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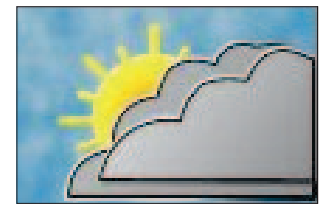


Jones kicks off Cowboys camp
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WEDNESDAY

JULY 25, 2007



BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 205

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

City mulls exceeding rollback rate

Police chief says increasing drug task force necessary; council members agree

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

How much are Big Spring taxpayers willing to shell out in the fight against drugs in the Crossroads area?

That's the question the Big Spring City Council faced Tuesday night, as the panel listened to a proposition from the police department that would put a five-officer drug task force on the streets in hopes of seeing a pronounced decrease in crime.

"More than 75 percent of the major crimes reported in Howard County — murder, rape, robbery, assault, theft, arson, burglary and vehicle theft — involve drugs," said Lt. Terry Chamness, who made the presentation to the council. "We saw a murder in 2006, a dealer that was shot in a robbery that was a drug rip off and a child

"If we're able to seize assets or property, that's just gravy on the chicken fry."



Smith

kidnapped after the parents stole money and drugs from a dealer."

According to Chamness, who was joined by Police Chief Lonnie Smith in the presentation, expanding the police department's existing two-man narcotics unit into a five-officer with a single supervisor operation may very well be the answer.

"The dealers just aren't scared of us," Chamness told the council. "We have a situation right now where there are



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
John Medina, director of human resources for the city of Big Spring, goes over the municipality's plan to help curb turnover among its employees during Tuesday night's budget work session with the city council.

three drug dealers in one neighborhood, and that's just unheard of.

"They have better

equipment than we do. They have surveillance cameras and can watch the front of the homes,

making it hard for us to do anything. We're doing

See **ROLLBACK**, Page 3A

Fighting turnover

City struggles to hold on to its employees

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

One of the focuses of Tuesday night's Big Spring City Council budget work session certainly wasn't a new one, as city officials looked at the turnover rate in several municipal departments and how they hope to turn them around in 2007-2008.

"Employee retention is certainly a major problem, and it's been a problem for a long time," said John Medina, director of human resources for the city. "In 2006 alone, we had 63 employees leave the city of Big Spring. The year before that it was 44 employees, and in 2004 it was 46 employees.

"If you look at the city employees, 48 percent of them have been with us for five years or less. Last year we had 13 employees leave the police department, 11 leave the fire department and another 11 leave the city's water distribution and collec-

See **TURNOVER**, Page 3A

City taxes

Proposed tax rate given the OK from the Big Spring City Council following a two-night budget work session:

Approximately \$1.05 per \$100 valuation
Tax rate includes:
• 66.39 cents for the city's general fund
• 5.2 cents for the refund of bonds re-negotiated in 2002
• 16.03 cents for the street bond approved by voters

• 8.8 cents for improvements to the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, also approved by voters
• 7.5 cents for the creation of a new narcotics task force within the police department
• 0.8 cents for the construction of an annex for the municipal animal shelter.

Estimated average taxable value of a home within city limits: \$29,732 (including homestead exemption of \$7,433)

Estimated taxes: \$312.18
Approximate increase over last year's tax rate: \$99.21

Coahoma residents to paint the town Aug. 4

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Town leaders here are going to break out the paint brushes in a community wide spruce-up effort.

Spurred by the local Rural Community College Initiative revitalization group, property owners and volunteers will be doing painting and repair work to several downtown Coahoma

properties Aug. 4, said Jan Foresyth, spokesman for the RCCI committee.

Committee members have sponsored several community-wide cleanup efforts in the past two years and are now shifting their focus to the downtown area, Foresyth said.

"It's the first thing

people notice when they drive into town," she said. "Several of the property owners will be painting their buildings, and volunteers will be helping them."

Another part of the community spruce-up effort was placement this week of signs at the two Interstate 20 entrances to Coahoma. The signs, emblazoned with the community slogan, "Coahoma: Small on num-

bers but big on pride," were donated by Skip Burcham, Foresyth said.

Plans for the near future include securing grant money to purchase playground equipment for the community center.

None of the work will cost Coahoma taxpayers a cent, Foresyth said.

"Everything will be done with grant money and volunteers," she said.

All the volunteers' hard work is beginning to pay off, she noted.

"It's really made a difference," she said. "They are doing what small towns need to be doing."

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

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RECEPTION PLANNED

The Parish of St. Mary's Church invites all in the community to a farewell reception for the Rev. Jim and Kathleen Liggett on Sunday, following the 9:30 a.m. service. Father Jim and his family have faithfully served St. Mary's Parish and the community of Big Spring for 13 years and has accepted a call at St. Nicholas' Church in Midland.

The community is also welcomed to attend the 9:30 a.m. service which will include musicians from around the area performing during the service.

MAY SEEKS DOCTORATE

LONDON (AP) — Brian May is completing his doctorate in astrophysics, more than 30 years after he abandoned his studies to form the rock group Queen.

The 60-year-old guitarist and songwriter said he plans to submit his thesis, "Radial Velocities in the Zodiacal Dust Cloud," to supervisors at Imperial College London within the next two weeks. May was a student at Imperial College when Queen was formed in 1970. He dropped his studies as the band became successful.

MOORE BOARD TO MEET

The Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors will meet at 5:15 p.m. today at the economic development corporation's offices, located at 215 W. Third St.

The board of directors is expected to consider its June financial statement and investment report, the executive director's report and may convene in executive session.

Time also will be set aside for comments from both the public and members of the Moore Board.
For more information, call 264-6032.



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CALL FOR COMPETITIVE QUOTES

Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

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Wednesday, July 25, 2007

IN BRIEF

Garden City hosting two all-star games

Glasscock County Independent School District will be hosting a basketball and a football all-star game.

The Small School Shootout will take place Friday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The girls game will occur at 6 p.m. with the boys taking the court at 8 p.m.

The Texas Bowl is a 6-man all-star football game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Garden City. The game will feature Division I all-stars pitted against Division II all-stars.

Several area athletes from Garden City, Sands and Grady will be participating in both events.

Lady Steer Booster Club meeting

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Lady Steer athletes are encouraged to attend.

Call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 for more information.

Physicals required for some athletes

Big Spring High School is informing all student athletes that a physical is required for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th graders, as well as any students who are new to the district.

Physicals must be taken care of and on file at the Athletic Training Center before athletes will be allowed to practice, participate or get equipment issued to them.

Call the ATC at 264-3662 with any questions.

Howard County Golf Championship set

The 2007 Howard County Championship golf tournament has been set to take place Friday through Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The format is 54-holes individual stroke play and all participants must have been a Howard County resident prior to Jan. 1, 2007.

Entry fee \$75 per player plus a \$30 cart fee. Prizes will be given for gross and net scores with the field being pre-flighted based on handicap. The championship flight will break into two flights after the first round.

A senior division will be made for those over 70. The lowest score for a country club member will be club champion.

Tee times will be set for Friday and Saturday with a 1 p.m. shotgun on Sunday. A barbecue lunch will be served Saturday.

To enter or for other information, call the country club at 267-5354.

Big Spring Youth Soccer meeting

The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association will be holding an organizational meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at College Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

Beckham not soccer's savior

If the drama produced at David Beckham's debut Saturday is the type of drama that will allegedly make soccer a popular sport in this country, then count me out. I just happened to turn my television to ESPN in time to see Beckham stretching out his ankle for about 20 minutes as he tried diligently to get involved in the L.A.



JONATHAN HULL

Galaxy's exhibition game with Beckham's former team, Chelsea.

The stadium was sold out with everyone from Kevin Garnett to Eva Longoria in attendance. Actually, anyone in attendance that was halfway famous was given a close-up. This was necessary because the game action itself provided almost nothing entertaining. More camera time was spent upon Beckham stretching out his ankle rather than the game itself.

And why not? Watching Becks stretch was just as entertaining

as the game. That was drama in itself. Can soccer's golden boy overcome a sprained ankle to get onto the field? Maybe, just maybe, his appearance could inspire the Galaxy to overcome their 1-0 deficit to upset Chelsea.

Pondering those thoughts was much more enjoyable than the action on the field. I was reminded why soccer is such a boring sport to watch. Chelsea took their lead and stopped trying to score. Instead, they were satisfied with simply kicking the ball five feet back and forth to each other.

Then Beckham took the field. The savior has come right? No. The same type of action continued. He played 12 minutes on an ankle that he evidently didn't want to cut back on according to one of the Beckham-loving announcers. After the game, one of the commentators mentioned how many times Beckham touched the ball. Is this sport really that desperate for action that they keep track of how many times a player touches a ball? And then people wonder

See HULL, Page 2B

Jones kicks off Cowboys camp with glitz and glam

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Even in his wildest imagination, Wade Phillips probably never thought coaching the Dallas Cowboys would be like this.

The Cowboys kicked off the Phillips Era and their return to San Antonio on Tuesday by turning the normally mundane ceremonial start of training camp into an afternoon and evening crammed with all the glitz of a Hollywood premiere.

The day started with a "state of the team" news conference that was more infomercial than informational.

Held in a large, air-conditioned tent featuring booths for sponsors ranging from cleaning chemicals to Army recruiters to something called the American Tailgaters Association, the guests of honor showed up a half-hour late. When they took their places, a representative from a truck maker was sitting right next to team owner Jerry Jones. The corporate guy gave the first long speech, too.

An early technical glitch resulted in two microphones in front of Jones and none in front of Phillips. The new coach wasn't supposed to be speaking yet anyway, so he hardly noticed. Still, the symbolism was priceless.

After Jones bragged about season ticket sales and mentioned single-game tickets going on sale Wednesday, he began pitching all the reasons to expect big things from the team this season, such as 20 of 22 starters being



MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys team owner Jerry Jones (left) and new head coach Wade Phillips (right) launch their summer training camp with a press conference outside the Alamodome Tuesday in San Antonio.

back from a team that went 10-6 and made the playoffs. He didn't bring up the fact Dallas hasn't won a playoff game the last 10 seasons or that his new coach never has won a playoff game in five seasons running Denver and Buffalo.

"I think we have every right to think that we will be a better team than we were last year," Jones said.

He praised Tony Romo and an offense that was among the NFL's most productive last season. He vowed that the defense

will be improved with Phillips' touch. And he said he didn't remember ever going into a season with so much confidence in his kicking game.

The owner was so optimistic that when Phillips finally got a turn, his first comment was, "Hearing all those good things, it sounds like we should win them all!"

Smiling and laughing, Phillips handled the intro and everything else with more levity and joy than predecessor Bill Parcells likely would have.

Parcells tolerated mar-

keting but was never a big fan. He didn't like training at the Alamodome either; the Cowboys left San Antonio after his first camp here, spending the last three years in Oxnard, Calif. The club is back for the next four years.

Hundreds of fans already had arrived three hours before a free nighttime show featuring a concert by Los Lonely Boys and the gyrations of the Cowboys cheerleaders, along with appearances by Jones, Phillips, the assistant coaches and

players. A crowd of 17,297 ended up in the seats.

Setup for the show took all afternoon, with the stage and all sort of heavy equipment mashing into the practice field. It was the kind of thing Parcells would've hated.

Phillips didn't seem to mind. He didn't even mind all the references to Parcells throughout the news conference.

"I think the world of Bill Parcells as a football coach, but that's gone," he said. "He retired from this job and now it's mine."

Rangers sweep Mariners in double-header

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Eric Gagne once converted a major league record 84 straight saves. What the 2003 NL Cy Young winner had never done was save two games on the same day — until Tuesday.

The burly Texas closer pitched the ninth inning in both games of a doubleheader, getting the last three outs after a leadoff hit each time, as the Rangers swept the Seattle Mariners. Texas won the nightcap 4-3 after a 2-1 victory in the opener.

Limited to 15 1-3 innings the last two seasons for the Los Angeles Dodgers because of three operations (two elbow, one back), Gagne pitched in three games in a 24-hour span. It's another strong indication that he is indeed healthy.

"You can talk about it, but until you prove it, that's all that matters," said Gagne, who has 16 saves in 17 chances this

season. "Going back-to-back days and back-to-back games on the same day, it's just good to prove it."

Manager Ron Washington had said he had no intention of using Gagne twice Tuesday. In the series opener late Monday night, Gagne pitched in a non-save situation and allowed three runs in the ninth inning as the Rangers held on to win 8-7.

"He came to me," Washington said.

"Every time you give up runs, you want to get back on the mound and get the negative thoughts out of your mind," Gagne said.

No. 9 hitter Travis Metcalf was 4-for-4 in the nightcap. His last hit was a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth that scored Gerald Laird, who had a leadoff single before a sacrifice bunt by Ramon Vazquez.

In the opener, John Rheinecker allowed only

an unearned run over seven innings in his second start of the season.

Seattle has lost five straight games since getting within one game of the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels — but is still just 2 1/2 games out of the division lead.

In the nightcap, Raul Ibanez went from an apparent strikeout to a two-run double on the next pitch that put the Mariners up 3-1 in the fifth. Even Ibanez appeared to think he had struck out on his swing until home plate umpire Jim Reynolds ruled a foul tip.

The Rangers got even in the bottom of the fifth when Mark Teixeira had a broken-bat RBI single and Michael Young scored on a wild pitch. Young's RBI double in the third plated Metcalf, who had a leadoff triple.

C.J. Wilson (2-1) struck out three batters in 1 1/3 innings in relief of Kameron Loe.



MCT photo/Sharon M. Steinman/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Texas Rangers' Michael Young makes a leaping throw to first for an out in the second inning during the first game of a double header against the Seattle Mariners Tuesday in Arlington.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
 Thursday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.
 Friday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.
 Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70.
 Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.
 Saturday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 70.
 Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.
 Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.
 Monday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-15-33-34
 Number matching five of five: none.
 ...
 AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-5-7.

Take Note

• **A FUND HAS BEEN CREATED** to help Garland and Nalynda Helmstetler raise the \$25,000 needed for medical treatment that the family's insurance will not cover. Nalynda has been diagnosed with breast cancer that cannot be treated by radiation and chemotherapy. Doctors have told the family she should begin treatment on Aug. 1 so that the cancer does not spread to other organs. Donations may be made payable to Nalynda's Cancer Fund at the Federal Employees Credit Union located on FM 700.

• **SNO CONES FOR SALE**, a fund-raiser for Cornerstone Church, is set from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at the west doors of Wal-Mart. For more information, call the church at 263-3072.

• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT COSDEN CREDIT UNION** to help pay medical expenses for Raul Robles. Any assistance would be appreciated. The account is No. 761882.

• **ST. MARY'S AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S ARE HOLDING A LAP BLANKET DRIVE** to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

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

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

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

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

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and own-

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:
 • **NIKKI LEE SMITH**, 19, of 3405 E. Highway 350, was arrested Tuesday on a capias warrant.
 • **JOSHUA B. VALENZUELA**, 21, of 2509 Seminole, was arrested Tuesday on two capias warrants.
 • **JACQUELINE N. YANEZ**, 17, of 1002 N. Main, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
 • **MARY ELLEN VIASANA**, 37, of 802 S. Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on three local citations.
 • **FRADULENT TRANSE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
 • **OVERDOSE** was reported in the 1100 block of Goliad.
 • **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Sycamore.
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 • **THEFT** was reported in the 100 block of Marcy.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:
 Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 44 inmates at the time of this report.
 • **MARIA DEL CARMEN CERVANTES**, 31, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
 • **RICKY DALE MARTIN**, 53, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on charges of bondsman off bond, theft, bail jumping and failure to appear.
 • **RICHARD SHAUN MAY**, 28, was arrested by DPS Wednesday on charges of driving while license invalid, no valid inspection certificate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:
 • **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
 • **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of W. Eighth Street. Service was refused.
 • **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King. Service was refused.
 • **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1400 block N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 • **TRAUMA** was reported at Moss Creek Lake. One person was transported to SMMC.
 • **MOBILE PROPERTY FIRE** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Street. It was extinguished.

Bulletin Board

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

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

THURSDAY
 • Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 • Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 • League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

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

SATURDAY
 • Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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HULL

Continued from Page 1B

why this sport isn't popular in America. I think the real mystery is why isn't this sport less popular in other countries.

Would I dare say that he was faking the injury? Not entirely.

However, if Beckham had a sprained ankle that he could run on and he was playing in this country's real version of football, then his teammates would chide him and label him a crybaby.

I wonder if I was the only one who noticed that Becks was doing groin stretches, while supposedly trying to stretch out his sprained ankle?

Speaking of football, that's just what Beckham says he's going to help make popular in this country.

I don't know if he realizes it, but football is already the most popular sport in the country. It's soccer that needs help. Honestly, calling soccer football in this country is a good way for him to hurt the game's popularity.

There are several hardcore football fans, this writer included, who will take offense to him calling soccer by its European name. In

America, football means pigskin. Mr. Beckham would do well to make that his first lesson of the American culture.

Beckham's arrival won't change what this sport is in America. It's a great youth sport. It's not even a great high school or college sport, but simply a great youth sport. It's something for this country's youth to do in-between football and baseball seasons.

That's all it ever will be. As soon as these youth are given the choice to concentrate on soccer or other sports in this country, soccer generally loses out.

Beckham's presence isn't going to inspire enough teenagers to stick with the sport to make a difference.

His popularity isn't even based on his abilities on the field anyway. He's never been the best player on any of the teams he's played on. Arguments could be made that Landon Donovan is the more accomplished player on the Galaxy roster. Beckham isn't coming across the ocean to teach his teammates how to play. The man is simply collecting a large paycheck, banking on of his popularity as a European teen idol and his made-for-Hollywood marriage

to a Spice Girl.

Beckham's arrival is already being overshadowed by the multiple scandals that are occurring in this country's top three sports.

With the real football season beginning in just a few weeks, Becks' star is sure to continue to fade. Much like his wife's once promising singing career.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

New officers will be elected for the 2007 season.

For more information, contact Jamie Scott at 264-0001 or Robert Smith at 263-3333.

Lady Steers v-ball team meeting

Big Spring's Lady Steers volleyball team will hold a parent/athlete meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 2 at Alan and Della Partee's house at 1600 Kiowa.

The meeting will discuss rules and expecta-

tions for the upcoming season since two-a-days begin Aug. 6.

A swim party will be held following the meeting. Parents are asked to bring snacks and drinks.

Call Della Partee at 367-4038 or Coach Amanda Whitaker at (325) 864-1467 with any questions.

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 is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The fee will be \$125 per player.

Players can register online at www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

Sudoku puzzle grid with title 'su | do | ku' and instructions: 'Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com'

Contract Bridge article by Steve Becker. Title: 'Contract Bridge'. Subtitle: 'Lead-Directing Double'. Includes a bidding table and text explaining the convention.

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Garage Sales

2 FAMILY Sale: 3313 Duke, Saturday 8:00-1:00. Children's up to adult clothes & shoes, toys, deco items and more.

4 FAMILY Garage Sale: 614 Colgate, Saturday 8-? Furniture, sports equipment, Ping-Pong table, tires, big screen TV, pioneer stereo/speakers, baby clothes, girls clothes (sizes 7-16) and more.

MOVING SALE, 1609 S. Main. Friday, 8:00-? Furniture, household & miscellaneous items.

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GARAGE SALE: Fri. & Sat. 7am-?, 6 Coahomans Circle (Highland South). Anything and everything you might need!

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: 6311 North Service Road I-20 Moss Lake Exit. Friday & Saturday 8:00-4:00. Furniture, housewares, baby items, kid clothing. Look for Balloons.

GARAGE SALE: 307 Ramsey in Coahoma. Friday & Saturday 7:30-? Crocks, Coleman lanterns, Coleman heater, bicycles, bedding, what-nots, linens, clothes, glassware, baby bed and more.

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BIG SPRING Country Club hiring all positions: Cook, Dishwasher & Waitstaff. Apply in person, Tuesday thru Saturday or at Texas Workforce Network.

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COMMERCIAL Construction Company Now hiring Steel erectors, finish carpenters and concrete workers. Drug Test and Pre-Employment physical required. Must be willing to travel and have good transportation. Apply at 2800 Windecker, Midland Airport or call (432)638-2920
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DENTAL ASSISTANT needed for our progressive dental office. Previous experience in dentistry is preferred, but training is available for the right person. We value warmth, maturity, and a non-smoking health centered lifestyle. Personally submit a resume to 307-D W. 16th. Street.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Russell at 888-527-7221.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Call 432-563-5060. Equal Opportunity Employer.

ELECTRONIC TECH POSITION AVAILABLE
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for an Electronics Technician. Will work out of Big Spring, TX. Electronic experience and training required. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE.
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to:
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Help Wanted

ENERGY COMPANY located at a 1000 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Odessa, TX is currently seeking a Plant Engineer. Qualified candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Engineering Technology. Minimum of 4 yrs. Power generation or related experience required. We offer an excellent competitive salary, benefits pkg., and 401(k) plan. EOE. Only qualified candidates will be contacted. Please submit resume and salary requirements to resume@tielp.com or mail to Odessa-Ector Power Partners, 2200 East I-20 Service Rd. South, Odessa, TX 79766.

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FURR'S FAMILY Dining has all positions available. Apply in person, 2503 S. Gregg.

GILLIHAN PAINT and Body needs a body technician. Must have own tools. Apply in person, 821 West 4th (432)264-6528.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for dozer operator, with two years experience, must pass drug test. Cal (432)270-3610.

Job Fair - Wednesday, July 25th.

D.H. Blattner & Sons, Inc. will be hosting a job fair for our Stanton, TX Wind Turbine Project. We are looking for the following safety conscience, experienced personnel: Secretary General Laborers Water Truck Drivers (with CDL) Roller Operators Excavator Operators Blade Operators Dozer Operators Interested parties are encouraged to stop by the Martin County Community Center, 301 North St. Theresa, Stanton, TX from 9am-2pm on Wednesday, July 25th. If you are not able to attend the job fair please stop by the Work Force Center at 3510 N. Avenue A, Building A, Midland, TX; fill out an application on-line at www.dhblattner.com or call 1-888-356-2307 to request an application. Equal Opportunity Employer

LEGAL SECRETARY office and/or accounting experience. Resume and references required. Robert D. Miller, 608 Scurry, fax 432-267-1043.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now hiring for the following positions: LVN - Charge Nurse 6-2 & 10-6 Shift Certified Nursing Assistant Great working environment and competitive salary. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.,

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NOW SEEKING Full time position for Martin County Home Health. Full time LVN with full benefits. Also seeking position for PRN CNA. If interested in any of these positions please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

OFFICE MANAGER - WesTex Auto Parts is currently accepting applications for a full time office manager. Duties include basic accounting, reception, and clerk tasks. Must be trustworthy and dependable and able to multi-task. Criminal history background check and drug tests are performed. Please mail resume to 606 Mathews, Big Spring, TX.

OPERATOR POSITION AVAILABLE
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Central Control Operator in Big Spring. This position involves shift work. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE.
Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

PART-TIME HELP needed. Howard College Bookstore. Come by Mon-Thurs. 8:00-4:00 to pick up application. Employees get textbook discount.

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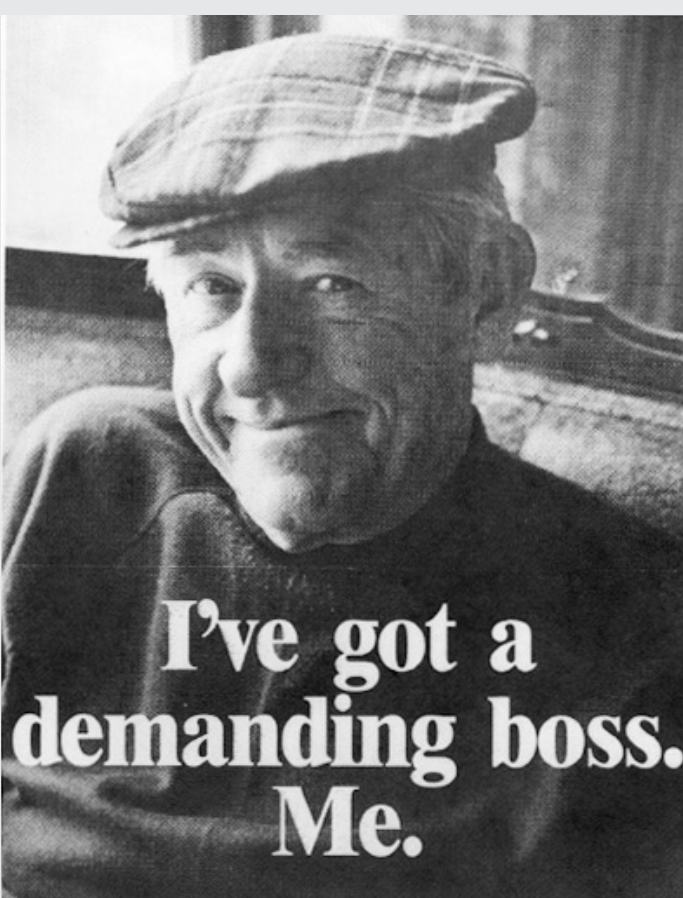
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Beachcombing or pan-Atlantic gallivanting — those who aren't on summer vacation



HOLIDAY MATHIS

right now are buying their tickets. Some of the best months to travel, August-October, are near. The Sagittarius moon is ribald and restless, so if you don't have a passport for adventure yet, look for some fun diversions to lift you up and out of the ordinary.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're spending the money before it's made. It's nothing to feel guilty about. Wanting what you do motivates you to work hard. Owing for it makes you work even harder.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Taking oneself too seriously is always the surest way to look ridiculous. It's when you're not afraid to look foolish that you are seen in your very best light.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You share the same level of productivity as the people around you. So sidle up to the busy ones. Tonight you'll get real about a project and decide to either rededicate yourself or throw in the towel for good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being vulnerable is part of being human. When you leave yourself

open, others feel stronger around you and their resistance diminishes. Ask for what you want, and it's offered with enthusiasm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Doing your own thing is admirable, but when three people tell you there's something in your teeth, it's time to look in the mirror. Listen to the cues the universe provides. It won't be hard. They're not subtle.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're an easy laugh, and life keeps giving you hilarious scenarios. Writing about an interesting turn of events will help you expand creatively, mentally and, ultimately, financially.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though you'd love to help friends with everything they need, doing so may actually prevent them from learning how to help themselves. Saying no is sometimes the most loving thing you can do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You inherit a project that's in a state of turmoil. Why you? Because you're that good. Your reputation indicates that you're the one who can make it all better — and you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Loved ones sometimes misbehave purely because they like to see you get all riled up. When you don't react, they quickly tire of the prank. Play it cool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's futile to throw money after something that money

just can't buy. You come out ahead when you choose art over commerce, ideas over things and attention over convenience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're so slick now that you can't help but get what you want. It's not a strategy, but it just feels natural for you to approach others from the side. You're friendly and subtle.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Charisma is high. You easily stir up interest in your cause or in yourself. Tonight is high-stakes poker (whether or not there is an actual poker game being played), and everything is wild.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPICS: The Astrology of Fun: Each sun sign has a special way of activating childlike wonder and vitality, which has the curious tendency of making life feel like play again! Here's what you can do for fun during this sun-in-Leo time, the best season of the year for recharging the spiritedness that makes you uniquely you. LEO: You're a kid at heart! Your natural charisma is contagious; your laughter, infectious. It rubs off on everyone you meet, which is why we feel so fabulous when you're around. Kids instantly connect with you, because in you they sense the familiar. You never really grew up, which is a good thing. Leo activities: eating dessert first, traveling

somewhere new and taking a creative gamble. **VIRGO:** The world is a playground, and where, oh where, have the parents gone? For you, dropping out of your parental role from time to time is essential for your inner child. I know, you do so well keeping tabs on everyone, and all the moms love having you around. Just get bossy with yourself, and demand some free time. Your fun activities: mountain hiking and biking, yoga, spiritual retreats. Come back for Libra and Scorpio!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ladies, break out your golden arm bands! Gold is the precious metal attributed to Leo. We'll always attribute those bracelets (and invisible jets) to Wonder Woman Lynda Carter and her superpowers. Who doesn't feel superhuman when they're wearing gold? With their incredible stamina and strength, who knows, Leos just might be superheroes.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband has a brother, "Cory," who is lazy, foul-mouthed, has been arrested several times on illegal weapons charges and is involved with a white supremacist group.

At one point, Cory threatened to rape and kill me, and put a realistic-looking gun to my head. I was scared to death. I spoke to the police about Cory's threats, and they said it will boil down to my word against his. My in-laws do not believe my allegations. They continue to bail their son out of jail whenever he



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

gets into trouble and always take his side.

I finally had enough and said I never want to be around Cory, nor do I want my daughters anywhere near him. I have made it clear that if Cory is invited to family gatherings, I will not attend, although my husband may go alone. My in-laws are not happy about this and often "forget" to tell me Cory is coming. Numerous times, we have been assured he will not be present, only to discover otherwise. Since I cannot trust them, I have decided my daughters and I will no longer attend any family gatherings held at my in-laws' home.

My husband wants me to put my feelings aside and go there for his father's birthday. My pastor told me my husband should not make this request, since seeing Cory causes me so much emotional anguish. Last year, I attended a family function to please my husband and had difficulty sleeping for days afterward.

I am willing to work on alternatives to celebrate my father-in-law's birthday, and am hoping you have a solution. — Trying to Save My Sanity

Dear Trying: There's no reason for you to tolerate the company of anyone who threatens to harm you, and if your in-laws do not respect your concerns, you are right to stay away. Tell your husband you would be happy to celebrate with

Mom and Dad and your immediate family at another time and place. If he doesn't like it, too bad.

Dear Annie: I am married to an obstinate cigar smoker. I have brought him literature on secondhand smoke and warned him that I will leave if he continues to smoke around the kids or me. He has promised to quit twice, only to make excuses.

He has no problem closing the doors to the den and lighting up with his 10-year-old son in the room. I have already battled cancer and have no intention of allowing his habit to take me to an early grave. He refuses to smoke outside. He says it's his house and he can do as he pleases. He has a smoker's cough, and his doctors have told him to quit.

Why should I stay married to a man who doesn't respect his own health or that of his family? I can't believe smoking is more important than we are. What should I do? — Ready to Walk in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Dear Plattsburgh: Your husband is addicted, but it is unconscionable for him to deliberately endanger the health of his family. Tell him he smokes outside, or you'll make an appointment to see a marriage counselor and maybe a lawyer. Be sure to follow through.

Dear Annie: "In the Dark on the East Coast" was upset because her mother refused to discuss her medical care. I am a nurse, and believe me, there are times the doctors I work for would love to call families to tell them their loved ones are no longer fit to take care of themselves, but we can't because of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) regulations.

I am often faced with elderly patients who should not be living alone, but if they tell me

I cannot speak to their family members, I am obliged to respect their wishes. — Frustrated Nurse

Dear Frustrated: Some patients have an adversarial relationship with their children and do not trust them with this information. We wish there were a better solution to balance physical needs and privacy requirements.

Dear Annie: I am a short, female college student and will be entering my senior year in the fall. I am studying criminal justice and plan to join the local police department upon my completion of college.

My problem is what happens when I tell people my anticipated job field. A common response (from men in particular) is, "But you're a girl." I have also had people tell me I am not mean enough, tough enough, strong enough, tall enough, etc., and most of these comments come from people I barely know.

I understand some of these are backhanded compliments, but I find such comments insulting. Is there a way to stifle these remarks without giving my complete life story to explain why I chose this field? — Irritated at Being Pre-Judged

Dear Irritated: Sure. Smile stiffly and say, "Thanks for your opinion. I'll keep it in mind." With all the female officers in today's police force, we're amazed anyone finds it unusual, or worse, tries to discourage you.

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ANSWERS

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Lindsay Lohan, latest young star to battle addiction, declares her innocence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan says she's innocent.

The 21-year-old actress was arrested and released on bail for investigation of misdemeanor driving under the influence and with a suspended license, and felony cocaine possession, early Tuesday in Santa Monica, less than two weeks after completing her second trip to rehab.

"I am innocent ... did not do drugs they're not mine. I was almost hit by my assistant Tarin's mom I appreciate everyone giving me my privacy," Lohan wrote in an e-mail to "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush, the show reported on its Web site

Tuesday night.

Police found cocaine in one of Lohan's pockets during a pre-booking search, Sgt. Shane Talbot said. Police initially said Lohan was also being booked for investigation of transporting a narcotic but later said she was not.

Police received a 911 call from the mother of Lohan's former personal assistant saying that Lohan was chasing her in an SUV, said Lt. Alex Padilla. The assistant had quit hours before, he said.

Authorities found Lohan and the woman in a "heated debate" in the parking lot of Santa Monica's Civic Auditorium at about 1:30 a.m.

Lohan's arrest comes as she still faces DUI allegations connected to a Memorial Day weekend hit-and-run crash in Beverly Hills. The actress completed more than six weeks in rehab less than two weeks ago, and had checked into a recovery clinic in January.

She had worn an alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelet since her July 13 release from rehab and was tested daily to support her sobriety, her attorney, Blair Berk, said. She said Lohan had relapsed and was receiving medical care at an undisclosed location. Lohan's publicist, Leslie Sloane Zelnik, had no comment.

Lohan joins a long list of young actors who have battled problems with drugs, alcohol, or both. They include River Phoenix, Drew Barrymore, Corey Feldman, Anissa Jones, Danny Bonaduce and Macaulay Culkin.

Phoenix, who starred in "Stand By Me" as a teen, died outside a Hollywood nightclub in 1993 from a lethal combination of cocaine and heroin. He was 23. Feldman, his "Stand By Me" co-star, also battled addiction and was arrested for heroin possession when he was 19.

Jones, who played Buffy on TV's "Family Affair," was just 18 when she died

of a drug overdose in 1976. Bonaduce found fame at 10 as a star of "The Partridge Family," only to struggle with addiction and homelessness as a teenager. Culkin, best known for his starring turn in the kid-friendly "Home Alone" films, was busted in his early 20s for possession of pot and Xanax.

Barrymore, 32, has fared best. After going to rehab for drugs and alcohol at 13, she is a sought-after actress and filmmaker with her own production company, Flower Films.

Dr. David Deitch, an addiction specialist for more than 40 years and director of Phoenix House, a national non-

profit provider of substance-abuse treatments, said the glitter and glamor of Hollywood could be partly to blame.

"That life is all about the excitement, drama and peak performance followed by a letdown that gets medicated with entertainment and medication," he said.

Deitch said the average age at which children start using drugs has dropped every decade since the 1960s, and that today's youngsters start experimenting with drugs about age 12.

"The earlier the age of onset of chronic drug-taking, the greater the prognosis is for long-term problems," he said.

ROLLBACK

Continued from Page 1A

our best to work the detective units on overtime to reduce some of this drug activity, but it's only a stop-gap measure."

And while the idea of having more officers fighting drugs in and around Big Spring might be an attractive idea, the cost of implementing such a program might cause some problems, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

"Not taking into account any office supplies or materials like that, we're looking at \$341,340 to start the program," Walker told the council. "That would translate into a 7.5-cent increase in the tax rate, which would put it over the rollback rate. If we go over the rollback rate, we're required to hold

public hearings and publish the rate, and citizens would have the opportunity to start a petition and force a rollback election."

Walker said the 7.5-cent increase — when added to the currently proposed tax rate of 97.3266 cents — would put the proposed tax rate for 2007-2008 at approximately \$1.05 per \$100 valuation.

The average value of a home in the city of Big Spring is estimated at \$37,165 — up considerably compared to last year, thanks to higher valuations, according to Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua. With an estimated homestead exemption of \$7,433, the average taxpayer will be looking at a \$76.40 annual increase in taxes before the proposed 7.5 cent hike, up to \$289.37 compared to last year's tax of \$212.97.

With the additional 7.5 cents to fund the nar-

cotics task force program, taxpayers could expect to see that total increase in their tax bill ride to \$312.18.

"If we go ahead with this program, can we expect to see a significant difference?" Mayor Russ McEwen asked Smith.

"Even when the program is halfway up and running, you're going to see arrests being made," said Smith. "We'll have the cases against these people, and we'll make sure the cases are good."

While Smith was hesitant to put an estimate on it, he said asset forfeitures as a result of narcotic cases could also provide funding for the task force.

"Forfeiture goes along with narcotic cases," said Smith. "Taylor County had a couple of seizures that involved millions of dollars in cash just recently, and we have several vehicles that

we're already using as part of that. If we're able to seize assets or property, that's just gravy on the chicken fry."

Despite the prospect of a rollback election, McEwen said he is willing to back the program — and the increase.

"Of all of the things the council asked the staff to look at, I really feel like this has the most merit," said McEwen. "And I feel like if we're going to move forward with it, we're going to have to just bite the bullet and do it right."

"This will give the people in the city a chance to say they don't like it by supporting a petition and a rollback election. Maybe going above the rollback rate on this is a good thing. We feel very strongly about this, and it's as important as anything we can do in the budget this year. We're talking about our chil-

dren."

McEwen asked the remaining council members — Councilman Greg Biddison was absent from the proceedings — if they felt comfortable with moving forward with the program, along with the rest of the proposed budget, as presented, drawing nods from the other members.

In addition to a tax hike, citizens can also expect to see an increase in their municipal water bills. That's because of elevated costs projected by the Colorado River Municipal Water District, according to Fuqua, which the city plans to pass on to customers.

"It's not a great deal of money, but if you add it all up over the year it

comes to about \$100,000 that we just can't absorb right now," said Fuqua. "We're simply looking at passing through what CRMWD is charging us."

The increase, which amounts to raising water rates from the current \$2.47 per 1,000 gallons used to \$2.51 per 1,000 gallons, is expected to generate an additional \$60,000 in water revenue, still falling short of the estimated \$65,276 in increases from CRMWD.

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

TURNOVER

Continued from Page 1A

tion department. These departments are where we're seeing the most turnover."

Medina said the employment pool is shrinking, thanks largely to the large number of job openings in the oil field.

"A lot of the jobs in the oilfield are providing benefits for their employees," Medina told the council. "This is something they didn't do in years past."

Medina said another culprit in the turnover cycle is understaffing, which leads to fatigue.

"The current year projection for overtime is \$741,000," said Medina. "The majority of that is coming from the fire department, which accounts for 49 percent. The police department, which is also understaffed, makes up 21 percent of the overtime, and the city's water distribution and collection department generates 10 percent.

"If you look at the amount of overtime over the past several years, it has continued to step up. Fatigue is certainly playing a role in turnover. These guys are tired and they have to work overtime, and it has caused some people to quit."

So, how do you cure such a high rate of turnover?

Medina said it starts by filling departments that are understaffed, which raises another question — how do you attract new employees who will stay longer than two or three years?

"We've been looking at several recruitment tools," said Medina. "One thing we've talked about is paying for prior basic certificate costs. Some cities are offering to pay for certificate costs for new graduates from the

police academy or the fire academy. We're also looking at paying to move these people to the city of Big Spring. We feel like if we can get them here, living in the city, they will be more likely to stick around.

"We've also looked at a city wide pay referendum. We can take it to the voters and ask them if they want to give city employees a 10 percent raise across the board."

Another idea Medina presented to the council was a sick leave buy back program that would allow city employees the chance to accrue — and eventually sell back to the municipality — unused sick days.

"We looked at similar programs being used in San Angelo and other cities," said Medina. "Anytime someone calls in sick, we have to pull someone from somewhere else to cover for them, and that adds to the overtime costs and the fatigue

factor. And the employees are in a position where they feel like they have to use the days or lose them. This would encourage them to come to work and save those days unless the genuinely needed them."

The council instructed

the city staff to further explore the idea of buying back unused sick days.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Time to think about Steers' season tickets

It's almost football season. The Dallas Cowboys opened training camp Tuesday in San Antonio and other professional teams are making their way to camps around the country, and here in West Texas, high school teams are getting ready for two-a-day practices.

That means it's time for Big Spring Steers fans to purchase season ticket packages.

That's especially true this season, because the Steers will open the season under new head coach Mike Ritchey and his staff.

Big Spring is the only area school district that offers season tickets. Coahoma, Forsan, Garden City, Grady, Sands and Stanton offer only single game tickets.

As is always the case, season ticket holders from 2006 had the first opportunity to purchase tickets for the Steers' five home games in 2007.

Kay Cook, the Big Spring Independent School District Athletic Department's secretary, said previous season ticket holders had until Tuesday to purchase the same seats they had last year before sales closed. They will re-open to the general public on Aug. 8. The final day of sales will be Aug. 22.

The five-game packages, still priced at \$20 each, include tickets for the Steers' home opener on Sept. 14 when they host Hereford's Whitefaces, as well as the Sept. 21 home date with Abilene Wylie's Bulldogs.

Homecoming will be Oct. 5 when the Steers play host to Andrews' Mustangs.

The final two home games are Oct. 12, when the Steers open District 4-4A play entertaining Plainview's Bulldogs, and Nov. 2 when Lubbock Estacado's Matadors come to call.

When ticket sales resume, they can be purchased at the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more information, call Cook at 264-3662.

We encourage Big Spring residents to give serious thought to taking advantage of the savings season tickets provide — you've got a couple of weeks to decide — and get behind the Steers this season.

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

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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When others want and expect too much from us, You are there for us, Lord.

Amen

Courting Latinos, without shame

He spends much of his campaign time feeding the flames of hatred against illegal immigrants, yet Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney has the gall to go courting Hispanic voters.

There is a Spanish word to describe that kind of person, "descarado," and the closest translation is "shameless."

Here's a politician who once was considered a moderate on immigration but has flipped completely in order to appeal to GOP hardliners, a former Connecticut governor who boasts about denying driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and having deputized state police to enforce federal immigration laws — two politically expedient moves he made after he decided to run for president as a conservative.

Here's a presidential candidate who has campaigned against immigration reform legislation that includes any path to legalization for illegal immigrants.

Yet he thinks he actually can win support among Latinos. He must think we are *completamente est pidos*.

Many Latinos are opposed to illegal immigration, of course. But unlike Romney, the overwhelming majority of Latinos, including Republicans, feel we should have some compassion for the 12 mil-

lion illegal immigrants who are already here.

In fact, Romney has condemned other candidates for being too soft on illegal immigrants. For example, he has criticized his GOP rival, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, for making the city "a sanctuary city for illegal aliens" because Giuliani did what he was supposed to do, which is to leave federal law enforcement to federal agents.

But if you were a Latino who didn't know Romney's background and heard him speak at the Republican National Hispanic Assembly's annual convention in Washington Sunday, you might have even clapped for him. He can fool some of the people some of the time — especially with flowery rhetoric.

"If you say, name people who are hardworking, seek education, love God, love their families and value freedom, it's Hispanic-Americans, just like other Americans," Romney told a crowd at the convention.

Ironically, that description of Latinos also applies to the overwhelming majority of the 12 million illegal immigrants he uses as guinea pigs to score political points among the immigrant haters.

The Republican National Hispanic Assembly has come out in support of comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to legalization for illegal immigrants, but Romney was there to try to fool them.

"I want to make sure we continue an open door in immigration that welcomes people who come here with those kinds of values," Romney said shamelessly.

In spite of the campaign of hatred that has been launched by GOP leaders against illegal immigrants for the last couple of years, Romney had the audacity to suggest that Republicans should not cede the Latino vote to Democrats.

He said the debate over the immigration reform legislation that failed in Congress last month has been "mischaracterized."

"It's very important that we as a party communicate how much we value immigration," Romney told Latino Republicans. He said he recognizes immigration is "at the very foundation of the whole concept of America," and that Latinos are "quintessentially American."

If there is a Hypocrites Club of America, Romney should run for its president. That would be the only way he could get a significant number of Latinos to vote for him.

Let's face it: Republicans got 44 percent of the Latino vote in 2004 and 29 percent in 2006, and with candidates like Romney, that number would go down to a single digit.

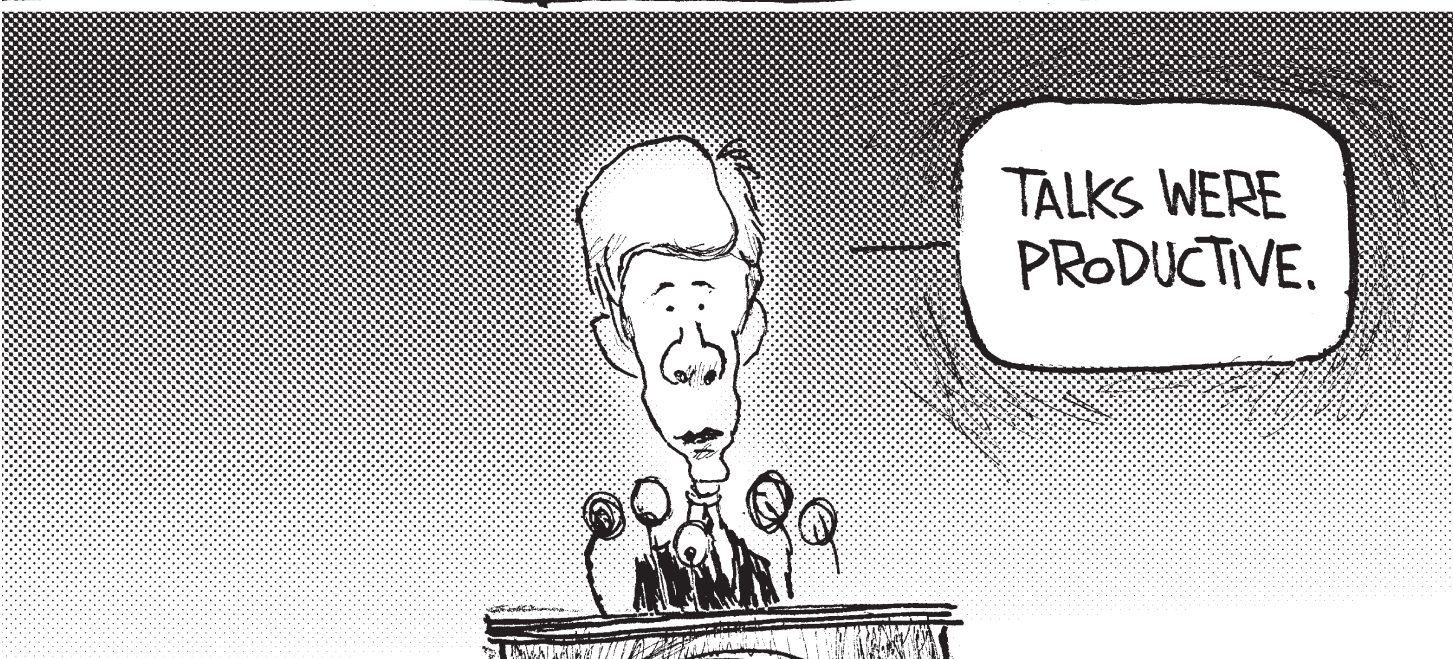
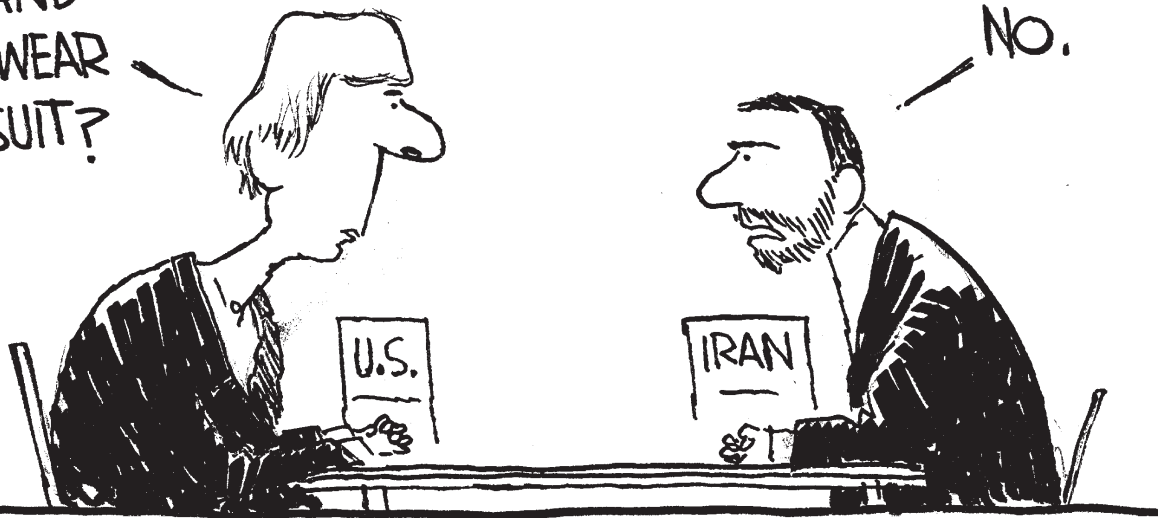
There will be some exceptions, of course. No doubt, he will get some votes from Latinos. In every community, there are some masochists.

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MIGUEL PEREZ

ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ME HOSTAGE AND MAKE ME WEAR A FUNNY SUIT?



Tulsa's famous buried Belvedere

It's one of those stories you just can't pass up. When I first heard about the 1957 Plymouth Belvedere that was buried in 1957 in Tulsa as part of Oklahoma's 50th year of statehood celebration (they called it Tulsarama), I became curious. Then when I heard it was going to be unearthed on June 15 of this year, I was chomping at the bit to get up there.

Imagine. A '57 Belvedere wrapped up in a hermetically sealed plastic cocoon and placed in a concrete vault with six-inch walls and buried on the courthouse lawn.

What an idea! The car sold for \$2,000 in 1957. I never did find out just why that particular make and model of vehicle was chosen as a symbol of the age.

About two days before the big dig, a friend of mine who currently resides in Tulsa, Bill Murchison, told me he would cover it for me. He did a fabulous job. He interviewed all sorts of

folks and got their opinions about the event. He sent me tapes of the interviews along with two copies of the *Tulsa World*.

When the car rose from its grave, crowds cheered. People paid good money to get a seat in bleachers that had been set up. Participants in an antique car show that was going on in Tulsa got special passes. Newspeople from all over the world were in Tulsa to report on the condition of the car.

Some people actually thought it could be driven away.

Boy, were they wrong. The thing was a mess. A big mess.

The concrete vault was full of water that had seeped in over the years. One person said the water might have come from a busted water main. One man, when he saw the car up close after it was hoisted out the ground, said, "It looks like it's been at the bottom of the ocean for 50 years." Mud was everywhere. The upholstery was gone and springs were showing through the seats. The door hinges were frozen. The tires were flat. It was a ghastly sight.

A time capsule that was buried with the car survived just fine. Contents inside it were dry. They

included 812 contest entries from people who guessed what the population of Tulsa would be in 2007. The winner got the car. The closest guess to Tulsa's current population of 384,743 was submitted by Raymond Humbertson, who guessed 382,457.

Tulsa's population in 1957 was 264,300. Raymond died in 1979 and his heirs will decide what to do with the car. Some people recommend it should be left as is and placed in a museum, since it is the only car buried for 50 years.

Some folks in Tulsa have burying cars on the brain. To celebrate Tulsa's 100th anniversary in 1998, a new Plymouth Prowler was entombed in an aboveground mausoleum in Centennial Park. It will be unveiled in 2048.

The Prowler was encased in a seamless plastic box especially manufactured in Tulsa. Officials drained all the fluids and replaced them with synthetics that won't degrade. The vault was filled with an inert gas to keep the exterior in good shape. The car's garage for 50 years was sealed and covered with dirt.

Officials expect the Prowler to be in much better shape than the Belvedere.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Why not check this out? At the library

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows”

by J.K. Rowling has been received by the library in both print and audio form. In a review from Amazon.com, it is a spectacular finish to a phenomenal series and will be a bitter-sweet read for fans. The journey is hard, filled with events both tragic and triumphant, the battlefield littered with the bodies of the dearest and despised, but the final chapter is as brilliant and blinding as a phoenix's flame, and fans and skeptics alike will emerge from confines of the story with full but heavy hearts, giddy and grateful for the experience.

Non-fiction

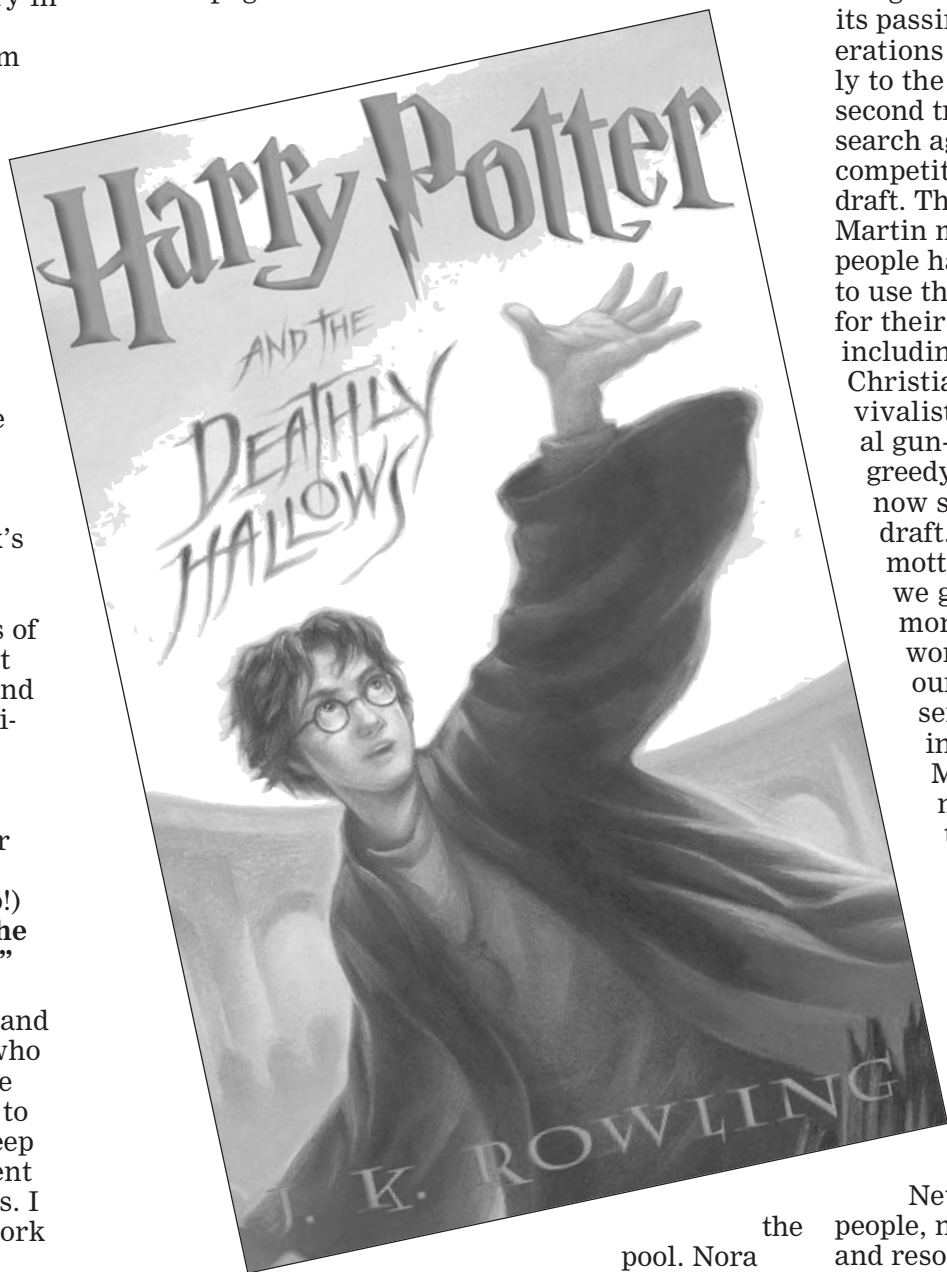
Concerned that your child is not getting enough rest? (You too!) We have received “**The Sleep Easy Solution**” (649.6 WAL J) by Jennifer Waldburger and Jill Spivak. Parents who are exhausted because their child cannot go to sleep and remain asleep will find some excellent advice and techniques. I wonder — would it work on adults?

From an article that was published in O Magazine, Janine Latus writes of her younger sister's murder at the hands of her boyfriend. At age 37, Amy was strangled, bundled in a plastic tarp and buried beside a remote country road. It was a wretched end to a too-short life, one frequently marked by disappointment, sadness and struggle. Amy's story is a glimpse into the life of one abused woman, representative of thousands like it. “**If I Am Missing or Dead**” (362.829 LAT J) is part memoir, part biography. The book explores Latus's own relationships with abusive men and her eventual emancipation from a

marriage marked by both emotional and physical violence. Unforgettable, unsentimental and profoundly affecting, Latus' book resonates long after the final page is turned.

killer with an agenda for murder — and his family and friends are among the scheduled victims.

Here is some fluff to read by



chronicles the loss and recovery of the document at the time of the constitutional convention, where young Will Pike attends Massachusetts delegate Rufus King, and its passing through generations of the Pike family to the present. The second traces Fallon's search against deadly competition to find the draft. Throughout, Martin makes clear that people have always tried to use the Constitution for their own purposes, including right-wing Christian fanatics, survivalist gun nuts, liberal gun-banners and greedy entrepreneurs now seeking the lost draft. The Pike family motto: “In America, we get up in the morning, we go to work, and we solve our problems,” serves as a unifying theme, and Martin also makes clear that the Constitution — drafts and all — was intended as a unifying agent. This is a good mystery, a better examination of constitutional issues and a superb paean to

New England, its people, natural beauty and resources. The library has Martin's first two novels: “Back Bay” and “Harvard Yard.”

New mysteries just in: “**Whistling in the Dark**” by Lesley Kagen and “**Dancing in the Dark**” by Mary Jane Clark — and, while I think I have already written about David Baldacci's “**Simple Genius**,” we now have a fourth copy in.

Fiction

Paulette Jiles, the woman who wrote “**Enemy Women**,” a novel about the Civil War and its effect on women, has just published “**Stormy Weather**.” It celebrates four strong women toughing out the Great Depression in the Texas dust bowl.

“**The Death List**” by Paul Johnson sounds pretty good. Writer's block is nothing compared to the sinister assignment London-based novelist Matt Wells has just received. A chain of seemingly innocent e-mails from a devoted fan turns deadly when Matt discovers the correspondent is a cold-blooded

pool. Nora Roberts' “**Summer Pleasures**” contains two classic novels “**Second Nature**” and “**One Summer**.” Jessica Morrison has written “**The Buenos Aires Broken Hearts Club**” and Zoey Dean's “**How to Teach Filthy Rich Girls**” is the classic broke student story. All three shouldn't tax your brain very much.

“**The Lost Constitution**.” William Martin's main character is Peter Fallon, a rare book expert. In Martin's third book featuring Fallon, an annotated copy of the Constitution of the United States has surfaced. Taken from a Booklist review: Martin tells two stories. The first

A Lucius Davenport mystery by John Sandford is in. “**Invisible Prey**” is a chilling story of seemingly very different robberies/murders. Minneapolis is a cold place to die.

In another review from Booklist, displaying an enviable gift for pacing and action, Brett Battles's debut novel “**The Cleaner**” is a page-turner that may remind some readers of the cult TV spy series Alias. Ex-cop Jonathan Quinn now works for a shadowy U.S. intelligence agency known merely as the Office, erasing all traces of violence and mayhem when an operation goes south.

During an apparently routine assignment to

look into a fatal fire that claimed the life of Robert Taggart, a viral biologist, in his Colorado home, Quinn finds evidence that Taggart was murdered. That discovery is followed by an attempt on Quinn's own life. While Quinn survives, he learns that the Office's top operatives have been killed in near-simultaneous attacks. Quinn heads to Europe to track down the mastermind behind the scheme. Admirers of quality espionage fiction can look forward to a new series worth following.

Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and is closed Saturdays during July and August. The Internet/Video room closes 12 hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

—Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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► News in brief



Tim Dominick/The State/MCT

President George W. Bush, visiting airmen at Charleston AFB in Charleston, S.C., Tuesday is escorted by Col. John "Red" Millander, USAF Commander, 437th Airlift Wing (left) and Col. Mark Bauknight, USAF Acting Commander, 315th Airlift Wing.

Arab League delegation begins historic visit to Israel to formally present peace plan

JERUSALEM (AP) — The foreign ministers of Egypt and Jordan began a historic visit to Israel on Wednesday to formally present an Arab peace plan, saying they were extending "a hand of peace" on behalf of the region.

The ministers arrived as representatives of the Arab League, the first time the 22-member group has sent a delegation to the Jewish state. The Arab League peace plan envisions full recognition of Israel in return for evacuation of lands captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

"We are extending a hand of peace on behalf of the whole region to you, and we hope that we will be able to create the momentum needed to resume fruitful and productive negotiations" between Israel and the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world, Jordan's foreign minister, Abdul-Ilah Khatib, said at a news conference with Israeli President Shimon Peres.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit urged Israel consider the Arab plan seriously. "We hope that upon our return, we would also convey to the Arab League ... the responses of Israel and I hope that such responses will be positive," he said.

Taliban spokesman says militants to kill 'a few' South Korean hostages

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A purported Taliban spokesman said Wednesday that negotiations for the lives of 23 South Korean hostages have stalled and that the militants planned to kill "a few" of the captives immediately.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the militants, said the Afghan government hadn't responded to any of its demands and that between 11:30 a.m. (3 a.m. EDT) and 2 p.m. (5:30 a.m. EDT) the militants would kill "a few" of the hostages.

"The Taliban have lost their patience with it all so they will be killed ... because a lot of time has passed since the deadline and there has been no response," Ahmadi told The Associated Press by satellite phone. "The Taliban takes no responsibility for the killing."

Though some of Ahmadi's statements turn out to be true, he also has made repeated false claims, calling into question the reliability of his information.

Rocket fire from suspected militants kills 10 in northwestern Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Suspected militants fired four rockets into a city in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing 10 people as they slammed into houses and a mosque, police said.

The rocket attack hit Bannu, a troubled city in North West Frontier Province, at about 2 a.m., said Khwaja Mohammed, a city police official. He described the attack as "terrorist activity." But he said it was too early to say more about who was behind it.

Police said 10 civilians were killed and that seven police officers were among 40 others wounded.

A confrontation between Islamic militants and the U.S.-backed government of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has escalated this month after a bloody raid on a radical mosque in the capital, Islamabad, and the redeployment of the army to North Waziristan, the tribal region closest to Bannu.

A key Taliban leader killed himself with a hand grenade on Tuesday to avoid capture — one of more than 300 people who have died in the violence across the country this month.

Airport security officers alerted to possibility of terrorists conducting dry runs for attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Airport security officers around the nation have been alerted by federal officials to look out for terrorists practicing to carry explosive components onto aircraft, based on four curious seizures at airports since last September.

The unclassified alert was distributed on July 20 by

the Transportation Security Administration to federal air marshals, its own transportation security officers and other law enforcement agencies.

The seizures at airports in San Diego, Milwaukee, Houston and Baltimore included "wires, switches, pipes or tubes, cell phone components and dense clay-like substances," including block cheese, the bulletin said. "The unusual nature and increase in number of these improvised items raise concern."

Security officers were urged to keep an eye out for "ordinary items that look like improvised explosive device components."

House Democrats ready contempt of Congress citations against presidential aides

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heading toward a separation-of-powers showdown, House Democrats prepared contempt of Congress citations against two White House aides who have refused to comply with subpoenas for information on the abrupt firings of federal prosecutors.

The White House has said that Chief of Staff Josh Bolten and former legal counselor Harriet Miers, among other top advisers to President Bush, are absolutely immune from subpoenas because their documents and testimony are protected by executive privilege.

House Judiciary Committee Democrats, led by Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., reject that claim and have drafted for a vote Wednesday a resolution citing Miers and Bolten with contempt of Congress, a federal misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$100,000 fine and a one-year prison sentence.

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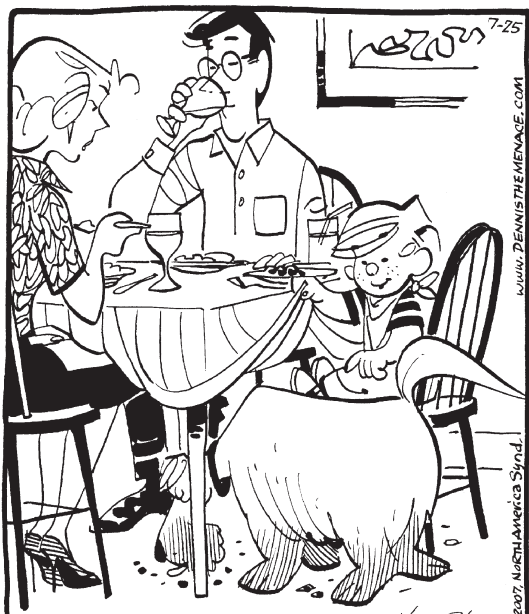
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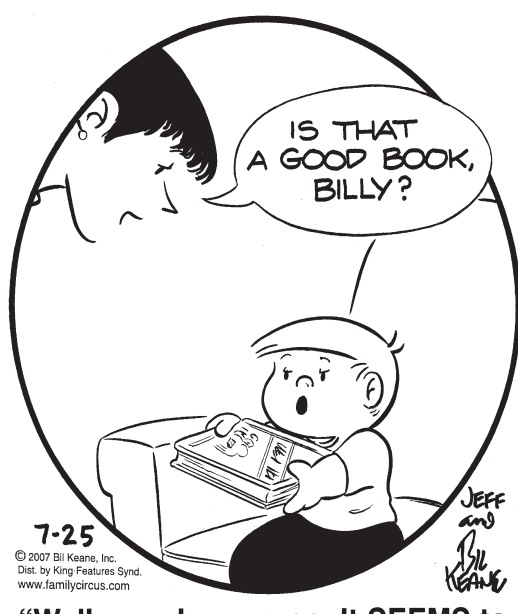
	WFDA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Swallow John Hagee	News- Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made	Movie: GoodFellas	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han, Montana The Suite Life	PBA Bowling	Football Live (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7:PM :30	Next Best Thing	Next Best Thing	Amar sin Limites	So You Think You Can	King King	Madre Luna	Outrageous Outrageous	Family Guy Family Guy	Update/Israel Curt Landry	Hairworld: Pur- suit-Excellence	Really Big Things	"	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Next Friday (CC)	An Extremely Goofy Movie	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be	ESPN Ultimate NASCAR	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8:PM :30	American Inventor (CC)	American Inventor (CC)	Destilando Amor	Dance (CC) Don't Forget	Criminal Minds (CC)	La Esclava Isaura	Last Comic Standing	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	American Masters (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	"	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	"	Replacements	Announced (CC)	ESPN Ultimate NASCAR	Movie: Ghost Adventures
9:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	at San Francisco	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Mad Men	"	Heartland (CC)	Take the Cake Life Derek	The Suite Life Han, Montana	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Village of the Damned (CC)
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Bus.-Timbriche Hora de-Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	IAI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night-	Giants (CC)	CCM Ministries Charles Scott	Sign Off	Really Big Things	Movie: GoodFellas	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Las Vegas (CC)	The Five Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now (CC)	Baseball NFL Live	"
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Basco	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Movie: The Running Man	Update/Israel Del Sanchez	"	MythBusters (CC)	"	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



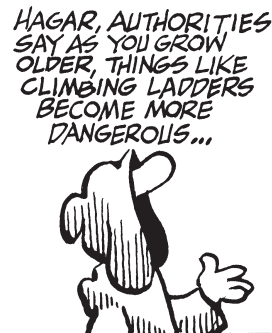
"RUFF LIKES THE 'LEFTUNDERS.'"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

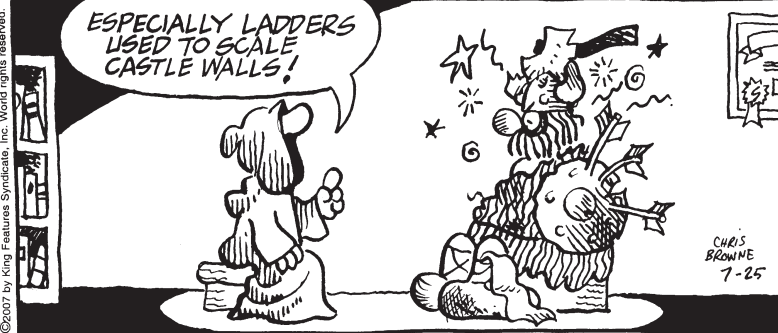


"Well, yes. I guess so. It SEEMS to be well-made."

HAGAR

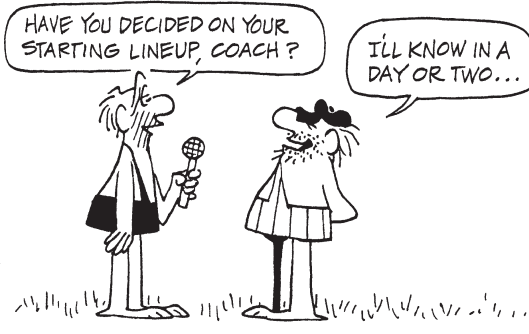


HAGAR, AUTHORITIES SAY AS YOU GROW OLDER, THINGS LIKE CLIMBING LADDERS BECOME MORE DANGEROUS...

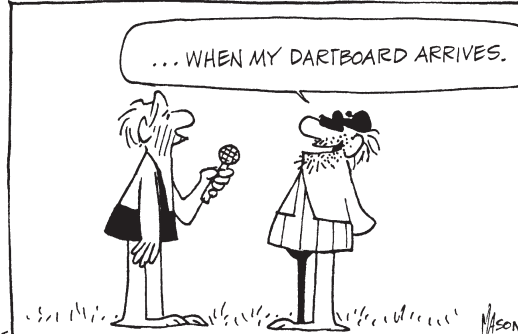


ESPECIALLY LADDERS USED TO SCALE CASTLE WALLS!

BC



HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR STARTING LINEUP, COACH? I'LL KNOW IN A DAY OR TWO...



... WHEN MY DARTBOARD ARRIVES.

WIZARD OF ID

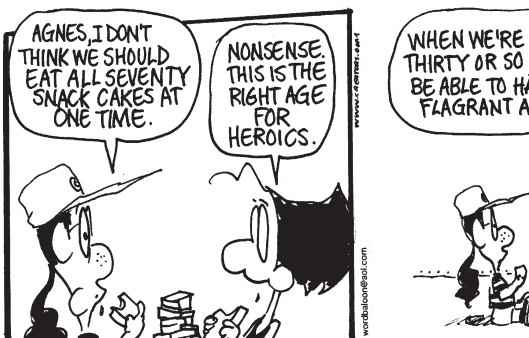


I HAVE A BAGPIPE PLAYER COMING THIS EVENING

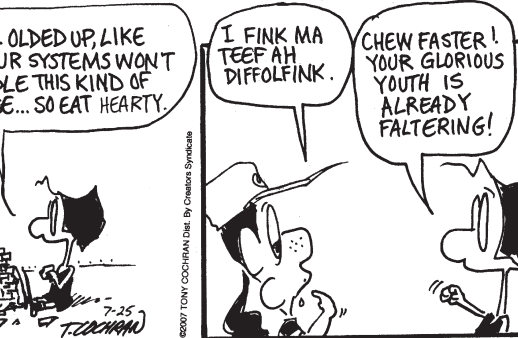


DOES HE TAKE REQUESTS? YES, BUT HE KEEPS PLAYING ANYWAY

AGNES

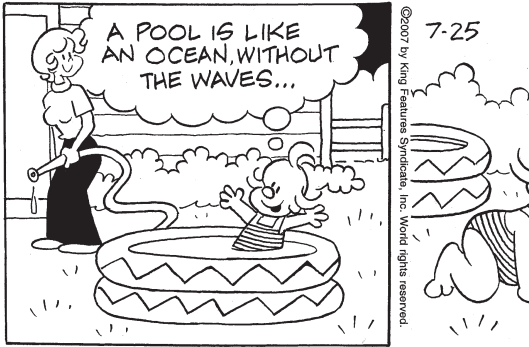


AGNES, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD EAT ALL SEVENTY SNACK CAKES AT ONE TIME. NONSENSE, THIS IS THE RIGHT AGE FOR HEROICS.

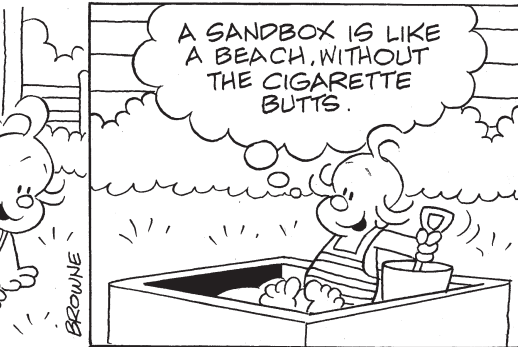


WHEN WE'RE ALL OILED UP, LIKE THIRTY OR SO, OUR SYSTEMS WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS KIND OF FLAGRANT ABUSE... SO EAT HEARTY. I FINK MA TEEF AH DIFOLFINK. CHEW FASTER! YOUR GLORIOUS YOUTH IS ALREADY FALTERING!

HI AND LOIS



A POOL IS LIKE AN OCEAN, WITHOUT THE WAVES...



A SANDBOX IS LIKE A BEACH, WITHOUT THE CIGARETTE BUTTS.

THE OTHER COAST



HMM, I SUSPECT THESE ARE DRUG-ADDED FISH FROM A FOREIGN FISH FARM...



GEE, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT? I CAN SEE NEEDLE MARKS ON ITS FINS. HEY, AT LEAST IT WASN'T BREAKING INTO YOUR CAR TO SUPPORT ITS HABIT.

SNUFFY SMITH



OUR 'DAILY EXPENSES' ARE GITTIN' OUTTA HAND, PAW !! WELL, DON'T LOOK AT ME !!



I ONLY PLAY CARDS AT NIGHT !!

BEETLE BAILEY

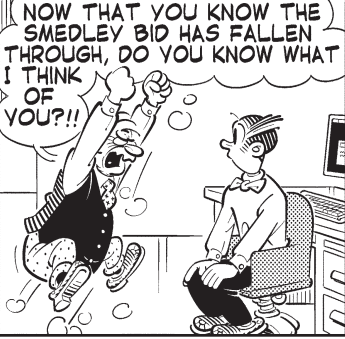


I CAN'T COME IN TODAY, SIR, I'M WAITING FOR THE REPAIRMAN

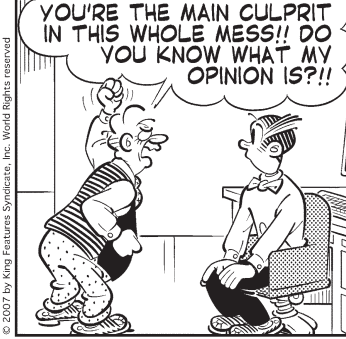


THERE'S A LEAK IN MY PLUMBING AND A MISSING PART ON MY HEATING THINGY

BLONDIE



NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE SHEDLEY BID HAS FALLEN THROUGH, DO YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF YOU?!!



YOU'RE THE MAIN GUILPIT IN THIS WHOLE MESS!! DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY OPINION IS?!!



GIVE ME A HINT

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 25, the 206th day of 2007. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 25, 1956, the Italian liner Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; at least 51 people were killed. (The Andrea Doria sank the following day, eleven hours after the crash.)

On this date: In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1868, Congress passed an act creating the Wyoming Territory.

In 1943, Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by Victor Emmanuel III, and placed under arrest.

(However, Mussolini was later rescued by the Nazis, and reasserted his authority.)

In 1946, the U.S. detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first underwater test of the device.

In 1952, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the U.S.

In 1957, Tunisia became a republic.

In 1963, the U.S., Soviet Union and Britain initialed a treaty in Moscow prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in space or underwater.

In 1987, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige died of internal injuries he'd sustained while participating in a rodeo. (He was succeeded by C. William Verity.)

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration at the White House ending their countries' 46-year-old formal state of war.

In 2000, a New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris short-

ly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Estelle Getty is 84. Actress Barbara Harris is 72. Rock musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 56. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 52. Model-actress Iman is 52. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 50. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 49. Actress-singer Bobbie Eakes is 46. Actress Ileana Douglas is 42. Country singer Marty Brown is 42. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 40.

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Answers to previous puzzle

GOALS	ALTO	CHAP
IDLES	SIRE	LECH
LEANTO	STARBOARD	
ASST	PEEN	ISLES
	ATTN	CODE
CHILI	THEM	SHOT
AIR	MITE	APIECE
SKATED	ON	THINICE
TENURE	COAL	SUN
ERIN	AHEM	ENTRY
	ARLO	AIDE
SHAME	RATS	ACME
COMES	IN	FORATRIM
OPAL	MERE	SLANT
WENT	PROS	HYMNS

Newsday Crossword

B-TO-B DIRECTORY by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Armada members | 1 Picket-line crosser |
| 6 Goblet part | 2 Luau dance |
| 10 Thin nail | 3 Mineral in spinach |
| 14 Radioactivity researcher | 4 Ale serving |
| 15 Miner's bonanza | 5 "Now, look . . ." |
| 16 Move out of town, in real-estate slang | 6 Bacon hunks |
| 17 Without a date | 7 Hoo-ha |
| 18 Eden figure | 8 Red-coated cheese |
| 19 Enthralled by slogan | 9 Dues payer |
| 20 Anti-nuke slogan | 10 Card players' group |
| 22 Letter starter | 11 Actress Zellweger |
| 23 Pothook shape | 12 Rite place |
| 24 Landscaping tools | 13 Means of access |
| 26 Tonal quality | 21 Language suffix |
| 30 "Gay" city | 25 ___ Moines, IA |
| 32 Rock guitarist Van Halen | 26 Deck wood |
| 33 Coop brooder | 27 Twiddling one's thumbs |
| 34 Deep-six | 28 Gds. |
| 38 And | 29 High-school class |
| 39 Social bug | 30 Canterbury coins |
| 40 Celeb's wheels | 31 Chip in |
| 41 Faints, with "over" | 33 Salon sweepings |
| 43 Sew up | 35 Depend (on) |
| 44 Henry VIII's house | |
| 45 Chicago hub | |
| 47 Rules of Order guy | |
| 48 Play producer | |
| 51 Indy entrant | |
| 52 Redcoat supporter | |
| 53 Tidbit for a bird | |
| 60 Illegally off base | |
| 61 Galley tools | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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Condemned killer executed for slaying 2 teenagers

By **MICHAEL GRACZYK**
Associated Press Writer
HUNTSVILLE

Convicted murderer Lonnie Earl Johnson was executed Tuesday evening for the fatal shootings of two Harris County teenagers 17 years ago.

Johnson expressed love to a friend. "It's been a joy and a blessing. Give everybody my regards. I love you and I'll see you in eternity," he said in a brief final statement. "Father, take me home. I'm gone, baby. I'm ready to go."

Johnson never looked at six relatives of the victims, including the mothers of Sean Fulk Schulz, 16, and his friend Leroy McCaffrey Jr., 17.

He was pronounced dead at 6:44 p.m. CDT, eight minutes after the lethal drugs began to flow.

Johnson, 44, didn't deny killing Schulz and McCaffrey and taking their pickup truck, but had insisted the slayings were in self-defense after the pair pulled a gun and made racial threats against him. Johnson is black, his two victims white.

The execution was the 19th this year in Texas, the nation's most active death penalty state.

Lawyers for Johnson

went to the federal courts to halt the punishment, contending prosecutors withheld evidence favorable to him. Harris County prosecutors and state lawyers denied the allegations.

After a brief delay beyond the 6 p.m. CDT scheduled execution time, the U.S. Supreme Court denied his appeals, clearing the way for the lethal injection.

"What I got wasn't justice," Johnson told The Associated Press from death row last week. "I feel like I was betrayed. I feel like I was sold out. They threw me to the wolves."

Johnson contended the teens offered him a ride home from a convenience store in Tomball in northwest Harris County and he accepted. During the ride, Johnson said they pulled a gun on him and when he wrestled with the pair to grab the weapon, they were shot.

The bodies of McCaffrey, known as "Punkin," and Schulz, known to his family and friends as "Bubba," were spotted the next morning by a motorist. Johnson acknowledged taking their pickup truck and driving to Austin to see his girlfriend, who worked at a topless club. He traded the gun to buy some drugs, he said.

News in brief

Study: Texas leads nation in teen pregnancy

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas had the nation's highest birth rate among teenagers ages 15 to 19 in 2004, according to a newly released study of children's health.

The Kids Count study, which is updated annually by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, said the Texas rate of 63 births per 1,000 teens remained the same from 2003 to 2004.

Texas tied New Mexico and Mississippi for the top spot in 2003, but both of those states saw their rates decline in 2004. The average rate nationally was 41 births per 1,000 teens in 2004.

Condemned killer of 11-year-old loses mental retardation appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected arguments that a North Texas man condemned for killing the 11-year-old daughter of his ex-girlfriend is mentally retarded, moving him a step closer to execution.

Bobby Wayne Woods, of Granbury, about 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth, was convicted and sentenced to die for the April 1997 slaying of Sarah Patterson. The girl and her 9-year-old brother were abducted from their home. She was killed when her throat was slashed. Her brother, Cody, was choked into uncon-

sciousness but survived.

Woods argued he was mentally retarded, and ineligible for execution under U.S. Supreme Court standards. The claims, however, were rejected by a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans in a ruling released late Monday.

Environmental groups sue TCEQ over air permit

DALLAS (AP) — Opponents of a coal-fired power station TXU Corp. plans to build in Central Texas have sued state environmental regulators who approved an air permit for the plant last month.

Claiming the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality violated state health laws in granting the permit, a coalition of city leaders is asking a state district judge to reverse the decision that angered environmentalists and local residents.

The TCEQ voted 2-to-1 in June to approve the air permit for the two-unit plant in Robertson County, which TXU says is needed to meet future energy demand.

The Central Texas Clean Air Coalition filed the suit Friday in Travis County. A similar lawsuit was filed the same day by the Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition, which claims that the TCEQ "committed numerous errors of laws and facts" in its decision.

TCEQ spokeswoman Andrea Morrow said she had not seen the lawsuits and could not comment.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

A trip of a lifetime

What started out as an invitation to take a WWII veteran to see the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., has turned into a calling of a lifetime for former U.S. Air Force captain Earl Morse. Plus, NASCAR artist Sam Bass and bean and corn salad.

American Profile

Bob Brock Bold Moves

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