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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

SUNDAY

JULY 8, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 191

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## In the jailhouse now

### Commissioners to revisit location of proposed jail in Monday's meeting

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

It's all about location, location, location.

And location is expected to be the hot topic Monday morning when Howard County commissioners meet to discuss the design and construction of a new jail facility, a subject the court has wrestled with for more than three years.

The two sites currently being explored for inclusion in the bond election — a site in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80 and a site adjacent to the district courthouse — have been the topic of much debate among Howard County commissioners.

Three weeks ago commissioners voted unanimously in favor of using the location in the 3600

*"I feel like we're going to have an important announcement to make regarding the site selection."*



Barr

block of W. Highway 80, dismissing the downtown site due to a higher price tag.

"The courthouse square property would have cost approximately \$300,000 just for the land, and bricks and mortar to match the existing court buildings was just too high," said Barr during

See JAIL, Page 3A

## FARMER'S MARKET OPENS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Julie Thompson, left, talks with vendor Sherry Newton during Saturday morning's Farmer's Market event at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

## Man to go on trial Monday for sexual assault of a child

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Jury selection in the trial of a Coahoma man charged with several counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child is expected to begin Monday in 118th District Court.

Simon Chavez, 29, of

Coahoma, was indicted in March on three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, all first degree felonies, and two counts of indecency with a child, both second degree felonies.

According to Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr, who will be trying the case for

the state, the offense involved two children under the age of 14.

"The alleged offense occurred on or about Aug. 27, 2006," said Orr.

Orr declined to comment any further on the matter, saying it will only increase the difficulty of choosing a jury.

"I'd really rather not go into it at this juncture," said Orr. "In a case like this, it can be very difficult to seat a jury, and we don't want to do anything that might complicate that further."

Chavez was arrested several days after being indicted by the Howard County Sheriff's Office on charges of sexual assault of

a child, indecency with a child - sexual contact and two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

If convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony, Chavez could face five to 99 years to life in

See TRIAL, Page 3A

**INDEX**

Business	4-6C
Classified	7-8C
Life	1-4C
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-4B

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HERALD PHOTO/Dustin Wilson

Howard County Sheriff's Office vehicles surround a residential area in Sand Springs as deputies pursued a Big Spring man early Friday afternoon. The man was transported to a Lubbock hospital, suffering from what authorities described as a self-inflicted knife wound.

## Big Spring man said in critical condition

BY DUSTIN WILSON

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was reported to be in critical condition in a Lubbock hospital late Friday, after cutting himself with a pocket knife.

The tragic course of events began around the State Highway 350 and FM 700 intersection and ended near Uncle's convenience store early Friday afternoon.

See CRITICAL, Page 3A

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# Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1B  
Sunday, July 8, 2007

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

## IN BRIEF

### Big Spring slates basketball camps

Big Spring Junior High Gymnasium will be hosting two Big Spring Boys Basketball Camps starting Monday and lasting through Thursday.

New Big Spring Steers head basketball coach Marc Morris will lead both camps.

The first camp starts at 9 a.m. and is for incoming second through fifth graders.

The second camp is for incoming sixth through ninth graders and will last from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration for each camp will take place 30 minutes before the starting time.

Cost is \$20 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee. For more information, call Morris at 264-3662.

### BSGSA all-star teams raising funds

All four Big Spring Girls Softball Association All-Star teams are raising funds for expenses for the tournaments on the UTPB campus in Odessa each team will participate in on July 20-22. Each team needs to raise \$1,400.

Any person, group or business willing to donate can visit www.bigspringsoftball.com for contact information.

### Steers season ticket sales start Tuesday

Big Spring High School will make 2007 Steer football season tickets available for previous season ticket holders Tuesday at the Athletic Training Center.

Previous holders can purchase their tickets Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until July 24.

Season tickets will be made available to the general public Aug. 8 through Aug. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

### Lady Steers Booster Club meets Monday

The Lady Steers Booster Club will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center to elect new officers for the 2007-2008 school year and to discuss other items concerning the upcoming school year.

The current officers encourage all parents of Lady Steer athletes to attend and support Big Spring girls athletics.

For more information, contact Leslie Whitten at 816-6764.

### Big Spring QB Club meeting Tuesday

The Big Spring Steers Quarterback Club will conduct a meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Big Spring High School's Athletic Training Center.

All parents of players in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

The 2007 season will mark the 100th year of football at Big Spring High School and the QB Club is looking for pictures for a commemora-

See BRIEFS, Page 3B

## The more we see, the more we miss

This is one of those weeks

made for sports fans: Roger Federer and Venus Williams are chasing titles at Wimbledon; Tiger's back; the Tour de France gets rolling; and, in just a few days, it's Barry's big house party — aka, the All-Star game.

There should be all kinds of excitement and buzz. Yet the



NANCY ARMOUR

only event generating any chatter is Tony Parker's weekend wedding festivities. Will he and Eva say "Oui" or "I do"? How many different dresses will she wear? Will Tim Duncan give a toast? Did they really have their cake flown in from the United States?

We're living in one of the greatest ages of sports, watching some of the best ever play their games. But the more access and information we get, the more detached we become.

"Maybe it's really more sports fans as a whole taking for grant-

ed the greatness that's in front of them right now," Matthew Lalin, the executive vice president of Steiner Sports Marketing, said Friday.

Or maybe it's that sports fans can't take anything for granted these days.

That same information overload that gives us Derek Jeter's up-to-the-minute batting average also clues us in to cycling's dirty little doping secrets and made us think twice about how Barry Bonds was able to hit all those home runs.

We know too much, and we

see too much. As a result, we barely see what we're watching.

Technology has been a boon for the sports fan. Thanks to DVRs and VCRs, a night out no longer means missing out. We can watch what we want when we want how we want. Same goes for mobile phones and PDAs, which give us access to scores and more from just about anywhere.

Gone are the days when the Chicago Cubs were the only team seen by the entire country.

See ARMOUR, Page 2B

## Too early to overreact about Durant

As Kevin Durant and Greg Oden took the court in their respective NBA Summer League games Friday,

the sporting world stopped to watch and see which way they would need to overreact towards the future of each superstar's career.

Oden's headline was that he was ineffective offensively, but registered two monstrous blocks while picking up the 10 fouls that are allowed in the Summer League games in the Portland Trail Blazers summer opener against the Boston Celtics. According to experts, his future is still bright since he's not expected to be an offensive force his rookie season.

However, Durant's Seattle SuperSonics career is apparently doomed after he missed 12 shots against the Dallas Mavericks. That is the main headline that ESPN.com and other sports affiliates were running Saturday morning to illustrate his performance.

Face it. The sporting world is one of overreaction.

The New York Yankees are a games under .500, but they win two games in a row, so they must be playoff bound. It doesn't matter to the media covering them and their fans that the Yanks are 11 games out of first place in their division.

This is just an example of the overreactions that dictate the sporting world. All of us fall prey to this disease.

Last fall, I declared the Cowboys Super Bowl bound after they upset the undefeated Indianapolis Colts in week 11 then pounded the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Thanksgiving. Two weeks later, New Orleans smother the Cowboys and I'm back to doubting their legitimacy.

Durant is the latest overreaction victim. Lost in the fact that he missed his first five shots is that he finished the game with 18

points, leading his team in scoring. Great players find a way to get points on the board even when their shot isn't falling and that's what he did.

I had the pleasure of witnessing Durant play first hand at this past season's Big 12 Championship Tournament in Oklahoma City. The Longhorns found themselves down by 18 at half-time against the Baylor Bears in second round action. Durant was practically a no show in the first half, connecting on one field goal and scoring just five points.

The crowd was wondering where the freshman superstar's game had gone. Some even deliberated that he wasn't ready for the pressure of tournament games. He responded with 24 second-half points, leading the Longhorns back from a 20-point deficit beat the Bears by five.

Great players find a way and Durant is a great talent.

Does Durant have his flaws? Definitely. One of them is that he doesn't appear to have a great amount of stamina. The media kept talking about his lack of physical strength. That's not why he needs to add size so that his body can endure more NBA minutes.

His performance Friday has no dictation over his career and should never be interpreted as such. Especially considering that his numbers dwarfed Oden's in their first Summer League appearances.

Durant's rookie season will be an uphill battle for him. Seattle shipped off superstar shooting guard Ray Allen to Boston and rising star Rashard Lewis left for Orlando via free agency, leaving Georgetown rookie Jeff Green as Durant's greatest compliment.

Rookie of the year hopes shouldn't be completely discarded, however, it's more important that Durant grows into a better NBA player his rookie season. It's also more important for Seattle to build their franchise around him over the next couple of seasons. He'll need help if he's to ever reach his full potential.

See HULL, Page 3B



MCT photo  
Seattle SuperSonics' Kevin Durant takes a shot against the Dallas Mavericks Friday in NBA Summer League action. Durant led the Sonics with 18 points in the 77-66 loss to the Mavs.

## Federer, Nadal face in another Grand Slam final

By CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal will meet in another Grand Slam final.

Four-time defending champion Federer reached his ninth consecutive major final Saturday, beating Richard Gasquet 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 on the grass courts of the All England Club.

Nadal, who lost to Federer in last year's final, set up a rematch when No. 4 Novak Djokovic retired while trailing 3-6, 6-1, 4-1.

The win was Federer's 53rd straight on grass. He finished with 20 aces, including one on a second serve in the final game of the match.

Gasquet matched Federer for most of the

first set, but the top-ranked Swiss player saved all three break points he faced, including two at 5-5. Federer saved the first with an ace and the next with a forehand winner before winning the next two points. Including those four points, Federer won 44 of the final 54 points on his serve.

With Gasquet serving at 6-5, the Frenchman was only two points away from forcing a first-set tiebreaker, but Federer won four straight points to take the set.

"The first set was crucial," Federer said. "He should have at least got to the tiebreaker. I came out somehow and played really well for 10 minutes and was up a set and a break, and that was pretty much it after that."

In the second set, Federer held in the first game and then broke again, eventually taking a 3-0 lead.

After the set ended, the 12th-seeded Gasquet called for a trainer to look at his left ankle. His ferocious backhands and whipping cross-court forehands again won him points, but Federer was too good, breaking Gasquet to lead 4-3 in the final set.

Three-time champion Venus Williams was playing No. 18 Marion Bartoli in the women's final.

The 25-year-old Federer, who is the oldest of the four men's semifinalists, is trying to win a fifth consecutive Wimbledon title, something only Bjorn Borg has done in

See TENNIS, Page 4B



MCT photo/Corrine Dubreuil

Switzerland's Roger Federer defeats Russia's Teimuraz Gabashvili, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, in their first round match at Wimbledon June 25 in London. Federer will face his nemesis, Spain's Rafael Nadal, in Wimbledon's final Sunday.

# Celebration!



Photos: Top left and bottom right, Dustin Wilson; second, third and fourth left, Thomas Jenkins, fireworks, Ken Hollandsworth.







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▶ **Menus**

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Debbie Ann Peacock Harkins and Gary Lee Bayes

**Harkins and Bayes**

Debbie Ann Peacock Harkins of Midland and Gary Lee Bayes of Big Spring were united in marriage at 5 p.m. June 2, 2007, at Valley View Baptist Church in Midland. Officiating was Bro. Robert Fraizer. The bride's adopted mother is Monta Lee Beights of Midland. The groom is the son of Grover and Bernell Bayes of Big Spring.

Best girls of the bride were daughters Shaunna Harkins and Jessica Harkins. Flower girl was Mitzi Fortin.

Best girls of the groom were daughters Amanda Bayes and Samantha Bayes.

Thomas Schroeder served as an usher.

The couple has postponed their honeymoon until after the cotton harvest. They will reside in Big Spring.

**New Hope Christian School**

Monday: ravioli, green beans, pears and milk.

Tuesday: enchilada casserole, pinto beans, apple sauce and milk.

Wednesday: barbecue weenies, tossed

salad, corn, bread, milk.

Thursday: sloppy Joe on a bun, French fries, carrots & celery, peaches and milk.

Friday: hot dogs on a bun, veggie sticks w/ranch, pears, milk.



Ricardo Medina and Nicole Alexandra Pardo

**Pardo and Medina**

Nicole Alexandra Pardo and Ricardo Medina were joined in marriage at 4 p.m. July 2, 2007, with Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman officiating.

The bride is the daughter of George Pardo and Sylvia Pardo of West Palm Beach, Fla.

The groom is the son of Francisco Medina and Ramona Medina of Big Spring.

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<i>LeDawn Burt &amp; Josh Eiles</i>	<i>Cody Burt &amp; Matthew Weaver</i>
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HERALD Photo/Dustin Wilson

**Kelli Schaedel of Sand Springs displays her home grown squash at the Farmer's Market Saturday morning.**

**Great Race coming to Big Spring Monday for lunch; public invited**

The public is encouraged to welcome competitors in the Great Race, which will be making a lunch stop in Big Spring on Monday at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park.

The first car should arrive at the community center about 11:45 a.m.

Lunch will be served to those who have purchased tickets. The deadline to purchase lunch has passed. However, Great Race fans who did not purchase tickets are still welcome to greet the competitors and view the vintage vehicles.

**Unveiling set at airport**

The public is invited to a brief unveiling ceremony at the entrance to the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark at 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Russel Lenz, Texas Department of Transportation district engineer, Jim Little, airport director, and Jarley Boe, owner of the U.S. Flight Academy, will be unveiling an Adopt an Airport sign.

This is only the 13th airport in Texas to agree to have an agency (the U.S. Flight Academy) adopt the airport grounds for cleanup, according to TxDOT officials.

Also in attendance will be Mayor Russ McEwen and State Sen. Kel Seliger.

The ceremony will last no longer than 15 minutes.

**JAIL**

Continued from Page 1A

the June 12 meeting of the commissioners court. "That cost was estimated at \$517,000 overall."

However, the court came back two weeks ago and instructed project architect Jeff Heffelfinger to also begin preliminary designs for a 96-bed jail at the courthouse location, in addition to the Highway 80 site. The decision to look at two locations was an effort to present voters with a choice in November, Barr later said.

"What we wanted to do is give voters the chance to vote for or against the jail, and if they voted for it, then vote for the location," said Barr. "That way we wouldn't be splitting the vote, and voters would have the chance to

weigh in on where they felt it should be built.

"If the voters have three separate propositions — one for each location, and then a third saying no, they don't want a new jail — you would be splitting the vote that's in favor of the project. So, if we did it that way, it would almost certainly fail, and we're in a position where we really have to get this passed."

However, the manner in which county officials were hoping to word the ballot didn't set well with

Texas Attorney General's office, which rejected the wording less than two weeks ago.

Barr said he expects to have an announcement concerning the sites during Monday's meeting.

"I feel like we're going to have an important announcement to make regarding the site selection," said Barr Friday afternoon.

Also on Monday's agenda, Auditor Jackie Olson will present invoices, purchase requests and a budget workshop.

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is to present personnel considerations, payroll reports and a quarterly report.

Monday's meeting is to get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

**TRIAL**

Continued from Page 1A

prison, including a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

On the second-degree felony charges of indecency with a child, Chavez could be sentenced to two to 20 years in a state

prison, also with a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Jury selection is expected to begin at 9 a.m. Monday, with the trial beginning at 1 p.m.

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

**CRITICAL**

Continued from Page 1A

According to Sheriff Dale Walker, the suspect — a Big Spring resident — stole a vehicle registered to BlastMasters Inc. parked outside Big Mike's Liquor Store on East Highway 350.

"He had taken the truck from the parking lot of the liquor store and had driven it to this location here," said Walker, referring to the Uncle's convenience store on the Interstate Highway 20 North Service Road in Sand Springs.

Two men had followed the suspect to Uncle's, where he abandoned the truck after their arrival.

"He fled east on foot from the convenience store along the service road looking for a place to hide, crossing the highway. The sheriff's office was notified, and a foot

pursuit followed."

Walker said during the course of the pursuit the suspect seriously injured himself.

"He had a pocketknife, and he cut himself pretty badly along his left arm," said Walker. "It was a self-inflicted wound. He had lost a lot of blood."

The suspect was transported by ambulance to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Officials with SMMC refused to release a condition report on the man, but an unconfirmed statement from a family member indicated he was transported to a Lubbock hospital.

The sheriff's department declined to release the man's name and no arrest had been made as of Friday evening.

Contact Staff Writer Dustin Wilson by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail him at life@bigspringherald.com.

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**The Family of Alvie L. Harrison**

Would like to say thanks to the friends & family for all the food, cards, memorials and beautiful flowers that were sent during the loss of our dear husband, dad, and step-dad.

We would like to say a special thanks to Home-Hospice and the wonderful girls from there. They were such good people.

Special thanks to Dr. Randy Cotton and Trinity Baptist Church and all the ladies for all the good food.

Thanks to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home for their kindness.

Mrs. Alvie Harrison  
Eddie & Sue Lamb & Family  
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**BRIEFS**

Continued from Page 1B

tive program to be released this fall. Pictures can be from any year portraying Big Spring football.

Contact Denise Carrillo at 816-1685 or Frank Stiles at 270-3401 with any questions.

**O.H. Ivie opening hunting to the public**

Application for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Wildlife Management Areas will be accepted by mail only beginning July 16 and ending Aug. 17.

Permits will be limited. A public drawing for the 2007 hunting season will be held at 1 p.m. Sept. 14 at the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Field Office located near the north end of the dam. All applicants are welcome to attend, if they desire.

Requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) at 267-6341. Or write to CRMWD, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas, 79721 with attention to public hunting.

**Country club holding golf classic**

The Big Spring Country

Club is holding the Crossroads of West Texas Gold Classic sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce July 14 and 15.

The classic is a 2-man scramble format and is limited to the first 100 paid teams.

The entry fee is \$180 per team with all entries to be paid in advance.

Entry fee includes a barbecue lunch for both days, free beverages, a Friday afternoon shootout and the ATMOS Hospitality Tent.

Call the country club at 267-5354 or the chamber at 263-7641, for more information.

**No-tap benefit bowling tourney set**

Big Spring Bowlarama will hold a second No-Tap Singles Tournament to benefit Mary Grace Jackson July 14 and 15 at 2:30 p.m. each day.

Jackson is seeking funds to help with expenses for her pending kidney and pancreas transplant.

There will be a men's, women's and junior's division.

The cost is \$15 for the men's and women's division and \$12 for the junior's division.

Three mulligans can be bought at the time of registration at the cost of \$5.

Anyone wanting to par-

ticipate, but can't attend the dates of the tournament can arrange a pre-bowl by calling Debbie Burrow at 263-8952 or Jimmie Wood at 267-8676.

**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 players from 9 a.m. to noon.

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 camps**

Tech's High Altitude Cross Country Camp will be held Aug. 6-10 in Cloudcroft, N.M.

For more information, call Jon Murray at (806)742-3355 or e-mail him at jonathan.murray@ttu.edu.

Visit TexasTech.com for more information.

**HULL**

Continued from Page 1B

So for now, forget about the overreactions and media hype from the

national sports syndicates that prefer Oden over Durant. Both players will turn into something special.

However, Durant, with the right tools around

him, could turn into one of the all-time greats.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237.

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# Reunion

## Molina Family

Jesus and Nicolasa were married Sept. 28, 1917, in Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico. Jesus and Nicolasa came to the United States in 1923, with a 4-year-old daughter and two sons, one two years old and the other

just an infant. Jesus worked for the Texas and Pacific Railway Co., traveling to various towns in Texas. Two more daughters were born, although one died at the age of nine months. In 1928 they came to

Howard County where he worked at a farm and lived in Knott. Eight more children were born, making a total 13 children. In 1948, they moved to Big Spring where he worked for Wilson Construction and later worked for the city of Big Spring. He retired in 1962.

Jesus became a U.S. citizen on May 26, 1961, followed by Nicolasa in 1963. After his retirement, he became the caretaker for the grounds at St. Thomas and Sacred Heart Catholic churches.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society and Nicolasa was a member of the St. Thomas Altar Society. She was a volunteer at the Big Spring State Hospital as well as the St. Thomas church every week.

Jesus and Nicolasa were married 70 years. He died at the age of 95, and she passed away at age 87.

All seven sons are veterans, serving in the Army, Navy and Marines.

Jesus was named outstanding senior citizen of Howard County on May 30, 1975, at the Howard College Auditorium. On June 22, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Molina were representatives of Our Howard County Heritage.

Their children are Petra Leos, Emilio Molina, Ramona Molina and



Jesus and Nicolasa Molina 50th wedding anniversary, 1967

Isabel Escovedo of Big Spring; Mr. and Mrs. Valentin Molina of Holland, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Molina from Ocala, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Molina of Corpus Christi; and Mr. and Mrs. Amado Molina of San Angelo.

Deceased family include Maricala Macias, Guadalupe Molina, Tereso Molina, Luisa Molina and Augustin Vegil.

Other family members will be coming from Texas, Florida, Virginia, Michigan and Arkansas



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*A Special Thank You For Making this Second Year A Wonderful Success*  
The Heritage Executive Board of Directors, Trustees and Staff wish to thank each and everyone of you for your participation and contribution to Legends and Legacies.

We know there are so many worthy organizations that need your time and money but we hope that your interest in Big Spring's history will be preserved for future generations through your efforts.

<p><b>Benefactors:</b> Alois USA Jack &amp; Katie Cathay Martin &amp; Lennie Fryar Wade &amp; Toni Chesser Larin &amp; Nellie McDowell Bob &amp; Rhonda Hays Verna Davis/Dan Fishback</p> <p><b>Sponsors:</b> Dickey Wright KISS I Big Spring Herald K.C. Steakhouse Lujan, The Ultimate Hideout Kay Smith Eunice Howard Cecile Berry Sue Higwell</p> <p><b>Friends:</b> Steve &amp; Gay Horton Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jimmy Taylor Robert &amp; Mary Miller Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dan Lockhart Ronald Larson Wanda Family Drew &amp; Chyren Mouton Pollard Chevrolet Horse Realities 1<sup>st</sup> Big Spring Banking Center Bob &amp; Carol Sees</p> <p><b>Donors:</b> Bob &amp; Susan Lewis</p>	<p><b>Donors - continued:</b> Lore &amp; Janice Bond Jerry &amp; Katie Christen Don &amp; Mary Lane Reynolds Harold &amp; Janell Davis Dr. Reg &amp; Suzanne Crawford Mark &amp; Stacy Durr Drew Wyrick/Carolyn Hanson Cheryl Clark/Barney Hiss Kathy Barton</p> <p><b>Donors:</b> Ditte &amp; Edna White Skipper &amp; Wanda Driver Robert &amp; Charlene Ragan Harry &amp; Janet Middleton Herbert &amp; Doris Haska Bob &amp; Dorothy Wheeler Eddie &amp; Summier Everett Mr. &amp; Mrs. Harbington Loris &amp; Luanne Stallings Buddy Everett Ric Morrow Leslie Krikke Dana &amp; Jennifer Drivo Dean &amp; Joann Everett James Johnson Sherry Newton Loris &amp; Luanne Stallings Raymond &amp; Faye Stallings</p> <p><b>Singles:</b> Linda Berry J. Caffey Jane Sims Anna Walker Chloria Bain Jan Forsyth Hanna Carol Harwood Wita Doreen</p>
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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

## OUR VIEWS

### Leadership class an opportunity to help everyone

It's again time for one of the really impressive programs the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce provides our community — Leadership Big Spring.

While a great many of us are familiar with the Leadership Big Spring program, designed to familiarize future community leaders with various assets and institutions in our community, some may not.

The program, which teaches leadership skills through a series of courses and tasks, is also older than many people might realize, according to Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

A new class of the Leadership Big Spring program — the 25th — will begin in September and continue through May 2008.

Chamber officials have extended the registration program for the class, giving local citizens until Wednesday, July 18, to sign up for the program.

The class has evolved over the years, according to ValVerde. Participants are now asked to be a part of the community by going to local government and school board meetings, and are asked for their input from what they see and what they have gotten out of the meeting.

They also go on police rides and through the Boy Scouts COPES Course which, ValVerde says, really bonds the group.

ValVerde said the program not only teaches it's class members how to lead, but how to have a positive impact on the community.

Each year members of the Leadership Big Spring class embark on a community project by either funding it themselves or by seeking donations from sponsors, providing experience in getting other people and businesses involved in supporting worthwhile projects.

The program's cost is \$300 per person for Chamber members and \$500 for non-Chamber residents wanting to take part in the class.

Applications are available at the Chamber office located 215 W. Third. In addition, interested persons can call the Chamber at 263-7641.

We encourage all interested citizens to take part in the program.

We believe you'll be glad you did, because in the long run, you'll be better for it and so will our community.

## How To Contact Us

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Today may we visit with You, Lord, like You're our best friend.

Amen

# Rudeness can be an epidemic

It's frightening how quickly friendly, courteous help has been thrown to the wayside in most businesses and industries in favor of iron-clad procedures, rules and directives. It's almost as if the human side of service has been nixed, given up by the general public in favor of lower prices and quicker checkouts.

Of course, as a nation we were quick to offer up many of our civil liberties in return for a false, illusory sense of security following the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy in New York, so should this really surprise us? But, I digress.

Holidays for a reporter are something to be dreaded. While most people look toward them as a day off and time to spend with family and loved ones, for a reporter it means it's time to switch into high gear to get the holiday-related stories and pictures.

The Fourth of July holiday is no different.

After getting my work out of the way, which my daughter, Hayley, patiently sat and waited through, I wanted to do something special for her. So, after a quick call to make sure it was open during the holiday, we grabbed up our swimsuits and towels and headed for the city pool.

First, let me say that up until that day I had never had anything but good experiences at the city pool, and I truly feel like it is an asset to Big Spring.

However, much like my favorite television series, all good things seem to come to an end sooner or later.

Upon arriving, my daughter and I paid our \$4 with a smile and the lady behind the desk asked if Hayley, being 7 years old, had ever taken the deep water swim-

ming test. She had, not even two weeks prior, and passed with flying colors, collecting her colorful paper wristband that allowed her to swim in the pool's deep end and use the slides.

The lifeguard checked her list, and couldn't find my Hayley Bird's name, which was fairly disconcerting. However, after checking again, she found it, and this is where our trouble began.

The last entry with Hayley's name was from April, when her mother had taken her to the YMCA pool. Despite the fact she passed the test even in April, the phrase "non-swimmer" was slugged right next to her name, making her ineligible for the deep end or the slides, her favorite part of the pool.

According to the lifeguard, a whole day's worth of names had somehow been lost at some nameless point since we had been to the pool, which I can sympathize with. However, why in the world did they have her listed as a non-swimmer when she had passed the test? I was fairly aggravated at this point, but it seemed the problem could be quickly corrected by administering the test again.

I should note that at this point it was 4:05 p.m. and the pool was due to close at 6 p.m.

So, we traipsed out to the pool and told one of the lifeguards she needed to take the test, at which point we were told the test could only be given at the top of each hour, per pool rules.

At that point, I knew it was time to talk to a manager, and I did. I spoke to the YMCA's director of aquatics, a young lady I immediately found myself at odds with.

I was told this sort of thing happens to everyone. However, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize no, it doesn't. And regardless of how many people have been thrown victim to bad record keeping, that offers no solace at all for a 7-year-old girl who just wants

to ride the water slides, just like she did less than two weeks earlier with absolutely no problems.

I was also told, "There's no discussion."

I beg to differ. There was going to be a discussion, and it could happen in one of two ways. It can happen in a caring, humane way that offers apologies and possibly an exception to the rule, or it can be a tight-jawed argument where both people walk away upset and totally dissatisfied.

Unfortunately, that choice was made without my input.

Without going into a long tirade and transcribing the conversation word for word, I can tell you two things. First, my daughter did not get to play on the slides or in the deep end until after the "top of the hour," and second, I left the pool with a keen sense of loss, missing the days when cold rules and regulations were mixed with compassion and a human touch.

Late Thursday afternoon I received a phone call from Pete Thiry, the director of the local YMCA, which runs the pool, not the city of Big Spring.

Pete, who has always been a kind and compassionate guy, offered apologies for the way my daughter and I were treated during our holiday excursion, and I have every intention of passing them along to my little girl.

I appreciated that call more than I can express, because it gives me hope for our society and community. It's a reminder compassion and consideration are still alive, even if it exists with just a few.

Now, if we can just get a few courtesy and manners classes for the young aquatics director, we might make some progress in the battle against rudeness.

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

## YOUR VIEWS

I am very disappointed with your staff writer Thomas Jenkins' article on the "risky" plan to bring retirees to Big Spring. Most of the Moore Board projects are risky. The welding program recently considered would not be risky. It would guarantee that close to 100 percent of the graduates would leave Big Spring.

The effort to bring retirees to town is not some pie in the sky scheme.

Millions of baby boomers are now retiring and ready to flee the rat race of big city life. Many want to go to Arizona or Miami as you sug-

gest, but untold numbers want to get to a nicer place without the traffic, earthquakes, hurricanes, crime, etc. Big Spring offers just such a place but they don't know it — yet.

I don't know the exact figures (they are available), but if the \$1 million over five years got a dozen retirees to move here, it will probably have been one of the Moore Board's better efforts.

Thank you, Frank Parker — until you are better paid.

BOOSIE WEAVER  
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Last night my husband and I attended Pops in the Park. It was obvious the city employees and Pops in the Park committee members had worked very hard cleaning the amphitheater and surrounding area in preparation. The music was beautiful and the fireworks were awesome. As we left, the city police were working the gates to ensure the safety of everyone.

As we came into town this morning on South Highway 87 we first

See LETTERS, Page 5A

# Bad mothers reap a bitter harvest

Before you jump on me, let me say two things at the outset. Actually, three.

First, I'm not using names. Second, my column runs in many places, but not in my hometown, so the chances of people recognizing themselves are, for better or worse, small to none.

Third, I know there are plenty of bad fathers, too. It's just that children need at least one decent parent, and the reality is that most of them are raised primarily by their mothers, so having a bad one is, well, particularly bad.

When my kids were young, I used to write a column every year on Mother's Day thanking the "other mothers," the ones you can call at the last minute to pick up your child when you get stuck at work or in traffic, the ones who volunteer for the activities that some of us find impossible due to work demands or being baking-challenged, the ones who step in with the Band-Aid or the helping hand without even being asked.

This is not that column. The incident that prompted this column happened last Saturday night, when one of my daughter's former close friends celebrated her 17th birthday — and my daughter was not invited. The reason she wasn't invited was a boy. Said boy had been my daughter's first boyfriend. It lasted six months. Such is teenage life.

What should not be teenage life is to find one of your best friends

"hooking up" with him literally within hours (before or after, we're not sure) of said breakup, particularly when the boy is online trashing my daughter, one of this girl's supposed best friends.

Not surprisingly, this new relationship has splintered the group of best friends that my daughter has been part of for years, most of them since nursery school. I discussed it with one of the "other mothers," the kind I used to write about every year, and we had both reached the same conclusion. The girl in question has a terrible mother.

You would recognize her in a minute. She refuses to look her age, which isn't that old, given that she married a man 20 years her senior when she must have been in her early 20s, but is still too old to dress the way she does. Said man is, not surprisingly, about to marry someone who was her age then. He is also, not surprisingly, rich and short and fat.

Not the mother. She looks like a beauty queen and dresses like a teenager. At school functions, where all the mothers show up in dowdy dresses or working-woman pantsuits, she'll be in white jeans so tight and so low that her thong underwear shows. The tops tend to be even worse, or better, depending on whether you consider school functions to be an audition for Playboy centerfold.

In our brief conversations in the past, she has always told me how proud I must be of my daughter, not for any of the good reasons that do make me proud, but because she had such a "cute" boyfriend, which her daughter

didn't. I could only imagine what she said to her daughter, who tries to compete with her and can't. It was clearly not: friendship comes first.

I feel bad for her daughter. Most of the group, forced to choose, dumped her. For her birthday, they agreed to come, but only if the boy didn't. It was a perfect opportunity to put the group back together by inviting everybody. Her mother should have told her.

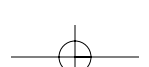
It's not just a matter of parties and friends, sadly. Little kids, little problems; big kids, big problems. The same applies to mothers. Even the bad mothers are not so bad when kids are little. With teenagers, it's another story.

An old friend noticed her son behaving differently after he started at a new school. She did something that would have made her furious when she was his age, but shows the difference between being a kid and a parent. She searched his room and found drugs. Then she saved her kid's life. But that isn't the point of this story.

She knew he wasn't slipping into hell by himself. So she called the mothers of his two best friends and told them. One immediately searched her son's room, found all kinds of things that shouldn't have been there and swept into action. The other castigated my friend for not respecting her son's privacy.

I guess my daughter's former friend is lucky. She just lost her friends, not her life.

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# Vick not out of the woods on dogfighting charges

By HANK KURZ JR. and  
MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
Associated Press Writers

SURRY, Va. — There is no longer any doubt about what federal authorities contend took place on the property owned by Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick that is at the center of a dogfighting investigation.

Investigators said almost nothing to reporters who gathered at the property while agents conducted a second search on Friday, but documents filed in Richmond and obtained by The Associated Press detailed aspects of the case for the first time.

Vick is not named in the documents.

The property was used as the “main staging area for housing and training the pit bulls involved” in a dogfighting operation, according to the court papers.

The documents contend prize money from the dogfighting climbed into the thousands of dollars, people came from as far away as Texas and sheepish pit bulls were killed.

As federal agents used a backhoe to dig in an area about 10 feet wide by 20 feet long behind the massive two-story home, then left at about 4:30 p.m., the documents shed some light on their investigation.

They allege that dogfights have been sponsored by “Bad Newz Kennels” at the property since at least 2002. For the events, participants and dogs traveled from South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, New York, Texas and other states.

Fifty-four pit bulls were recovered from the property during searches in April, along with a “rape stand,” used to hold dogs in place for mating; an electric treadmill modified for dogs; and a bloodied piece of carpeting, the documents said.

The documents said the fights usually occurred late at night or in the early morning and would last several hours.

Before fights, the participating dogs of the same sex would be weighed and bathed, according to the filings. Opposing dogs would be washed to remove any poison or narcotic placed on the dog’s coat that could affect the other dog’s performance.

Sometimes, dogs weren’t fed to “make it more hungry for the other dog.”

Fights would end when one dog died or with the surrender of the losing dog, which was sometimes put to death by drowning, strangulation, hanging, gun shot, electrocution or some other method, according to the documents. The property has an aboveground swimming pool, and investigators were

seen looking into its murky water Friday.

During a June search of the property, investigators uncovered the graves of seven pit bulls that were killed by members of “Bad Newz Kennels” following sessions to test whether the dogs would be good fighters, the documents alleged.

Members of “Bad Newz Kennels” also sponsored and exhibited fights in other parts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey and other states, according to the filings.

On Vick’s Web site, he lists his birthplace as Newport News, “a.k.a. BadNews.”

Friday, federal agents used shovels and heavy equipment to search the Vick property, where an informant told authorities as many as 30 dogs could be buried.

A backhoe-front loader was brought in and used to excavate a cleared area on the property. The material found to be of interest was transferred into numerous large, ice-filled coolers and loaded into a rental truck, which left the property.

An Associated Press reporter and photographer viewing the investigation from a helicopter could not clearly identify the evidence being collected.

Investigators were digging in an area about 50 yards behind a large white house. About 15

people could be seen on the property, which includes several kennels surrounded by pens made of metal fencing, other kennels and outbuildings.

Located in southeast Virginia, the expansive property has a metal gate at the entrance and a white plastic fence around the perimeter. The fence and a large two-story building painted black behind the home obscured the work of investigators.

More than 15 vehicles were on the property, including the rental truck and at least one Virginia State Police evidence collection truck.

Corinne Geller, a spokeswoman for the Virginia State Police, said state authorities were working with federal investigators in an “assistance capacity.”

Vick has said he rarely visited the property. No charges have been filed.

During an April 25 raid at the property, about half the dogs were tethered to car axles with heavy chains that allowed them to get close to each other, but not to have contact, an arrangement typical for fighting dogs, according to an affidavit.

Later, Surry County officials secured a search warrant based on an informant’s information about dogs being buried on the property, but never acted on it because prosecutor Gerald G.

Poindexter said he had concerns with the wording of the document.

On June 7, the day that warrant expired, federal officials executed their own with the help of state police investigators.

Poindexter publicly questioned the federal government’s interest in a dogfighting case. He suggested Vick’s celebrity was the draw and raised race as a possible motivation. Poindexter and Vick are black, as is Surry County Sheriff Harold Brown.

Poindexter, on vacation in Louisiana, said by telephone he was unaware of Friday’s search and was still pursuing what he called a parallel investigation. He said he assumed Surry County and federal officials eventually will share their evidence.

Vick initially said he had no idea the property might have been used in a criminal enterprise and blamed family members for taking advantage of his generosity. He also put the house up for sale and reportedly sold it quickly, although there is no record that the sale has closed. Vick has since declined to talk about the investigation.

Michael Felberbaum reported from Richmond.

## STACK

Continued from Page 2B

Mavericks reach the NBA finals. His points and minutes have gone up in the postseason all three years he’s been in Dallas, all part of coach Avery Johnson’s plan to get the most out of Stackhouse.

When Dallas acquired

Stackhouse before the 2004-05 season, there were questions whether a player who’d been the focus of every team he’d been on could handle being a role player.

But he embraced the chance to extend his career and play for one of the league’s best teams after years of struggling to make the playoffs in Philadelphia, Detroit and Washington.

Stackhouse provides strong leadership in the locker room and has developed a close relationship with Dirk Nowitzki, the league MVP.

He’s been one of the top bench players in the league for the Mavs the last two seasons and finished third in 2006-07 Sixth Man of the Year voting.

## TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

the past 100 years. Borg, who won his titles from 1976-80, watched the match from the stands, wearing a purple-and-green tie — the colors of the All England Club.

Gasquet came back from a two-set deficit to

beat Andy Roddick on Friday in the quarterfinals.

Before facing Federer, the Frenchman acknowledged he was tired.

Federer didn’t look tired.

The 10-time Grand Slam champion dropped his first set of the tournament in Friday’s quarterfinals, but hadn’t played a full match in one day

since beating Marat Safin in the third round last Friday.

Djokovic called for a trainer after losing the second set.

He got the little toe on his left foot bandaged, but returned to the court. Djokovic also retired against Nadal in the quarterfinals of the French Open last year.

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| 2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>                                 | 2007 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - White w/Gray Leather, All Power, 6 Disc CD, Heated Seats, Super Nice, Like New, Only 5,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$22,995</b> |
| 2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>  | 2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2.3-4-Cyl., 12,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$19,995</b>  |
| 2007 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - White w/Gray Leather, All Power, 6 Disc CD, Heated Seats, Super Nice, Like New, Only 5,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$22,995</b> | 2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Dark Red, Gray Leather, 3.0, V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>               |
| 2006 Ford Taurus SE - White w/Flint Cloth, 3.0 V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$21,450. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                              | 2006 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Arizona Beige w/Pebble Premium Leather, All Power, w/17,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$23,030. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>               |
| 2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona Beige w/Pebble Premium Leather, All Power, w/17,000 Miles. MSRP When New \$23,030. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>                 | 2006 Ford Freestyle SEL - White w/Leather, DVD/TV, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Super Nice. 25,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$21,995</b>                                   |
| 2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport Pkgs., 21,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$19,995</b>                             |   |

★★★ CARS ★★★

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2005 Nissan Sentra 1.8S - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/22,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                         | 2005 Ford Five Hundred Limited - White w/Gray Leather, Automatic, 6 disc MP3, Moonroof, Locally Owned. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>    |
| 2005 Nissan Altima 25S - Red w/Leather, All Power, 25,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$17,995</b>  | 2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL - Dark Red w/Leather, All Power, CD/MP3, Keyless Entry, Only 23,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$18,995</b>     |
| 2005 Ford Five Hundred Limited - White w/Gray Leather, Automatic, 6 disc MP3, Moonroof, Locally Owned. <b>NOW \$19,995</b>                    | 2004 Ford Mustang - Black w/Cloth, 6 Cyl., 5 Speed, All Power, Local One Owner w/23,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>            |
| 2004 Ford Mustang - Black w/Cloth, 6 Cyl., 5 Speed, All Power, Local One Owner w/23,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>                            | 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>             |
| 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$21,995</b>                                    | 2004 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>         |
| 2004 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>                         | 2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                   |
| 2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                                   | 2004 Hyundai Tiburon GT - Black w/Leather, All Power, 5 Speed, All Power, Moonroof, Only 29,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>    |
| 2004 Mercedes-Benz LK C240 - Gold w/Tan Leather, Woodgrain, Moonroof, Heated Seats, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Only 42,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$23,995</b> | 2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Dark Red w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Heated Seats, Like New, Low Miles. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>     |
| 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$21,995</b>                                    | 2003 Mazda MX-5 - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/40,200 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>                          |
| 2004 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>                         | 2003 Ford Taurus SES - Light Blue, w/Cloth, Extra Clean, Automatic, All Power. <b>NOW \$9,995</b>                             |
| 2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Dark Red w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Heated Seats, Like New, Low Miles. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>                     | 2003 Honda Civic LT - Gold w/Leather, All Power, 5 Speed, Automatic, All Power. <b>NOW \$12,995</b>                           |
| 2003 Mazda MX-5 - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner w/40,200 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>  | 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car. <b>NOW \$8,995</b>                                 |
| 2003 Ford Taurus SES - Light Blue, w/Cloth, Extra Clean, Automatic, All Power. <b>NOW \$9,995</b>   | 2002 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Gold w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Low Miles, Great MPG. <b>NOW \$12,995</b>                       |
| 2003 Honda Civic LT - Gold w/Leather, All Power, 5 Speed, Automatic, All Power. <b>NOW \$12,995</b>   | 2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>               |
| 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car. <b>NOW \$8,995</b>   | 2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b> |
| 2002 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Gold w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Low Miles, Great MPG. <b>NOW \$12,995</b>                                       | 2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$10,995</b>                                |
| 2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                               |   |
| 2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier Edition - Pearl White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>                 |   |
| 2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$10,995</b>  |   |

★★★ TRUCKS ★★★

- |   |
|---|
| 2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$19,995</b>                 |
| 2005 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner. <b>NOW \$17,995</b>  |
| 2005 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - Dark Stone w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner, With Only 21,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$19,995</b>               |
| 2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/58,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$14,995</b>                         |
| 2004 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT 4-DR - Beige, 6-Cyl., Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>     |
| 2002 Dodge 1500 SLT 4X4 - Dark Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, Very Very Nice Truck, Low Miles. <b>NOW \$17,995</b> |
| 1994 Chevrolet 1500 Reg. Cab SWB - Teal w/Cloth, 350 V8, Nice, Nice 94 Model. <b>NOW \$6,995</b>                                  |

★★★ SUV's & VANS ★★★

- |   |
|---|
| 2007 Ford Expedition XLT - Black w/Leather, All Power, 4 Wheel ABS, 3rd Row, 21,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$29,995</b>            |
| 2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles. <b>NOW \$20,995</b>          |
| 2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4X4 - Gray w/Tan Cloth, New Tires, All Power, Like New, One Owner. <b>NOW \$23,995</b>          |
| 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Black w/Leather, All Power, CD Player, Only 28,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$17,995</b>                     |
| 2004 Nissan Murano SE - Silver w/Black Leather, Heated Seats, All Power, Moonroof, Only 23,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$24,995</b> |
| 2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 SL - Gold w/Tan Leather, CD Player, All Power, Heated Seats, Only 30,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$17,995</b> |
| 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$16,995</b>                     |
| 2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                        |
| 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$18,995</b>             |
| 2002 Toyota Highlander LTD - Silver w/Gray Leather, DVD, CD Player, All Power, Like New. <b>NOW \$17,995</b>              |
| 2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$15,995</b>              |
| 1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. <b>NOW \$9,995</b>                       |

★★★ CARS ★★★

- |   |
|---|
| 2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$13,995</b>                         |
| 2006 Ford Mustang GT - Blue w/Leather, All Power, 5 Speed, Manual Transmission, Local One owner, 21,600 Miles. <b>NOW \$23,995</b>    |
| 2005 Volkswagen New Beetle GLS - Dark Blue w/Tan Leather, Automatic, Local One Owner w/Only 12,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$17,995</b>         |
| 2005 Ford Mustang GT - Dark Red With Red Leather, 5-Speed Manual Transmission, Local One Owner With 10,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$24,995</b> |

★★★ TRUCKS ★★★

- |   |
|---|
| 2008 Ford F350 Crew Cab L-Series - Black w/Leather, Loaded, All Power, 4X2, Only 5,900 Miles. <b>NOW \$45,995</b>   |
| 2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Black w/Gray Cloth, 6 Disc CD/MP3, Like New, Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel ABS, Privacy Glass, Chrome wheels, Only 19,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$25,995</b>    |
| 2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Red Fire w/Gray Cloth, 6 Disc CD/MP3, Like New, Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel/ABS, Privacy Glass, Chrome Wheels, Only 14,000 Miles. <b>NOW \$25,995</b> |

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Kristina Mayre Carroll and Travis Lee Dean

### Carroll and Dean

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Carroll of Nichols Hills, Okla., formerly of Big Spring, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristina Mayre, to Travis Lee Dean of Amarillo. Their wedding will be held Aug. 18, 2007, at Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Okla. A reception will follow at the Santa Fe Train Depot in Bricktown, downtown Oklahoma City.

Kristina is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in graphic design. She will continue her education at West Texas A&M University. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Carroll of

Lake Cypress Springs and of Dorothy Stephens of Edmond, Okla., and the late Davie Stephens. Kristina is employed by Happily Everlasting Photography in Edmond, Okla.

Travis is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in mechanical engineering and is currently pursuing his master's of business administration at West Texas A&M. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dean of Denison and the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Bill Dean of Denison and the late Mr. and Mrs. William Hayes. Travis is employed by Pantex in Amarillo.



Leo (Dusty) Gordon Calk III and Charlene Dennise Kennedy

### Kennedy and Calk

Charlene Dennise Kennedy of Big Spring and Leo (Dusty) Gordon Calk III of San Angelo are engaged to be married.

She is the daughter of Ralph and Charlene Kennedy of Big Spring and she graduated from Big Spring High School. Charlene is employed by

the Big Spring Independent School District.

He is the son of the late Leo (Bob) Gordon Calk Jr. and Vivian Ann Calk of San Angelo and he is a graduate of San Angelo Central High School. Dusty is employed by the Texas Department of Corrections.

Contact the Herald Life desk  
at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

# Births

Rylie Kay Sanders, a girl, was born at 7:45 a.m. June 20, 2007, weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

She is the daughter of Tanner and Shaina Sanders of Odessa and the granddaughter of Terry and Cindy Sanders of Big Spring, Fred and Susan Zellars of Odessa and Robert Pringle of Joaquin.

She is the great-granddaughter of Bernard and Shirley McMahan of Big Spring, Tuffy and Billie Zellars of Odessa, Runt and Linda Pringle of Lamesa, the late Ruby Pringle, Earl and Luci Sanders of Maysville, Okla., Jack and Linda Cloud of Lubbock and Barbara Sanders of Dayton, Texas.

Great-great-grandparents are Dean and Charles Herring of Levelland and Romell Pringle of Lamesa.



Rylie Kay Sanders



Rylee Grace Hillger

Rylee Grace Hillger, a girl, was born at 10:23 a.m. June 29, 2007, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long.

She is the daughter of Amber of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are David and Debra Hillger.

Rylee was welcomed home by big sister Madysyn.



Jaxon Anthony Zaccardo

Jaxon Anthony Zaccardo, a boy, was born at 6:39 p.m. April 25, 2007, weighing 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches long.

His parents are Jennifer Davidson and Tony Zaccardo of San Angelo. His maternal grandparents are Scott and Kathy Davidson of Big Spring. His paternal grandparents are Martin and Lori Zaccardo of Early.

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# Happiest people make the best of things

## Mega potty opens in China

Are you happy? Wow, what a question! I have heard it said for years now that happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have. I believe that this is a true saying.



**DARRELL RYAN**

Society doesn't gear us to want what we have. Otherwise, we wouldn't always be looking for the new and improved version. We are made to feel as though we need something different to be happy, something better. But if we had them, would there then be better ones than that? More than likely! There is always something better, fancier, faster, more pow-

erful, and more expensive. Always! If not now, it's coming.

We are in a constant state of trying to get something better and different. But worse than that, we are often trying to be someone different, even when the current us is really great. If you are not happy being you, then who else can you be?

Consider this story. A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups, porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite. He told them to help

## Parent's Corner

themselves to the coffee. When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for us to want only the best for ourselves, it is also the source of our problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of us really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but we consciously went for the best cups. And then we began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: Life

is the coffee; your jobs, money, houses, cars and your position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of the life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee."

Now with all of my faults and my continuing struggle to improve, I am happy. I would not want to have the ability to trade places with anyone. I am happy with the cup I have been given.

There are a lot of folks who have more stuff. But there aren't many who are happy with the stuff they do have. But that's the key. Are we happy

with the stuff that we have? Are you happy with yourself? You are who you are and that's not going to change.

Let's remember that the happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything. I love the ole' proverb that says, "Be what you is, not what you ain't, 'cause when you is what you ain't, then you ain't what you is." May we learn to live simply, love generously care deeply and speak kindly.

Just for a smile, did you hear about the teacher who asked her children to name the four seasons? One answer was: salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

*Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.*

BEIJING (AP) — They're flush with pride in a southwestern Chinese city where a recently-opened porcelain palace features an Egyptian facade, soothing music and more than 1,000 toilets spread out over 32,290 square feet.

Officials in Chongqing are preparing to submit an application to Guinness World Records to have the free four-story public bathroom listed as the world's largest, the state-run China Central Television reported Friday.

"We are spreading toilet culture. People can listen to gentle music and watch TV," said Lu Xiaoping, an official with the Yangrenjie, or "Foreigners Street," tourist area where the bathroom is located. "After they use the bathroom they will be very, very happy."

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

noticed the roadside picnic area by the Garden City cutoff, where city residents come to shoot off their fireworks. It was covered with trash and debris from the fireworks. I assume they left their trash for the highway department to clean up.

Closer to the south entrance of the city park and extending almost to the edge of town, the roadside on both sides of the highway was covered with litter — paper, cans, cups, etc. Those were apparently left for city workers to clean up. I wonder if those people's lack of pride in this city and this state extends to their own yards and homes.

Would they be upset if city and state taxes were raised to cover the cost of the additional work they caused?

What a sad ending to an otherwise beautiful and inspirational evening.

SANDRA PEGAN  
BIG SPRING

minutes, at the very longest, when a city officer drove up. He asked us if we were discharging fireworks? What was my husband going to do? Lie to the officer in front of the kids?

The officer gave us a

ticket and went about his way. My kids were heart broken, they didn't understand why we got in trouble. They could hear and see fireworks still being discharged all around us. We had no way to console them. We explained that

we shouldn't have discharged any fireworks in the city limits and that we were in the wrong. But it didn't help. What could we do? All night I had to explain why we weren't able to pop our fireworks and everyone else was.

My husband and I are younger, we have three children between us here in the home and one we pay child support on that lives with her mother. We struggle for everything we have, but we're getting there. It's hard, real hard.

My question to Big Spring is what about us, what about our kids, how are we suppose to celebrate (the best way we can) and not be left out?

TERESA COLLINS  
BIG SPRING

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TO THE EDITOR:

Yesterday, was the Fourth of July, but for my kids it was just another disappointment. My husband and I literally scraped together what little money we could so our kids could have a happy Fourth of July. Fireworks are expensive, but we bought what we could.

Our car isn't a very good car, so going out of city limits or going to the park for the city display wasn't possible this year. I let my kids watch both the city display and other people pop fireworks from our backyard. I knew we had nothing that would fly into the air or make too loud of a bang. So why not let them watch? My kids are still small — 10 years, 6 years and 5 years. I'm still careful with them. They still don't fully understand the dangers of fireworks.

I understand the city ordinance on fireworks, but what about us? What about the low income citizens, the senior citizens and the kids that don't have parents that care? We don't have good cars to get us out of city limits; and if we did, who do we know out of the city limits? It's not like we can safely discharge fireworks on a country road, lined with fields and brush.

What if we don't have cars, or someone who will get us there? My family wasn't outside with our fireworks but 10 or 15

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# BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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

**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**Page 5C**  
**Sunday, July 8, 2007**

## POPS IN THE PARK DONATION



HERALD Photo/Dustin Wilson  
Debbye ValVerde and Jan Hansen accept a \$2,000 check donation from Wal-Mart Managers Val Macias, Becky Thomas, Tito Drummond and Melinda Garcia. The check was donated to Pops In The Park.

## Payrolls boosted by 132,000 in June, unemployment rate holds at 4.5 percent

By **JEANNINE AVERSA**  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Employers boosted payrolls by a better-than-expected 132,000 jobs in June, enough to keep the unemployment rate at a relatively low 4.5 percent. It was another sign that the economy is snapping out of a nearly yearlong sluggish spell.

The latest picture of the nation's employment climate, released by the Labor Department on Friday, also showed that workers saw solid gains in their wages last month.

The tally of 132,000 new jobs was stronger than the 125,000 that economists were forecasting. They did, however, predict that job growth would be insufficient to hold the unemployment rate at 4.5 percent, where it has stood for three straight months.

New hiring in the areas of education, health services, leisure and hospitality and government drove overall job growth last month. Construction companies also expanded employment. Those gains swamped job cuts at factories, retailers and certain

professional and business services.

Meanwhile, the economy added more jobs in April and May than the government previously thought. Revised figures released Friday showed that payrolls grew by a strong 190,000 in May, much stronger than the 157,000 reported last month. In April, 122,000 positions were added, which was better than the 80,000 previously reported, which had been the fewest in two and a half years.

Workers saw modest wage gains in June.

Average hourly earning rose to \$17.38, a 0.3 percent increase from May. That matched the rise anticipated by economists. Over the last 12 months, wages grew by 3.9 percent.

Wage growth is important to workers and supports consumer spending, a major ingredient in healthy overall economic activity. The modest increase in wages should ease inflation fears.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues keep a close eye on wages for any signs that they might

generate inflation.

Out of control inflation is bad for the economy and for the pocketbook. It shrinks paychecks, erodes purchasing power and eats into the value of investments.

The Federal Reserve last week noted that there have been some improvements on some inflation readings but made clear that it is not letting down its guard on this front. The biggest danger to the economy is if inflation doesn't recede as the Fed anticipates, Fed policymakers said.

Still, Fed policymakers have enough faith in their inflation forecast that they left a key interest rate last week at 5.25 percent, where it has been for a year.

Companies have continued to hire at a decent pace even as the economy has endured a nearly period of sluggishness.

Economic growth nearly stalled in the first three months of this year, with business expansion slumping to a pace of just 0.7 percent, the worst in more than four years. The ailing housing market was a main factor behind the weakness.

Analysts believe the economy rebounded in the April-to-June quarter, expanding at a pace anywhere from 2.3 percent — to more than 3 percent. The government's estimate of second-quarter economic activity will be released later this month.

Despite the healthy jobs market and the budding rebound, the public is giving President Bush low marks for his economic stewardship.

Only 37 percent approve of his handling of the economy, tying a record-low set in November 2005, according to an AP-Ipsos poll.

Trying to capitalize on that, Democrats have been pushing policies they say are aimed at closing the gap between low-wage and high-wage workers. A new law will boost the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years. The first increase of 70 cents will go into effect later this month.

The average time the 6.9 million unemployed people spent in their job searches was 16.8 weeks in June, up slightly from 16.7 weeks in May.

## Energy Watch



**Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a senior vice president of Investments of A.G. Edward's Midland office. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.**

**Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior assistant to the branch manager. He is also a member of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association.**



**I**n Iran, upwards of 50 gas stations have been torched since the government announced and enacted new fuel rationing measures. Other reports suggest major thoroughfares in Tehran have also been blocked by rioters. The new ration measures limit Iranian consumers to 26 gallons of gasoline per month.

The public backlash, so far has been pronounced. The rationing program already follows an increase in fuel prices when the pragmatic conservatives, led by Rafsanjani, pushed for higher prices in parliament.

Meanwhile, reports have suggested President Ahmadinejad did not favor that course of action as a viable strategy to rein in on an annual fuel consumption growth near 10 percent. Instead, he seemingly wanted rationing because he thought it could reduce inflation which is now over 15 percent.

However, when the rationing program was handed down, it was more stringent than the Iranian public was led to believe it would be. As we recall, when he was elected, Ahmadinejad claimed the Iranian people would receive a larger share of Iran's oil wealth.

It is likely the rationing program is yet another political method for the pragmatists to rein in on Ahmadinejad; thereby ensuring his departure from office by undermining his public support.

### Quick News...

- Shell's executive director of downstream operation, Rob Routs, said an overcapacity situation may emerge by 2012 as some 10 million barrels per day of projects are set to start between now and then. Routs cyclical assessment stands in opposition to Valero's former chief executive who suggests the refining industry is in a new "golden age".

- According to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, U.S. refineries will demand upwards of 3.1 million barrel per day of western Canadian crude by 2015. In 2006, demand was about 1.6 million barrels per day. This crude comes from oil sands projects which are expected to have substantial growth after 2011.

- Chief economist of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol spoke today saying OPEC needed to double its spare capacity. The IEA has called on OPEC to increase production. The IEA's economist said, "I would be surprised if prices go down significantly."

- The International Monetary Fund has cautioned the U.S. economy could still fall into recession. The IMF's report said U.S. growth was "uncomfortably close to the 2 percent stall speed associated with past recessions." However, realizing the absence of high real interest rates and relatively stable employment, the IMF's "most likely scenario is a soft landing."

- Recently we reported Yemen may be a new target of al Qaeda's efforts to hit the oil infrastructure. Within the past three months, two Yemeni attacks have targeted foreign energy workers. The U.S. embassy in Sanaa has urged Americans to stay out of the region.

See **ENERGY**, Page 6C

## Earp named Wells Fargo market president

Special to the Herald

Johnny Earp IV has been named market president for Wells Fargo in Big Spring. The appointment was announced by David O'Neil, area market president for Wells Fargo.

"Johnny brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our West Texas business customers and team members," O'Neil said. "His leadership skills and financial services experience make him an outstanding leader. He will play a key role in satisfying all of the financial services needs of our business customers and helping them succeed financially."

Earp joined Norwest Bank, now Wells Fargo, in 1997 as a business banker. Prior to this appointment, he served as senior agriculture industry specialist. He also was loan supervisor for the USDA. Earp earned his bachelor's degree in general agriculture from West Texas State University. His office is in Big Spring, 400 S. Main St.

In Texas, Wells Fargo has 6,800 team members and 542 stores. Wells Fargo & Company is a diversified financial ser-

vices company with \$486 billion in assets, providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage and consumer finance through more than 6,000 stores and the internet (wellsfargo.com) across North America and internationally. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is the only bank in the U.S., and one of only two banks worldwide, to have the highest credit rating from both Moody's Investors Service, "Aaa," and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, "AAA."

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled two ribbon cuttings.

The first will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 10, to recognize the Workforce Network's new location, which is in the Big Spring Post Office at 501 S. Main St.

The second will be at 1 p.m. Friday, July 13, at The Life Clinic, at 2601 Wasson Road. There will be an open house with refreshments from noon to 2 p.m.

An open house celebrating 50 years of service will be held all day Monday, July 16, at the offices of Dr. D.H. McGonagill Inc., 109 E. Third St. It is a come-and-go reception. Everyone is invited.

## UNITED WAY DONATION



HERALD staff photo  
Tim Larson, executive director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, accepts a check from Oncor Area Manager Sue Mercer.

# President Bush accuses Congress of failing to meet duties

By JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

President Bush accused Democratic lawmakers on Saturday of being unable to live up to their duties, citing Congress' inability to pass legislation to fund the federal government.

"Democrats are failing in their responsibility to make tough decisions and spend the people's money wisely," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "This moment is a test."

The White House has said the failure of a broad immigration overhaul was proof that Democratic-controlled Capitol Hill cannot take on major issues. "We saw this with immigration, and we're seeing it with some other issues where Congress is having an inability to take on major challenges," said spokesman Tony Fratto.

The main reason the immigration measure died, however, was staunch opposition from Bush's own base — conservatives. The president could not turn around members of his own party despite weeks of intense effort.

The immigration bill was the top item on Bush's domestic agenda. With its demise, Bush was left to focus on the

annual appropriations process and reining in federal spending.

Twelve annual spending bills dole out approximately one-third of the federal budget. They must be passed each year by Congress, before the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year, but lawmakers began considering this year's batch just in mid-June. The House has passed half and the full Senate has not yet taken up any.

"Democrats have a chance to prove they are for open and transparent government by working to complete each spending bill independently and on time," Bush said. "I urge Democrats in Congress to step forward now and pass these bills one at a time."

Democratic leaders say they are behind because an emergency spending measure funding the war in Iraq came first. They also had to pass an omnibus measure cleaning up last year's appropriations mess. Then, the Republicans who then controlled Congress failed to pass into law a single spending bill for domestic agencies save the Homeland Security Department — a situation that brought little complaint from Bush.

With the Senate and House now in Democratic hands, this year's bills are producing skirmishes with the White House that also are causing delays. Almost every domestic bill already has attracted a veto threat because it exceeds Bush's proposed budget in certain areas.

All told, Democrats plan

spending increases for annual agency budgets of about \$23 billion above the White House budget request. Bush put it in terms of a five-year outlook, and said their budget plan would be \$205 billion bigger than his over that period, and would include "the largest tax increase in history" by allowing some of his tax

cuts to expire as planned.

The president said Democrats are embracing "the failed tax-and-spend policies of the past," and vowed to stand firm for fiscal restraint. Republican lawmakers have pledged to support him and sustain any vetoes.

"No nation has ever taxed and spent its way to

prosperity," Bush said. "And I have made it clear that I will veto any attempt to take America down this road."

The president also applauded a new jobs report, which showed employers adding 132,000 jobs, paychecks growing solidly and the unemployment rate staying at a low 4.5 percent in June.

## Tobacco taxes seen as likely source of health funding

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's 45 million smokers will probably help pay for the spending increase that Democrats want for children's health insurance, say analysts familiar with deliberations on Capitol Hill.

Democratic lawmakers will push for \$50 billion in new funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program over the next five years. To pay for that increase, they must find new sources of revenue or cut existing programs.

Powerful trade groups representing doctors, hospitals and insurers have united around the idea of taxing tobacco. Democratic leaders have not said to what extent they will agree.

Still, the question now is not whether the tobacco tax will go up — but how much it will go up, said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, an advocacy group that promotes universal health insurance.

"I've every reason to believe an increase in the tobacco tax will be part of the way expanded health insurance for children is paid for," Pollack said.

Pollack said his assessment was based on "frequent and relatively recent conversations" with the committees that have jurisdiction over SCHIP.

Democrats from the House and the Senate are expected to unveil their respective SCHIP proposals soon.

The federal tax on

tobacco stands at 39 cents per pack, and it generated about \$7.2 billion in 2005. The money goes into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury.

States also tax cigarettes. The rates range from \$2.58 cents a pack in New Jersey to 7 cents a pack in South Carolina.

Tobacco companies oppose another tax increase on their product, but it's unclear whether the industry has enough clout to fend this one off. The ban on unlimited contributions to the political parties, called soft money, has resulted in a significant drop-off in campaign contributions from the industry.

The Center for Responsive Politics reports that total campaign contributions from the tobacco industry fell from \$9.2 million in the 2002 election cycle to \$3.5 million in last year's cycle. The center also ranks industries when it comes to campaign contributions; since 1996, tobacco has fallen from 26th in the center's rankings to 62nd.

Most of the industry's contributions in recent elections — about three quarters — have gone to Republicans.

Bill Phelps, spokesman for Philip Morris USA, the nation's largest tobacco company, said tax increases have already led to an 80 percent increase in the cost of a pack of cigarettes since 1999.

The average cost of a pack now stands at \$4.13, though those costs vary dramatically from state to state.

### First Molina Family Reunion

Jesus & Nicolasa were married on September 28, 1917 in Camargo, Chichuahua, Mexico. Jesus and Nicolasa came to the United States in 1923, with one daughter and two sons, ages 4 yrs., 2 yrs. and an infant.

Jesus worked for the Texas and Pacific Railway Co., traveling to various towns in Texas. Two more daughters were born and one died at the age of nine months. In 1928 they came to Howard County where he worked at a farm and lived in Knott, Texas. Eight more children were born, making a total of 13 children. In 1948 they moved to Big Spring where he worked for Wilson Construction and later worked for the city of Big Spring and retired in 1962.

Jesus became a U.S. Citizen on May 26, 1961 and Nicolasa became a U.S. Citizen in 1963. After his retirement, he cared for the church grounds at St. Thomas and Sacred Heart Churches.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society and Nicolasa was a member of the St. Thomas Altar Society. She was a volunteer at the Big Spring State Hospital and cleaned St. Thomas Church every week.

Jesus and Nicolasa were married for 70 years. He died at the age of 95 years, and she died at the age of 87 years.

All seven sons are veterans, serving in the Army, Navy and Marines.

Jesus was named outstanding senior citizens of Howard County on May 30, 1975 at the Howard College Auditorium, on June 22, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Molina were representatives of our Howard County Heritage.

Their children are: from Big Spring, Petra Leos, Emilio Molina, Ramona Molina and Isabel Escovedo. From Holland, Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. Valentin Molina. From Ocala, Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Molina. From Corpus Christi, Tx., Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Molina. From San Angelo, Tx., Mr. and Mrs. Amado Molina. Deceased children family members are: Marciala Macias, Guadalupe Molina, Tereso Molina, Luisa Molina and Agustina Vegil.

Other family members will be coming from Texas, Florida, Virginia, Michigan and Arkansas.




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Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos  
Andrea Clardy, 2401 Ave. L, Snyder  
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview  
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Crystal Ann Schneider, P.O. Box 844, Coahoma  
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring  
Roy Don Smith, 2501 W. Wall, Midland  
Janie Spurgeon, 1212 Wadley, Midland  
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City  
Nikita V. Stewart, 711 SCR W. Apt. 2004, Odessa  
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene  
Tracy J. Trevino, 3306 Auburn, Big Spring  
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland  
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder  
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio  
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard  
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa  
Bernest Eugene Woolridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo  
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

Grantor: Myrtle Ann Lindsey  
Grantee: Myrtle Ann Lindsey, Larry Dale Bennett and Emory Lee Bennett  
Property: A 40.11 acre tract out of Section 30, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Tim Blackshear Co. Inc.  
Grantee: RJ Machine Co. Inc.  
Property: A tract out of Section 30, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Frank Delbosquez and Mary Delbosquez  
Grantee: Rosendo Franco  
Property: Lots 4 and 5, Block 4, Lakeview Addition  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Martha Patricia Guerrero  
Grantee: Francisco Alcantar  
Property: Lot 2, Block 15, William Currie Extension  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Laurie S. Sargent  
Grantee: Rodney Sargent  
Property: lot 8, Block 3, Washington Place  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Jeremy Michael Longoria and Jesse Martinez  
Grantee: Oscar Granado  
Property: Lot 5 and part of Lot 6, Block 8, Tennyson Addition  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Francisco Ortega and Delia Ortega  
Grantee: Sandra Ortega Parra and Juan Parra  
Property: Lots 1 and 2, Block

11, Edwards Heights  
Date: July 3, 2007

**Warranty Deeds With Vendor's Lien:**  
Grantor: Jeffrey L Haechten and Henrietta Haechten  
Grantee: Rachel Long and Kyle Long  
Property: Lots 22 and 23, Block 19, Monticello Addition  
Date: June 28, 2007

Grantor: Jerrod P. Beall and Stacy Beall  
Grantee: Demetria Rebeca Magallanes  
Property: Lot 2, Block 8, Coronado Hills  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Stephen Craig Gass  
Grantee: Machel Williams  
Property: Lot 12, Block 4, Hillcrest Terrace  
Date: June 29, 2007

Grantor: Arlis L. Walker  
Grantee: Chance O'Daniel  
Property: A 2.6 acre tract out of Section 29, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Brian R. Gordon and Leah Gordon  
Grantee: Tanna Jolene Thompson  
Property: Lot 4, Block 3, Marshall Fields  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Antonio P. Chavez and Josephine Chavez  
Grantee: Timothy J. Rios and Sindy Hernandez  
Property: Lot 15, Block 12, Settles Heights  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Stan Parker and Shelley Parker  
Grantee: Lance Justin Monteleone and Lindsay Monteleone  
Property: A 10 acre tract out of Section 3, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Ernesto Fernandez and Elia Fernandez  
Grantee: Harland Bryan Birdwell and Charlene Birdwell  
Property: A 1.02 acre tract out of Section 8, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Laverne C. Neefe and Bobby Boyett  
Grantee: James Fite  
Property: Lot 25, Block 26, College Park  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Darren David Byrd  
Grantee: Clifford Castilaw  
Property: A 1.1 acre tract out of Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantor: Deborah A. Barton and Edward Smith  
Grantee: Darren David Byrd  
Property: A 6.2 acre tract out of Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Grantee: Price Construction  
Property: Several tracts out of Section 9, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey  
Date: July 2, 2007

Marriage Licenses:

David Shawn Mendez, 21, and Kassandra Louise Urbina, 15, both of Big Spring.  
Angel Edieberto Torres, 22, and Patricia Gutierrez, 26, both of Big Spring.  
Esequiel Flores Jr., 31, and Ramona Angelica Areniraz, 37, both of Big Spring.  
Roy Lee Metcalf, 52, of Coahoma, and Jennifer Ann James, 32, of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Preventive tick quarantine set in part of Starr County

The fever tick quarantine zone in Starr County has been expanded temporarily, due to the threat of fever ticks beyond the permanent "quarantine zone" that runs along the Rio Grande. Effective July 3, livestock cannot be moved from the expanded preventive quarantine area until the animals are manually inspected for fever ticks, dipped and permitted for movement by personnel from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Fever Tick Force or the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). Fever ticks are capable of carrying and transmitting a protozoa — or tiny animal parasite — that



TOMMY YEATER

causes the deadly livestock disease, "Texas Fever." The temporary preventive quarantined area is bounded on the east by Ebanos Road (Ebony Road) from its junction with U.S. Highway 83, then north on San Julian Road to its junction with Sanchez Ranch Road (San Julian Road). The northern boundary is comprised of Sanchez Ranch Road (San Julian Road), south on Loma Blanca Road, then west on Hinojosa Ranch Road (Falcon Loop) to its junction with U.S. Highway 83. The western edge is Highway 83 south to the Ebony Road junction. "At this time, we do not know the extent of the infestation in this preventive fever tick quarantined area. However, tick infestation is possible, and therefore, we must take extraordinary precautions to prevent the spread of these very dangerous pests," said Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas'

state veterinarian and executive director of the TAHC, the state's livestock and poultry health regulatory agency. He explained that the fever tick, if not contained, could become re-established, even through the winter, throughout much of the south, southeast and parts of California. In addition to cattle, horses, white-tailed deer, Nilgai and elk can act as a host of the tick, perpetuating its population. "It took more than 50 years to eradicate fever ticks from the U.S.," he said. He noted that a permanent fever tick zone runs through eight South Texas counties along the Rio Grande and is staffed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Fever Tick Force. Livestock moved from this permanent quarantine zone also must be inspected, dipped and permitted prior to movement. Tick inspections also are conducted at a number of South Texas livestock

markets. When tick-infested livestock are detected, the ranch and animals are quarantined. Owners can choose to have their cattle inspected and dipped every seven to 14 days for nine months, or the livestock can be dipped repeatedly, until declared tick-free and moved to a new site, leaving the infested pasture "vacated" for nine months, causing the ticks to starve. Regardless of the option selected, wildlife, deer and other hoof stock are provided treated feed, to kill fever ticks on these animals. The Fever Tick Force also maintains vigilance along the permanent quarantine zone to apprehend, inspect and dip stray livestock from Mexico, where the fever tick still exists. Owners may reclaim their animals by paying a nominal feed bill. Among the stringent health requirements for livestock shipments from Mexico are

fever tick inspection and dipping. If an animal in a shipment is found to have fever ticks, the entire shipment is rejected until it can be re-dipped and inspected. "Keeping the fever tick out of the U.S. is essential," said Dr. Hillman. "Infected ticks can kill thousands of cattle, and our ability to move animals without restriction could be severely limited. The implementation of

this preventive fever tick quarantine is expected to be temporary and will be released as soon as possible." Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.

ENERGY

Continued from Page 5C

According to FBI Director Mueller, "The economics of supply and demand dictate that someone, somewhere, will provide nuclear material to the highest bidder, and that material will end up in the hands of terrorists." Though scary in itself, we doubt many terrorists will think twice about using a nuke. Last week, Mueller spoke at a conference in Miami where he indicated there was enough highly enriched feedstock to "construct thousands of nuclear weapons." The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City estimates 70 percent of ethanol plants built between 1988 and 2005 were farmer owned. Last year, only 10 percent were. The U.S. and Brazil have suggested they will cooperate to develop the biofuels industry in South America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Jeb Bush, former Florida governor, says one of the benefits of creating jobs in these areas is biofuels may actually change migration flows. Interestingly though, the ethanol tariff on non-Caribbean imports may limit

biofuels development in Africa and South America. The ethanol tariff was upheld this week in Congress. The IMF has said Angolan economic growth may increase upwards of 31 percent this year. Angola is fourth-largest African oil producer. Since the civil war in that nation ended in 2002, Angola has been one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and the world. A Boston Consulting Group poll suggests 55 percent of Americans still believe their house would bring more money than one year ago. The interesting thing we've seen in the American economy is that generally speaking Americans have not cut back on their spending despite declining home values. Portions of this article were produced on June 22-28 by Eric Wittenauer, energy futures analyst, Global Investment Strategy A.G. Edward & Sons Inc. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G.E. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335.

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<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Like some families</p> <p>8 Contrived</p> <p>15 Heighten</p> <p>16 Superstar entertainer of the '20s</p> <p>17 Brings forth</p> <p>18 Signs on</p> <p>19 Meted out</p> <p>20 Time</p> <p>22 Storage space</p> <p>23 Congregation</p> <p>24 Yacht units</p> <p>26 In ___ (as found)</p> <p>27 Capitalize on</p> <p>28 Place for papers</p> <p>30 Two-time U.S. Open winner</p> <p>31 Books that are written in</p> <p>33 They're not with it</p> <p>35 1040 deduction</p> <p>36 Spanish one</p> <p>37 Demand</p> <p>41 Saw</p> <p>45 Ring great</p> <p>46 Some trails</p> <p>48 <i>The Facts of Life</i> actress</p> <p>49 Forbids</p> <p>51 Planes</p> <p>52 Rumble up</p> <p>53 Gives aid to</p> <p>55 Perform an certain operation</p> <p>56 Sinatra collaborator</p>	<p>57 Profoundly different</p> <p>59 Paul Revere, for one</p> <p>61 Follow</p> <p>62 Most uncanny</p> <p>63 Narrowed down</p> <p>64 Gray pieces</p> <p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Required</p> <p>2 Set free</p> <p>3 In the fridge</p> <p>4 Spiked</p> <p>5 <i>Idylls of the King</i> lady</p> <p>6 Routine</p> <p>7 Takes personally</p> <p>8 Slinky dresses</p> <p>9 Swindle</p> <p>10 Pantomime</p> <p>11 Spruces up</p> <p>12 More hazy</p> <p>13 License</p> <p>14 Go over</p> <p>21 Fabled flier</p> <p>24 Bar activity</p> <p>25 Shine source</p> <p>28 Ancient underclass</p> <p>29 Breathers</p> <p>32 Angler's apt appellation?</p> <p>34 Contented sound</p> <p>37 Spot for shows</p> <p>38 Yellowhammer State</p>	<p>39 In a row</p> <p>40 Was equal to</p> <p>41 Float alternatives</p> <p>42 One on a board</p> <p>43 Least involved</p> <p>44 Just ___</p> <p>47 Merlot, for example</p> <p>50 Turn ender</p> <p>52 Sausalito's county</p> <p>54 <i>The Lion King</i> villain</p> <p>56 <i>Bundesstadt</i> of Europe</p> <p>58 Absorbed</p> <p>60 One of the fire signs</p>
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# Search continues for missing rafter in Fort Worth

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Divers plotted search efforts Saturday for a missing rafter who capsized on a swollen river in North Texas, where dawn broke with mercifully clear skies after nearly three weeks of drenching rain.

Rescuers resumed combing the Trinity River for the 26-year-old man missing since Friday, when the death toll from storms that have battered Texas since last month climbed to 15 with the recovery of two more

flood victims elsewhere. "We don't know if he's still trapped in that low-head dam or whether he went downstream," Fort Worth fire department spokesman Kent Worley said of the missing rafter.

A 23-year-old man also in the raft swam upward of 300 yards against the swift current to safety, but Worley said that rafter never saw his friend after the rubber raft flipped. Neither man wore life jackets, and Worley said the river stands as high as three feet above normal.

As that search began late Friday, authorities about 60 miles south of Houston discovered the body of a 6-year-old boy missing since being swept from his father's arms on Tuesday.

The four-day search for Cesar Aparicio ended Friday when his body was found on a beach about 15 miles from where he washed into the Gulf of Mexico, said Freeport Police Chief Jeff Pynes.

A volunteer searcher in a private plane spotted the body on a remote stretch of uninhabited

beach, Pynes said. The boy's body has been taken to the Galveston County Medical Examination's office.

"The family has been notified and we believe this will be his son," Pynes said. "This is a pretty tough deal but it gives the family some closure."

The boy was at a family gathering on Bryan Beach, where the Brazos River feeds into the Gulf of Mexico about 60 miles south of Houston, when he was swept into floodwaters, Pynes said.

The boy's father and another relative were found clinging to trees and rescued Tuesday afternoon.

At Fort Hood, the body of a civilian worker was found Friday afternoon downstream from where his vehicle was pulled out of Cow House Creek, post spokeswoman Col. Diane Battaglia said. Isidro Felix Alicea-Acosta, 74, went missing Wednesday night after a fireworks show.

While much of the West has been parched under record temperatures and

drought, Texas has been drenched day after day since late May, filling lakes and rivers and damaging 1,000 homes. Numerous roads, bridges and underpasses have been flooded or damaged.

Much of the state was forecast over the weekend to stay under a tropical air mass, meaning possible daytime showers and isolated thunderstorms, but the large swaths of pounding rain were expected to dissipate, said Cristy Mitchell, meteorologist at National Weather Service in New Braunfels.

## News briefs

### 5 injured in Vegas casino shooting after man opens fire; military reservists tackle him

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A man on a balcony over the New York-New York casino floor opened fire on the gamblers below early Friday, wounding four people before he was tackled by off-duty military reservists, police said. A fifth person was hurt in a crush of people fleeing the casino.

"It was crazy, pandemonium," said Jade Jacobson, 28, a tourist from Deland, Fla., whose cousin, a dance teacher from Pennsylvania, was wounded in the leg.

"People were running and jumping over slot machines and knocking over chairs," Jacobson said. "All I was thinking was that I could die right now."

Police said 16 shots were fired, and again revised the number of injured in the 12:45 a.m. shooting. All the injuries were described as minor, and none of the victims remained hospitalized Friday, authorities said.

Las Vegas police Capt. James Dillon said a woman and a teenage boy were wounded; a man was grazed by a bullet; a woman was hit by a bullet fragment or shrapnel; and a woman was bruised and scraped when she fell amid the crowd of people exiting the casino.

### Heat wave scorches western states, although California expected to see some relief

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — When the mercury hit 104, Rick Overton took his colleagues tubing on the Boise River, thinking it couldn't get much hotter. On Friday, parts of the West got a little relief, but not everywhere — Boise was expected to hit 107.

"Once it gets that high — 105, 107, 109 — it just feels hot," said Overton, a copywriter for the digital marketing firm Wirestone.

Warnings of excessive heat were still posted Friday morning for much of Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and Washington state. The Southwest was expected to cool off slightly, though, said weather service meteorologist Jamie Meier.

"The high pressure system that has been stubbornly parked over Southern California is on a weakening trend, allowing temperatures to cool down to seasonable temperatures," Meier said.

### 2 Florida teens accused of gang raping woman, forcing her son, 12, to join in assault

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Two teenagers were accused of gang raping a woman and forcing her 12-year-old son to join in the attack, then beating him and pouring cleaning solution into his eyes.

Authorities allege Avion Lawson, 14, and Nathan Walker, 16, were among a group of about 10 masked suspects who forced their way into the woman's apartment in a crime-ridden housing project the night of June 18.

The two were being held without bail Friday on suspicion of armed sexual battery by multiple perpetrators, sexual performance by a child, armed home invasion and aggravated battery. Both were arrested this week, but formal charges had not been filed.

"Any rape case is horrible but this takes it to another level, something you can't think of even in your worst dreams," police spokesman Ted White said.

According to the police report, a man knocked on the woman's door at about 9 p.m. and told her he had a flat tire. The mother and son, whom police have not identified, went outside and were ambushed by a group of gun-wielding suspects.

### Pa. doctor's wife guilty of murder-for-hire in his shooting death along Ohio turnpike

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A woman accused of offering her younger lover a share of her husband's multimillion-dollar estate if he would kill the 69-year-old was convicted Friday of murder-for-hire and other charges.

Donna Moonda, 48, could now face the death penalty. The defense had argued that her 25-year-old lover, Damian Bradford, had acted alone and that Moonda had tried to revive her doctor husband after Bradford shot him along the Ohio turnpike. Federal prosecutors said the two were in it together and portrayed Moonda as a perpetual liar, thief and drug user.

"Two minds were set on murder," assistant U.S.

attorney Linda Barr told jurors Thursday in closing arguments. "Two fingers were on the trigger of that gun on May 13, 2005, and two people must be held accountable."

Bradford has admitted shooting the doctor in the side of the head after his wife pulled over on the turnpike south of Cleveland, supposedly to let her husband take the wheel.



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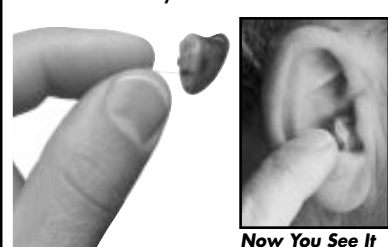
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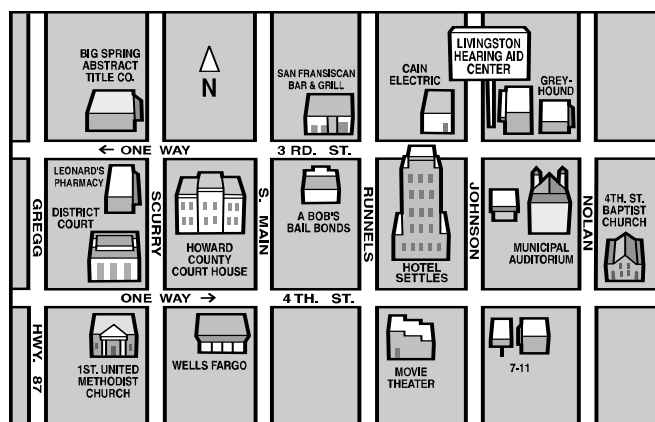
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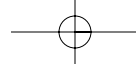
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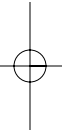
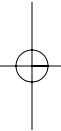
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# Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My sister and brother-in-law revealed some information to me this weekend. It is disturbing, and I don't like the way they are handling it.

It seems my 8-year-old niece, "Amy," was playing with a boy and girl next door. The boy, who is also 8, talked Amy into pulling her pants down. Although my sister and her husband didn't go into it, I gather a similar incident happened another time with a different boy.

Amy's parents are concerned about their daughter's well-being, but are unwilling to take Amy to a counselor who may be bound by law to report any kind of abuse such as this. Their current solution is to not let Amy be with any males except her father and grandfather, both of whom are trustworthy.

I didn't say anything at the time, but now I believe I should have insisted they take her to counseling. The boys who victimized Amy need help as much as she does. Pushing the incident into the closet will not do any of these children any good.

Should I tell my sister this, or should I let them handle it? Amy is home schooled and an only child, so she doesn't have many playmates. Any suggestions?

Concerned Auntie

Dear Concerned: An 8-year-old boy who convinces an 8-year-old girl to pull down her pants is not guilty of abuse. This type of "playing house"



**KATHY MITCHELL**  
**MARCY SUGAR**

same about their retired husbands.

What do other retired men do with their time? I am in women's groups, quilting bees, guilds, etc., and am busy nearly every day. Bill doesn't drink, and most men's clubs revolve around bars. Any suggestions? — Bill's Busy Wife

Dear Busy Wife: Bill should look into teaching at a local school or park district program. He no doubt has expertise that others can benefit from. He also can join a health club and talk to a trainer about strengthening his back and keeping in shape. He can get involved in online discussion groups or start his own blog about retirement. (If you don't have a computer, check your local library.) Readers? Any other suggestions?

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Niece," who said family members were upset after traveling long distances and spending money to stay at a fancy hotel for a "mock" wedding. You thought the bridal couple didn't intentionally mislead anyone. Wrong.

A 40-year-old man who e-mails wedding invitations, forgets the license and doesn't tell anyone that it isn't a real ceremony is simply having a party. He should have told his guests the truth. Maybe if the relatives had known, they wouldn't have been upset. Either way, the groom's mother should stop making excuses for her adult son and learn to keep a secret. What a way to start mar-

ried life! — D.

Dear D.: We agree it was an inauspicious beginning. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: I have a friend, "Sally," whom I met through her boyfriend, "Harry." The three of us are part of a group of professionally connected people. Sally lives with Harry, although he often spends months at a time overseas.

I recently made friends with "Paul," who is nearly 30 years older and in a different profession, and I introduced him to Sally and Harry. While Harry was out of town, Paul asked Sally to accompany him to an event that many of us were attending. Sally found the invi-

tation strange, but since she would have gone anyway, she agreed to be escorted by Paul. Sally didn't consider it a date, but Paul did, and he told me Sally is fair game since her boyfriend is out of town. I told him he is mistaken, but he accused me of being jealous. It's not so. I have a boyfriend and am not at all interested in Paul.

Sally told me Paul recently asked her to watch a movie with him at his house. She said she finds Paul inappropriate, and she also added that Harry is furious.

I talked to Paul on the phone and told him it is improper to go after someone else's girlfriend. He told me to mind my own

business, but I feel responsible, since I introduced Paul into our professional circle. Since I find myself in the middle, even though it's not my business, what should I do? — Uneasy in California

Dear Uneasy: You should tell Sally and Harry that you think Paul's behavior is totally out of bounds and they are welcome to let him know. That will remove any reservations they may have that dealing with Paul will damage their relationship with you. How they then decide to handle it is entirely up to them.

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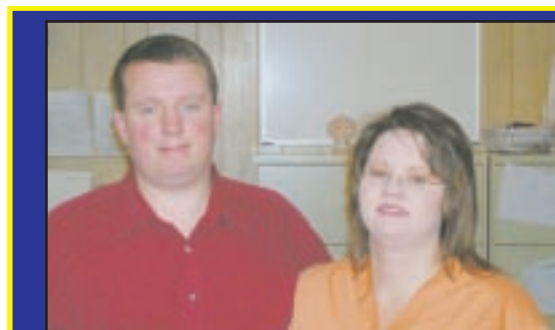
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