had been made regarding the owl's wing. If the mother were to remain with her young during the important months of their development, the wing would require amputation. After that time, the center would allow her to become a surrogate parent to orphaned great horned owls. Finding a name for this addition to the center, volunteers decided to use a portion of the Latin name for the great horned owl: *bubo virginianus*. While *bubo* depicts the genus of owls, *virginianus* designates the

See OWL, Page 6A



A POLICEMAN, A FIREMAN, AND US

Have you ever seen a policeman drive by your home? Have you ever seen a big firetruck drive by your home? Did you wave to the policeman? Did you wave to the fireman? I'll bet they waved back to you, didn't they? They are nice people. They only want to help you. It is okay to wave



and say, "Hello" to them. This story is about a little boy and a little girl. The boy's name is Eric. The girl's name is Kay. Kay is Eric's sister. Eric is Kay's brother. They love each other very much. Eric is just a little older than Kay. Both of them are very nice, friendly children. They are always smiling. You would love their smile.

It started out being a very nice, warm summer day. Eric and Kay wanted to go to their neighborhood swimming pool and have a wonderful day, splashing around in the water. They asked their mom and dad to

take them to the pool the day before. Their parents had said they would, if they didn't have to work. They are very nice parents.

They work very hard to be sure that Eric and Kay have everything they needed. But, that morning did not work out for them! They both had to go to work. They could not take Eric and Kay to the swimming pool today! What a disappointment! Instead, both Eric and Kay would be taken to their neighbor's home to spend the entire day. Their neighbor was a very good friend of the whole family. But, Eric and Kay wanted to go swimming that day!

They wanted to go so much that they started thinking about just going without a grownup. They both made a very bad decision. They were sure they knew the way and could walk to the swimming pool. When the neighbor wasn't looking, off they ran! They ran as fast as they could

go, and couldn't wait to jump into the pool of clear sparkling water. Soon, they would be there. The pool was just around the corner now. Just one more corner! As they rounded the corner, they saw that they had made another mistake. The pool wasn't there! They were lost now. They did not know where the pool was. To make matters even worse, they did not know how to get back home either! What would they do?

They saw a stranger walking towards them. He was walking a dog. A very big, mean looking dog! They would ask the stranger if he could help them. As the stranger came closer and closer, the dog's barking became louder and louder. The dog seemed as if he did not like them. Eric and Kay did not know why the dog didn't like them. They had always loved ani-



mals and would never hurt one. They had petted many little dogs and kittens. Then, the dog lunged at them. This scared them very much. The stranger yelled, not at the dog, but at Eric and Kay! He was so mad because his dog was upset. He did not even

see or seem to care that both Eric and Kay were upset, too! He was not a nice man. Eric and Kay wished that they had not tried to ask him for help. Their parents had always told them to NEVER talk to strangers! If they could only get home safely today, they would never disobey their parents again!

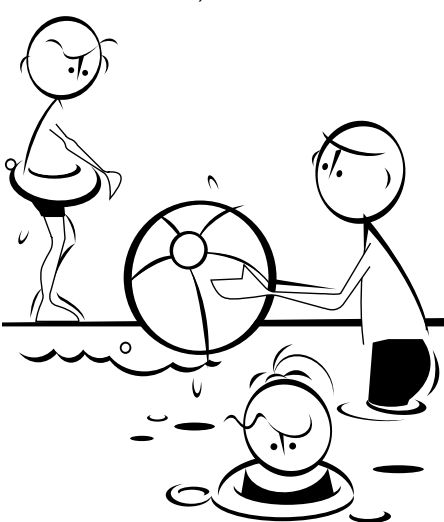
Then something wonderful happened! They saw someone coming down the street that they knew would be safe to talk to. It was a policeman. He would help!

He did help! They asked



him to help them find their home and their neighbor's home. The policeman could find their home easily. He found their home very quickly. He even took them home in his police car! He is a nice man. And, he

told them about all the mistakes they made that day, and why they



should NEVER talk to a stranger when their parents are not with them. He also told

them that there are many other nice people who could help them if they were ever in trouble again! He said that it would be okay to talk to someone who works in a store, if they ever needed help. They could also ask mothers or fathers who have children with them. They understand now! They would never make these mistakes again.

Both Eric and Kay learned from their mistakes and

decided they would help other children when they grew up. Kay would be a great firefighter. Eric would be a wonderful policeman. That's exactly what will happen when they grow up! Until then, "Good Night!"



Forsan trio earns medals in UIL state competitions

Three Forsan High School students earned medals at University Interscholastic League state competitions during the weekend.

Courtney Holdampf took a sixth-place medal at the UIL State Number Sense Contest in Austin last weekend.

Caylie Eggleston and Kaylon Stanley placed third in the UIL State Girl's Tennis Tournament in Round Rock last weekend. Also, competing was girls' singles player, Courtney Holdampf. The girls were coached by Connie Eggleston and Megan Fishback.

Band Director Jim Rhodes presented several band awards at the spring concert last Tuesday night. Winning highest honors with the John Philip Sousa Award were seniors Adam Bailey and Eric Ellis.

Director's Awards went to Evan Burton, Aaron Johnson, Morgan Garrett, Clay Lockhart, Eric Ellis, Tim Ballard, Aric Denton, Noelle McDowell, Sheree Atkinson, Caylie Eggleston, Michael Leal, Clint Lockhart, Alex



Courtney Holdampf

Huckabee and Kyle Bailey.

The Jim Yancey Music Award went to Jonathan Purcell, Seth Johnson, Michael Gomez, Rick Bailey, Blain Matthews, Bobby Roy, Justin Stilwell, Megan Mancha and Cody Rosenbaum.

The band left Thursday for its bi-annual trip to

compete in a music festival.

Student Council officers for 2007-08 will be Clint Lockhart, president; Alex Newsom, vice president; and Stephanie Williams, secretary/treasurer. The students will attend student district council camp in San Angelo, June 3-8. The

group is sponsored by Jan Sims.

Varsity cheerleaders for 2007-08 will be Faith Belew, Jolinda Fores, Tori Gauer, Valarie Goff, Tara Kuykendall, Alyx Pappajohn and Kaela Strickland.

Junior varsity cheerleaders will be Devin Berry, Macy Briggs, Erica Garrett, Kelsey Jones, Shelby Jones and Hali Wells.

The junior high cheerleaders will be Madison Churchwell, Tandace Gilliam, Lindsey Heckler, Shelbie Hudgins, Jodi Jones and Kaidie Severance.

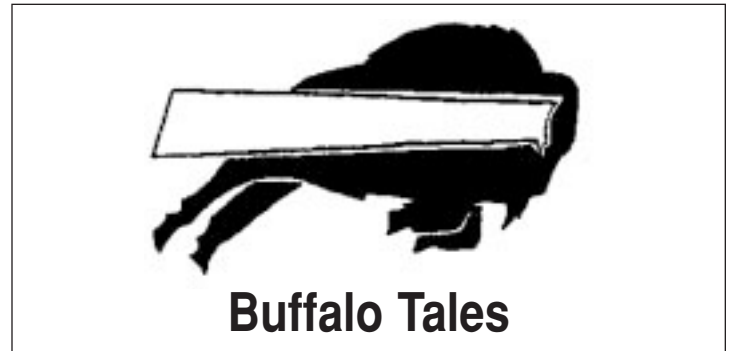
Forsan's mascot for 2007-08 will be Miranda Park.

The Senior Breakfast, sponsored by the faculty, honored seniors today from 8:15-9:39.

The high school sports banquet is scheduled for May 21. Outstanding athletes for the year will be named.

The Forsan ISD Staff Appreciation Banquet is set for 7 p.m.

Finals will be held May 22 and 23.



Buffalo Tales

su | do | ku

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

			6	5	4	9	7	
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5	6	8						2
	9		1		3	5		
8		7				3		1
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Senate approves bill extending time for discontinuing life support

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas law that allows hospitals to end life support after a 10-day notice for patients deemed medically futile would be changed to give patients' families more time under legislation the Senate approved Monday.

The unanimous Senate vote came after private negotiations in Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst's office resulted in a compromise among Texas Right to Life, the Texas Hospital Association, disability activists and others.

Extending the time limit before ending life-sustaining treatment wasn't the main holdup in the backroom talks. Some language in the bill, including that dealing with the definition of "terminal" and "pre-terminal" patients, was the contentious part.

Texas Right to Life, best known for its anti-abortion efforts, initially pushed for changing the futile care law this legislative session. But its leaders worried that under one version of the bill more patients could be subjected to having life support discontinued, said Elizabeth Graham, the group's director.

The agreement reached Monday alleviated that concern, Graham said.

"I am pleased with the negotiations," she said. "There was a tremendous spirit of cooperation."

But Sen. Bob Deuell, a Greenville Republican

sponsoring the legislation, had some harsh words for Texas Right to Life.

When he spoke on the Senate floor, he mentioned the assorted groups that came together on the bill, such as Texas Alliance for Life, the Texas Catholic Conference, the Baptist General Convention, the Texas Hospital Association and Texas Medical Association.

"There are caring people on both sides of this issue," he said.

Referring to Texas Right to Life, he said: "One group wanted to demagogue the issue. There was no flexibility.... They wanted to hold some of the members of this body political hostage."

The legislation next moves to the House.

Existing state law allows hospitals to end life-sustaining treatment in medically futile cases after a 10-day notice to the family, even if the family disagrees.

Texas is one of the few states with a timetable allowing hospitals to decide when to end life support, according to studies cited by activist groups.

Texas Right to Life, disability rights groups and others who don't like the current law have tried this legislative session to lengthen that 10-day deadline. The powerful Texas Hospital Association largely supported the cur-

rent law but said it was willing to negotiate parts of it.

Deuell's proposal would lengthen the time limit for notifying a patient's family before discontinuing life support. It would give the family seven days' notice before a hospital ethics committee meets to discuss the case, then a 21-day notice if life support is to be discontinued. There's also a minimum of another 20 days during which the issue could be brought up in court.

Deuell said that's a lot more time than allowed under current law, where the family is guaranteed only two days before the hospital ethics committee meeting then 10 days before the termination of life-sustaining treatment.

"We've gone from 12 (days) to 48," Deuell said. "This is a significant improvement."

Deuell has struggled since late last week to find a compromise acceptable to the many parties involved. He said he initially wanted patients to be treated until they could be transferred to another medical facility, but he said there weren't enough votes in the Senate for that proposal.

One key point in the compromise, he said, was an agreement that nutrition and hydration — food and water — won't be discontinued.

"So we won't starve or dehydrate a patient to

death, which is not pleasant," he said.

He said the compromise proposal would protect families and patients. He said some in the disability community had been worried about how the law could be applied to them, but their fears were calmed with Monday's agreement.

"I understand their angst," said Deuell, who is a physician.

As the Capitol negotiations have pressed on this session, the real-world effects of the existing law have played out a few blocks away.

An 18-month-old baby, Emilio Gonzales, has been in Children's Hospital of Austin clinging to life as his family fights to continue his medical care. The hospital wants to invoke the state law allowing it to stop life support.

The baby is believed to have Leigh's disease, which destroys brain functions. The hospital contends he is non-responsive, but the baby's mother denies that. She has said she knows her son will die one day, but she isn't ready to let go yet. She said Emilio smiles and turns his head toward voices.

Another court hearing in his case is set for May 30.

OWL

Continued from Page 5A

locale from which the first member of the species was scientifically collected. They would call this new mother, "Virginia."

Placed in a mew after her surgery, Virginia, and her offspring, adopted their new home.

Allowed the privilege of raising her young, the owl fed them mice and rats provided daily by the volunteer staff. She taught them some of the skills needed for existing in the wild. When the

young were flying, the time came for them to be placed in the large flight cage in order to develop muscle tone and strength.

With her maternal work at an end, Virginia suddenly went into a decline and started to peck and tear the area where her wing had been removed. Having seen this behavior before in amputees, the director and manager decided that the continued damage to tissue and nerves, and the ensuing infections, meant the owl would have to be euthanized.

"She knew her job was done. That's nature," commented the ranch owner upon hearing the reasons why the mother owl's life was terminated. Although Virginia would not return to the ranch, her offspring were brought back for release. For four to five days, they were housed in a stable retrofitted as a release site. When they were deemed ready, the doors were blocked open in the evening, and the threesome left to start new homes on the ranch.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Fight to the Bitter End

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 6 3
♥ K Q 7 2
♦ Q 6 4
♣ J 10

WEST
♠ A Q 9 5
♥ 6 3
♦ A J 9 7
♣ K 8 4

EAST
♠ 8 7 4 2
♥ 8 5
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ A J 10 9 4
♦ K 3
♣ A 9 6 2

The bidding:

1♥ South 1♠ West 2♥ North 2♣ East

Pass 1♠ 2♥ Pass

4♥

Opening lead — six of hearts.

Let's say you get to four hearts on the bidding shown and West leads a trump. It's certainly not hard to figure out where the missing high cards are. You're looking at 26 high-card points, so there's a good chance that West, for his double, has all the missing points.

It might therefore seem that you must lose two spades, a diamond and a club and go down one. However, if

you give the situation further thought, a ray of hope emerges. You can probably endplay West if the cards are divided the way you think they are.

Accordingly, you win the trump lead with the nine, play the jack of trumps to the queen, lead the queen of clubs and finesse. As expected, West takes his king and returns a club. You win with the ten and overtake the jack with the ace as both defenders follow suit.

You now have West over a barrel. You carefully refrain from cashing the nine of clubs and, instead, lead the three of diamonds. West follows low — he would hand you the contract if he went up with the ace — and dummy's queen wins the trick. You then return to your hand with a trump, cash the club nine, discarding a diamond from dummy, and exit with the king of diamonds.

West wins with the ace, but is a dead pigeon. If he returns a diamond, you ruff in dummy and discard the jack of spades, while if he returns a spade, he likewise presents you with your 10th trick.

The deal illustrates that if you know where the opponents' high cards are, you can sometimes convert a losing cause into a winning one.

Tomorrow: Super-duper defense.

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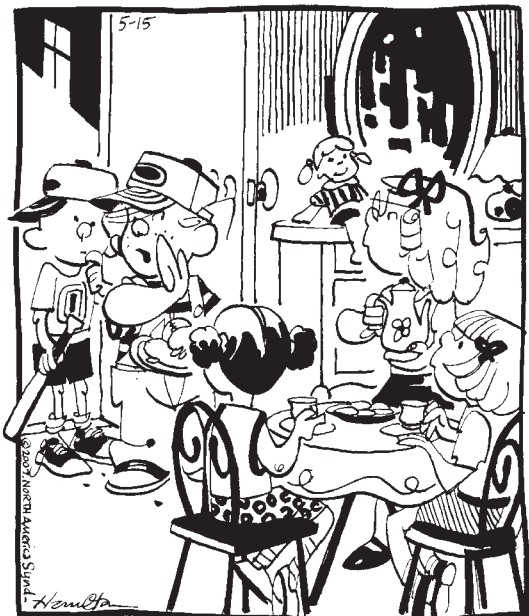
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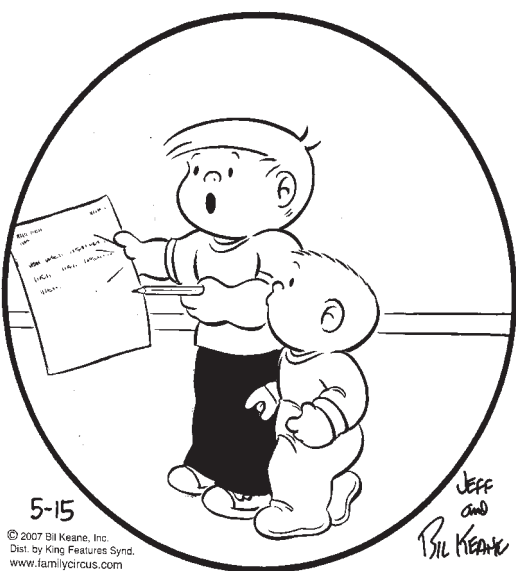
Table with 20 columns (station names like WFDA, KMID, UNI, etc.) and 6 rows (time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM) listing program titles and broadcast details.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WE WON'T FIND ANY OUTFIELDERS IN HERE, JOEY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

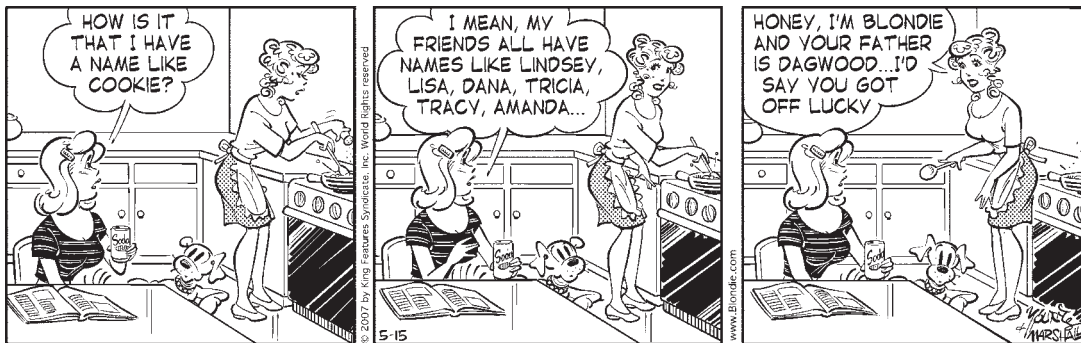


"Mommy, for homework I had to do an interview, so I did PJ. It's very short."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



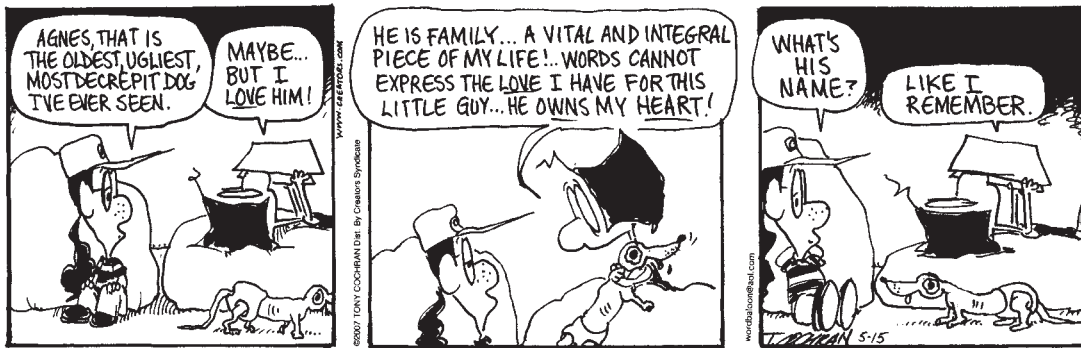
BC



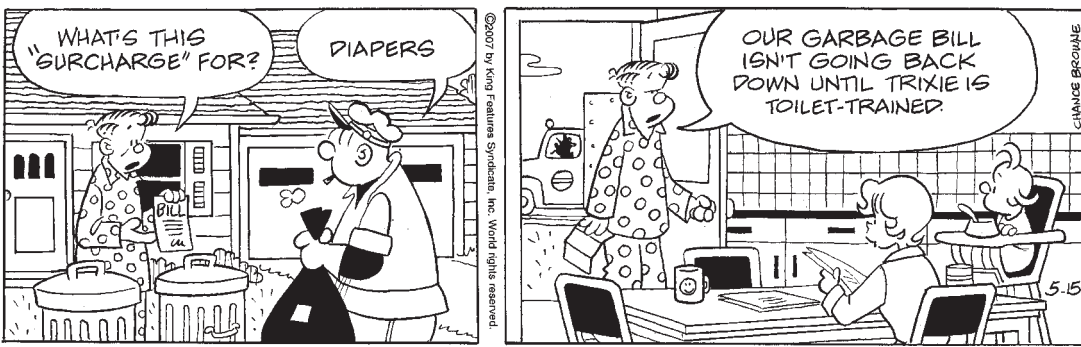
WIZARD OF ID



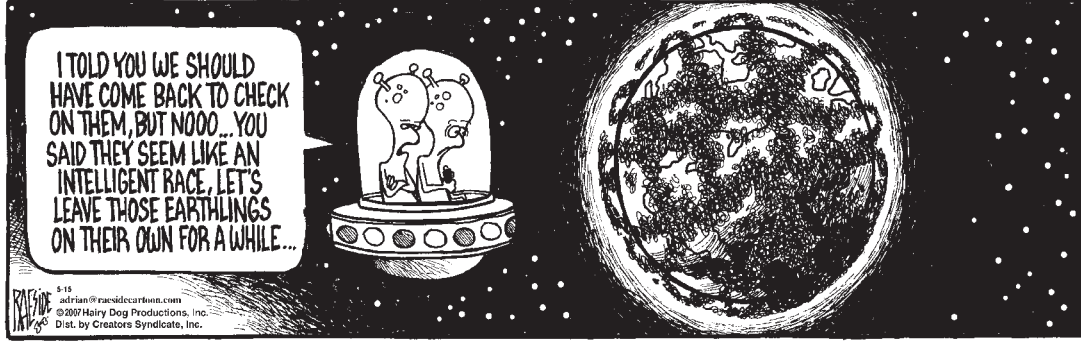
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 15, the 135th day of 2007. There are 230 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 15, 1942, wartime gasoline rationing went into effect in 17 states, limiting sales to three gallons a week for non-essential vehicles. On this date: In 1856, Lyman Frank Baum, the author of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," was born in Chittenango, N.Y. In 1911, the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of Standard Oil Co., ruling it was a monopoly in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. In 1918, U.S. airmail began service between Washington, Philadelphia and New York. In 1930, registered nurse Ellen Church, the first airline stewardess, went on duty aboard an Oakland-to-Chicago flight operated by Boeing Air Transport (a forerunner of United Airlines).

In 1940, nylon stockings went on general sale for the first time in the United States. In 1963, astronaut L. Gordon Cooper blasted off aboard Faith 7 on the final mission of the Project Mercury space program. In 1970, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green, two black students at Jackson State University in Mississippi, were killed when police opened fire during student protests. In 1972, George C. Wallace was shot by Arthur Bremer and left paralyzed while campaigning in Laurel, Md., for the Democratic presidential nomination. In 1986, searchers on Oregon's Mount Hood found two teenage survivors of a hiking expedition that became trapped in a white-out blizzard. Nine other climbers died. Today's Birthdays: Singer Eddy Arnold is 89. Actor Joseph Wiseman is 89. Playwright Sir Peter Shaffer

("Amadeus") is 81. Actress-singer Anna Maria Alberghetti is 71. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 71. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is 70. Singer Lenny Welch is 69. Actress-singer Lainie Kazan is 67. Country singer K.T. Oslin is 65. Singer-songwriter Brian Eno is 59. Actor Nicholas Hammond ("The Sound of Music") is 57. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 56. Baseball Hall-of-Famer George Brett is 54. Musician-composer Mike Oldfield ("Tubular Bells") is 54. Actor Lee Horsley is 52. TV personality Gisel Hernandez is 46.

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

Newsday Crossword

INFLUENTIAL by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Balance-sheet item, 6 Opera highlight, 10 Heavy weights, 14 con carne, 15 "Me neither!", 16 Something hilarious, 17 Car-engine measure, 19 Prefix for freeze, 20 Lamb's mom, 21 Zeus and Apollo, 22 Outdoor-chair material, 24 Superhero's garment, 25 Fishhook attachment, 26 Words on a dirty car, 29 Stuffed pasta, 32 Lauder of cosmetics, 33 Birthday-party dessert, 34 Poison-ivy reaction, 36 Pilots' announcements: Abbr., 37 Night before, 38 Heap, 39 Hit, as with hailstones, 40 Snow glider, 41 Piano technician, 42 Sends again, as a letter, 44 Young hooters, 45 Remove, as a knot, 46 "Neato!", 47 Virtuous, 50 Has an evening meal, 51 Lawn material, 54 College military org., 55 Swimming method, 58 Verbal exam, 59 Spiny houseplant, 60 Squirrel snack, 61 Walk in water, 62 Lab-maze runners, 63 Rushed toward, 8 Anger, 9 Broadcasting signal, 10 County-fair contest, 11 Pigen sound, 12 Brief letter, 13 Recipe direction, 18 Vatican City leader, 23 Three, on a sundial, 24 Pec, more formally, 25 Used the oven, 26 Sob, 27 Late-blooming flower, 28 No longer fresh, 29 Rants and, 30 Singer Frankie, 31 Tiny spot of land, 33 Stringed instrument, 35 That woman's, 40 Private courtroom conference, 41 Like a so-so movie rating, 43 Pantry pest, 44 "How clumsy of me!", 46 Pickled veggies, 47 Cornfield bird, 48 Israeli dance, 49 Just slightly, 50 Glasgow native, 51 Any minute now, 52 Cajun vegetable, 53 Fender-bender result, 56 Pie mode, 57 Zenith competitor

A crossword grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for the clues.