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Cowboy enjoys being middle man



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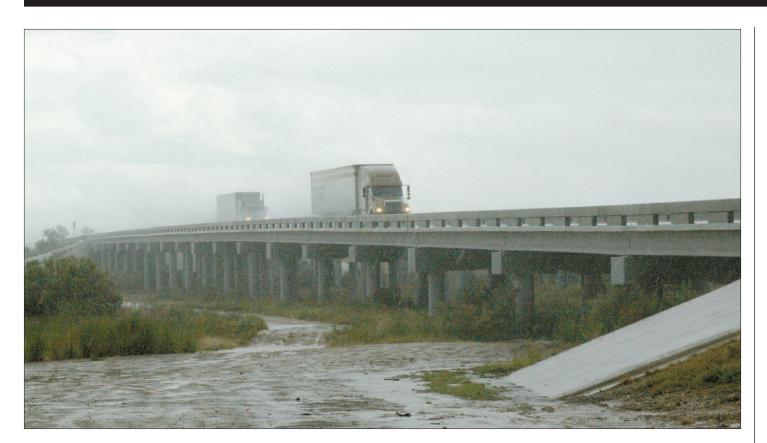
BIG SPRING -FRA

FRIDAY

AUGUST 3, 2007



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Motorists make their way across this bridge, located in northwest Big Spring on Interstate Highway 20. Local TxDOT officials say Texas bridges are inspected annually to prevent tragedies similar to the one in Minnesota that has already claimed five lives.

Bridges safe, TxDOT says

I-20 structure inspected on regular basis

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As rescue workers continue to search for bodies amid the rubble of a collapsed bridge in Minneapolis, state roadway officials say the chance of a similar tragedy in "very slim."

According to reports, the eightlane Interstate 35 West bridge, a



artery, was in the middle of repairs when it buckled during the than 60 feet into the Mississippi River, some

Minneapolis

falling on top one of another. A school bus sat on the angled concrete.

According to Roy Dill, the Big Spring engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, the bridge located west of Big Spring evening rush hour on Interstate Highway 20 is Wednesday. Dozens of inspected regularly by state officars plummeted more cials to avoid the same type of tragedy.

"That bridge is inspected annually," said Dill. "We go in and look

See BRIDGE, Page 3A

3 districts earn high **TEA** rating

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Three area school districts received superlative rankings when the Texas Education Agency released its latest accountability ratings this week.

Glasscock County, Sands and Grady school districts and campuses all received "recognized" ratings, the next to highest ranking, from TEA. All other districts in the area were rated as "academically acceptable."

Districts are rated as recognized if at least 75 percent of its students in all socio-economic groups passed all sections of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test during the 2006-2007 school year.

Sands CISD Superintendent Wayne Blount said his district just missed out on being rated "exemplary" — the highest rating given to districts where at least 90

"We shoot for 'exemplary' here ... I don't want to say we're



disappointed with our rating. We're happy, but not satisfied, by any means."

pass all sections of the TAKS.

"We missed 'exemplary' by three points in science," Blount said. "We shoot for 'exemplary' here ... I don't want to say we're disappointed with our rating. We're happy, but not satisfied, by any means."

Unlike last year, no area campuses received an exemplary rating from

Big Spring ISD had two

percent of the students See RATING, Page 3A

College trustees tentatively OK modest tax hike

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College trustees received a mixed bag of financial news during their Thursday morning budget workshops.

Trustees learned that the district's tax rate will rise in the coming fiscal year, but not as much as originally feared. To

ever, hoped-for salary increases will take a big hit, and tuition and fee increases are on the horizon.

Like almost everyone else, the junior college district has been hit hard with rising utility costs — approximately \$300,000 in the past year alone - and that has officials scrambling to find the necessary funds with-

keep the tax rate in line, how- out throwing the budget out of per \$100 valuation, up from knock 3 cents off the maintebalance.

What evolved in Thursday's workshop was a budget that features a modest tax rate increase, smaller than anticipated salary increases for college employees and a freeze on new hiring in three areas.

College Vice President Terry Hansen presented trustees with a proposed tax rate of 28.9 cents

24.12 cents the previous year. That hike includes an 8-cent increase in debt service brought about by the recent passage of a \$21.6 million renovation and construction bond.

The news could have been worse on this front, however. Hansen noted that increases in property valuations within the district allowed officials to

nance and operation portion of the tax rate and still present a balanced budget.

Taxpayers will see a modest increase in the tax bills as a result of the new rate. Owners of medium-priced homes in Howard County will pay approximately \$20 more this

See HIKE, Page2A

Architectural firm hired to address key renovations at Howard College

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The time for Howard College's makeover is getting

During a special Thursday meeting, college trustees tentatively approved the hiring of the architectural consulting firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper to oversee a \$21.6 million renovation of the Big Spring campus.

A contract between PSC and

the college must be finalized, assuming that goes smoothly, actual renovation work is only a few months away, officials said.

And, given the constantly rising cost of construction material, time is very much of the essence.

"We are going to be very diligent in expediting this process as soon as possible," College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said. "But it will be a balancing act. The faster the repairs See COLLEGE, Page 2A



go, the more disruption there will be." Among items covered by the bond will be an almost complete overhaul of the campus' plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning sys-

tems. Repairing those systems will require a lot of advance planning, Sparks said.

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Tony Booth to play Saturday at the Stampede, See Page 3A

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Sports

SPRING HERALD

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

> Page 1B Friday, August 3, 2007

IN BRIEF

Physicals required for some athletes

Big Spring 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.

Steers season ticket public sales set

Big Spring High School will make 2007 Steer football season ticket available to the general public starting Wednesday. Potential buyers will have until Aug. 22 to make their purchase.

Tickets can be bought at the Athletic Training Center Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

LULAC golf tourney for scholarship set

The League of United Latin American Citizens will host their First Annual LULAC Scholar-ship Tournament at Big Spring Country Club Aug. 11.

The event will benefit a scholarship fundraiser for local high school or junior college graduates seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree at a major university within the state.

The format is an 18hole 4-man scramble beginning at 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$75 per player and includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Registration is due by Aug. 10 with enrollment limited to the first 72 paid entrants.

For entry and sponsor information, contact Anthony Mendoza at 264-0026 or e-mail him at anthonymendoza03@ya hoo.com.

Country club to host over 80 golf tourney

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting an over 80 scramble tournament starting at 1 p.m. Aug. 18.

The format is a 2-person team with combined ages of the teammates required to equal 80 or higher.

The tournament is to benefit the Big Spring Shrine Club and will conclude Aug. 19.

Entry fee is \$60 and includes barbecue on the course Saturday and Sunday. An additional golf cart fee is optional. Private carts are wel-

The field will be flighted by first round score with the number of flights to be determined the number entries.

Call the pro shop at 267-5354 for more information.

Westbrook shuts out Rangers, 5-0

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND Jake Westbrook figured he'd get his second win sooner or later. The Cleveland Indians were beginning to wonder when they'd get their next one.

Westbrook ended the longest winless stretch of his career just in time for the sputtering Indians, who stopped a seasonhigh, four-game losing skid with a 5-0 victory over the Texas Rangers on Thursday.

Westbrook (2-6) picked up his

first victory since April 27-a Cleveland, which went just 3-7 on \bar{a} ager Eric Wedge said. "Maybe he span of nine starts — by allowing five hits in six innings. The right-hander, who signed a \$33 million, three-year contract extension in April, spent nearly six weeks on the disabled list with a strained side muscle.

"That's the way I expect myself to pitch," Westbrook said. "I felt strong in my previous starts, but things just didn't work out."

Grady Sizemore celebrated his 25th birthday by driving in two runs against Kason Gabbard (4-1) and 40-year-old Kenny Lofton beat out an infield RBI single for

a 10-game homestand.

Fortunately for the Indians, their slide coincided with one by the first-place Detroit. The Tigers, who lead Cleveland by one-half game in the AL Central, have dropped 10 of 14.

"It's better that it happened at this time and not late in September," Lofton said.

Normally Cleveland's center fielder, Sizemore made his second career start at designated hitter. And as usual, he was at the center of the action.

"He stepped up," Indians man-

felt like he had to do a little more because he wasn't in center."

Victor Martinez homered for the Indians, who are scheduled to open a four-game series in Minnesota on Friday.

The Indians open a four-game series Friday night at Minnesota. The Twins' game on Thursday against Kansas City was postponed after the collapse of the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery located near the Metrodome.

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Ferguson enjoys being in the thick of things



MCT photo/Jeffery Washington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys' Jason Ferguson stops Atlanta Falcons' Warrick Dunn Dec. 16, 2006 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

TIM

DAHLBERG

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — For a guy whose job entails being constantly stepped on or crushed in the middle of a mass of other huge bodies, Dallas Cowboys nose tackle Jason Ferguson has quite a boisterous spirit.

Ferguson isn't one of those grumpy defenders who is always in the trenches and goes mostly unnoticed. Not with his hearty laughs and lively chats on and off the field.

"I'm trying to stay upbeat with all the guys and just have fun,' Ferguson said.

"He's a nose guard type as far as how he plays," coach Wade Phillips said. "His demeanor is a little bit different. He's more of a happy-go-lucky type. ... The most important thing is how they do their job, and he seems to be doing it well."

6-foot-3, The 312-pound Ferguson is the most experienced player on the Cowboys defense. Ferguson, who's going into his 11th NFL season, was brought to Dallas two years ago by former coach Bill Parcells to help the team's transition from a 4-3 to 3-4 defense.

While Phillips has a different approach in his use of the threeman front, Ferguson is still a leader and a key component for the Cowboys.

Phillips describes Ferguson, whose 64 tackles last season were the most for a Dallas defensive lineman, as a smart player who can recognize different formations and adjust with different techniques.

"We're able to do a lot of things with him that we wouldn't with some others," Phillips said.

Plus, Ferguson has the respect of his teammates, who follow his lead.

"There are so many different ways I could describe Ferg," defensive end Chris Canty said. "Most of all, Ferg lets us know that you kid around when it's time to kid around, but when it's time to come into work, we work. There's a time for work and there is a time for play and he kind of keeps us on that delicate balance."

Ferguson was one of the "Parcells guys," a former player who reunited with the coach in Dallas. Ferguson spent eight seasons with the New York Jets, who drafted him in the seventh round of the 1997 draft when Parcells was the coach.

With the demanding Parcells retired from coaching, Ferguson gets to play for the also defensive-minded Phillips, who is constantly described as a more laidback coach.

"This is still camp. I haven't seen that side that everybody keeps telling me about," Ferguson said with one of his laughs. "He's a good dude. Coach Wade is different. He will talk to you as a man and point you in a good direction."

Since missing the entire 2001 season because of rotator cuff surgery, the 32-year-old Ferguson hasn't missed a game — and has had some of his best seasons. The 64 tackles were the thirdhighest total in his career. And he's still having fun.

"That's just the way I am. I just don't try to be too crazy," Ferguson said. "Bill kind of got me on that fine line — you can have fun, but don't be disruptive. That's pretty much how I try to

Ferguson has found the perfect balance — in the middle of the Cowboys defensive line.

Extra points: Owner Jerry Jones said this week that it will be OK if the Cowboys don't sign quarterback Tony Romo to a new contract during the season. Romo said Thursday that he agrees. "I'm fine with it. I mean, it's probably in their best interest. I'm a young guy and only played 10 games," Romo said.

Two sluggers struggle to get landmark home runs

Barry Bonds strolled into the clubhouse late and

in no hurry to get dressed. First he had to glance up at the TV to see if Alex Rodriguez had hit home run No. 500. The pair of slug-

gers were on different coasts Thursday, each struggling to reach historic numbers. And

what a struggle it has become. A-Rod couldn't stop hitting home runs in April, but can't seem to get the big one he needs now. Bonds has had an even harder time going after an even bigger number in his chase of one of the greatest records in

"I think the enormity of the moment is certainly on his mind," Giants batting coach Joe Lefebvre said. "It's a huge moment. How many guys can you say have ever been at this point in their career?"

That would be one, two if you count Aaron's home run off Al Downing 33 years ago that got him past the Babe and into the record book for what seemed, at the time, would be forever. The 500 club is a lot more

crowded, with 21 players already inducted and one sitting only one swing away. But A-Rod would become the youngest member yet at the age of 32, and it seems like the enormity of the moment has been weighing on him, too.

Rodriguez managed to get two hits in the Yankees' 13-9 loss to the White Sox, but in a series where balls were flying out of Yankee Stadium in all directions, he didn't come close to adding to the total.

At least he got some hits. A-Rod had gone 22 at-bats before a second inning single broke the longest hitless drought of his remarkable career.

"I didn't try to do too much," Rodriguez said. "Back to work tomorrow."

For Bonds it was back to work at Dodger Stadium, where he has endured more than his share of abuse over the years. Earlier in the day, the Dodgers held a steroid awareness clinic for about 100 Little Leaguers, with skinny center fielder Juan Pierre offering himself as proof

See **SLUGGERS**, Page 2B



MCT photo/Paul Kitagaki/Sacramento Bee

San Francisco Giants' slugger Barry Bonds breaks his bat in the fourth inning against the Florida Marlins Sunday at AT&T Park in San Francisco. Bonds is still searching for home run No. 755.

Obituaries

Mae Belle Rice



Mae Belle Rice, 100, of Sour Lake went home to be with her Lord Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007, at the Clairmont.

friday page 2a 8/3/07 10:58 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

A native of Pixlee, Oklahoma Territory and a resident of the Beaumont area since 1987, Mae Belle was a retired registered nurse. She attended Bevil Oaks Baptist Church.

Mae Belle is preceded in death by her husband, John Franklin Rice.

She is survived by her son, Charles Rice and his wife, Barbara, of Sour Lake; daughter, Phoebe Tatum and her husband, Gail, of Easley, S.C; grandsons, John Rice and his wife, Wendy, of Lumberton, Scott Tatum and his wife, Trisha, of Greenville, Mich., and Mark Tatum of Shreveport, La.; granddaughter, Tammy Hennigan and husband, Van, of Frisco; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Ruby Ione Bidwell of Farmington, N.M.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring, under the direction of Broussard's, 1605 North Major Drive, Beaumont. A gathering of family and friends will be Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, from 10 a.m. until noon at the mortuary.

Complete and updated information may be viewed at www.broussardsmortuary.com

Paid obituary

Gabriel 'C.G.' Talamantez



Gabriel "C.G." Talamantez, 29, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007, in Midland. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Nov.28, 1977, in Big Spring to Christy and Guy Talamantez

Sr. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1997. He worked for Kelly Grimsley Auto Group in Odessa. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring, except for the last five years when he was a resident of Midland.

He is survived by his son, Izac X. "Gebo" Talamantez of Pflugerville; mother, Christy Vela Talamantez of Big Spring; one brother, Guy C. Talamantez Jr. of Big Spring; grandmothers, Pascuala Vela and Patsy Cavazos, both of Big Spring; greatgrandmother, Dora Hernandez of Big Spring; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Guy Talamantez Sr., and both grandfathers, Eugene M. Vela and Paul Reyna Talamantez Sr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Francis 'Smokey' Jaird

Francis "Smokey" Jaird, 72, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 31, 2007, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services will be held in Vermont at a later

Smokey was born Aug. 19, 1934, in Mt. Holly, Vt., and had worked in the oilfields. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters-inlaw, Michael and Alisa Jaird of Big Spring, Matthew and Cynthia Jaird of Lake Dallas and Patrick Jaird of St. Albans, Vt.; two granddaughters; one sister, Margaret Jaird of Ludlow, Vt.; two aunts; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Ricardo Beltran

Ricardo Beltran, 77, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Wilma Pruitt

Wilma Pruitt, 67, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

- A FAREWELL-WELCOME RECEPTION will be held from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday at the Hangar 25 Air Museum for outgoing administrator Heather Wallace and new administrator Meghan Bias. Refreshments will be served.
- ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES ORDERS WILL BE **TAKEN** until 6 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday and again Friday and Saturday, Aug. 10-11 at the North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 North Birdwell Lane. For more information, call 267-2203.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m.

- SALOME RIOS, 32, of 2507 Albrook, was arrested Thursday on a charge of assault Class C/family vio-
- AMY GENEANNE SCHELL, 27, of 400 S. Moss Lake, was arrested Thursday on four local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- TAMMY HYER, 40, of 209 Sourdough in Coahoma, was arrested Thursday on a Taylor County warrant.
- **DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS**, 18, of 1309 Baylor, was arrested Thursday on a capias warrant and two local warrants.
- JASON CAHOON, 47, of 2806 Sherman, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BRIANNA GRAHAM, 27, of 1102 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SCOTT WHITLOW, 29, of 1407.5 Settles, was arrested Thursday on a Ward County warrant.
- MICHAEL SEAY, 28, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Thursday on three local warrants.
- RAYMOND DIAZ, 37, of 1101.5 Lancaster, was arrested Thursday on a charge of violation of a protective order.
- DANIEL HUERTA SANCHEZ, 38, no address given, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANTONIO CANTERO, 53, of 135 Irvin, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2500 block of Albrook.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported:
- in the 400 block of Gregg.
- in the 1300 block of State Park.
- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS was reported in the 1600 block of Lark.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED was reported in the 1600 block of F.M. 700.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Ridge Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Willia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Highway 176. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of
- Settles. Service was refused. • MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of
- Westover. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block E. 15th

Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Tuesday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-12-25-36. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$28,921.

Winning ticket sold in: Mineola.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 22-23-31-32. Bonus Ball: 5. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-1.

NOTICE

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COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

"Depending on the building and what must be done, there might be the need to move a class to another place temporarily," she said. "So a lot of the work on campus will have to be staged."

The project, from inception to completion, is expected to take three years, Sparks said.

"We hope to begin work on planning as soon as possible," she said.

In other business, trustees approved:

- The hiring of drama professor Kirk Davidson, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf instructor Patricia Medina and San Angelo campus instructor Janice Whipple.
- Bids for student identification machines at SWCID and a contractor to perform final renovation of the San Angelo campus.
- The budget for the Howard County Appraisal District.
- · Re-appointment of the college's deans and directors, administrative and professional staffs.

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

Continued from Page 1A

coming year, while owners of property valued at \$100,000 will see an increase of \$48 in their tax bills, Hansen said.

"We feel we were very cognizant of not increasing taxes more than we had to," Hansen said. "Our tax rate is only going to increase about 4.7 cents, so we're very pleased about that."

But the news was not all good, especially for college employees.

Trustees tentatively approved salary schedules that will provide a flat \$500 raise to most employees, although instructors and interpreters on 10- or 12month contracts will receive slightly more. Administrators will also receive modest pay raises.

These raises will leave Howard College employees at or near the bottom of the pay ladder compared to other junior colleges in the area, a situation that couldn't be avoided, officials said.

"I'm disappointed that we won't be able to raise salaries more," Board President John Freeman said. "We're already at the bottom of the totem pole in that regard. But we had to raise salaries while trying to keep the tax rate down, so we did what we had to do."

To further hold the financial line, the college will not fill vacancies in four positions — two in faculty, one in clerical and one in the athletic department for an undetermined time.

"Whether these positions stay frozen for short or

long periods of time depends on various factors," Hansen said. "If we're able to make cuts in some other areas of the budget in order to restore one or more of these positions, we'll do that.' Tuition and fees are likely to increase, although a final decision in that area won't be made until October

said, however, that Spring 2008 tuition will increase by at least \$2 per semester hour. That increase will not apply to area high school students taking concurrent courses through the college,

or November. College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks

she added. Public hearings on the proposed budget and tax rate will be held Aug. 13 and Aug. 17, Sparks said.

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

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call Alex at 264-6921 or 1-800 392-8677.



BIG SPRING

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Matthews honored with first ballot entry into Hall of Fame

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

Except for the occasional holding penalty that negates a big play, offensive linemen are the anonymous creatures on NFL teams. That makes Bruce Matthews' immediate election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame

somewhat remarkable. It can take years, even decades, for blockers to get noticed by the Hall voters. Not Matthews, whose versatility and reliability for 19 seasons made him an easy choice in his first year of eligibility.

On Saturday, the outstanding guard-tackle-center for the Houston Oilers and Tennessee Titans will join Thurman Thomas, Michael Irvin, Roger Wehrli, Charlie Sanders and Gene Hickerson in football's shrine. Matthews is the only inductee to make it on his first try this year.

"If you would've told me then that one day I'd play in the NFL and one day I'd make the Hall of Fame, I would've said you've got to be kidding," Matthews

said. And if you'd told Matthews or anyone else — that he would play every offensive line position, well, that would have seemed absurd. Yet Matthews did so, and excelled at all of

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In his 296 games, more than any full-time positional player in league history when he retired, Matthews spent 99 at left guard, 87 at center, 67 at right guard, 22 at right tackle and 17 at left tackle.

Nothing he did, including the skills and leadership he brought to the field, surpassed that unheard-of versatility. That's what most impresses Jeff Fisher, Matthews' teammate at Southern Cal and his coach for Matthews' final seven NFL seasons.

"More incredible in our business is the starts he had at each different position on the offensive line. That's incredible and to play at such a high level for

so many years," Fisher said. So while Irvin "the playmaker," and Thomas, the onetime MVP, get much of the airtime, the heaviest accolades go to Matthews.

"A lot of guys can't move around because mentally it's hard, especially to go from center to tackle," said former Matthews teammate Mike Munchak, himself a Canton inductee. "Not many guys in football can do that and also play center. Usually centerguard or guard-tackle, but not a

you, but if someone gets hurt can go to left tackle and finish the game."

Munchak will present Matthews on Saturday night.

"I don't think there'll be too many guys like him around again," Munchak said.

Hickerson is the other offen-

sive lineman going into the Hall. He and Sanders were chosen by the veterans committee. As a 248-pound guard — about 100 pounds lighter than some guards today — Hickerson

played 15 seasons for the Browns and Cleveland never had a losing record in that time. He made five straight All-Pro teams (1966-70) and was a lead blocker for Hall of Famers Jim Brown, Bobby Mitchell and Leroy Kelly. In 1964, he helped Cleveland to the NFL championship.

"Gene was the leader of a great line," Brown said, "and the greatest downfield blocker

in the history of pro football." Sanders was a standout blocking tight end who became a pass-catching threat, as well. He was a three-time All-Pro who made 30 or more receptions in a season seven times and had more than 500 yards receiving in six seasons in an

era when quarterbacks rarely

we ever faced," said Bears linebacker Dick Butkus, himself a Hall of Fame member. "He was big and had good speed and was a tough guy. He could make

some great catches." So could Irvin, who is the second member of Dallas' vaunted "Triplets" on offense to make the Hall, along with QB Troy Aikman. Running back Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader, will be a slam-dunk when he becomes eligible.

Irvin was the top receiver on three Super Bowl champions, and he made the league's All-1990s team. As a rookie in 1988, he led the league with a 20.4yard per catch average, and he had 11 100-yard receiving games in 1995, setting an NFL

record. Irvin had several off-field problems during his career and was voted into the Hall in his

third year of eligibility. "Mistakes will cost you. That's the reality," Irvin said. "You have to pay the price for your mistakes, but, also, don't give up. Keep going and try to overcome that. That's the reality, too. I like that it worked out

the way it worked out." Thomas was the 1991 league

known for his versatility. A "He was one of the best that superb runner with darting quickness and surprising power, he also was a terrific receiver. He helped Buffalo win four straight AFC titles, but no Super Bowl crowns.

"People can say what they want to say," Thomas said. "We put Buffalo on the map. Whether you want to label us as losers or winners or what have you, there have been a lot of other teams that have never been to the Super Bowl."

One of only three Hall of Fame running backs, with Walter Payton and Marcus Allen, to have more than 400 receptions and 10,000 yards rushing, Thomas also set playoff records for career points (126), touchdowns (21), and consecutive games with a TD

(nine). Wehrli was one of the game's first shutdown cornerbacks and was a starter from his rookie season in 1969 through 1982 for the St. Louis Cardinals. He was elected in his final year of eligibility, even though he was a

five-time All-Pro. "He was overdue, I'll tell you that," said Don Coryell, who

coached those "Cardiac Cards." "He's a great one. He's everything you would want in a pro-

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B Twins said Thursday that the series against the Indians would

be played. "The last I was told, everything was moving forward as planned, Wedge said. "It's a horrific scene up there and our thoughts and prayers are with everybody

Rafael Perez worked two innings, and Edward Mujica finished the combined seven-hitter for the Indians, who have dropped their last five

Minneapolis."

guy who can play center, run

series at Jacobs Field.

"We need wins right now," Casey Blake said. Gabbard was facing the Indians for the second time in a week, this time for a different team. The left-hander was acquired on Tuesday from Boston in the deal that sent closer Eric Gagne to the Red

Sox. "I treated it like any other start," Gabbard said. "The only thing that was different was I had a different name on my uni-

form." Sizemore's RBI single gave the Indians a 1-0 lead

in the third. Gabbard walked

Franklin Gutierrez leading off and Josh Barfield sacrificed. A wild pitch one of three by Gabbard — sent Gutierrez to third and he scored when Sizemore spanked a single through Texas' drawn-

in infield. The Indians gave Westbrook a 2-0 lead in the fifth on Sizemore's sacrifice fly.

Lofton's speed helped the Indians, who haven't been scoring much lately, make it 3-0 in the sixth.

Martinez was hit a by a pitch leading off and took second when Gabbard's pitch skipped away from catcher Adam Melhuse.

said. "I'm sure he's never

wanted to hit a home run

more in his life, so I'm

something involved in it

sure there's got to be

because his approach

ent."

does look a little differ-

Most players, of course,

will say they don't try to

hit home runs and that

while trying to hit line

drives. But with each at-

bat, Rodriguez and Bonds

seem to be trying to put

something extra on the

ball and make the pres-

"Not many hitters will

say they're trying to hit

when you do, you barely

home runs — because

hit one," said Mark

sure go away.

most come from just

making solid contact

Martinez was held at at the age of 40." third on Ryan Garko's single, and was on his way to being left there when Gabbard got two outs.

Lofton, though, chopped a ball to short and barely beat former teammate Michael Young's throw to score Martinez. Lofton was dealt to the Indians last week, one of many moves by the Rangers before the trading deadline.

is Kenny," "Kenny Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He knows how to play. He takes care of himself. That's why he's still here

Bonds hitless on Wednesday. "It's just probably hard because he's trying to get it done and get it over with so that he and the team can get back to some kind of normalcy."

How Bonds feels about it is hard to say because he would rather not say. Even more than Rodriguez, he would like to set the record at home,

Monday night after three games in San Diego. The game, he insists, is still fun. But everything around it seems to be

where the Giants return

wearing on him. "The actual going and playing is fun," he said. "Answering the same thing every day is borBlake's sacrifice fly

made it 4-0 in the seventh, and Martinez followed with his 18th homer, snapping a 2-for-32 slump.

MVP and, like Matthews, was fessional football player."

Westbrook, who has had a tendency to have one bad inning every time out, wriggled out of a jam in the first by getting Jason Botts to foul out and striking out Marlon Byrd with runners at second and third. Notes: Lofton was back

in center for the first time since beginning his third stint with the Indians. ... The Indians will play 16 of their next 21 on the road. They'll only be home for a three-game series with the New York Yankees (Aug. 10-12) and two with Detroit (Aug. 14-15). ... The Indians celebrated the 17th birthday of Slider, their furry, purple, annoying mascot. ... The Rangers won two of three in the series, but were denied their first sweep in Cleveland since 1992. ... Texas has been shut out six times.

White Sox 13, Yankees 9

The New York Yankees continue to score in bunches — even in losing efforts — while A-Rod still is in search of his elusive 500th homer.

The White Sox and Yankees scored eight runs each in the highest-

scoring second inning in major league history on Thursday. Jermaine Dye homered twice and doubled twice, including the go-ahead drive that led Chicago to a 13-9 victory at Yankee Stadium.

New York had 33 runs and 39 hits in the series — 15 of them home runs. But none came from Alex Rodriguez, who resume his quest to become the youngest player to reach 500 homers on Friday against Kansas City — the team that allowed No. 499 on July

"I didn't try to do too much," Rodriguez said. "Back to work tomorrow."

After losing the first two games of the series 16-3 and 8-1, the White Sox took an 8-0 lead in the second inning against Roger Clemens, who left after five outs in his shortest outing since June 14, 2000, when he got just three outs against Boston.

Jon Garland didn't do any better, giving up eight runs in his half as second inning dragged on for exactly 1 hour and 90 pitches. The 16 combined runs

by the White Sox and Yankees were a record for a second inning, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, and two more than the previous mark.

SLUGGERS

Continued from Page 1B

that you don't need to use chemicals to make the big leagues.

Of course, even Little Leaguers know that Pierre hasn't hit a ball out of the park while wearing a Dodger uniform, and has trouble even throwing the ball to second base from the out-

Bonds, on the other hand, is the greatest slugger the game has known, or at least he will be sometime next week when he'll be back in San Francisco and in more of a frame of mind to break Aaron's record of 755 home runs. There, fans will stand and cheer their hero instead of greeting him with loud boos and sometimes even

worse. "Barry, how did your head get so big? What happened?" one fan yelled loudly as Bonds took batting practice before Thursday's game. "Why were you so skinny on your rookie card? I don't get it."

Bonds usually thrives under such circumstances, and felt so good this week that he started all three games. He's hit 29 home runs in Dodger Stadium, but the short, compact swing that made him a superstar seems forced in recent weeks.

Bonds hit only .186 in July, and is 6-for-33 with one home run since hitting two in Chicago on July 19 and giving everybody false hope that both his chase of the record and the circus surrounding it would end soon. His final night at Dodger Stadium ended early when he was pulled for a pinch runner in the seventh inning with just a single and two walks to show for his effort.

Lefebvre blames the slump more on age and aching legs, but someone who has watched Bonds up close and personal this week thinks it might be something else.

"I'm sure that maybe pressure has something to do with it," Dodger catcher Russell Martin

Hendrickson, who held ing." 26th ANNUAL **GUN, KNIFE & COIN SHOW**

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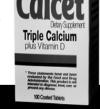


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IMMEDIATE OPENING for an Accounting Clerk/ Customer Service Representative at First Bank of West Texas. Experience in accounting required. Apply in person at 500 NW Broadway, Coahoma, Texas. (432)394-4256.

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Ultrasonic Thickness Technician (will train). Also Level II PT MT UT thickness technician for in-plant inspection in area Excellent benefits. plant. **ENGlobal Inspection Services** (432)561-8324. Fax (432)570-5152.

ken.overstreet@englobal.com MATURE CHRISTIAN Teachers and Caregivers needed. Apply at New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Rd. No phone calls please.

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring assistant manager/ collector. Benefit package. Pay DOE. Apply in person, 600 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

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Sales. Apply in person, 111 Gregg Street. NEED SALESPERSON, 87

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Auto Sales. Apply in person, 111 Gregg Street.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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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.

NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSI-TIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Immediate opening for charge nurse 10pm-6am shift. We offer great benefits, competitive pay along with a great working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now hiring for C.N.A.'s which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Be a part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Looking for reliable and caring C.N.A.'s to join our team. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

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apply in person. Concrete Transit Mix EOE/AA employer.

UNLIMITED BONUS POTEN-TIAL with above average base pay as Manager of Coahoma DQ, 108 NW Broadway. Excellent opportunity for continued salary growth. We pay for the job well done. Need responsible, honest service leader to do job. Background checks and drug testing. Call Mercedes Cypert @ 940-550-5724.

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Several New 2006 Models To Choose From Huge Discounts! Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7424

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2 7 8 6 1 4 3 9 5

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Oh, how the Aries moon appreciates a

through to boot! In an overnight meeting between Mercury and Mars, intelligence and action came together in a

of mind over

matter, and



MATHIS

plans finally = gelled. You can take this decisive energy into your own hands by acting on that burning piece of information, pronto.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Optimistic thoughts are, at best, transformative. At worst, wrong — in innocuous kind of way. On the other hand, there is no benefit that will from being come pessimistic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). No need to risk the adventure alone. The heroes have gone before you. They've already figured out the labyrinth. You only need to follow the golden thread of their path.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You get a charge out of helping others. But be careful not to be too accessible or you're not really helping, but enabling. Let others ask for what they need before you offer it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your environment has even more impact than usual on your psyche now. Go where you're likely to be inspired by genius. You see your own potential in brilliant works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This is the final act of a family drama — the situation is resolved, and all players can take a curtain call. Soon you actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have nothing against rest. After all, it's good to relax and enjoy yourself. It just so happens that you find a way of doing this that turns out to be extremely productive, as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's nothing to

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE The Howard County Auditor will

accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on August 10, 2007 for the following: The purchase of one (1) New Fold

Neck 3 Axle Trailer to be used for maintenance of County Roads. Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by

calling (432) 264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on August 13, 2007 for their consideration.

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #5455 July 26 & August 3, 2007

Auction Sat. August 4th • 6:30 PM

Preview: 1:00 p.m.till sale time

Entertainment Center, Table & Chairs w/China Hutch, Maple Bedroom Furniture, Hall Tree, Sofas, Washer & Dryer, Side by Side Refrigerator, Computers & Computer Desk, 100-Gallon Aquarium, Coke Machine, Large Bird Cage, Ruby Glass, Hagar Vases, Coins, Knives, John Deere Collectibles, Fishing Gear, Vintage Tools, Sye, Lots of Metal Shelving, Craftsman (Planer, Bandsaw, Joiner), Tool Chest, Aluminum Ladders, Mini Rototiller, Yards Tools, Power Tools. Lots of Miscellaneous www.crossroadsauctionco.com

Next Auction: August 18th 10:00 a.m. - 901 Highland Drive, Big Spring

Crossroads Auction Co. Located at 6607 N. I-20 Service Rd., two Miles East of the Refinery on the North Service Road Exit 184 Big Spring,TX

David Lefever-Auctioneer Lic. #13251 (432) 264-9900

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prove. Those who know you're talented will never think otherwise. And strategy — with followthose who don't get you

house together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. Economic 21). circumstances affect what you do, but they don't affect how you feel. Whatever the dollar amount in your pocket, you feel absolutely

might not ever. Tonight,

love is lazing around the

glorious. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not about your boss, colleagues or customers anymore. It's about you. What changes must you make in order to bring about your own personal happiness at

work? CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your best, your opinion, is only a start. You're still striving to find, achieve or do something beyond the normal range of human experience — a noble cause that will eventually be realized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You come across as a fantastically capable person. So the workload is heaped onto you. Let down your guard. Your lack of defenses inspires someone to come forward and help you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A project seems to be taking over your life, but at least it's a healthy obsession. Loved ones understand if you're less than attentive, as long as you make it up to them this weekend.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: When your sweetie stubs a toe, overrule defensiveness (It's not my fault!) with love. TAURUS: When you two act as a unified front, you become a unified front. GEMINI: You finally hear what the heart needs to hear when you find the ears to listen. CANCER: You proudly show off what you have, but your truer pleasure is having someone for whom to show off. LEO: You're feeling irreverently youthful, maybe even mischievous. Whoop it up. VIRGO: You can insist that love only come in a certain shape or color, but you end up accepting it as it comes. And that's good enough. LIBRA: You may not think you have anything left to give, but you do. SCORPIO: There's great beauty in your ability to appreciate your partner's accomplishments better than you do your own. SAGITTARIUS: An alliance helps you glide over a stubborn hurdle and courageously enter territory. CAPRICORN: Only by bearing your heart will you ever really know your heart. AQUARIUS: A message of love is delivered, and you take it seriously — more or less. PISCES: Instead of piling too much need onto your relationship, make one practical, necessary move on your own. OFCOUPLE WEEKEND: With Venus

moving retrograde in Virgo, many Virgos are feeling finicky. Pisceans are encountering their quirky complications! As Venus

re-enters Leo this week, irritations subside. There's a riveting getting-to-know-one-

another period over the next month, even if the couple in question has been an item for years. The sun shines romance rays on both signs in October.

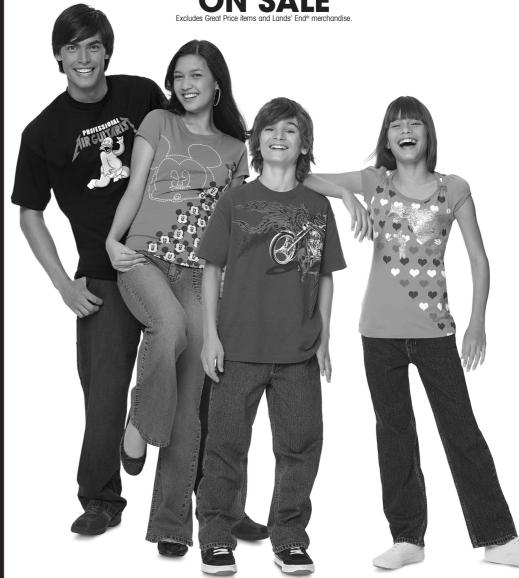
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Sale in effect Friday, August 3 thru Sunday August 5, 2007. ©2007 Sears Brands LLC.

BSHS graduate killed in motorcycle accident

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring native and graduate of Big Spring High School was killed in a motorcycle crash in Midland late Wednesday evening.

Gabriel Talamantez, 29, of Midland was killed when his motorcycle slammed into the rear of a wrecker at approximately 10 Wednesday near the intersection Eisenhower Highway 80.

"The accident occurred in the 4600 block of Wall," said Midland Police Sgt. Rick Gilley.

According to Gilley, Talamantez was pronounced dead at the scene by Midland Justice of the Peace David Cobos, who ordered a toxicology report.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Midland Department. Police According to Gilley, Talamantez was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

"As far as talking to witnesses and that part of the investigation, I feel like we've wrapped that up," said Gilley. Cobos "Judge ordered the toxicology report and we're waiting for that to come back.

friday page 3a 8/3/07 10:54 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:

"It appears Talamantez was traveling at a high rate of speed at the time of the accident. Speed certainly played a large role in the accident."

Talamantez was a 1997 graduate of Big Spring High School, having moved to the Midland area approximately five years ago. He was employed by Kelly Grimsley Auto Group in Odessa.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday Myers & Smith Chapel with burial to follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home tonight from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Arrangements being handled by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

Country legend to perform here

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Commissioned in 2006 by Gov. Rick Perry as a "Real Texan" for his contributions to country music in Texas, acclaimed musician Tony Booth will be bringing his band — and his acclaimed songs — to Big Spring Saturday.

Booth, who was a Academy Of Country Music 1973 nominee for male vocalist of the year with the likes of Conway Twitty, Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Charlie Rich, will perform alongside local country music icon Jody Nix at the Stampede Saturday at 9 p.m.

In 1971, Booth was voted "Most Promising Male Artist" by the Academy Of Country Music and has recorded for three major labels — Capitol, United Artists and MGM — and has 10 albums to his credit.

Booth's biggest hits include "Key's In The Mailbox," "Lonesome 7-7203," and "Cinderella," along with "When A Man Loves A Woman," "Secret Love," "Happy Hour" and other nationwide hits.

"Tony toured all over



Jody Nix, left, and Tony Booth will perform Saturday at the Stampede.

the U.S.," said Nix. "He Booth. It was a real expeslowed down some to be at home with his wife and raise his family. He and his family live in Alvin just outside of Houston where he plays the Alvin Opry on a regular basis. Just in the past few years he has had the urge to get out and sing his great music to bigger audiences."

Nix said the idea for Saturday's show has been in the works for quite some time.

"I first met Tony back in 1973 at a club he was playing in Midland," said Nix. "He was a major act, and I really only had the chance to say hello to

really with me. Then, in 2006, I played a benefit concert with him in Priddy and we got the chance to really sit down and visit.

"He invited me to play the Opry in Alvin, and that was just an amazing experience. He played bass and I just couldn't believe I was singing with Tony

rience. We talked about doing a show in Big Spring, and we managed to cinch up the date about three weeks ago. Me and the Texas Cowboys will be backing him up, and that's a real honor."

According to Nix, Booth has worked with such country artists as Buck Owens, Don Rich, Merle Haggard, Gene Watson, Ray Price, Johnny Bush, Darrell McCall, Randy Travis, Bobby Flores, Justin Trevino and Curtis Potter.

"Tony just signed a new record deal with Heart Of Texas Records out of Llano, and a new CD is in

him, but that the works," said Nix. "Tony is a down to earth, stuck real country music musician in every sense of the word." While playing a show

with Tony Booth has Nix on could nine, Nix said national exposure on XM Radio has really helped both his and Booth's music careers. "I had the chance to go

do a live radio show on XM Radio's Channel 13 Thursday morning," said Nix. "The show is called "Willie's Place," for Willie Nelson, and it's just done a tremendous job of supporting traditional country music. I got to spend several hours talking with Eddie Kilroy. It's just a tremendous honor."

Admission to Saturday's performance at the Stampede is \$15 per person. For more information, contact Nix at 267-2060.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

"C. Gabriel Talamantez, 29, died Wednesday. Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 9:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Wilma Pruitt, 67, died Thursday, August 2, 2007, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BRIDGE

Continued from Page 1A

at the structure's maintenance needs and look for anything that could pose a problem or make it

Dill said the differences between the Minneapolis bridge and the local bridge make the structure more reliable.

"The bridge Minneapolis is a suspension bridge, which means it's supported from the top by cables," said Dill. "These types of bridges are used to span great lengths that simply can't support a concrete bridge. There are only a handful of these types of bridges in the state of Texas, mainly near the coast where there are large expanses of water.

"Concrete bridges, such

as the one we have in Big Spring, are built on bents, which support the beams. The concrete footings can be anywhere between 30 to 80 feet deep, depending on the type of soil in the area.'

According to reports recently released by the White House, an inspection of the 40-year-old Minneapolis bridge in 2005 found problems, rating 50 on a scale of 100 for structural stability and was classified as "structurally deficient," transportation officials said.

The designation means some portions of the bridge needed to be scheduled for repair or replacement, and it was on a schedule for inspection every two years. "It didn't mean that the bridge is unsafe," Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said.

And while a tragedy similar to the one in Minnesota is highly unlikely, according to Dill, TxDOT still has other hazards it has to deal with.

"I'm not sure what caused the collapse in Minneapolis," said Dill. "However, we have problems we have to deal with in West Texas, as well. We had a roadway get washed out a couple of years ago near Odessa. When the weather is involved, anything is possible. However, proper maintenance is a major part of avoiding tragedies like these.

According to Associated Press reports, as many as 50 vehicles tumbled into the river when the bridge collapsed, leaving those who could escape to scramble to shore. Some survivors carried the injured up the riverbank, avoid the need for piers while emergency workers tended to others on the ground and some jumped into the water to look for survivors. Fire and black smoke rose from the wreckage. At least five people were killed and eight are still missing.

The steel-arched bridge, built in 1967, rose 64 feet above the Mississippi River and stretched 1.900 feet across the water. It was built with a single 458-foot-long steel arch to

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that might interfere with river navigation. The depth of the water underneath the bridge is between 4 to 14 feet, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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

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267-2789

RATING

Continued from Page 1A

"recognized" campuses — Kentwood Washington elementaries. Other recognized campuses in the area were Elbow Elementary (Forsan ISD) and Stanton Elementary.

area campus received an unacceptable rating from TEA.

"I'm pleased with the performance Washington and Kentwood," **BSISD** Superintendent Michael Downes said. "And I applaud the work of our staff and students there."

While fewer area campuses were rated as recognized or better than in 2005-2006, Downes said that was mainly because of tighter TEA standards that went into effect in

"The district's performance remained about the same as last year," Downes said. "But the accountability system is so expansive and contains so many elements that it

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is very difficult to receive the highest rating."

Contact Staff Writer ald.com.

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big

Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor **Bill McClellan** News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Mariachi San Pablo from the Ysleta Lutheran Mission near El Paso for their performances last Saturday and Sunday, and to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for sponsoring them. Thanks also to St. Thomas Catholic Church for offering food during Saturday's performance.
- The Alzheimer's Association on the decision to hold another Alzheimer's Memory Walk Sept. 22 at Comanche Trail Park. This is a very worthwhile event for an excellent cause.
- The State Bar of Texas and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas for choosing Big Sping as the site for a regional Family Law Essentials Seminar to be held Sept. 14 at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park.
- Big Spring Police Department on the decision to utilize Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) members more activities, such as helping out with vacation watches and enforcing handicap zones. We already knew they were doing a great job in high profile events such as helping direct traffic during parades and other community functions. Now they'll be utilized more and we should all be better for their presence.
- Recent Big Spring High School graduates Matthew Callison, Bryan Juan, Taylor Parks and Reinhilde Robinson for acing their National Advanced Placement exam in calculus — an impressive feat to say the least.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We gain sudden insight that encourages us, Lord, when

Amen

Denial our most important state

eep in the national debate, virtually unheard except by those with 20/20 hearing (or whatever the numbers are for hearing), there is an argument being made for making the District of Columbia the 51st state.

The argument goes something like this: The District has roughly the same population as several existing states – Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska and the Dakotas — yet no real representation in either the House or Senate. (It has a nonvoting



DONALD

KAUL

Congressperson, which is more insult than prize.) There is no one with power in Congress duty-bound to take up the District's cause. This, it must be admitted, is unjust. As Mark Twain would say if he had my chances: It is un-American. It is un-English. It is French.

My heart goes out to the disenfranchised District residents, but it seems to me that making it a state is too radical a solution. Meeting minimal population standards does not a state make.

I've been in states, I was born in a state, some of my best friends live in states and I've got to say that the District of Columbia is no state.

In my book, a state should he larger than a handball court and the District isn't. (Well it is, but just barely) It doesn't have an

Interstate. It doesn't have farms. It doesn't have suburbs, not within its boundaries anyway.

I'm not even sure it has a factory. No farms, no. factories; what kind of state is that?

No, the District is a city, a city not without its charms but a city nevertheless.

Besides, we already have a 51st state. It's a virtual state, but still at state.

It is called the State of Denial and it's our most powerful state. Half the population lives there most of the lime.

Did I say half?

Ha! I meant 90 percent.

Think about it:

Do we contribute more than our share to global warming? Of course we do, but as citizens of the State of Denial, we don't have to admit it. All we have to do is set up yet another commission to study the problem.

Then there's our trade deficit (which could swallow a mediumsized country), the looming Medicare crisis and the fact that we're not willing to raise as much money as we spend, by a lot - all things that threaten to tank our increasingly fragile economy.

Do we worry about these things? Not in Denial we don't. Oh, we talk about them, we set up more study commissions, but mainly we just keep whistling "Nearer My God to Thee" and go about our business. "Nearer My God to Thee" is the all-time favorite song in the State of Denial, a virtual state anthem.

And how about the pension funds that are going to go bust as soon as more of our aging population starts drawing down on them, or a prosperity fueled by consumer debt that has put millions on the brink of bankruptcy? How about the, fact we keep relying more and more on oil from countries that like us less and less? Never heard of any of that in the State of Denial. Everything is hunky-dory here.

The polar ice cap is melting. So what? I just looked in my fridge; there's plenty of ice.

Is there a serious drought in the Southeast? Let them drink bottled water.

There's an election going on in the State right now; it may not be the most inspiring election in the world but it's ours. It's got a lot of candidates competing for our attention and nobody knows who's going to win.

Except me. I know.

The election is going to be won by the candidate who makes us feel good about ourselves, who is the cheeriest optimist. Never mind the candidate who understands our problems and proposes solutions for them. Problems and solutions are for losers.

Uncritical optimism, that's what wins elections in the State of Denial. It'll win this one too.

Remember, you read it here

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Even the military has had enough

riving through a red state recently — quickly en route from one purple state to another, since red is not a good color for Democrats — I spied a bumper sticker on a pickup truck that frightened me. The driver had placed it immediately below the compulsory gun rack and rifle in the back window,

which was my first omen to drive a little faster.

The sticker proudly proclaimed, in red and blue letters: "God, Guns, and Guts: Keep America Free," advocating some creepy concoction of religion, the Second Amendment, and American nationalism as the die hard



CLEMENTS

formula for religious and political freedom. Presumably, a "real" American

willing to use both to hurt others. Doubtless some, hopefully not too many, agree with this delusional driver.

owns a gun and a Bible, and is

Maybe he thinks we should just shoot (mutilate, incapacitate, or kill, take your choice), people or countries (ethnic groups, other faiths, whatever) who disagree with or oppose us (not me, but the driver and others like him), in God's name and because of his command, and label it "patriotism?'

Well, hallelujah, throw another hot dog on the grill, and shoot off some fireworks because we're Americans, after all, compelled to export our worldview, by force if

For too many months, now morphed into years, since 9/11, we as in, nearly the entire country have believed, eagerly like sheep led astray, the fabrications, the lies of George W., Dick, et al, that if we don't support their plan in Iraq, then we were somehow less of an American. Did they even have a plan, or like children losing a board game, did they change the rules as they went along? I think the latter.

The White House gang was the determiner, with W. The supreme decider of who was, and who wasn't a true American, and they equated support for the war with support for the troops. Equallywilling preachers, the shepherds of the flock, extended the character assassination to imply that patriotism was synonymous with faith. God wanted us to vote Republican, for national security reasons they sermonized from their pulpits. Any less, any different and we were disloyal to the nation, to the military and to God Almighty Himself, pastors thundered. Come to the altar and repent of your sins of unpatriotic thoughts and acts. Hear the stanzas of "God Bless America" in the background?

But numbers — those damned statistics — sometimes add an element of irrefutable truth and rationality to a debate, where both were previously missing.

Roy Dawes, professor of political science at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, found in a recent study of those affiliated with the military whether active, retired or reserves — in five South Atlantic states (Florida, Georgia, North

Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia) that while they support the war, they are less inclined to support the president's handling of it. Military folks say the troops are doing a good job, the president, not so much.

Dawes chose these states to survey because they are traditionally and consistently supporters of Republican presidential candidates, so called "friendly" states. Also, there is a significant military presence there about 60 military bases and other installations — nearly 13 percent of the nation's total. Dawes reasons, if anyone is going to support the president's policies in Iraq, it will be in these states, but his research says it's not so.

Now there's proof, empirical evidence that chose fighting the war have a different opinion on how it's going from those managing it. "Get the bleep out" is not the same thing as "stay the course."

Dawes concluded, "Given these findings, that there is disapproval or dissatisfaction with the President's performance in these 'friendly' areas, we can be confident that such sentiments among those affiliated with the military will prevail outside this region as

Translation: The home team isn't playing with Bush anymore, and the visitors don't want him either.

God, guns and guts are not the answers to Iraq. Sanity is.

Cynthia Hall Clements can be ecynthiahallclements_mmm@yahoo.c

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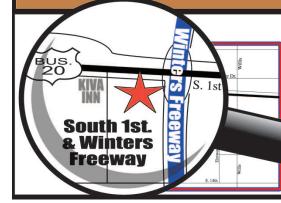
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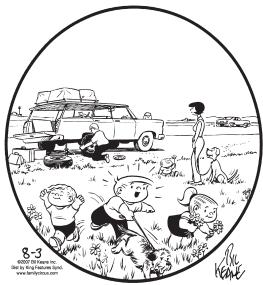
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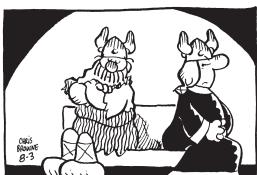
"I was shadow-Boxin," And I Guess I got TOO CLOSE TO MY SHÁDOW."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

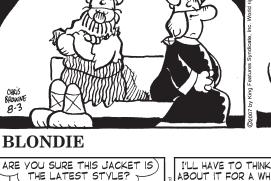


"Oh, boy! This is the best part of the trip so far!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



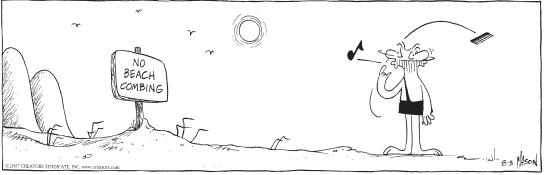




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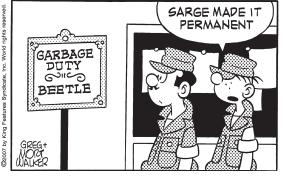
SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2007. There are 150 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred years ago, on Aug. 3, 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Va., charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

On this date:

Christopher 1492,Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the presentday Americas.

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1923, Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as the 30th president of the United States, following the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1936, the U.S. State

Department urged

because of that country's civil war. In 1943, Gen. George S.

Americans in Spain to leave

Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.) In 1949, the National

Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League. In 1958, the nuclear-pow-

ered submarine Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater. In 1980, closing cere-

monies were held in Moscow for the Summer Olympic Games, which had been boycotted by dozens of countries, including the U.S. In 1981, U.S. air traffic

controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1987, the Iran-Contra congressional hearings ended, with none of the 29

witnesses tying President Reagan directly to the diversion of arms-sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

Today's Birthdays: Author P.D. James is 87. Broadway composer Richard Adler is 86. Singer Gordon Stoker (The Jordanaires) is 83. Singer Tony Bennett is 81. Actor Martin Sheen is 67. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 66. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 66. Rock musician Dickerson is 58. Movie director John Landis is 57. Actress JoMarie Payton is 57. Actor Jay North ("Dennis the Menace") is 56. Actor John C. McGinley is 48. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats)

Answer to previous puzzle

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Luxuriate **5** Network absorbed by The CW
- 8 Acquire quickly 62 Fashion 14 Minstrel's instrument
- 15 Mideast initials
- **16** Gives out
- 17 Settles
- 19 Rake over
- the coals 20 Funnel-shaped
- flower 22 Hunts, with "on"
- 23 Overcharge 24 Outburst from
- Homer 27 Discouraged 28 "New Look"
- designer
- **29** Be a bad
- winner 31 It may be
- dazzling **34** Newspaper
- piece **37** Really enjoys
- **38** Burt Reynolds series
- **42** Corolla part
- **43** Comic-strip penguin
- 44 Tempe sch.
- 47 Pizarro's quest
- 48 Word with silk or syrup
- **49** Styling shop
- **51** Crayon color

annoying

- 54 Like some
- paint 57 They're
- **58** Not crazy about

- 59 College sr.'s
- test 60 Monthly pmt. 61 Tailor's
- measurement
- monogram 63 Change the

decor of **DOWN**

1 Ad media 2 Sleeping

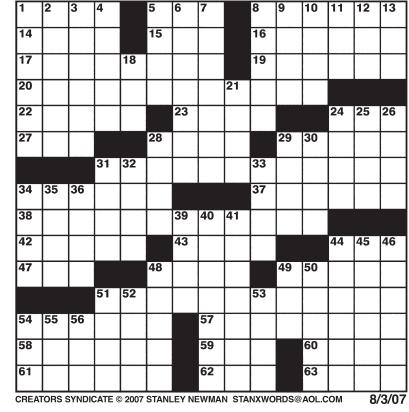
- Beauty princess 3 Put on a
- 48 Down 4 South Park kid
- 5 Versed in 6 Makes a
- connection **7** Counterfeit 8 Assent

9 Pirate, for one

- 10 Supporter 11 DC insider
- **12** Tony winner Hagen 13 L.A. setting
- **18** Family member
- 21 Zhivago's love 45 Became 24 Follows
- persistently **25** Pearl Harbor locale
- starter
- **28** Discouraged 29 Delighted 30 Lo-cal
- 31 One of a famous trio
- **32** Tromp I'___ **33** Affirmative votes

AROUND THE CLOCK by Merle Baker Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 34 Seized vehicle **35** Unceasingly
- **36** Nix
- 39 Henchman 40 Nicely resilient
- 41 Cravings
- 44 One of a gene pair
- disenchanted 46 Paris-based
- intl. agcy. 48 Place for data
- 26 WWW address 49 Norm: Abbr.
 - **50** More adept **51** Underground
 - mammal
 - **52** Tiny bit **53** Bread part
 - 54 Here, in France
 - **55** Speaking start
 - 56 Musical notes



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"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1, NIV).

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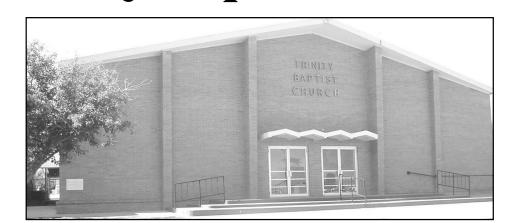
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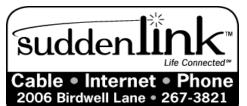
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CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

Roundup 2007 will be held for all United Methodist Churches in Lubbock on Saturday, Aug. 25. For more information on workshops, transportation and registration contact the church office at 267-6394 or go by Fourth and Scurry streets; we're in the heart of downtown Big Spring.

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church meets for Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship and Children's church at 11 a.m. and evening worship at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available for all Sunday services. Wednesday evening prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m. Please join us for the blessing praying together.

Salem is located at the corner of Salem Road and Colorado Highway and pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters. For further information, call 394-4566

North Birdwell Lane **United Methodist** Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church will be taking orders for August Angel Food boxes from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. today, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday and at those same hours again on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 10-11. Menus for August may be obtained from any member of North Birdwell UMC or by calling 263-2536 and leaving a message.

Hate-crime arrests in **Quran desecrations** at Pace University

NEW YORK (AP) — A 23-year-old man was arrested on hate-crime charges after he threw a Quran in a toilet at Pace University on two different dates, police said.

Stanisiav Shmulevich of Brooklyn was arrested July 27 on charges of criminal mischief and aggravated harassment, both hate crimes, police said. It was unclear if he was a student at the school. A message left at the Shmulevich home was not returned.

Muslims view the Quran as a sacred object and consider mistreating it as an offense against God. The religion teaches that the Quran is the direct word of God.

In the Pace incident, a teacher found the Islamic holy book on Oct. 13 in a toilet on the lower Manhattan campus. A student discovered another book in a toilet on Nov. 21, police said.

Muslim students accused the school of not taking the incident seriously enough at first. Pace classified the first desecration of the holy book as an act of vandalism, but universi-

officials later reversed themselves and referred the incident to the New York Police Department's hate crimes unit.

The incidents came amid a spate of vandalism cases with religious or racial overtones at the school. In an earlier incident on Sept. 21, the school reported another copy of the Quran was found in a library toilet, and in October someone scrawled racial slurs on a student's car at the Westchester County satellite campus and on a bathroom wall at the campus in lower Manhattan. Police did not connect Shmulevich to those incidents.

THE DARTTS



Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Blessings to you and your family. If you do not currently have a church home we encourage you to visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. A nursery is provided. Children's Church for ages 4-9 is during the morning worship. Come expecting a blessing. Enter to learn, go forth to serve.

Midweek service is at 7 p.m. Wednesday. If you need a ride to

August is the first

anniversary of the Angel

Food Ministry for North

Birdwell UMC and to cele-

brate, will will give away

a free box of food. When

you place your order, you

The next delivery day

If you are looking for a

church home, you are

invited to share worship

with us Sunday at 9:30

a.m. We have Sunday

school classes for all ages

at 10:30 a.m. following a

short time of fellowship.

We also offer a Sunday

evening service begin-

ning at 5 p.m. There are

other opportunities to

through Bible study,

United Methodist Women

and our many mission

projects. North Birdwell

UMC is located at 2702

North Birdwell Lane. For

more information, call

Church Sunday services

are Sunday school at 9:45

a.m., family praise and

worship at 10:45 a.m. and

afternoon praise and wor-

Wednesday, Youth 4

Christ is at 6 p.m. and the

midweek Bible study is at

We are celebrating 19

years of faithful service to

God in Big Spring. We

invite you to come join us

267-4082 or 263-2536.

Baptist Church

East Side

ship at 1:45 p.m.

7 p.m.

East Side

worship

Baptist

and

will be Aug. 25 from 2

will become eligible.

p.m. to 4 p.m.

study

church, call 264-9924 or 267-8214.

Next Tuesday at 7 p.m. we will be hosting the quartet singing group The Dartts. Tracy Dartt has written the song "God of The Mountain" which The McKamays made famous. The Dartts travel all over bringing God's Word in song. The Dartts write their own songs. Plan now to attend this great singing.

For more information call 267-7157 or

267-8214.

for Christ-centered worship and praise each Sunday and Wednesday at 1108 E. Sixth.

Friends of Unity Center

Friends believe in the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

they enjoyed Mariachi San Pablo under the big tent brought to Big spring as a gift to the community by St. Paul Lutheran Church last saturday evening. they brought a blessing as did the Mexican food provided for purchase by St. Thomas Catholic Church. for more information, call 263-6311 or the Center at 267-8783.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

We are blessed to have the Rev. D.R. Nelson as our guest pastor Sunday. In addition to being a Lutheran pastor, the Rev. Nelson is also a financial advisor along with his son, Trey Nelson. They have formed Sovereign Wealth Management LLP. Together they have many years in the financial world. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Four of our vouth and three adult counselors will be returning from the National Youth Gathering in Orlando, Fla. More than 25,000 young Lutherans attended from

all over the United States. We will be making and serving breakfast burritos for the hang gliders again this year. This was enjoyed last year.

Project On Going Support for our troops in Iraq continues with the following:

Cold drink mixes (powdered and pre-sweetened), beef Slim Jim's (no pork, please), baby wipes in small soft packs and as always donations to The AT&T phone card fund are appreciated.

Call the church for information on the LWML cookbooks for only \$10. These make great gifts and the income is donated to the high school Bible classes.

Worship services are at 9 a.m. with Sunday school at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call 267-7163.

Berea Family Fun Day II

Berea Baptist Fun Day II begins Saturday at 10 a.m. The Fun Day will continue until 2 p.m. Some new things will be included this time along with some of the more popular things from the first Fun Day. Parents, we invite you to bring your kids and to join in the fun!

schedule will The include activities for everyone from young children through adults. Since August in our area can be hot, we plan to stop a little earlier than we did in the spring. We will have such things as croquette, table games, football throw, volleyball, sack race, crafts, cookie baking and many others. New items this time will include Cowboy Golf and the Big Bounce bouncing

A free lunch of hot dogs and drinks will be provided along with other goodies. We invite you to join us Saturday for a good family day.

Berea Baptist Church is located at 4204 Wasson Road in Big Spring. If you need transportation, call 267-8438 and leave a message. Your call will be returned. If you have questions about the Fun Day, call Pastor Dwayne Wheat at 270-4328.

Berea's Sunday schedule includes Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m. and 60 p.m.

Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone Church is having a barbecue picnic Sunday beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the center of Comanche Trail Park. A pool party follows, from 7-9 p.m. at the city pool. The picnic, a monthly time of fellowship, is Christian BYOB, which means bring your own barbecue to cook, along with a side dish or dessert.

Ladies Only meets each

Monday night at 6:30. Youth meets each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Winning Wednesday, a time of fellowship, food and fun, begins at 6 p.m. You Woman of God retreat is set for 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Aug.11. Rock The Desert is Aug. 10-11.

Remodeling projects are ongoing at the church, and skilled craftsmen are needed. If you can donate vour time and expertise to any of our projects, from tape and bedding to grouting floor tile to wiring and plumbing, give us a call.

Sunday morning worship services begin at 10:30 a.m. A special Children's Church is available for 4 year olds through the fourth grade. Nursery care is provided for those children 2 and younger.

Cornerstone Church is a member of the Every Nation Ministries. The church is located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, south of the administration buildings Big Spring for Independent School District.

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you call outside these hours, please leave a message.

For more information about any of these programs or for a ride to church, call 263-3072.

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