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BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY

AUGUST 5, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 214

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Inside this edition: Spectator and Pilot's Guide

Workshop woes

Commissioners face tough decisions

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to meet Monday afternoon for a budget work session, as the governmental body prepares to move forward with a fiscal plan that is already spawning personnel layoffs among several departments.

Faced with a projected 2007-2008 budget shortfall of more than \$250,000 this year, followed by a projected deficit of more than \$400,000 for the 2008-2009 fiscal

"I wish I could say these are the only cuts that are going to have to be made, but I can't. We're still looking at it."



Barr

year, department directors announced last week several positions — and employees — were being eliminated in an effort to

keep up with financial cuts. According to county library director Hollis McCright, those budget cuts will amount to a reduction in personnel, and ultimately, in services provided to county residents.

"I currently have eight full-time employees and one part-time employee in my department," said McCright. "I've managed to make cuts in line items that amount to \$12,000, but in the end, I'm going to have to make cuts in personnel to

See **COUNTY**, Page 2A

Flight festival promises fun for everyone

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The World Hang Gliding Championship won't be the only fun event going on at the McMahan Wrinkle Airpark next Saturday, as officials with the Hangar 25 Air Museum prepare for their second annual Big Spring Flight Festival.

Heather Wallace, the museum's administrator, said plans for the festival — which is being held in conjunction with the hang gliding tournament — are coming together



Wallace

nicely, and she's hoping the event will be able to dodge some of the pitfalls it ran into in 2006.

"Last year, the flight festival took place during the state's tax-free weekend," said Wallace, referring to the statewide suspension of sales tax on back-to-school items. "And I think that may have hindered us to a cer-

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3A



A Texas Department of Transportation pickup blocks off a portion of the north service road of Interstate 20 after heavy rains flooded a section of the road Friday afternoon. A stranded vehicle can be seen in the background.

It's soggy out there

Forecast calls for drying out period

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

If anyone needed a reminder that this has been a wet year so far, they received a rainy reminder Friday afternoon.

A thundershower blew through Big Spring, dumping up to two inches of precipitation in some parts of the city, according to unofficial reports.

The rain, capping a week of intermittent showers, flooded some low-lying roads in the

See **RAIN**, Page 2A

Forsan trustees set to adopt proposed tax rate

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees will adopt a proposed tax rate for the coming fiscal year when they hold a special meeting at 7 p.m.

Monday in the administration building board room.

Like most other school districts in Texas, FISD trustees are expected to approve a tax rate significantly lower than the previous year. Under a mandate from the Texas

Legislature, school districts must slash their tax rates by more than 30 cents per \$100 valuation this year.

Forsan ISD's new tax rate is expected to be \$1.04 per \$100 valuation, Superintendent Randy Johnson said recently.

School officials have been putting the final touches on the budget for the new year.

Johnson said expenditures in the new package total \$7.36 million, an increase of slightly more than \$50,000 from the previous year.

Almost \$100,000 in salary increases are included in the budget. Teachers will receive their normal "step" increases, while instructional aides, non-contract employees and admin-

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Herald publisher announces two advancements

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

If it seems like you're seeing some new faces in some new positions at the *Big Spring Herald* these days, it's not your imagination.

Herald Publisher Ron Midkiff announced this week two employees have been promoted to new positions, as former carrier Robert Smith takes over duties as circulation manager and

sports writer Jonathan Hull has been named the community newspaper's sports editor.

Smith, who began work with the newspaper as a single-copy carrier for area businesses, said he jumped at the opportunity when it was offered to him.

"I've been taking care of the stores and racks for about five years now," said Smith. "When the position of circu-



Smith

Hull

Wilson

lation manager came open, Ron asked me if I would be interested in it.

"I've been in the bail bond

business for years, and it's been kind of slow lately. So I talked to my wife, and we decided that she'd take over the bail bond duties and I would take this new position with the *Herald*."

Smith said he hopes to bring a new level of customer service to the position.

"I'm very service and customer-oriented," Smith said.

See **HERALD**, Page 3A

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Sports

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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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Sunday, August 4, 2007

IN BRIEF

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.

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 4 p.m.

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 Scholarship Golf 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 18-hole 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@yahoo.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 welcome.

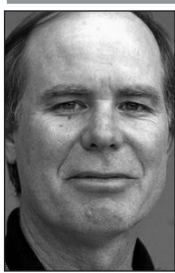
The field will be flighted by first round score with the number of flights to be determined by the number of entries.

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

One fan stands out in Bonds lottery

They packed into the right field stands, hoping a \$27 ticket might be worth a college education or maybe even the down payment on a new condo. The drawing for the California lottery isn't until Saturday night, but fans at Petco Park had a chance to cash in early with Barry Bonds in town.

Many came early to try to



TIM
DAHLBERG

catch a batting practice home run from him. Those with seats elsewhere eyed security warily, looking for a way they might sneak back in when Bonds came to bat.

They were there to catch a prized souvenir, maybe make enough to pay off their debts. A few were baseball purists, others were just trying to make a buck.

In the middle of it all was Scott Starkweather, glove in hand and a mission in mind.

He and his family were in Southern California on vacation

from Orange City, Iowa, where Starkweather makes about \$50,000 a year as a guidance counselor at Moc Floydvalley Middle School. His job is to help shape the minds and morals of children who will enter adulthood about the same time Bonds tries to enter the Hall of Fame.

His brother had gotten them tickets months ago and, while heading for the game, he talked with sons Brady and Trevor and daughter Jena about what they might witness this night. They, too, saw opportunity in the right field stands, but for reasons far

different from most.

"We talked about it on the way down from LA that maybe one thing we could do was to do something for others," Starkweather said. "Sometimes in the world we live in it's all about me. We don't want to be trapped in that world."

Starkweather wasn't referring directly to Bonds, though a case could certainly be made that the slugger might be the most egocentric athlete on earth. He wasn't going to pass judgment on

See **LOTTERY**, Page 2B

Sandlot takes second at Nationals



Courtesy photo

The Big Spring Sandlot brought home a second place trophy from the United States Specialty Sports Association's Slow Pitch Recreation Nationals Tournament that took place in Lubock on July 27 and 28. Adam Guzman, Jacob Acosta and Augustine Rivea were named to the All-National Team and Isaac Nieto was named Defensive Player of the Championship Game.

Bottom row (left to right): Isaac Nieto, Adam Guzman, Manuel Sosa and Jake Hernandez. Middle row: Jacob Acosta, Brian Soliz, Augustin Rivera, Justin Yanez and Elijah Salazar. Top row: Manager Ben Flores, Assistant Coach Jimmy Salazar, Anthony Sarracho, Justin Soliz, Donnie Rodriguez and Assistant Coach Tony Sarracho.

Schaub focused

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Matt Schaub doesn't deal in conjecture and supposition.

Thinking about how things would be if he were still in Atlanta is an exercise in futility.

Besides, the quarterback has got more important things to focus on.

The former backup behind Michael Vick in Atlanta has his first starting job in Houston for a team that has never had a winning record, but has had plenty of protection problems. Oh, and the Texans' first and only other starter, one-time No. 1 pick David Carr, was run out of town after five disappointing seasons.

"No what ifs," Schaub said. "There's a reason for everything and I'm just glad to be here."

It seems everyone in the franchise is happy Schaub is in Houston. The same likely can't be said for a Falcons organization being forced to rely on the underachieving Joey Harrington as Vick sits out to defend

See **SCHAUB**, Page 2B

Cowboys' young receivers promising, but inexperienced

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — At first glance it seems like a comforting note for the Dallas Cowboys: All 10 players who caught passes last season, led by 1,000-yard receivers Terrell Owens and Terry Glenn, are back.

Except the only two wide receivers other than Owens and Glenn in that group are No. 3 receiver Patrick Crayton and Sam Hurd, whose 15 games as a rookie were mostly on special teams with only five catches.

The other seven receivers in training camp have even less experience than Hurd — and not even one catch in the NFL.

At least the young receivers are getting plenty of work in training camp — and chances to work with starting quarterback Tony Romo — since Glenn is out at least another week after arthroscopic knee surgery and coach Wade Phillips has had Owens take multiple days off to rest his sore legs and hamstrings.

"It's a great opportunity for the younger guys," Phillips said. "You want to see if they can play in this league and play well."

The Cowboys expect to throw more with new offensive coordinator Jason Garrett, and their top two receivers are 33 and in their 12th seasons. So Dallas needs to find some extra help.

Crayton has filled in primarily for Glenn, moving from side to side in different formations. He had a career-high 36 catches while playing in every game last season, his third with the

Cowboys since being a seventh-round pick in 2004. He signed a one-year, \$1.3 million tender during the offseason to stay.

"With the offense we have, you're going to be moved around a lot," Crayton said. "It's not complicated. It's not like I've never played outside."

While a big season could mean a big payday for Crayton, he is not looking ahead. He said he prepared longer than usual during the offseason getting ready.

At times in practices, Crayton lines up opposite Owens — or Hurd, when T.O. is told by coaches to take it easy.

Hurd made an impression as an undrafted rookie at training camp last year when he worked extensively with Owens.

"Things aren't different because it's a whole new offense, and a whole new perspective of what they want from me," the 22-year-old Hurd said. "I've gotten into my groove catching the ball. When I get into my groove, it's just a steamroller just rolling. It's hard to stop."

Like Crayton, Hurd can move around and play from different spots.

The rest of the receiving group includes Miles Austin and Jamaica Rector, both second-year players who have been on special teams but have no catches. Rector has been held out of a couple of practices because of sore knees. Damarius Bilbo, a second-round pick at safety who played receiver in college, took some offensive snaps for the first time Thursday.



MCT photo/Ralph Lauer/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Austin Miles grabs a pass during practice Tuesday at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Miles makes up a part of the young depth the Cowboys have in their receiving corps.



Life

Do you have an interesting item or story idea for Life!? Call 263-7331; E-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1C
Sunday, August 5, 2007

Set to fly

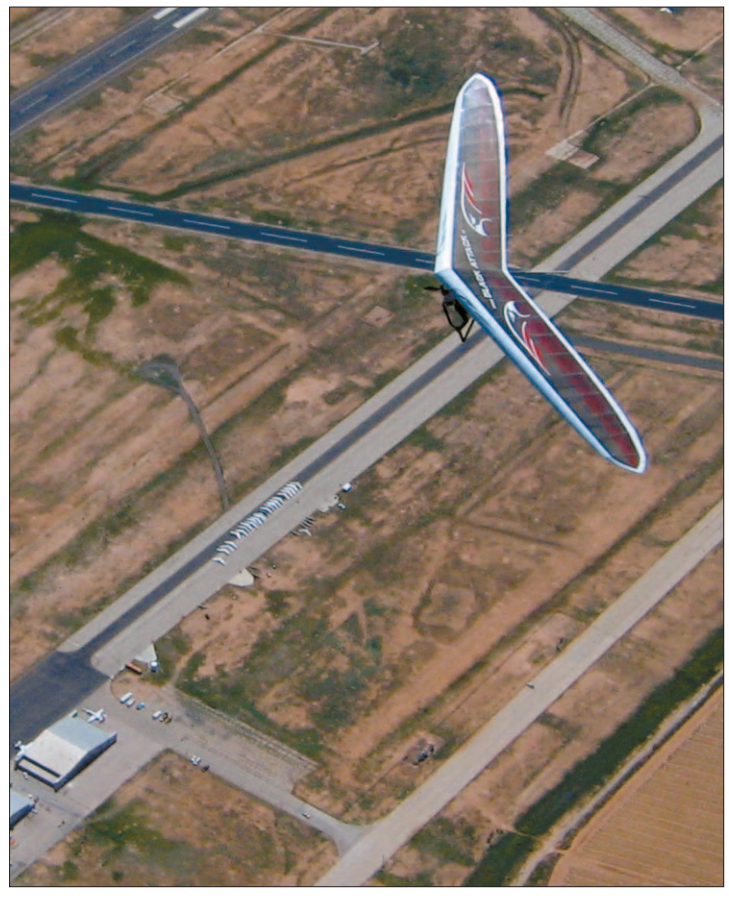
The skies around Big Spring will be full of hang gliders and ultralight aircraft for the next two weeks, as the Federation Aeronautique Internationale stages its 2007 World Hang Gliding Championships at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The event will bring together the top hang gliding pilots from all corners of the world to battle for top honors in the sport Aug. 7-19.

Pilots from the Czech Republic, Spain, Venezuela, France, Ecuador, Sweden, Germany and the United States — just to name a few — are expected to begin flying Tuesday.

Big Spring boasts some of the best hang gliding conditions anywhere, one of the many reasons pilots from all over the world will be making the trip.

“The consistency of the conditions here means we can fly everyday,” said David Glover, one of the event’s organizers. “We’re not winded or weathered out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal layers of air go up. The base of the clouds are really high, which means we can fly up really high into the air and the thermals are strong, so you don’t have to fly around too much before you hit a thermal that pushes you up. It just has the right combination of meteorology and geography to allow us to fly for a long time and fly fast. The men and women who come here just love the flying. It’s excellent.”



Photos by Thomas Jenkins



RAIN

Continued from Page 1A

area, in one instance stranding a motorist in fender-high water along the north service road of Interstate 20.

Despite the wet conditions, there were no reports of serious injuries.

Officially, the National Weather Service recorded two-tenths of an inch of rain Friday, bringing August's total to an inch. For the year, NWS officials say Big Spring has received 12.19 inches of

precipitation.

David Hennig, a meteorologist with the Midland NWS office, conceded that this has been a wet year so far for West Texas.

"We have seen an unusual weather pattern so far this year," Hennig said. "Normally at this time of year, there's a high pressure system stretching from the Atlantic to Texas which pretty much shuts down rain showers for us ... What has made this year unusual is an unusual number of upper level disturbances. We're seeing many more instances where rain is wide-

spread."

Hennig added that Big Spring and West Texas may have seen an end to the rain — for the next few days, at least.

"For the short term, it looks like the wetness is coming to an end," he said. "There are some isolated thunderstorms in the forecast, but those are for the area west of the Pecos River ... I'd definitely make outdoor plans the rest of the week."

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

cover this.

"We're also planning cuts in subscriptions and book buying, and we're also going to have to look at decreasing the number of hours that we're open. This is going to mean cuts in the services we provide, without a doubt."

McCright announced week the library's hours of operation would be the first services to be impacted by budget cuts, as the facility went from a 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. schedule to a 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. format.

The library's Internet and media facilities also saw a decrease in hours of operation, closing daily from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Residents who rely on county crews to maintain caliche roadways can also expect to see a cut in services over the next year, according to County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson.

"We're basically eliminating our road crew because of these cuts,"

said Jameson. "The road crew is responsible for maintaining the county's caliche roads, so you're going to see a difference in the coming year. Fortunately, everyone who's on that crew will still be with us, so if we have to make some repairs, we'll still have the people, we'll just have to pull them from other parts of the department."

According to County Judge Mark Barr, declining fund balances — coupled with the recent expense of closing and reopening the county jail facility — have the governmental body in a pickle.

"We're looking at a budget shortfall of about \$250,000 for the coming year and a shortfall of about \$400,000 the following year," Barr added. "The fund balances have been steadily declining over the past several years, and the tremendous cost of the county jail being closed simply put it over the edge."

The county jail was shut down by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in November after it failed to meet sev-

eral life-safety criteria, forcing county commissioners to not only fund repairs to the facility totaling more than \$250,000, but also to shoulder the expense of housing inmates in other county jails, an expense Barr described as tremendous.

Although the jail was recently given the OK to reopen by TDJS, Barr said the damage to county coffers has been done.

Barr said last week cuts have not been made to any other departments, but that's no guarantee of what the future holds.

"We're looking at the budget very diligently," said Barr. "I wish I could say these are the only cuts that are going to have to be made, but I can't. We're still looking at it."

Monday's meeting is to get under way at 1:15 p.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

Weather

Sunday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Monday... Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

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

Tuesday... Partly 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 upper 60s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Thursday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Friday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.



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BirthPlace Tour: Monday, August 6 at 7:00pm

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

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

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

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LOTTERY

Continued from Page 1B

Bonds, either. Besides, he had something bigger in mind. "Instead of having the money I'd like to send a message," he said. "If you knew her you'd know why I'm doing it." She is Sue Richardson, the wife of a school superintendent back home who has been battling breast cancer for most of the past 11 years. Her struggle against the terrible disease has been an inspiration not only to Starkweather, but to a lot of people in his hometown. "She's unbelievably positive about it and she's been through almost every chemo and drug therapy and keeps on ticking," Starkweather said. "She's brought a lot of hope to other people who have cancer. She's inspired a lot of other people on how to live their lives." Starkweather's teenage sons stood next to him, intently watching batting practice, but it was clear they were in on this deal, too. The plan was to try to overcome the odds, catch home run No. 755 or 756 amid a sea of fans with similar intentions, and make it pay off. In this case, that meant either selling the ball and donating the proceeds to breast cancer or giving it to Bonds and having him write a sizable check to the cause. This was just something they had to do if given a chance. "Her story is one I wish people around the country could hear about the power of positive

thinking," he said. "I really think the message I send would be worth more than the money for me." The money certainly isn't insignificant. Collectors say the record-tying No. 755 home run could bring six figures, and No. 756 could be worth up to \$500,000. That's the reason others in the right field stands paid \$100 and up for tickets costing \$27 on a normal night. They, too, held gloves, talked about being in the right place at the right time, and dreamed of what they could do for a special woman with the money the ball would surely bring. Bonds himself has no qualms about the holder of the ball getting all of the money that he or she can. "I had a little kid come up to me and say he would give it back to me," Bonds said the other day in Los Angeles. "I said, 'Are you stupid? You'd have more money than your parents.'" Starkweather isn't stupid. He just thinks differently than baseball's millionaires and their much poorer fans. The way he sees it, it's the least he can do for a friend who keeps battling. "She deserves it," he said.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org

SCHAUB

Continued from Page 1B

himself against federal dogfighting charges. The 6-foot-5 Schaub backed up Vick for three seasons before being traded to the Texans in March — a little more than a month before the dogfighting scandal erupted. He said he hasn't talked to Vick since then. "It's an unfortunate situation," Schaub said. "But it's not one I've been able to think about a whole lot because of what I've got going on here in Houston and my responsibilities for this team and what we are trying to achieve this season." The public relations savvy Texans are guarded with their comments regarding the drama in Atlanta. When asked if he feels like Houston is fortunate to nab Schaub before the problems with Vick began, Texans general manager Rick Smith seemed annoyed. "That has nothing to do with it," he said. "We had an issue here at Houston with the quarterback situation and we felt like he could solve that problem and that's why we did it." As for whether Schaub feels better about how he got the starting job in Houston as opposed to the

situation he'd be in the middle of in Atlanta, he avoided giving a straight answer as nimbly as Vick evades tacklers. "I think anything in this game, the parity of the competition is so close that you earn everything you get," he said. "You just continue to work hard and improve your game on a week-to-week, year-to-year basis, and you'll get an opportunity and someone will take notice." Schaub said the transition from the relative obscurity of being a backup to becoming the face of a franchise hasn't been that difficult. Watching Vick in Atlanta for three years, he said helped in his move to the spotlight. "I learned a lot about football and life in the NFL as a quarterback," Schaub said. "I saw what he went through ... as a starting quarterback and one of the most visible athletes in the world and I took in all the information I could so when the opportunity presented itself to me that I would know how to go about it the right way." Things in Houston are scandal-free, but that doesn't mean the 26-year-old won't have several obstacles to overcome. The expectations are high for him to turn around an offense that averaged the

fifth-fewest points in the NFL last season. Schaub, who has performed well in preseason games, has just two starts in his three-year career and is 84-of-161 for 1,033 yards with six touchdowns and six interceptions. A third-round pick in 2004, he hasn't started a game since 2005 and threw just 27 passes last season. Now he'll be working behind a line that allowed Carr to be sacked 249 times in five seasons. Houston hoped 2006 draft pick Charles Spencer could be the solution to the problems at left tackle, but he remains out after breaking his leg in Week 2 last season. With Spencer out, the Texans will rely on 10-year veteran Ephraim Salaam or Jordan Black, who was signed from Kansas City in March, to protect Schaub's blind side. "I would hope that we're going to be better at protecting the quarterback," Smith said. "Are the problems fixed? Not to the degree that we wanted. We did not find a long-term solution at left tackle. We're still looking, but I think we'll be able to manage." Schaub is unfazed by the less-than-glowing endorsement for his line.

He said the amount of times Carr was sacked while in Houston did not concern him when he was traded to the Texans. "No it wasn't, because I knew there were injuries and there was a lot that went into that," he said. "It's a team thing and the offense as a whole has to get better at that." The Texans also did little to address their need for a legitimate receiving threat to play opposite Pro Bowler Andre Johnson. Coach Gary Kubiak likes Kevin Walter, but the fifth-year player has cracked 200 yards receiving only once in his career. Houston added Keenan McCardell just before camp, but the 37-year-old has already missed practice time with a hamstring problem. "We have got guys that can make plays on this team," Schaub said. "They are just young and haven't gotten the experience or amount of opportunities that a guy like Andre Johnson has gotten." Johnson, who has been with the Texans since 2002, is excited about the possibilities for the offense. "Schaub's a leader," Johnson said. "He's out there working and he has a lot of confidence in his game."

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2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**

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2007 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Black w/Leather, All Power, 6 Disc CD, Heated Seats, Super Nice, Like New. Was \$23,995 **NOW \$22,995**

2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

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2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2006 Ford Mustang GT - Blue w/Black Leather, 5-Speed, Manual Transmission, Local One owner, 21,600 Miles. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2005 Volkswagen New Beetle GLS - Dark Blue w/Tan Leather, Automatic, Local One Owner w/Only 12,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2005 Ford Mustang GT - Dark Red With Red Leather, 5-Speed Manual Transmission, Local One Owner With 10,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

2005 Nissan Sentra 1.8S - Maroon w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/22,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2005 Ford Five Hundred Limited - White w/Gray Leather, Automatic, 6 disc MP3, Moonroof, Locally Owned. Was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

★★★ CARS ★★★

2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Sandstone w/Tan Cloth, CD Player, All Power, Nice Car, 34,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 **NOW \$16,995**

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2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$21,995**

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2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 **NOW \$11,995**

2004 Hyundai Tiburon GT - Silver w/Black Leather, 5 Speed, All Power, Moonroof, Only 29,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 **NOW \$14,995**

2004 Mercedes-Benz LK C240 - Gold w/Tan Leather, Woodgrain, Moonroof, Heated Seats, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Only 42,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Dark Red w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Heated Seats, Like New, Low Miles. Was \$15,995 **NOW \$14,995**

2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan leather, CD Player, Like New, One owner, Only 19,685 Miles. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

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2008 Ford F350 Crew Cab Lariat - Super Duty w/Leather, Loaded, All Power, 4X2, Only 5,900 Miles. Was \$45,995 **NOW \$44,995**

2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Black w/Gray Cloth, 6 Disc CD/MP3, Like New, Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel ABS, Privacy Glass, Chrome wheels, Only 19,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**

2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Silver w/Gray Cloth, 6 Disc CD/MP3, Like New, Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel/ABS S, Privacy Glass, Chrome Wheels, Only 14,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**

2005 Chevrolet Avalanche - Tan w/Tan Cloth, V8, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner, 42,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**

2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power. Was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner, With Only 21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/58,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Dark Red, 6-Cyl., Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2002 Dodge 1500 SLT 4X4 - Dark Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, Very Nice Truck, Low Miles. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

1994 Chevrolet 1500 Reg. Cab SWB - Teal w/Cloth, 350 V8, Nice, Nice 94 Model. Was \$7,995 **NOW \$6,995**

★★★ SUV's & VANS ★★★

2007 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer 4X2 - Dark Copper w/Camel, 2 Tone Leather, Captain Chairs, 5.4 L V8, Loaded To The Max, Powerfold 3rd Seat, Keyless Entry. MSRP \$36,620 **NOW \$31,995**

2007 Ford Explorer XLT 4X2 - Redfire w/Lt. Stone Cloth, Fold Flat, 3rd Seat, Comfort Group, CD, MP3 Player. MSRP \$28,115 **NOW \$23,995**

2007 Ford Ford Escape XLT FWD - Vista Blue, w/Drk Flint Cloth, Power Seats, alarm, Privacy Glass, 6 Disc CD Player. MSRP \$24,130 **NOW \$20,995**

2007 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver w/Tan Cloth, Folding 3rd Seat, CD Player, All Poer, 4 Wheel ABS, 22" Chrome Wheels, 11,000 Miles. Was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles. Was \$21,995 **NOW \$20,995**

2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4X4 - Silver w/Black Leather, New Tires, All Power, Like New, One Owner. Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2005 Toyota Sequoia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Nice SUV, 44,000 Miles. Was \$27,995 **NOW \$26,995**

2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Gold w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Super Clean, Only 19,024 Miles. Was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Black w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, CD Player, Only 28,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2004 Nissan Murano SE - Silver w/Black Leather, Heated Seats, All Power, Moonroof, Only 23,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 SL - Gold w/Tan Leather, CD Player, All Power, Heated Seats, Only 30,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 **NOW \$16,995**

2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2002 Toyota Highlander LTD - Silver w/Gray Leather, DVD, CD Player, All Power, Like New. Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**

1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. Was \$11,995 **NOW \$9,995**

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Births



Brandyn Ty Cortez

Brandyn Ty Cortez, a boy, was born at 2:28 p.m. July 28, 2007, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length.

He is the son of Vickie Cortez of Coahoma and the grandson of Margrete Cortez and Alfonso Cortez.

...

Maliyah Faith Rodriguez, a girl, was born at 4:43 a.m. July 24, 2007, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

She is the daughter of Rosanna Rodriguez of Big

Spring and the granddaughter of Frank and Cindy Rodriguez of Big Spring.

She was welcomed home by brother Abel Torres Jr.



Jimmy Lee Soliz Jr.

Jimmy Lee Soliz Jr., a boy, was born at 11:03 p.m. July 13, 2007, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20.5 inches in length.

He is the son of Patricia and Jimmy Soliz of Big Spring and the grandson of Guadalupe and Julian Burciaga and Mary and Joe Soliz, all of Big Spring.

He was welcomed home by big sister Nayeli Leah Soliz.

...

Douglas Daniel Armstrong, a boy, was born at 8:14 a.m. July 27, 2007, weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces and was 18.5 inches in length.

He is the son of Andy and Stacy Armstrong of Big Spring and the grandson of Janet and the late Douglas Wurmnest and Wendell and the late Johnnie Faye Armstrong.

He was welcomed home by siblings John B., Andi and Ashlan.



Jayden Blye Green

Jayden Blye Green, a boy, was born at 2:40 p.m. July 17, 2007, at East Cooper Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches

long.

He is the son of Frankie and Aaliyah Green of Charleston, SC.

Maternal grandparents are Andrew and Redell Wright of Mt. Pleasant, SC. Paternal grandparents are Floyd and Sandra Green of Big Spring.

...

Angelo and Stephanie Garcia of Silverdale, Wash., are parents of twins.

Penelope Grace Garcia was born at 1:15 p.m. and Audrey Elise Garcia at 1:18 p.m. July 27, 2007. Penelope weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches in length. Audrey weighed 5 pounds, 6 ounces and

was 20 inches in length.

They are the grandchildren of Ed and Emiko Helmuth and Sammy and Irma Ortega.

The twins were welcomed home by sibling Christine Marie.

...

Brianna Nicole Hambrick, a girl, was born at 3:44 p.m. July 27, 2007, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 18 inches in length.

She is the daughter of Weldon and Nicole Hambrick of Big Spring and the granddaughter of David Crockett and Katherine Crockett of Austin and Weldon Hambrick and Janet Hambrick of Big Spring.



Penelope Grace Garcia



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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

tain degree. It also rained last year, so we're really hoping for better conditions this year."

Wallace said the festival, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the museum, located on the apron of the Big Spring Airport runway, should be fun for visitors of all ages.

"We currently have 23 vendors lined up," said Wallace. "We were lucky enough to secure a vendor from Wichita Falls that has carnival games for both children and adults. We also have vendors coming in from Midland, Odessa and Stanton."

A talent contest, based loosely around the televi-

sion series "America's Got Talent," will also take place during the festival.

"It's called 'Big Spring's Got Talent.' We're going to have judges similar to the judges on the show," said Wallace. "And I really want to stress that this talent contest isn't just for children, but for people of all ages, even groups and teams. There's no entry fee and it's going to be a lot of fun for everyone involved."

Preliminary rounds for the contest are expected to begin at 9 a.m., according to Wallace, with the final round expected to take place around noon.

"We have so many events and contests planned for the festival it's hard to keep up with all of them," said Wallace with a laugh. "We have a dog and master look-alike

contest set for 10:30 a.m., a peanut spitting contest at 1 p.m. and a bug race at 2 p.m.

"At 3 p.m. there will be a horseshoe pitching contest and an ugliest dog contest at 4 p.m. Then, at 5 p.m., we'll hold a pepper eating contest."

In addition to enjoying classic cars, motorcycles and model aircraft, Wallace said residents planning to attend will also have the chance to support a new project for the facility.

"On the mezzanine, during the hottest part of the day, the temperature can get as high as 123 degrees," said Wallace. "We've already seen significant damage to some parts of our collection because of the heat and ultraviolet rays. We need solar blinds for the muse-

um, but it would cost approximately \$20,000 to get them.

"We received funding from the Permian Basin Area Foundation for \$5,000, so we have to raise the remaining \$15,000. We'll have T-shirts and

ball caps for sale during the festival, and all of those sales will go toward the purchase of the solar blinds."

Wallace said the deadline for vendors to sign up for the festival is Monday at 4 p.m.

For more information, call 264-1999.

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

HERALD

Continued from Page 1A

tomor oriented," said Smith, "and I intend to bring that with me to this new position. I want to make sure our customers get the service they pay for and deserve. I'm looking forward to a long and prosperous career with the Herald."

The paper's sports department also saw a promotion, as sports writer Jonathan Hull has advanced to the position of sports editor.

"I've enjoyed my time following the local sports in the three months I've been here," said Hull. "I appreciate the opportunity to continue doing so at the sports editor's position."

"My goal is to make sure that any local sport — especially on the high school level — is given some ink. From Big Spring to Grady, I plan on covering the area completely."

Hull said he hopes his love of sports will help the newspaper's sports section shine in the future.

"I love sports. It's more than just a hobby for me, it's a passion," said Hull. "Anyone who spends any amount of time around me can tell you that the majority of what I talk

about is sports.

"Personally, I hope that I can fill every day's paper with nothing but area sports coverage. That's what this paper should be about. What happens in the surrounding area is what is most important to me."

And while the pair of promotions may be a time for celebration among the editorial and circulation staffs, the Herald did see one writer leave its camps, as summer intern Dustin Wilson left to pursue a position with a magazine in New York.

"I've learned a lot from working with the editorial staff. I feel very lucky to work with the writers and editors that I admired and hope to take what I've learned here with me," said Wilson. "They've been doing this for such a long time, they have a lot to share with people. The pressures they face on a daily basis are overwhelming, and they do a great job at working

together to produce a quality newspaper.

"Anyone who fills this position is going to be working with one of the best news teams in West Texas. I'm going to miss working with such a great staff. Working here was truly a milestone in my career as a writer."

"I'm going to continue working as a columnist for Venues magazine, which is a Brooklyn-based music magazine that covers local music and working part-time at Borders Bookstore."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Gabriel "C.G." Talamantez, 29, died Wednesday. Funeral Service was at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Wilma Pruitt, 67, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at her residence. Funeral Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.


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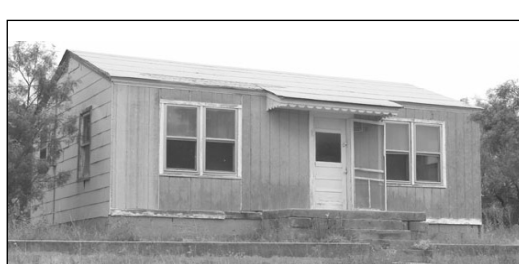
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Hall of Fame ready to receive once-troubled Irvin

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio — Of the six players about to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Michael Irvin was the only one to make headlines off the field. Irvin knows that's not a good thing.

The Dallas Cowboys receiver recognizes that his troubles easily could have kept him from the shrine in Canton, where he will be inducted Saturday.

"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."

The way it worked out, Irvin was voted into the hall in his third year of eligibility, joining former "Triplet" Troy Aikman, his quarterback with the Cowboys. In a few years, the third part of that memorable offensive juggernaut, all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith will make it, too.

Irvin knows he made it difficult on himself, his teammates and NFL fans.

"I don't know if (his stats) gets overlooked, but sometimes the good stuff may get overshadowed," Irvin said. "Whether I like it or not, I made those bad decisions and you're going to take all those things into account when you're dealing with me."

A few weeks after the Cowboys won their third Super Bowl with the Triplets leading the way, police found Irvin, marijuana, cocaine and strippers in a hotel room for his 30th birthday party.

He pleaded no contest to felony cocaine possession and was put on probation for four years.

It was one of several run-ins with police. And Irvin wondered if he'd burned his chance for making the hall.

"A few days before the vote, a current player called me and said, 'They're just trying to keep you out because once you go in, the rest of us player-boys

will, too,' " Irvin said. "I never thought of it like that. I hope they don't think of it like that. I'm not trying to lead the way for bad boys to get in. I'm just trying to deal with my own issues."

The other inductees — Thurman Thomas, Bruce Matthews, Roger Wehrli, Charlie Sanders and Gene Hickerson — had no such issues. All were exemplary players for, in the most part, one franchise.

While Irvin had his problems, he also had enviable statistics worthy of enshrinement.

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

"I never coached a player who had as much passion for the game as Michael Irvin," said Jimmy Johnson, his coach for much of Irvin's career. "He also was the guy who I knew at crunch time I could depend on to come through with a key play."

Just as Thomas did for the Buffalo Bills.

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 play-off records for career points (126), touchdowns (21), and consecutive games with a TD (9). He was the 1991 league MVP and, helped Buffalo win four straight AFC titles, but no Super Bowl crowns.

"I wish I could've won a Super Bowl so I could feel what that felt like," Thomas said. "But if it's anything like this, I don't think there's anything you can compare it to."

Comparing Matthews to any other offensive lineman would be fruitless. No one was more versatile: 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 cen-



MCT photo/Ken Love/Akron Beacon Journal

Former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin waves to the crowd as he is introduced at the Enshrinees Dinner held Friday at the Canton Civic Center in Canton, Ohio. Irvin is one of six former players who will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Sunday.

ter, 67 at right guard, 22 at right tackle and 17 at left tackle.

He excelled at all of them for the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans.

"Whenever I was approached about a move, I took it as, 'Well, the coach has faith this is going to make the team better. The least I can do is believe the same thing,'" Matthews said. "It never felt like a sacrifice or like I was doing anything special."

Hickerson was so special that none other than Jim Brown, for whom Hickerson was the lead blocker with the Cleveland Browns, called him "the greatest downfield blocker in the history of pro football." As a 248-pound guard — about 100 pounds lighter than some

guards today — Hickerson played 15 seasons and Cleveland never had a losing record in that time. He made five straight All-Pro teams (1966-70) and in 1964, he helped Cleveland to the NFL championship.

Like Hickerson, Sanders made the Hall of Fame thanks to a seniors committee vote. Sanders was a strong blocking tight end who became a pass-catching threat for the Lions. A three-time All-Pro in an era when quarterbacks rarely looked to their tight ends, Sanders made 30 or more receptions in a season seven times and had more than 500 yards receiving in six seasons.

"This is the icing on the cake for a guy that was slopping

hogs not long ago," Sanders said.

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.

"It's really kind of beyond words or beyond explanation," Wehrli said. "It's just wonderful and you're proud to be able to call yourself a Hall of Famer, to know that you're in there with the guys that were heroes to you when you were growing up, heroes even when you're playing."

"It just makes you feel humble, thankful and proud all in the same sentence."

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From left, Miss Ellis County, Faith Bates, fourth runner-up; Miss Frisco, Heather Hodges, first runner-up; Miss Texas 2007 Molly Hazlett (Miss Longview); Miss Montgomery County, Adrianna Nelson, second runner-up; and Miss West Texas, Chelsea Schwartz, fourth runner-up.



Who's Who

Miss West Texas 2007, Chelsea Schwartz of Garden City, placed as fourth runner-up at the Miss Texas pageant held July 7 in Fort Worth.

Chelsea, 22, is a 2003 graduate of Garden City high school and a 2007 graduate of West Texas A&M University.

Although the pageant was not televised, it was on the internet and is still available for viewing on demand. For information, go to the Miss West Texas Web site at www.misstexas.org and follow the links.

In June, she and fellow contestants traveled to Atlantic

City, N.J., on a trip they won through incentives. While there, the group toured the Miss America offices, museums and boardwalk. They also met the CEO of the Miss America Organization, spent the day with current Miss America Lauren Nelson of Oklahoma, and were featured in an evening parade along the Atlantic Ocean.

Chelsea is the daughter of Floyd and Martha Schwartz of St. Lawrence. Her grandparents are Emma Doe of Big Spring and Joe and Rose Schwartz of Garden City.



HERALD photo/Dustin Wilson

Professional Pharmacy's Jimmy Anderson stands in front of a historic photo of Bluebonnets acquired in Fredricksburg. Anderson will be offering the public an opportunity to own the photo with the proceeds going towards the Boyce Hale Scholarship. For more information, call 264-2546 or go by Professional Pharmacy at 1000 Main St.

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Friends of Library seeks book donations

Herald Staff Report

The Friends of the Howard County Library are requesting donations for a book sale.

"We want nice, used books," Howard County Director Hollis McCright said. "We don't want books that look like they've been out in the chicken barn. We also ask that people do not donate Reader's Digest books, National Geographic or magazines."

McCright asks that the donated books be boxed, if at all possible, and that they be brought to the library during normal business hours.

The book sale will be held Sept. 14 through Sept. 16 in the library basement.

The Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization which provides supplemental support for the library. Its most recent project has been the summer reading program.

For more information on the book sale, contact the library at 264-2260.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends of the

Library should stop by the library for an application. Dues are \$5 annually, beginning in April. Meetings are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month.



McCright

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Salvation Army's school supplies drive needs help

With the start of the new school year just three weeks away, the call has gone out from the Salvation Army. It desperately needs our help to make sure its annual back-to-school supply drive succeeds.

Virtually all of us know that one of the most important things we can give children is an education, and that means we need to make sure children have everything they require when school bells begin to ring.

Each year, however, many families in Big Spring find they simply cannot afford what many of us take for granted — providing their children with the necessities such as paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons, scissors, rulers and the like.

That's where the Salvation Army steps in.

Last year, the organization handed out school supplies to several hundred Big Spring children from kindergarten through the eighth grade and this year Capt. Russ and Linda Keeney expect to provide supplies for that many or more. And again this year, the Keeneys say they will also be providing back packs in addition to the school supplies.

Without the Salvation Army's help in providing those supplies, a lot of children would be at an immediate disadvantage when classes start.

But without our help, those children will definitely be at a disadvantage this year, according to Russ Keeney, because thus far very few donations for the program have been received.

“With school starting in less than a month, it's a little disturbing that we haven't had much response from the public,” Keeney admitted. “And with everything costing more these days, there's concern on a couple of fronts — that it's going to take more money to buy supplies than it has in previous years and that there would probably be more people needing our help.”

While donors can purchase school supplies and bring them to the Salvation Army offices for distribution, it should be noted that monetary donations are preferred.

The Salvation Army is a tax-exempt organization and therefore can purchase more supplies with the same money than individuals.

Applications from parents or guardians of students in need of school supplies will be taken for three days, Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 13-15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Salvation Army building located at 811 W. Fifth.

Applicants will need to bring some information with them when they register, such as a birth certificate or Medicaid card and Social Security card for each child, as well as proof of residency, income, expenses and a photo ID for the person applying for the program.

Those that qualify will be able to take pick up their children's supplies and take them home that day.

If you know of a family in need of help, encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. Without those supplies, children will be at an immediate disadvantage.

And please remember, if you can help out by donating money for the effort, please do so.

As we have noted before, donations to the Salvation Army school supplies program are an investment. They are an investment in education, an investment in a child's future and an investment in our community's future.

Who could question that would be money well spent?

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

The sooner we trust what you say, Lord, the better off we will be.

Amen

Poll surprises out-of-touch paper

When a *New York Times* poll found that the number of Americans who think it was right for the United States to go to war in Iraq rose from 35 percent in May to 42 percent in mid-July, rather than promptly report the new poll findings, the paper conducted another poll. As the *Times'* Janet Elder wrote Sunday, the increased support for the decision to go to war was “counter-intuitive” and because it “could not be easily explained, the paper went back and did another poll on the very same subject.”

Round Two found that 42 percent of voters think America was right to go into Iraq, while the percentage of those polled who said that it was wrong to go to war had fallen from 61 percent to 51 percent. The headline for Elder's piece read, “Same Question, Different Answer. Hmmm.” But it should have read: “America's Paper of Record Out of Touch With American Public.”

Elder wrote that growing support for the war seemed odd: “Once in a while a poll finding doesn't make sense.” It occurred as Congress was debating the war and the Bush administration had to report that Iraq had failed to meet a number of benchmarks for

progress.

Too true. But at the same time, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari had begun warning the public of the consequences of a premature withdrawal. Brass serving in Iraq were explaining why they wanted more time to let the surge work, as they were making inroads in fighting insurgents and winning support from the Iraqi public.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Most important: President Bush had responded to criticism of the administration's erstwhile undermanned whack-a-mole Iraq strategy, which had depressed U.S. troop morale, by putting Gen. David Petraeus in charge of Iraq and implementing his nuanced counterinsurgency and no-retreat surge plan.

To assume that this change in leadership made no difference is tantamount to admitting that the criticism of the Bush administration's policies was designed more to hurt Bush than to win the war. (Be it noted, many San Francisco Bay Area readers are so averse to the idea of victory that they will challenge me to define it. That's because they do not want to imagine an Iraq in which citizens are secure, Iraqi forces operational and U.S. troops can begin to withdraw without fearing genocide.)

While the Petraeus strategy does not quite bolster the decision to go into Iraq — Elder noted that, oddly, the poll did not find a change in voter approval of Bush'

handling of the war — war polling always has been problematic.

Consider the July 13-15 Rasmussen poll that asked likely voters if it is “possible for the U.S. to win the war in Iraq”: 32 percent answered yes, 54 percent no.

Yet when asked if Washington should wait until September before making major changes in Iraq, 51 percent said yes, 38 percent said no. If voters really thought the war cannot be won, they would not want to wait until September.

On Sunday, the *Times* also ran an opinion piece, “A War We Just Might Win,” by war critics Michael O'Hanlon and Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution, which has prompted Beltway biggies to notice that the surge is paying off.

Well, not everyone inside the Beltway. Rep. Jack Murtha, D-Pa., dismissed the piece as “rhetoric.” “I don't know what they saw, but I know this, that it's not getting better,” Murtha told CNN. Since this war began, there always have been people rooting for failure.

With the death toll of U.S. troops surpassing 3,560, Americans have cause to be wary and distressed. They may tell pollsters that they are pessimistic, but that does not mean that they are prepared to lose.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Big Spring, you have no idea how lucky you are to have such a superior high school, as well as your junior high school, intermediate school and elementary schools.

Way to go students!

Take it from parents who would like to have a little of that “Big Spring” education in our town.

KENT SHARP
GAINSVILLE

TO THE EDITOR:

Last month maurice's clothing store celebrated its one-year anniversary in Big Spring and the company decided to celebrate with customers voting for their favorite local non-profit. I was told that maurice's philosophy is to give back to the community and with that great fortune, we received the most votes and a \$500 donation was awarded to our agency.

The staff, volunteers and board of directors of Victim Services would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation of the community's vote and maurice's dedication to the community. We would like to share with you what the money will be used for and a short

history of the agency.

Victim Services of Big Spring is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing the necessary assistance and direct quality service to all victims of violent crime. Our goal is to provide crisis intervention and continuing support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, homicide and other violent crime as well as their families. We focus on rendering needed services to speed their recovery from the victimization and to assist them throughout the medical, legal and criminal justice process.

Created as Rape Crisis in 1984, we serve a five-county area, which includes Howard, Martin, Glasscock, Mitchell and Borden counties. Our agency is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year service. We are able to provide these services with a staff of four and through trained volunteers that also provide the below mentioned services on an on call basis.

Services include crisis intervention to provided emotional support and guidance to the victim, usually at the emergency room, police department or sheriff's department. Follow-up contact is also made to

track the victim's progress and provide further emotional support and direction. This may include justice support and advocacy which assists and supports the victim throughout the legal and criminal justice process, informing him/her of criminal procedures, preparing the victim for court, assisting with victim impact statements, keeping the victim informed of the case status and escorting the victim to court.

Emergency legal advocacy is provided to victims by preparing all paper work for applications for protective orders, temporary protective orders and final protective orders. Assistance in applying for Crime Victims Compensation is given to all eligible victims. We assist the victim in securing his/her rights and securing all remedies available to the victim.

Emergency financial assistance is often given to assist the victim in locating emergency funds within the community. Victim Services often pays for emergency needs such as, food, shelter, clothing or transportation. We also assist law enforcement in death notifications and aid the families of completed

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

Having a baby? Get paid time off

With all the partisan bickering in Washington in the past couple of weeks over the war, Scooter Libby's non-punishment, and whether Harriet Meirs is entitled to claim executive privilege in the Justice Department scandal, the media has ignored one bit of bi-partisan cooperation that could mean a lot to working people, especially women.

Senators Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Ted Stevens (R-Ark.) have introduced a bill to provide paid family leave for birth or adoption of a newborn, care of an elderly parent, or serious illness of the employee. It's about time. The U.S. lags far behind most industrialized countries in granting this benefit to its workforce. According to researchers at Harvard and McGill Universities, 163 other countries guarantee paid maternal leave and 45 countries provide paid paternal leave. Additionally, 37 countries already ensure paid leave for the care of an ill child. By contrast, our present system grants only unpaid leave, and only to employees of large companies. Most can't afford to take it. This legislation would help close that gap, and begin to bring the United States up to par with other industrialized



MARTHA BURK

nations.

Of course some will say that taxes in those countries are much higher than in the U.S., and what's more, it smacks of socialism and government as big brother. True, our taxes are lower. But if you factor in the cost to families when a wage earner has to quit a job for reasons covered by the new bill, and the cost to companies of turnover and replacement when these employees leave, our present setup isn't such a bargain after all. As for big brother, those same arguments were made when the United States first required public schools. Up until then, only the rich and well-connected could educate their kids. Hmmm, sort of like the present system on family leave — the rich can afford it on their own, and tough luck for ordinary workers.

The new Family Leave Insurance Act (FLIA) would create a giant insurance pool funded by employees and their companies. It would provide eight weeks of paid leave in a 12-month period on a sliding scale. Folks at the bottom, making \$20,000 a year or less, would get 100 percent wage replacement. Others would get replacements ranging from 75 percent down to 40 percent for higher wage workers (\$60-\$97,000 per year).

The best part is that it won't cost anybody that much. Big corporations would pay an average of \$6.12 per month per worker, matched by the employee. Small

companies wouldn't be required to participate, but if they opted in, they and their workers would pay half the tab of the big guys — only \$3.06 per employee. My guess is that almost every employee in America would give up a few lattes or trips to Wal-Mart for stuff they don't need in order to gain this enormous benefit. And the companies? If the Halliburtons of the world can't shell out \$73.50 per year to grant some relief to their overstretched workers, maybe we ought to rethink the \$21 billion in contracts they get from big brother government.

With an election year coming up and both Democrats and Republicans grandstanding on how much they care about families, you'd think support in the Senate would be darn near universal. No dice.

So far, Dodd and Stevens have garnered exactly two other co-sponsors, Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). The signatures of senators on both sides of the aisle who could sign on to the new Family Leave bill are conspicuously absent.

Working women, by far the majority of voters in both parties, deserve better.

Martha Burk is the author of “Cult of Power: Sex Discrimination in Corporate America and What Can Be Done About It.”

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Unhappy Ellis to play despite problems with contract

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Greg Ellis seriously considered retirement.

The disgruntled and injured linebacker had even determined how much of his signing bonus he would have to return to the Dallas Cowboys.

While still disappointed and unhappy that he didn't get the restructured contract with an extension that he wanted, Ellis said Friday that he would continue playing and not walk away from the game.

"Retirement was really there for me, but I still love the game," said Ellis, the former first-round pick going into his 10th NFL season, all with the Cowboys. "I know if I walk away from the game right now, I would regret it."

Ellis is set to make \$2.5 million this season and is trying to come back from a torn Achilles' tendon last November. He has missed all 14 training camp practices, though he came out for the opening workout July 25 before he felt an unbearable pain in his surgically repaired foot.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones met with Ellis for about an hour Monday night, and just like he did before last season, Jones refused to change the contract.

Ellis didn't discuss their chat until Friday, which was his self-proclaimed deadline for a decision.

"He didn't budge anything on the contract," Ellis said. "It was

for me to retire or accept what he's saying and deal with that."

Ellis got a \$4.2 million signing bonus with his new contract in 2003, and would have had to return about half of that had he retired. The deal still has two more years after this season.

Jones wasn't at camp Friday. He was already in Canton, Ohio, where he will present Michael Irvin for the former Cowboys receiver's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

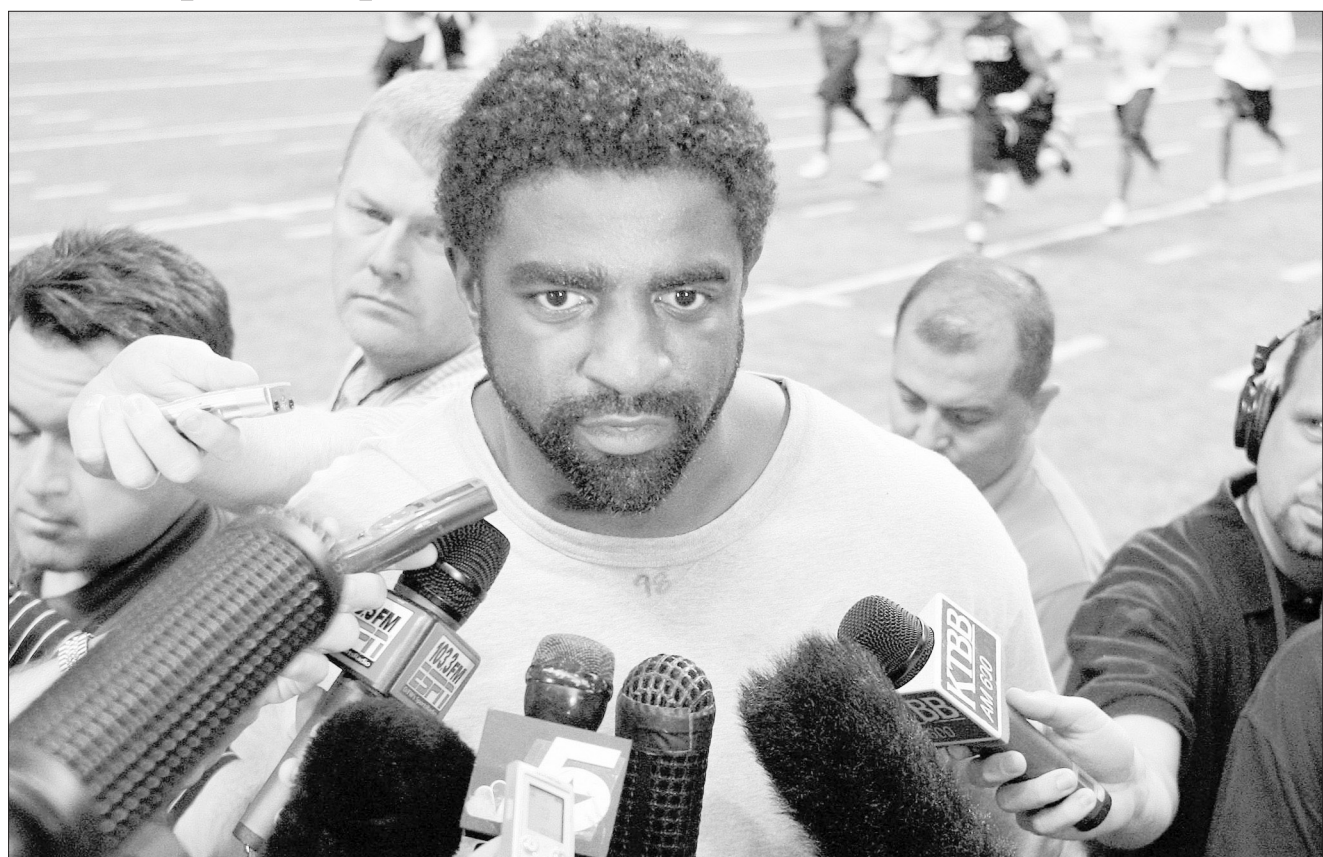
"I'm glad we've got him," Jones said earlier this week when asked about Ellis. "I wouldn't trade that for the alternative of not having him at all. I wouldn't even contemplate it. ... I don't consider it to be a problem."

The Cowboys drafted Ellis with the eighth pick in 1998. Ellis, who will turn 32 later this month, started 130 of 133 games before missing the final seven last season after getting hurt.

Former coach Bill Parcells moved Ellis from defensive end to linebacker last season, a year after Ellis had to make the adjustment to playing end in a 3-4 defense for the first time after his entire career in four-man fronts.

Ellis said several conversations with his wife and a phone call from former teammate Darren Woodson on Wednesday night convinced him that he wasn't ready to retire. Ellis woke up about 3 a.m. Thursday and knew then that he wanted to keep playing.

The linebacker insisted his desire for a restructured con-



MCT photo/Ron T. Ennis/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys linebacker Greg Ellis meets with the media after the Cowboys training camp Friday at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Ellis has voiced his displeasure with his contract status frequently during camp.

tract wasn't about getting more money, but that he wanted a longer commitment from the Cowboys.

"I've got a family and I love to play football and I don't want to be in the situation where I have to move around the country to play from team to team," Ellis said. "This was solely just trying to get a commitment. That didn't happen, so we are where we are."

Ellis said he would still like to think that he would be able to

retire having spent his entire career with the Cowboys, but "in all honesty, I just don't see it happening."

Ellis also doesn't believe Jones would have given him a new contract even if the linebacker was healthy and on the field practice.

While Ellis thought he would be back on the field by now, he won't rule out playing in the season opener Sept. 9 against the New York Giants.

"The tendon is still intact.

There are no bone spurs," Ellis said. "When you go hard on it, it's sore for a couple of days. It will subside. ... We were on a fast pace. We jumped on it real hard, and probably should have broken in a little slower."

Extra points: The Cowboys released punter Sam Paulescu and signed linebacker Khari Long, a former Baylor standout. ... Second-year cornerback Damarius Bilbo saw time at receiver for the second straight practice.

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BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 4C
Sunday, August 5, 2007



HERALD PHOTO/Dustin Wilson
Evan Botoun, maintenance technician for Western Container, points out to Billy Darrow the pressure level readings on one of the new German Corpoblast machines obtained by the company this year.

Energy Watch



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



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

Last week, President Ahmadinejad said Iran will not abandon its nuclear program. He said, "The West...has concluded that it cannot put Iran under pressure by imposing sanctions." Though he went on to claim acceptance of the Iranian program is inevitable, we aren't particularly sure.

The Bush administration has always maintained it leaves military options on the table. The European press has noted George W.'s frustration with diplomatic negotiations and his move back into VP Cheney's hard-line camp.

If the United States did strike Iran, what might happen? A conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation, simulated a war game highlighting this scenario. In their exercise if Iran pulls out of the non-proliferation treaty and tests a nuke, the U.S. would respond, bombing the enrichment infrastructure.

Following the U.S. offensive, Tehran would halt its exports to those not siding with Iran. An offensive in Iraq would begin and the nation's southern oil fields would be shut-in. Venezuela would side with Iran and place an embargo on U.S. exports. Then, the energy crisis moves to the Straits of Hormuz where Iran sinks an oil tanker. FYI — The Straits move nearly one-fourth the world's oil.

In the worst case scenario played out by the Foundation, oil shipments fall 6 million barrels per day and the Foundation believes oil prices move to \$150 per barrel. The U.S. Gross Domestic Product would decline by \$161 billion and disposable income would fall \$100 billion more than that within a year of the initial attack. Finally, with the economy in decline one million jobs are lost.

We note however, many of the decisions the administration could make would alternately impact the potential price spike and fallout. For example, if the United States deploys forces to protect the Straits, the channel could remain open. Also, depending on the U.S. presence in Iraq at the time, the southern oil fields could be protected as well.

Quick news...

- Shell said last week that it currently does not have a firm date when its production in Nigeria will return to normal. Shell alone has nearly 200 thousand barrels per day of production shut-in.

- Corn production in the Midwest is partially blamed for the Gulf of Mexico's "Dead Zone." The area measures approximately 8,543 square miles

See **ENERGY**, Page 5C

Bottle rocket

Big Spring is home to some of the world's largest PET injection molding machines

By **DUSTIN WILSON**
Staff Writer

Ever wonder who makes those plastic Coca-Cola bottles you purchase in your local convenience stores, grocery stores or vending machines?

The answer is a company that's a lot closer to home than some would think.

"Our company started here 26 years ago on this location at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark," said Patrick Chesworth, general manager of Western Container. "The company was established in 1979 by a group of investors interested in the

"These German Corpoblast machines allow us to produce more than 40,000 bottles per hour. It's exciting to have these types of machines here."



Chesworth

manufacturing of plastic bottles for the Coca-Cola company.

"In the larger metropolitan areas, you were able to buy the bottles rel-

atively cheap. In the rural parts of Texas they were harder to come by. A lot of the time you'd place an order and you wouldn't know when or if the bottles were going to be delivered. Big Spring was an ideal location."

Western Container is responsible for filling the orders for Coca-Cola, which produces several name-brand bottled products, including Sprite, Dasani and Fanta. The company at times demands a high volume of production from Western Container.

"We do between 40 and 60 truck-

See **BOTTLES**, Page 5C

Tax-free holiday coming two weeks later this year

By **GRANT SLATER**
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — State lawmakers on Friday reminded back-to-school shoppers expecting a discount this weekend that the sales tax man is taking his Texas vacation a little later

this summer.

Because the state mandated a later start date for public schools, the annual tax-free holiday that has become popular with Texans will be the third weekend of August instead of the first. This year's break from the 8.25 percent sales tax will be

Aug. 17-19, with school starting Aug. 27.

Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Fort Ben, said the new date will allow more families across the economic spectrum to take advantage of the holiday in a state where tax breaks often go first to the wealthiest.

"Every kid is an inch taller, maybe a bit wider than they were last year. Clothing is a basic need, so this is helping all families," Olivo said.

State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said the tax-free holiday attracts shoppers from neighboring states and spurs

residents to hit the stores.

"It's turned out to be one of the most popular things we've done in the state Legislature," Ellis said. "It doesn't cost the state that much money in the grand scheme of things."

See **HOLIDAY**, Page 5C

Fight over oil tax threatens energy bill

By **H. JOSEF HEBERT**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — House leaders pressed Democrats from oil states Friday to support \$16 billion in oil industry taxes and sought a compromise over use of renewable fuels by electric utilities, hoping to clear the way for approval of energy legislation.

The White House, meanwhile, expressed broad opposition to the two Democratic energy bills saying they make "no serious attempts to increase our energy security or address high energy costs" and would harm domestic oil and gas production.

The administration's statement said senior advisers would recommend the president veto the bills, should they reach his desk. House Republican leaders on Thursday sent President Bush a letter also urging a veto.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has vowed to get energy legislation through before lawmakers leave for their month-long summer recess at the end of this week. The Senate passed its energy legislation earlier this summer.

A vote was planned for Friday.

But a partisan dispute that erupted Thursday night on an agriculture

spending bill spilled over to Friday, making it uncertain whether the energy legislation might be postponed until the weekend.

The legislation would roll back nearly \$16 billion in tax breaks for oil companies and provide a broad array of tax incentives and other measures to spur development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency programs. It would establish new efficiency standards for appliances and other equipment and government support for research into alternative energy such as batteries for plug-in hybrid-electric cars.

See **OIL TAX**, Page 5C

BOY'S CLUB DONATION



HERALD photo/Dustin Wilson
Tony Gonzalez, left, is presented with a \$200 gift card and a 24-inch digital television from Wal-Mart store manager Walt Salinas as a donation for the Boy's Club located at 212 E. Third St.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

suicide.
Without charitable donations from people such as you, we would not be able to provide these services. Again, thank you all for your confidence and kindness in voting for our agency.

SHANN SMITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VICTIM SERVICES OF BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to know where the county was planning to house the jail inmates while it was building a new jail if the bond had been passed?

We keep hearing about all the problems and expenses the voters have caused by not voting it in, but nobody has mentioned that the sub-standard problem would have still been there, even if the bond had been passed.

ZONA LEE
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

We hear about the generosity of Big Spring and surrounding communities and we have another example of just how great our citizens are! We have a ministry called the Angel Food Ministry whereby we sell a large quantity of top quality food at a low, reasonable price. This ministry was started to assist people in our area with their food budgets and now, with the high price of gasoline, this program can be a big help in stretching household budgets.

When we started this ministry, our biggest question was how can a small church with 18 to 20 active members, most of them older, handle the large quantity of food each month. Well, Big Spring and our neighbors came to our assistance.

Without any call for volunteers, we suddenly had people from all walks of life, from all races, religions and of all

ages coming to help. We have a youth group from Westbrook that comes in each month to help load boxes and carry them for people; we have an Emmaus group that helps with paperwork as well as distributing food; we have a local businessman who loans us equipment to unload the truck; we have teachers, preachers, white collars, workers and laborers all working together in this worthwhile ministry.

To say God's call has been answered by these people is an understatement. They are doing God's work to help God's people and we are all blessed by each of them.

All of this is to say a great big thank you to all these people. They are too numerous to list each by name, but they know who they are.

Once again Big Spring and the surrounding area has rallied to give to others.

If you want to see these people in action, come to North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church on the last Saturday of the month as they all gather to do their jobs.

And to each of you who helps, we the members of North Birdwell UMC say, "Thank you, you are truly very special people."

THE REV. JOEL R. MILLER
PASTOR
NORTH BIRDWELL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to the Big Spring Herald, KBST and KBYG for the help with publicizing our recent concert by Mariachi San Pablo of the Ysleta Lutheran Mission.

Besides the very effective paid advertisements that were done by each business, you were very generous in offering public service announcements and news stories.

Big Spring is fortunate to have the



HERALD photo/Dustin Wilson
Dr. J. Gale Kilgore, left, presents 4th Aviation Infantryman Pvt. Jacob Braxton with a check for \$500 from the people of Big Spring for his service in the United States military. To make a donation to the families of people serving in the military, please send all contributions to P.O. Box 3358, Big Spring 79721 or make a deposit at the Woodforest Bank, account number 5901848.

kind of professional news sources that we enjoy. We appreciate your help and encouragement.

SUZANNE HANEY
EVENT COORDINATOR
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I lost a good friend who had a wonderful wife named Tonya. His name was Earl Wright. He had a way about him that touched your life. I was thankful

that he and Tonya found each other. Both were fulfilled when they got together.

He will be missed in a big way. I just wanted to say what I felt about him to let everybody see that he was a good friend.

Pray for Tonya in her time of need. She is a good lady and needs our support.

TAMMY ADAMS
BIG SPRING

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.

• **HOWARD COLLEGE AND SOUTHWEST COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF** will be honoring Ron Brasel, provost at SWCID for the past 21 years, with a retirement party from noon to 1 p.m., Monday in the SWCID Auditorium. Refreshments will be served and a "retirement rocking chair" will be available for all in attendance to sign messages to Ron. Everyone is invited.

• **A BENEFIT DINNER FOR RAUL ROBLES** will be held from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at St. Thomas Parish Hall, 605 N. Main. the Menu will consist of munedo, carne guisda, asado, rice, beans and desserts.

• **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.

• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF ALBERT "BERT" CARRILLO**, who was killed in a traffic accident near Ft. Stockton Saturday, at the Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union to help offset burial

expenses. The Credit Union is located at 1110 Benton. Call 263-8393 for more information.

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

PROM FUNDRAISER SET FOR AUG. 11

John Wesley's Pickpocket Billiards will be the site of a dance from 8:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 11, to raise money for the BSHS Class of 2009 junior/senior prom.

The band "Hillbilly Freak Show," consisting of Mike Speck, Keith McGuire and Donny Green, will perform.

All money from the cover charge and pool tables that evening will be donated to the BSHS prom, organizers said.

Cover charge is \$5 for the event. For more information, contact Karen Martin at 213-1388.

FISD

Continued from Page 1A

Administrators are scheduled to receive raises of 3 percent in the coming school year, Johnson said.

The maintenance department also will receive some much-needed equipment, as will transportation, which will get a new school bus.

Final approval on the budget and tax

rate is expected later this month. In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Goal setting for 2007-2008.
- Highly qualified teacher report.
- 2007-2008 school calendar.
- Construction projects.
- Updated student code of conduct.
- Personnel matters.

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

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Technician position for Independent Pharmacy in the Beautiful Central Texas town of Hamilton. Great Pay and Benefits! Must have experience, good work ethic, and be willing to relocate. Fax resume to 254-386-884 or email jordan_pharmacy@htcomp.net

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Hiring class CDL Drivers. Clean MVR. Call 432-756-2875 or apply at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

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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.

Help Wanted

NOW ACCEPTING applications for:
1. RN - 7 PM to 7 AM - Mitchell County Hospital
2. LVN - Wallace/ Ware Prison Medical Unit - 3pm -11pm shift.
3. RN - Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Unit - 7am-3pm shift
4. X-Ray Tech - Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Units
5. Dietary Cook - Mitchell County Hospital
These are full time positions with competitive salary and benefits. Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

NOW HIRING full time/ part time employees at WES-T-GO. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER is accepting applications for the following position at the Ector County Detention Center. Successful candidate will be required to pass a security clearance.
Licensed Vocational Nurse (Requisition #73659)
3-11 Shift
Contact: Robin McCullough, R.N. at 432-335-3560
For additional information and to apply, Log on to <http://jobs.texastech.edu>
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Prefer an RN/LVN with 1 year Homecare experience. Please call our office at 432-264-1164 E-mail GolleherV@FMS-regional.com

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER is accepting applications for the following position at the Ector County Detention Center. Successful candidate will be required to pass a security clearance.
Certified Medication Aid (Requisition #73884)
3-11 Shift
Contact: Robin McCullough, R.N. at 432-335-3560
For additional information and to apply, Log on to <http://jobs.texastech.edu>
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StarTek offers great benefits including paid time off after only 90 days, paid holidays, opportunities for advancement, medical coverage, and medical/dental insurance, 401K Plan after 6 months of service.
Apply or send resume to StarTek Inc, 501 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. (432) 264-2700 or Fax: (432) 264-7770
Applications also accepted at www.anna.osborne@startek.com



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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.

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 Rd.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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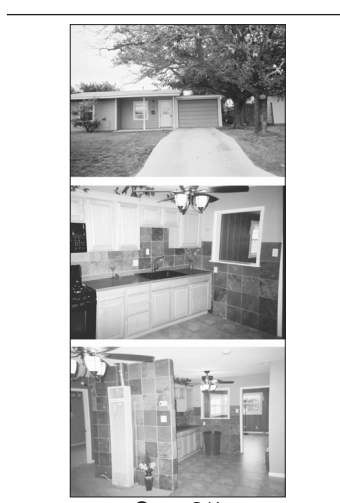
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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Full
9 Kind of rebate
15 Comparatively crisp
16 Elevated
17 Teamwork obstacle
18 Pacifist philosopher
19 Wild talk
20 Emphatic assent
22 Unseen enticements
25 Catch
26 Onetime Hertz owner
27 Medicinal plant
29 Governmental units
32 Jerk
34 Sound starter
35 Lusterless
39 Zip
40 Drop off
41 Son of Jacob
42 Whimsical pursuit
44 Curious
46 What you can do
51 "Look at this!"
52 Smuggle
54 Fun to be with
55 Correspondent's need
59 "Le surrealisme, c'est moi" speaker
60 Projected, with "out"
61 On sale, or taken off sale

DOWN

- 1 Luxor Temple sculpture
2 Racing Hall of Famer
3 Engage
4 Introspective query
5 Cash holder
6 Cancun kin
7 Choice word
8 Device with a tumbler
9 Gidget setting
10 Composer Menken
11 Player with a click wheel
12 Learned
13 Risky
14 Memo notation
21 Novel nuance
23 Backward
24 Darn
28 Stiffen
30 Sound of sheets
31 Connection with a bend
33 Lose no time
35 Successor of the wax sealer
36 Like
37 Diesel engine's lack

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 38 British East India Company product
43 Duster
45 Inclines
47 Belgian export
48 Important ingredient in DNA repair
49 Honor Thy Father author
50 Deteriorates
53 "Hogwash!"
56 Greek letters
57 A vicuña is on its coat of arms
58 Film-length measure
62 It recognized Israel in '88
63 Speed (up)

15x15 crossword grid with numbered squares.

Vehicles

1996 SUBURBAN LT., 159K, Very clean. White with tan leather, non-smoker, \$4,600. Call (432)263-4491.

Legals

This is an invitation to anyone interested in becoming a training provider for the Permian Basin area. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information on becoming a training provider, please contact the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board at 1-877-563-2580. #5456 July 29 & August 5, 2007

THE STATE OF TEXAS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition a default judgment may be taken against you."

STACY ELAINE GUIETTE vs. MARK ANTHONY GUIETTE A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: DIVORCE, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

COLLEEN BARTON, District Clerk 118th District Court, Howard County, Texas #5468 July 29 and August 5, 12 & 19, 2007

CITY OF BIG SPRING NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Big Spring will receive sealed bids on the following date/time for the purchase of the below listed items/equipment: 1. Date/Time: Tuesday, August 21, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., for the following 1. Polyurethane Wedgewater Panels 3,072 sq. ft.

Answer to previous puzzle
BASK UPN SNAPUP
LUTE PLO ALLLOTS
IRINSOUT YELLAT
MORNINGGLORY
PREYS SOAK DOH
SAD DIOR GLOAT
NOONDAYLIGHT
REVIEW EATSUP
EVENINGSHADE
PETAL OPUS ASU
ORO CORN SALON
MIDNIGHTBLUE
INDOOR NEEDLERS
COOLTO GRE ELEC
INSEAM YSL REDO

su | do | ku
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ANSWERS
7 9 5 | 1 6 2 | 3 4 8
1 3 8 | 9 5 4 | 2 6 7
4 2 6 | 8 7 3 | 5 1 9
5 7 1 | 3 4 9 | 6 8 2
9 8 3 | 2 1 6 | 4 7 5
6 4 2 | 7 8 5 | 9 3 1
8 5 4 | 6 2 7 | 1 9 3
3 6 7 | 5 9 1 | 8 2 4
2 1 9 | 4 3 8 | 7 5 6

ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS
Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
As the Leo sun stokes the backyard barbecue, the Taurus moon trims the hedges and puts her finest cuttings on display.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

They've got an easy relationship. He uses these final weeks of summer to recharge and enjoy the life they've been busily building all year. She cuts her losses and contemplates what it takes to make this life more certain.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Trying on a new attitude may feel odd at first, but that's not to say it won't stick. An adjustment you make now could be the key change that helps you become more entirely yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whether or not to conform is the question. If you do, you create momentum toward a certain goal that may not mean much to you. But if you don't, you stand alone — at least for now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's safe to make a bet

on yourself, but not a good time to bet on anything out of your immediate control. Tonight, follow your bliss, especially if it leads you to study.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Where there's a dearth of creativity and humor you'll show up and fill in the blanks. Through your example, you teach others to laugh. Tonight, launch a private rebellion against a controlling influence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In every situation there's a bright spot. It may be miniscule, like a pinprick of light, but it's there. Find it and stand in it. Everything looks better from that vantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In regard to love, it's time to leave limbo-land. Accept offers and you're also saying "yes" to magic. Tonight, friends have something to contribute and no agenda other than to see you succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The rules change, but knowing the "why" will allow you to adapt quickly. Ask gentle questions. Others are in a sensitive mood, but your famous diplomacy opens communication channels wide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

21). History is written by the winners. Become one by documenting your journey through this lifetime. When you know that everything you do will go down in writing, you make mightier choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're always the first to dive in, push the boundaries and furl yourself into the unknown. But today, the real unknown is not "out there," it's inside you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A vigorous expansion phase of your personal life means all kinds of new additions. So be careful, be choosy and be observant. If you're not, your Virgo friend will have the chance to say, "I told you so."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). New love is promising when you don't think too much about it and simply relax into it. This is also a lucky shopping day, especially for those in the market for a computer or car.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Physical exercise and recreation rev up relationships. You can also revive things by offering favors. Single? New partners are attracted to your

versatility and creativity. **FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:** Summer has officially found her stride this week in the fortifying confidence of Saturn and Pluto's deliverance, two earthly gatekeepers ascending. They're the plutocracy, an immortal grandfather clock in a very important room of heaven, timekeepers of change and the power behind the decision makers who make history. And just like your grandfather, your favorite CEO or the person to whom you entrust your future, when Saturn and Pluto enter a room, you straighten your tie, smooth your dress and rise to the occasion. It's no formality. It's an internal response to authentic power. Grace happens and lives change under the mobilizing influence of influence. Since Saturn and Pluto began their harmonious talk earlier this summer, we've entered a rebuilding time, a period to create touchstones of strength. Creative power recognizes creative power, and just like a restructuring corporate merger, this creates exponential strength and stability. This week, VIPs have your back, elders

share wisdom from the experience of their own mistakes, deals are forged and everyone moves forward from a position of strength. When you're summoned to move into a position of power, show up when you're called.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Science fiction, the supernatural, signs and superhuman powers — otherworldly influences permeate M. Night Shyamalan's eerie screenplays. Neptune, the planet of dreams, in intriguing Scorpio heightens the ultra-dramatic flair of his Leo sun. Surprise endings may be his specialty, but the biggest trick of all is how he wins the audience over with the mere suggestion of a mood: suspense.

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: Our younger son, "Chris," finished his sophomore year of high school with a B average. That's not bad, but his lack of motivation to work for the higher grades he usually gets was uncharacteristic.

The worst thing is that in May, Chris bought a laptop computer with his own money and refuses to listen to reason about restricting the time, place and content of what he's watching on the Internet. He stopped doing his homework on time, missed getting to the bus and sometimes didn't even wake up for school. The computer is all he's interested in now, and he no longer eats meals with the family and won't go outside for any reason. If we try to get him to obey house rules, he becomes angry.

To have this bright, creative kid turn into a video-game junkie is our worst nightmare because that's what happened to his older brother, who stays up all night playing games and sleeps during the day. We tried to avoid this with Chris by limiting his access to video games, even on the cell phone, but there



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

wasn't much we could do when he bought his own laptop without our approval.

Our older son, who still lives with us, encourages Chris's use of the Internet, advising him about game playing. If we took away the laptop, we'd have to involve the police, because I'm sure there would be violent opposition. We have an appointment with a family counselor in a week, but the counselor refuses to see us without Chris. What do we do if our son refuses to go? — Mother of a Former Honor Student in Indiana

Dear Indiana: You are afraid of Chris, and he takes advantage of that.

First, talk lovingly to him, using his older brother as a good example of what he doesn't want to be at that age. Otherwise, if he won't go to the counselor, make an appointment to see a different counselor for yourself and your husband. You also can contact Because I Love You (bily.org), P.O. Box 2062, Winnetka, CA 91396-2062.

Dear Annie: I am 27 years old with two children and a stepchild. My husband and I are getting ready to celebrate our third anniversary. I love him so much, and I know he loves me, but he has been drinking a lot lately. I can deal with that, but he will go out on a Friday and not come home until Sunday. He never calls to say he is OK or where he's at.

When he's home, we spend all our time together. I tried talking to him, but it didn't help. Do you think I'm hanging on to him too tightly? — Louisville, Ky.

Dear Louisville: No, dear. A married man should not be disappearing for two days every weekend. Your husband may have a

problem with alcohol, depression, responsibility, fidelity or all of the above. You can talk to your clergyperson and check out Al-Anon (al-anon.alateen.org), but your husband must be willing to admit he has a problem, or little progress can be made. Please ask him to address the issue for the sake of your children as well as your marriage.

Dear Annie: You've had letters in your column about bachelor parties with booze, strippers and gambling, but a newsletter I receive reported a different kind of bachelor party. And it could just as easily have been a bachelorette party.

The young men, including the groom, donned their work clothes and spent several hours at a homeless shelter, assisting the facility with refurbishing some apartments in preparation for new occupants. At the conclusion of their work, they toured the facility and met some of the people who were scheduled to occupy the rooms on which they worked. What a great way to approach married

life! — A Regular Reader
Dear Reader: This is a wonderful idea. It is such a respectful and mature approach to commitment, and also is generous and compassionate. We hope it catches on.

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

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 2003 Chev Silverado Ext. Cab LS 30,000 Actual Miles. MUST SEE. \$16,450	 2003 Tahoe LS 60K, Extra Nice. \$17,950

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Never ceased to be amazed

Or the saga behind Starbucks and the military

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the world's Internet audience believes the endless array of stories and letters that find their way onto the information highway, eagerly swallowing them like candy-coated gifts from a world with their best interests in mind.



THOMAS JENKINS

You know what I'm talking about. Your e-mail inbox is loaded with them, sent by dear friends who believe they are doing the world a service by warning you about the latest virus or murderous scam, urging you to pass the information along to all of your friends in an effort to be a better Internet buddy.

And, while this might be a great tool for disseminating information to a public that's already wary of the government and media, it's prone to the same craziness the chain letters of years past promoted.

For example, I've seen a bulletin floating around Myspace.com urging its users to boycott Starbucks coffee because the company has refused to support our military troops serving overseas.

And while the vast majority of net-savvy surfers will readily pass the bulletin or message along in an effort to show their love for our troops and their support for the red, white and blue — an admirable quality, at the least — they fail to do one very important thing: Find out if the claims are factual.

While television news seems less concerned with finding the truth than a Bush-commissioned fact-finding team,

I was just a little skeptical when I saw this and decided to turn to the numero uno of the urban legends world, snopes.com.

Here's one of the bulletin/e-mail's many incarnations:

"Please pass this along to anyone you know, this needs to get out in the open. Recently, Marines over in Iraq supporting this country in OIF wrote to Starbucks because they wanted to let them know how much they liked their coffee and try to score some free coffee grounds. Starbucks wrote back thanking the Marines in their business, but that they don't support the War and anyone in it and that they won't send them the coffee.

"So as not to offend them we should not support in buying any Starbucks products. As a war vet and writing to you patriots, I feel we should get this out in the open.

"I know this war might not be very popular with some folks, but that doesn't mean we don't support the boys on the ground fighting street to street and house to house for what they and I believe is right. If you feel the same as I do then pass this along, or you can discard it and I'll never know. Thanks very much for your support for me, and I know you'll all be there again here soon when I deploy once more."

The letter is signed by Sgt. Howard C. Wright, 1st Force Recon Co. Snopes contacted both Starbucks and Wright, and lo and behold, it turns out the whole thing is false. Well, sorta'.

As it turns out, Starbucks' corporate policy prevents the company from handing out its world famous coffee to anyone, not just to the U.S. government or military personnel. So, if you send the company a let-

ter asking for free coffee, you're going to get a "we regret we can not help" letter.

However, the claim that Starbucks refuses to send free coffee to American soldiers because it doesn't support the war effort is 100 percent untrue.

"Starbucks has the deepest respect and admiration for U.S. military personnel," Starbucks officials said in a press release.

"We are extremely grateful to the men and women who serve stateside or overseas. We sincerely appreciate that they are willing to risk their lives to protect Americans and our values of freedom and democracy. While Starbucks as a company cannot directly donate to military personnel, many of our partners (employees) show their support by donating coffee."

What it amounts to is employees of Starbucks receive one pound of coffee free of charge each week — it would take me a month to use a whole pound of coffee, just so ya' know — and they have the option of donating that coffee to the troops, or anyone else they want, for that matter.

According to the press release, employees in their Atascadero, Calif., store sent their weekly mark out coffee to troops in Afghanistan so they are able to enjoy a little piece of home, and the customer relations department in Seattle donated hundreds of pounds of coffee to the sailors in the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group.

In July 2004, a Starbucks in Cincinnati was reported to have been practically overflowing with people making yellow ribbons in support of Keith "Matt" Maupin, a soldier whose fate was then uncertain — it has subsequently been reported that he had been

beheaded by his captors — along with red, white, and blue ones to show support for American troops in Iraq. In June 2004 in Cleveland, when the mother of one serviceman called her local Starbucks to arrange for the shipping of some java to her son, the employees at that store insisted on paying for 30 pounds of coffee as their gift.

According to Snopes.com, Sgt. Wright — who is stationed stateside at the moment but who will be deployed overseas in the next few months — heard the story from a friend, who had gotten it from someone else.

He talked things over with the Marine who had supposedly contacted Starbucks, and that, coupled with that night's televised news about the goings on in Iraq, made his blood boil. He pounded out his thoughts into the form of an e-mail, which he mailed to 10 of his friends.

Just 10 e-mails. And

who says no one out there in Internet land is listening?

Since that time, Wright sent the following message to the people he began the landslide with:

"Almost five months ago I sent an e-mail to you, my faithful friends. I did a wrong, though, that needs to be cleared up. I heard from word of mouth about how Starbucks said they didn't support the war and all. I was having enough of that kind of talk and didn't do my research properly like I should have.

"This is not true. Starbucks supports the men and women in uniform. They have personally contacted me and I have been sent their company's policy on this issue.

"So I apologize for this quick, wrong letter I sent out to you. Now I ask that you all pass this e-mail around to everyone you passed the last one to. Thank you very much for understanding about this."

Unfortunately, Internet rumors and urban legends are much, much harder to kill than they are to start, as Sgt. Wright has undoubtedly learned. The same e-mail and bulletin has shown up since then targeting a number of other companies, including Oscar Mayer. Yup, my bologna has a first name, and it's not u-n-p-a-t-r-i-o-t-i-c.

And so, feel free to kick back and enjoy a frappuccino without guilt or feeling like a Jane Fonda wannabe, and the next time you see a Myspace.com bulletin or an e-mail telling you something like this, take a few minutes and investigate.

You don't have to be Mike Hammer to uncover the truth.

And all this time I thought Folgers started this rumor. Silly me.

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

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Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact

USDA Rural Development has received an application for financial assistance from Lancaster Pollard Mortgage Company, for construction of a 48 unit multifamily apartment building. It will be located at MLK St. one Block East of FM 700.

The major elements of the proposed project will consist of 48 one, two and three bedroom units. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), USDA Rural Development has assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. To avoid any significant environmental impacts, the following mitigation measures have been adopted: (No Mitigation Measures).

With the inclusion of these measures, USDA Rural Development has assessed the potential environmental impacts of this proposed action and has determined that it will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, USDA Rural Development will not prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Any written commitments regarding this determination should be submitted within fifteen (15) days of this publication. Requests to review the Environmental Assessment upon which this determination is based should be directed to USDA Rural Development at 6113 43rd St. Suite B, Lubbock, TX 79407; Attention Jane Gonzales.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Early Bird Catches the Worm

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦K 9 3
♥A 7 2
♦19 6 4
♠A 8 5

EAST
♦J 8 7 2
♥10 4
♦A 5
♠10 9 6 3 2

SOUTH
♦A Q 6
♥Q J 5
♦Q 10 8 2
♠K Q 4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

There are some plays that run so contrary to normal procedure that when the opportunity to make them arises, they can be easily overlooked. Yet when these selfsame plays are later pointed out, their wisdom cannot be denied.

Take this case where West led a heart against three notrump. South took East's ten with the queen and counted eight winners in spades, clubs and hearts. Because his ninth trick could come only from diamonds, he crossed to the spade king at trick two and led a low diamond toward his hand.

East then made a very good play

by rising with the ace and returning a heart, establishing West's suit. Since declarer could not come to nine tricks without continuing diamonds, the contract went down one, the defenders scoring two diamonds and three hearts all told.

South's undoing occurred at trick one, when he took the ten of hearts with the queen. Had he refused to win this trick, declarer would have retained his Q-J as a second stopper against West's king, but with one important difference: After East returned a heart, he would have no more hearts to lead later on.

It then would not have mattered whether East won the first diamond lead or not. If he did, he could not continue hearts, giving South time to establish his diamond tricks. And if West won the first diamond lead, he would have no subsequent entry card to his long suit.

How can declarer know he should refuse the first heart trick? Because the chief threat to the contract is that West might have five hearts and a diamond entry. By ducking at trick one, South severs East-West communications without giving up his two heart tricks.

It is true that this approach would fail if West had five hearts and both diamond honors, but that holding is not nearly as likely as finding West with only one of the top diamonds.

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Jury finds soldier guilty of rape, murder in slaying

By RYAN LENZ

Associated Press Writer

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.

— A military jury on Friday found a soldier guilty of rape and murder in the slayings of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and her family.

Jurors deliberated much of Friday evening before convicting Army Pfc. Jesse Spielman, 22, of conspiracy to commit rape, rape, housebreaking with intent to commit rape and four counts of felony murder.

Spielman, of Chambersburg, Pa., was charged in connection with the March 12, 2006, slaying of the girl and the killings of her family. The attack took place in Mahmoudiya, a village about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

Military prosecutors did not say Spielman took part in the rape or murders, but alleged he went

to the house knowing what the others intended to do and served as a lookout. Spielman had pleaded guilty on Monday to lesser charges of conspiracy to obstructing justice, arson, wrongfully touching a corpse and drinking.

The judge scheduled a sentencing hearing for Saturday morning. Spielman faces a mandatory life sentence. The jury will decide if he will be eligible for parole.

Spielman's grandmother, Nancy Hess, collapsed outside the courtroom after the verdict was read and prosecutor Maj. William Fischbach ran to her side and called 911. Soldiers in Spielman's unit fanned the woman with napkins.

Spielman's sister, Paige Gerlach, screamed: "I hate the government. You people put him (in Iraq) and now, this happened."

Defense attorneys left

the courthouse immediately following the verdict and could not be reached for comment.

Prosecutors rested their case Thursday amid struggles to overcome a fellow soldier's recanting of a story that Spielman acted as a lookout during the attack last year.

Spc. James Barker, who has admitted his own role in the assault, said in earlier testimony that he had allowed investigators to draft sworn statements for him that implicated Spielman in the crime.

Barker testified Wednesday that several portions of the document were untrue, including references to Spielman's role in the conspiracy to attack the family and his knowledge of plans to rape the girl.

Another soldier convicted in the attack, Sgt. Paul E. Cortez, testified that Spielman stood guard as his fellow soldiers raped

the girl. Cortez said Spielman was within a few feet of the others as they held down the screaming girl but did nothing to stop them.

Barker, Cortez and another soldier, Pfc. Bryan L. Howard, pleaded guilty for their roles in the slayings and received sentences of five to 100 years.

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Ad that ran in the 8/2/07 Edition of the Big Spring Herald for Sears was incorrect. The correct Ad ran in the 8-3-07 Edition.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

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

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

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Midland
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• Midland Park Mall | (432) 522-2032

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Mildred W. Rudd



Mildred W. Rudd, 84, died Thursday, Aug. 2 in Midland at the Hospice Inpatient Unit after an extended battle with breast cancer. Mildred was born Dec. 16, 1922, in Fredonia to Laura Bradshaw Kinman and Willie Kinman. As a child and young adult, she lived in several Texas cities including Alpine and Pecos. In 1950 she met her future husband, Neil Rudd in Pecos. They were married Jan. 29, 1951, and remained happily married for 30 years until they were parted by Neil's death in 1981.

Mildred and Neil lived in Big Spring their entire married life where Neil owned and operated a swimming pool business, Holiday Pools, and Mildred worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone as a manager in charge of operator services. After 35 years of employment, she retired in 1978.

After retirement, Mildred passionately and lovingly spent most of her time enriching the lives of her three children and grandchildren. She loved sewing for her family, creating unique crafts, reading (especially the Mitford series which she read and re-read more times than can be remembered) and cooking. Eventually, she relocated to Lawrence, Kan., where she lived with her youngest daughter. In 2004 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and in December 2006 after her illness reached a terminal status, she moved to Midland to spend her final days with her two oldest daughters.

Mildred was preceded in death by her

husband, Neil A. Rudd who died in 1981, and all of her siblings and both parents. She is survived by her three children, Priscilla Horn of Frisco, Cathey Roman of Midland and Cindy Herington of Lawrence, Kan.; seven grandchildren, Jeffrey Roman, Jeremy Antley, Sarah Horn West, Jennifer Roman, Rachel Horn Gardner, Trey Herington and Amanda Herington; and one great-grandson, Kaden West.

Pallbearers will be her beloved grandsons Jeffrey Roman of Denton, Jeremy Antley and Trey Herington, of Lawrence, Kan.; her two cherished grandson in-laws, Nick West of Hurst and Jason Gardner of Bedford; and adored friend Jason Jobe of Lubbock.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, 3800 N Big Spring Street in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at Kelview Heights Baptist Church. Jerry Berry, pastor of Kelview Heights and Vickie Bucy, volunteer clergy for Hospice of Midland, will officiate the service. Interment will immediately follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

In an effort to increase awareness and find a cure for breast cancer, Mildred, along with her family, suggest contributions be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, P.O. Box 224523, Dallas 75222-4523 or www.komen.org.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.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 at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Visitation was held Friday.

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 living in 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; great grandmother, Dora Hernandez of Big Spring; several aunts and uncles, including Raul Vela and his wife Sandra, Louie Vela, Ricky Vela, Johnny M. Talamantez and his wife Mona Lisa, all of Big Spring; Paul Talamantez Jr. and his wife Lydia of San Angelo; Arlene Baldazo and her husband Abel of Everman, and Irene Carpenter of Arlington; several cousins; and many, many friends.

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

Pallbearers will be Charlie Valverde, Jose Pesina, Shane Thompson, Thomas Ralston, Michael Richardson and Wimpy.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Wilma Lee Pruitt



Wilma Lee Pruitt, 67, of Big Spring died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Frank Nelson and Elder Kenneth Weatherspoon officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Jan. 19, 1940, in Big Spring to Mamie and Dee Scaggs. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and was a member of Powerhouse Church of God in Christ.

She is survived by five sons, Jerome Pruitt, Fred Pruitt and Timothy Pruitt, all of Lakewood, Colo., Victor Pruitt and Mike Phillips, both of Big Spring; two daughters, Demetrius Pruitt and Teresa Walker, both of Big Spring; one brother, Don Scaggs of Ontario, Calif.; two sisters, Janice Hicks of Aurora, Colo., and Patricia Billups of Lakewood, Colo.; and 11 grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Dee Scaggs Jr. and Lieutenant Scaggs; and one sister, Betty Jo Harold.

The family will be at 2615 Larry. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Ricardo Beltran

Ricardo Beltran, 77, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at his residence. A gathering will be held at 2 PM Friday, Aug. 10, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Father Richard Regan officiating.

He was born July 19, 1930, in Moundsville, W.Va.

Mr. Beltran had lived in Big Spring since 1977. He was a Catholic.

Survivors include two sons and daugh-

ters-in-law, Ricardo M. and Lisa Beltran of Midland and Roberto and Tiffany Beltran of East Dubuque, Ill.; one daughter, Diana Beltran of Los Angeles, Calif.; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Bertha Mae Willis Lewis

Bertha Mae Willis Lewis, of Georgetown, Ky., died Thursday, July 19, 2007, at her home. Funeral services were held July 24, 2007, at Great Crossings Missionary Baptist Church, officiated by the Rev. LaMont Jones. Interment followed in Maple Grove Cemetery.

A native of Richmond, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Mary Miller Willis and was a member of the

Great Crossings Missionary Baptist Church. She was a retired housekeeper.

Survivors include her husband, Charles William Lewis; two sons, Herschel (Doris) Lewis of Big Spring and SFC William Lewis of Louisville; a daughter, Charles Etta (Rodney) Mynhier of Lexington; 12 grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren; and three brothers, J.D. (Gerald), L.C. and Leslie Willis, all of Lexington.

Funeral arrangements were under the care of Johnson's Funeral Home.

www.bigspringherald.com

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The HOWARD COLLEGE will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 48.85 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 13, 2007 at 12:30 PM and August 17, 2007 at 12:30 PM at Board Room in The Dora Roberts Student Union Bldg on the Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Dr. Charles O. Warren Mr. Harold Davis
Mr. Donald B. McKinney Dr. John E. Freeman
Mr. Murray Murphy

AGAINST: PRESENT and voting: None

ABSENT: Ms. Marie Ethridge and Mr. Michael L. Flores

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditures categories:

Maintenance and operations	-0.63 % decrease
Debt service	100.00 % increase
Total expenditures	6.43 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$1,879,276,554	\$2,335,543,104
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$8,805,862	\$4,805,462
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,508,764,840	\$1,871,593,236
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$6,447,020	\$4,473,626

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$1,428,271

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.241200 per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$0.289083 per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.047883 per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	19.85 % Increase

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$34,847	\$39,838
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$6,969	\$7,967
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$27,878	\$31,871

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$67.24. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$92.13. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$24.89 in taxes.

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

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Painful wait for family, friends of those missing in collapse

By SHARON COHEN

AP National Writer
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Divers searching the debris from a deadly interstate bridge collapse — their efforts already hazardous because of jagged metal and concrete — faced occasional showers and thunderstorms Saturday as their grim work went on.

The number of dead stood at five, but authorities credited a rush-hour crawl that gave vehicles little momentum to slide into the river and a bridge design that minimized falling debris with keeping the death toll relatively low.

Officials cast doubt on an earlier estimate that as many as 30 people were missing. They even said it could be as few as eight.

President Bush arrived Saturday and was to be briefed on recovery efforts and meet with victims and their relatives.

At a site set up by the Red Cross to offer counseling, about 30 friends and family had been seeking news on five missing motorists, and counselors said they were growing more distressed.

"They've just been waiting for word, any kind of word," Red Cross spokesman Ted Canova said Saturday.

Of the roughly 100 injured in Wednesday's collapse of the Interstate

35W bridge, 28 remain hospitalized and only five were critical.

"We were surprised that we didn't have more people seriously injured and killed," Minneapolis Fire Chief Jim Clack told The Associated Press.

Experts said the speed and depth of the water in the Mississippi River were much lower than

normal on the day of the collapse, largely the result of a drought, and that may have made it easier for people to escape.

"It's a horrible, tragic event. But it could have been a hell of a lot worse," said Kent Harries, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering in the

University of Pittsburgh's School of Engineering.

Minnesota officials say they don't yet know how many cars were traveling the span during the collapse. But judging by the length of road, the lanes that were open, time of day and widely accepted traffic formulas, Northwestern University engineering professor

Joseph Schofer estimated that 100 to 150 vehicles were on the bridge.

On Thursday, authorities cautioned that the number of missing could rise, in part because there was no way to know how many victims were in the water. Some people without family in the area may not have been reported missing, Police Lt.

Amelia Huffman said.

The missing included a 23-year-old pregnant woman and her 2-year-old daughter.

Authorities still do not know what caused the collapse. Engineers had theories including heavy traffic and construction work that might have put an undue burden on the span.

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Funding nixed for horse slaughter plant inspections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House voted once more to stop spending money on inspections of horse slaughter plants. The measure, approved late Thursday, was part of a \$91 billion spending bill for farm subsidies and nutrition programs. The House approved the overall spending bill 237-18 with 165 mostly Republican lawmakers not voting. President Bush has promised to veto the bill because of its cost.

Two horse slaughter plants that had been operating in Texas were shut down after the owners lost court fights over the past year. A third in DeKalb, Ill., continues to operate while the owner challenges a state law banning the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

sumption.

Animal protection groups have been trying for years to get Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the slaughter of horses for human consumption and won overwhelming votes. But the bills either stalled or were thwarted by legislative or bureaucratic maneuvers. Congress voted two years ago to strip money from the Agriculture Department budget for inspections, and that bill was signed by the president. But the USDA then offered inspections on a fee-for-service basis, allowing the horse slaughter plants to continue to operate. A dispute over the inspections for a fee continues in court.

Texas has had a law for decades preventing the slaughter of horses for

Texas has had a law for decades preventing the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

human consumption. The Texas plants lost efforts to overturn that law or prevent the state from applying it to them. Illinois recently passed a state

law prohibiting killing horses so people could eat their meat, along with the import, export or possession of horse meat designated for human consumption.

Animal protection groups also are hoping the measure will prevent the export of U.S. horses

to Mexico or Canada for slaughter there, but also tweaked the measure so the movement of horses for races, shows or other such purposes wouldn't be effected.

The groups also are working for approval of a direct ban on horse slaughter.

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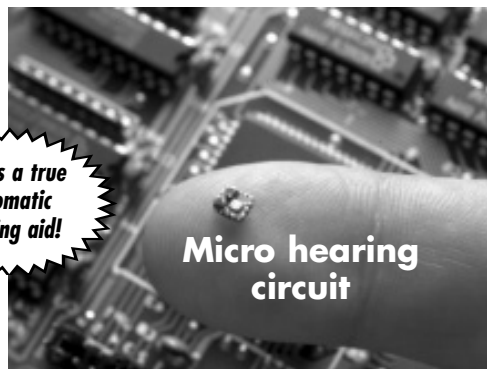
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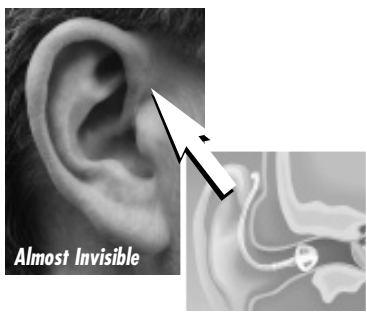
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