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Two-a-days begin for Crossroads area's high school players.

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MONDAY

AUGUST 6, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 215

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Petition seeks citizen initiative

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Shannon Thomason's mayoral candidacy may have been short-lived, but he is working to make his main campaign issue a reality.

Thomason and several of his supporters have started a petition drive to bring about a vote

on whether the city should allow citizens more input into issues addressed by the city council.

"This would allow citizens the opportunity to initiate or remove ordinances from the city charter," said Steve Campbell, who, along with Thomason, was collecting signatures outside the local post

office Saturday morning.

This citizen's initiative was the main plank of Thomason's campaign platform during his unsuccessful attempt to unseat Russ McEwen as Big Spring Mayor earlier this year.

He said the initiative he and supporters plan is similar to those other cities allow, but with some built-in safeguards.

"It's modeled on the same language in the Brownwood city charter, but with some anti-abuse language added," Thomason said. "It would keep the city council — and citizens, too, for that matter — from abusing it."

The petition drive has been active for about a week, although Thomason said it had

been in the works for months.

So far, supporters have collected 42 signatures; they estimate that about 600 are needed to place the initiative on the ballot.

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

Looking better

Coahoma RCCI group's effort spruces up city

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Downtown beautification efforts here officially shifted from "tear down" to "spruce up" mode Saturday.

City residents, armed with brushes and spray guns, gave several buildings a fresh coat of paint as part of an ongoing revitalization effort.

Work in that area began several months ago with the destruction of several dilapidated buildings in the community, but the focus has now switched to beautification.

The residents, operating under the umbrella of the Rural Community College Initiative program — which seeks to bring together community leaders and interested citizens to revitalize rural communities — spruced up several buildings along North First Street Saturday.

Painting will continue for the near future, but it's only the first of several steps planned by revitalization organizers.

Jan Foresyth, the group's RCCI coordinator, said students from the Texas Tech University Landscaping Architectural



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
With help from his wife, Marsha, and daughter, Kelsey, Bruce Allen spray paints the side of the North First Street car wash in Coahoma Saturday morning. Residents spent much of the day putting a fresh coat of paint on several buildings in the community.

Set to soar

All sorts of fun set for gliders, public this week

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

More than 200 hang gliding pilots from all over the globe are expected to begin arriving in Big Spring soon, as the 2007 World Hang Gliding Championships prepares to take off at the Big Spring Airport beginning Tuesday and sail through Aug. 19.

According to event coordinators, pilots representing countries including the Czech Republic, Spain, Venezuela, France, Ecuador, Sweden, Germany and the United States — just to name a few — are expected to begin practice flights as soon as Tuesday at the Big Spring Airport and Mc Mahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The World Hang Gliding Championship won't be the only fun event going on at the airpark this week, 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 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 certain 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, which is located on the apron of the Big Spring Airport runway, should be fun for visitors of all ages.

Col. Jim Little, director for the airpark, said the world competition will be similar to past competitions at the facility, with some changes being made to accommodate the sheer number of pilots expected to attend.

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Family law seminar slated here

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Big Spring has been chosen as the site for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas' Family Law Essentials Seminar — an event promising to attract more than 50 attorneys and district judges to Howard County.

"Cities are picked at random but it is unusual a city the size of Big Spring is selected for this event," said Pete Fierro, coordinator of the event. "We had one in Odessa in 2005 which I coordinated but I didn't expect there would

be another one out here, or be coordinator again, this soon."

The day-long seminar is set for Friday, Sept. 14, at Dora Roberts Community Center. Its purpose is to provide private attorneys with free continuing legal education in exchange for their agreement to accept two pro bono cases with a local legal services provider.

Among the topics:
• Jurisdiction and Venue in SAPCR (Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship), with Richard Sutherland of Wichita Falls,
• If You Can't Get it Before the

Factfinder, You Can't Win, by Amy Montgomery of Houston,

- All You Need to Know About Protective Orders, by Susan Ormand Berry of Houston.
- Relocation, with H.E. Mendez of San Antonio,
- Maximizing the Take at a Final Property Hearing, by Chris Negem of San Antonio,
- Justice For All, a video narrated by Justice Harriet O'Neill of Austin,
- Effective Preparation and

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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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Monday, August 6, 2007

IN BRIEF

Lady Steer Booster Club meets Aug. 13

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13 in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of junior high and high school Lady Steer athletes are welcome to attend.

Call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 with any questions.

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 Saturday.

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 both days.

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

Blue Jays sweep series from Rangers

The Associated Press

TORONTO — As a teammate of Dustin McGowan, Frank Catalanotto saw a young pitcher with plenty of potential but not much polish. Now, McGowan looks like a finished product.

McGowan won his third straight decision, Matt Stairs doubled three times and drove in two runs, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers 4-1 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Toronto won its eighth consecutive home game and swept a three-game series from the

Rangers for the first time since August 3-5, 2000.

The 39-year-old Stairs went 3-for-3, scored once and recorded his second stolen base of the season. In the process, he became the third Canadian-born player to play in 1,500 career games, joining Larry Walker and Terry Puhl.

McGowan (8-5) allowed one run and eight hits over eight-plus innings, walking one and striking out six.

Despite being on the losing end, the Rangers' Catalanotto was still pleased for McGowan, his teammate in 2005 and 2006.

"We were all waiting for him to really blossom and this year he has," Catalanotto said. "I'm happy for him and he's doing a great job."

"He's finally put it all together," Catalanotto added. "We always knew he had the stuff but now he's putting it together, mentally too, and being able to execute."

Jeremy Accardo closed it out for his 20th save in 24 chances.

Texas lost its fourth straight, and has lost seven of nine following a season-high four-game winning streak. The Rangers head home after going 2-7 on a nine-

game road trip to Kansas City, Cleveland and Toronto.

"It's been a real rough road trip," Catalanotto said. "We're happy to get home."

Catalanotto dented McGowan's line early, homering to lead off the game. It was his first leadoff homer of the season and Texas' third.

"Cat tried to make my confidence go down right from the get-go," McGowan said. "You've got to give credit to him. I thought I made a pretty good pitch."

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Area schools start two-a-days



Big Spring's Justin Amaro runs a 40-yard dash during the Steers' first two-a-day practice today. All area football teams started two-a-day practices Monday morning and are expected to continue over the next two weeks. HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Busch breaks out of slump

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

LONG POND, Pa. — Kurt Busch was desperately looking for a full-time crew chief to jolt his middling season. Pat Tryson longed for a second chance to show he could still lead a team to a Nextel Cup championship.

Once they got together, Busch and Tryson have been a perfect match.

With Tryson calling the shots, Busch dominated from start-to-finish and zoomed into championship contention with his first victory in 51 races Sunday at Pocono Raceway.

Busch's resurgence started when Tryson joined Penske Racing six races ago, the third crew chief the former champion has had this season. The win lifted Busch into the 12th and final spot of the Chase for the Nextel Cup standings — one ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr. — with five races left until the championship races start.

"I don't know that I'm surprised because of how talented Kurt is as a race car driver," Tryson said. "I didn't expect it to be this dominant."

Busch, who turned 29 on Saturday, hadn't been in the top 12 in points since a 100-point penalty for reckless driving in June knocked him six spots down to 17th.

Now he's back and on his biggest roll of the season. He turned a 13-point deficit behind Junior into

See **NASCAR**, Page 2B

Carpenter wants to be more than jack of all trades

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Bobby Carpenter is still moving from the inside of the defense to the outside for the Dallas Cowboys, just like he did as a rookie last season.

On some plays in training camp, Carpenter lines up as an inside linebacker. Then he rushes from the outside, sometimes from a defensive end slot.

"I'm just trying to make sure I'm well-versed at everything," Carpenter said. "I don't want to be a jack of all trades and master of none, but I'd like to be able to think that if they need somebody to go in, I'll be that guy."

Carpenter also doesn't want to be a first-round bust.

The 18th overall pick out of Ohio State last year by the Cowboys, and the son of one of former coach Bill Parcells' past players, Carpenter didn't start a game until the regular season finale. He then started the play-off game and had five tackles against Seattle.

"At the end of the year, I was ready to play and I was ready to play for him," Carpenter said.

But Parcells decided to retire

instead of returning for another season.

The Cowboys hired Wade Phillips, a defensive specialist. The new coach also brought a 3-4 scheme, but one that will play a bit differently than Parcells' did — and closer to what Carpenter played in college.

"I think that's helped him some," Phillips said. "It's still a new experience for him, but he's doing some good things. It's really kind of like the light's turned on for him. I'm encouraged."

Phillips likes Carpenter's size (6-foot-2, 248 pounds) and speed. That helps the linebacker to stop runners, rush the passer, and cover tight ends and running backs on pass plays.

Soon after Phillips got hired, Carpenter spoke with his new coach and was encouraged by what he heard.

"He said, 'Do a lot of things, let's see what you can do best, get you in there and let you play,'" Carpenter said. "Then if we have to move you around we will, but we want to get you one solid position where you can excel."

For now in camp, they are still

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B



MCT photo/Khampha Bouaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dallas Cowboys linebacker Bobby Carpenter (54) closes in on Seattle Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander during action in the NFC Wild-Card game Jan. 6.

Obituaries

Police blotter

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 on 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 on 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, both of Lawrence, Kan.; her two cherished grandsons-in-law, Nick West of Hurst and Jason Gardner of Bedford; and adored friend Jason Jobe of Lubbock.

The family received friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, 3800 N. Big Spring St. in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at Kelview Heights Baptist Church. The Rev. 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

Frankie M. Walker



Frankie M. Walker, 97, of Big Spring died on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Don Dawes, her great-grandson, officiating and Rick Cunningham, minister at 14th & Main Church of Christ, assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on July 8, 1910, in Howard County and married Alvin Eugene Walker on March 5, 1927, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death in 1975.

Frankie was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She enjoyed playing games with her family, cooking and the company of family and friends. She loved to travel and going to the Tuesday Ladies Bible Study. She was a member of the 14th & Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, Billie Jean Mitchell of Lubbock, six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Perry A. Walker; one brother, Sam Smith; and six sisters, Emma Cathey, Annie Shipman, Mary Echols, Dona Reid, Florence Rhoton and Cleo Eggleston.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Lubbock Childrens Home, P.O. Box 2824, Lubbock 79408.

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

Christine 'Ma' Ramsey



Christine "Ma" Ramsey, 91, of Stanton died on Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Stanton, officiating.

She was born on July 15, 1916, in Scurry County and married Wilford "Pa" Ramsey on Aug. 29, 1936, in Colorado City. He preceded her in death on Jan. 31, 2007.

Christine was a lifetime resident of Martin County. She loved to travel and collected bottles, dolls and pictures. She was a member of Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Faye and Roger Fleckenstein of Stanton; one son and daughter-in-law, Earl "Beaver" and Veneta Ramsey of Stanton; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 901 W. Missouri, Midland 79701 or to Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 400, Stanton 79782.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Iola Reeves

Iola Reeves, 98, died on Friday, Aug. 3, 2007, in Colorado City.

Open visitation will be today, Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at Kiker-Seale Funeral Home in Colorado City. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, at the Church of Christ in Colorado City. Interment will be at the Dunn Cemetery in Scurry County with Mr. Royce Clay Sr. and Mr. Kerry Cain officiating.

She was born on Nov. 1, 1908, in Young County to Issac James and Linnie Handy James. She was a long time resident of Colorado City and a member of the Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom W. Reeves, and son, Billy Dan Reeves.

She is survived by two sons, Tommy D. Reeves and wife, Fern, of Colorado City and James R. Reeves and wife, Stella, of Bellingham, Wash.; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Bobby Holub

Bobby Holub, 68, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- JASON CESARIO LUERA, 23, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, no driver's license/unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JUSTIN TEI VOGEL, 33, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for resisting arrest.
- JENNIFER DELEON, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of failure to attend school - third or more offense (two counts), burglary of a habitation and hindering the apprehension/prosecution of a known felon.
- CACEE DELANE CORBELL, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole.
- RAYMOND D. DIAZ, 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of a protective order.
- PETE STOKES ACOSTA JR., 45, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of criminal trespass.
- RUBEN GONZALES, 41, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear - motion for enforcement (two counts).
- BEN JOSEPH GARZA JR., 27, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault - family violence.
- FELIPE MANUEL LOPEZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate and violation of a promise to appear.
- ANTHONY THOMAS MCGRUDER, 36, was trans-

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:


- BENJAMIN MUNOZ, 31, 301 Fiesta, was arrested on four local warrants.
- GILBERT MUNOZ, 21, 1902 Mittel, was arrested on a charge of hindering an officer in the course of his official duties.
- TONY SANCHEZ, 18, 609 Holbert, was arrested on two capias warrants.
- ROBERT ELLESWORTH, 26, 13.5 Lima Rd., was arrested on a charge of failure to identify.
- GEORGE KOSTELAZ, 47, 411 Edwards, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.
- DANIEL RIOS, 31, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants, a local capias warrant and charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and resisting arrest.
- DAVID RIOS, 21, of 800 W. Marcy, was arrested Saturday on a local capias warrant.
- STEVEN RAY CROFT, 28, of 1020 Stadium, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ERASMO P. GONZALES, 47, of Dallas, was arrested Saturday and held for the INS.
- ANA MARIA GONZALES, 26, of Dallas, was arrested Saturday and held for the INS.
- LEROY ELMER DOLLEY, 37, of Neal Road, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- GERALD DEAN MIRELES, 38, of 1903 Morrison, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SALVADOR G. PEREZ, 36, of 207 Edwards, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOE T. RODRIGUEZ, 41, of 501 NE Ninth, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication and held for the HCSO.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1500 block of Gregg.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY was reported in the 100 block of Washington.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- FORGERY was reported:
 - in the 1900 block of Runnels.
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
 - in the 700 block of Johnson.
 - in the 1000 block of 14th Street.

Sheriff's report

ferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense and driving while license invalid.

- ROBERT DAY ELLSWORTH, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information.
- AMY GENEANE SCHELL, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of service.
- TAMMY COWART HYER, 40, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a warrant.
- ANDRES LEE JUAREZ, 26, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear - motion for enforcement and bail jumping - failure to appear.
- PROSPERO ANTONIO YANEZ, 20, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of minor in possession.
- MICHAEL A. HORN, 19, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of minor in possession.
- DEVON LEE BUTLER, 22, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, driving while license invalid, possession of drug paraphernalia and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.
- GILBERT P. JIMENEZ, 35, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of sex offender duty to register - 10 years.
- MIGUEL A. REYES JR., 28, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age.
- ROLANDO VARGAS, 27, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- THOMAS VALLIER JR., 47, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

A special tour for a special event.




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

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have called Midland Memorial Hospital home. Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our unique Breast Feeding Shoppe, Beautiful Beginnings. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

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Sun. 8a.m.-noon)

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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.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

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.

NASCAR

Continued from Page 1B

a seven-point edge. "You know it's going to come down to the final race in Richmond," Busch said.

Busch, who had surged to 13th in the standings entering the Pennsylvania 500, led all but 25 laps and made his second career Pocono victory look easy. The 175 laps led was a Pocono record.

Not even a lug nut problem on pit road under caution late in the race and a hard-charging Earnhardt affected him very much. His No. 2 Dodge was clearly the car to beat all day.

Busch fell to ninth on the restart on the 143rd lap, but quickly made up ground and passed the revitalized Earnhardt for the lead with 47 laps left.

The 2004 series champion needs to keep his hot streak going — three top 10s in four races — if he wants to keep his spot for the 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup championship.

It was Busch's first win since March 26, 2006, at Bristol, and he was second in both Pocono races last year.

"You never for one instant think you have the race in the bag," Busch said. "The only time I really thought about it was coming to the checkered, lap 199 coming to 200."

The race didn't include Robby Gordon, who was suspended by NASCAR early Sunday morning for his conduct at the Busch Series race in Montreal a day before.

Earnhardt was second and Denny Hamlin, who swept both races at Pocono last year, finished third. Points leader Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson rounded out the

top five.

"We actually had a stronger car than the last time we were here," said Gordon, who won at Pocono in June. "If the No. 2 car didn't exist today, then maybe some of us had a chance to win this thing. But wow."

Tony Stewart had his two-race winning streak snapped and was sixth.

Busch led nearly the entire race except for a short stretch near the end when Earnhardt shook off early trouble with the No. 8 Chevrolet and temporarily took the lead. But Earnhardt, who failed to capitalize on his first pole since 2002, couldn't press him for very long.

"I don't want to finish 12th, I want to finish eighth or seventh," Junior said. "We've got a few races, but I think we'll do fine."

Certainly the 500-mile race wasn't as wild or controversial as the Busch Series race Saturday in Montreal. Robby Gordon upstaged the debut weekend for the series in Canada with his antics on the track, including his refusal to pull off the track as ordered and celebrating the same time as race winner Kevin Harvick.

NASCAR suspended Gordon for Sunday's race, and additional disciplinary action could come this week. P.J. Jones

drove Gordon's car and finished 37th.

"I'll accept my penalty and I'll accept sitting out today's race," Gordon said.

Busch knows all about the consequences of stiff penalties after he was docked 100 points for reckless driving and endangering one of Stewart's crew members on pit road at Dover.

Busch said after qualifying second on Friday that he hoped those 100 points wouldn't be a factor in making the Chase. With the way he's driving the No. 2 Dodge, they won't matter.

"We've thrown away quite a bit of points this year," Busch said, rattling off a list of blown races. "I'm not going to look back at those 100 points and think it's a deficit. It only made us into a stronger program."

So did adding Tryson, who was available when he was let go as Greg Biffle's crew chief earlier this season. Tryson, a Malvern, Pa., native has given the Penske Racing a program a needed boost and settled the crew chief position that was filled by Troy Raker and Roy McCauley.

"I'm lucky enough to come in and work for these guys," Tryson said. "They've accepted me and done everything I've asked."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

One out later, Michael Young and Sammy Sosa hit back-to-back singles, but McGowan struck out Nelson Cruz and Brad Wilkerson to escape the jam.

Brandon McCarthy (5-8) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings to lose for the first time in three starts. He walked two and struck out four.

"He got us to the seventh and was in the game, but McGowan was just a little better," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "We're impressed with what he gave us today. We just didn't put enough runs on the board."

Toronto tied it in the bottom of the first when Frank Thomas' two-out RBI single scored Stairs, who had walked.

The Blue Jays got lead-off doubles from Gregg Zaun in the second and Stairs in the third, but

couldn't advance the runner either time.

Toronto broke the deadlock in the fifth when Ray Olmedo doubled, went to third on Reed Johnson's sacrifice and scored when Stairs doubled up the alley in left-center.

"He's a good professional hitter," McCarthy said of Stairs. "If you give him a pitch in the zone when he's ahead in the count, you're actually not expecting to get the ball back. He got me in a cou-

ple of big situations that I'd love to go back and do over again."

Texas loaded the bases with two out in the seventh, but McGowan got Ian Kinsler to ground into an inning-ending fielder's choice.

Toronto added two more in the seventh off reliever Frank Francisco. Johnson walked and scored on Stairs' third double before Vernon Wells tripled home the fourth run.

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2007 Property Tax Rates in Howard County

This notice concerns 2007 property tax rates for Howard County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund	Special Road/ Bridge Fund
Last year's tax rate:			
Last year's operating taxes	\$6,677,851		\$541,848
Last year's debt taxes	\$137,815		\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$6,816,666		\$541,848
Last year's tax base	\$1,507,823,990		\$1,507,823,990
Last year's total tax rate	\$.452020/\$100	/\$100	\$.035850/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:			
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$6,805,011		\$541,003
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$1,869,189,889		\$1,869,189,889
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$.364062/\$100	/\$100	\$.028943/\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$.393005/\$100		

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year's rollback tax rate:			
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$6,667,440		\$541,003
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$1,869,189,889		\$1,869,189,889
= This year's effective rate	\$.356702/\$100		\$.028943/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	\$.385238/\$100	/\$100	\$.031258/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$.007478/\$100	/\$100	/\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	\$.392716/\$100	/\$100	\$.031258/\$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$.423974/\$100		

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Howard County adopts a 2007 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.393005 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2006 taxes by \$6,077.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
General	1,000,000
Road & Bridge	100,000
Equipment Operating	375,000
Tobacco	375,000

Schedule B - 2007 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
General Obligations/Bond Series 1995	\$105,000	\$30,915	\$0	\$135,915
Total required for 2007 debt service			\$135,915	
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A			\$0	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$0	
- Excess collections last year			\$0	
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2006			\$135,915	
Amount added in anticipation that the unit will				
+ collect only 97% of its taxes in 2006			\$4,204	
= Total Debt Levy			\$140,119	

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 315 Main Street (County Annex).

Name of person preparing this notice Kathy A Sayles, RTA
Title Tax Assessor Collector

Date prepared August 1, 2007

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

in the "do a lot of things" mode.

There are a dozen line-backers in training camp, including all four primary starters from last year: Pro Bowl starter DeMarcus Ware, Bradie James, Akin Ayodele and Greg Ellis, although the 10th-year veteran Ellis still hasn't been able to practice in his comeback from a torn Achilles' tendon.

"If I spent all my time worrying about that, I probably wouldn't be a very good player," Carpenter said of the crowded position. "I try to take care of what I can and work hard on the field."

With the learning experience of his rookie season behind him, and all the offseason work — two full minicamps and several organized team activities — Carpenter got to the Alamodome feeling more comfortable and confident.

"The offseason was what really helped me. ... Things have slowed down a lot," he said "It's easier than last year. Coming into training camp, I felt real good, real confident. Things are more instinctive now."

Ayodele said he sees a huge difference in Carpenter's play.

"The defense really fits him," Ayodele said. "He's more knowledgeable. For a young guy, he's taken up a leadership role. He talks a lot. He communicates. You can really see his athletic ability in the inside spot."

Or outside — wherever Phillips and the Cowboys put him.

su | do | ku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 7
♥ Q J 9 6
♦ A 9 3
♣ Q 9 5

WEST
♠ A J 10 5 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K 10 6
♣ K 6

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

SOUTH
♠ K 6
♥ A 8 5
♦ Q J 8 7
♣ A J 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — jack of spades.

This deal occurred in the 1984 World Team Olympiad in the qualifying-round match between the two teams that for the previous quarter-century had dominated bridge, the United States and Italy. On this occasion, the Americans easily won the 20-deal encounter, with the hand shown contributing significantly to the victory.

When Bobby Wolff of the U.S. was declarer at three notrump, he won the spade lead with the king and led a heart to the queen. East won and returned a spade to West's ace, and a third spade went to dummy's queen.

Wolff crossed to the heart ace and led the diamond queen, covered by the king and ace. The jack of hearts was then cashed, producing this position:

North
♥ 9
♦ 9 3
♣ Q 9 5

West
♠ 10 5
♦ 10 6
♣ K 6

East
♠ 5 4
♣ 10 8 7 4

South
♠ J 8 7
♦ A J 3

Next came the nine of hearts, East and South each discarding a club while poor West found himself in dire straits. If he parted with a diamond or a club, South would score the game-going trick in whichever suit West discarded. And if he let go of a spade, declarer could afford to lose a diamond to the ten to guarantee the contract.

In practice, West discarded a diamond, whereupon Wolff cashed the diamond jack and finished with 10 tricks in all.

At the other table, the play to the first six tricks was identical. But after the Q-K-A of diamonds, the Italian declarer did not cash his hearts. Instead, he elected to finesse the nine of diamonds, and when West won and cashed his spades, South was down one to give the U.S. a 480-point gain on the deal.

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EVENTS

Continued from Page 1A

"We'll be closing the primary runway down during their launch each day," said Little. "This is just for safety. There are going to be many more planes and pilots in the air than in years past, so you have to consider it a riskier situation when you're trying to bring planes in for a landing."

Competitors can expect plenty to do throughout the world-class contest, with the first team leader briefing slated for Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Big Spring Airport. Each day of the championships is set to begin with task committee meetings at 9 a.m. on and after Thursday.

Little said coordination

"Things are a lot more spread out this year. We have the pilots going to Comanche Trail Park and the Amphitheater, as well as other locations that will help show off our city. In the past things have been fairly isolated to the airpark, but this time they will get to see the community a little more."

Col Jim Little
Airpark Manager



between his office and the coordinators of the competition have gone well, thus far.

"It's been good. They've been a very positive group of people to work with," said Little. "They are very positive about what they would like to see, and the liaison that works between us has done a good job and has been very quick to respond to our requests

and questions."

Team leader briefings are expected to follow each day at 10 a.m., followed by weather briefings at 11 a.m. Launches are expected to begin at noon, depending on weather conditions.

Little said this year's schedule of events — especially outside of the daily competitions — should help showcase the city of Big Spring better

than in the past.

"Things are a lot more spread out this year," said Little. "We have the pilots going to Comanche Trail Park and the Amphitheater, as well as other locations that will help show off our city. In the past things have been fairly isolated to the airpark, but this time they will get to see the community a little more."

David Glover, one of the

organizers and coordinators with the championship effort, said it's a rarity the competition comes to the U.S., giving Big Spring something rather unique to boast.

"The world championship has only been held in the U.S. once in the last 30 years, so it's a real honor to have it coming to Big Spring," said Glover. "We're expecting more than 150 pilots to come from all over the world to compete."

Glover said 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 Glover. "We're not wind- ed 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.

"Our desire is to see how long we can stay up and then fly around a course as quickly as we can. 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."

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

SEMINAR

Continued from Page 1A

Presentation of the Final SAPCR Hearing, by Victor Negron of San Antonio,

- Rule 11, Stipulations and MSAs, by John Wilson of Dallas, and

- Enforcing Child Support and Possession Orders, by Karen Marvel of San Antonio.

There will also be a judges' panel discussion

of family law issues and ethics.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the seminar, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:45 p.m.

Registration forms must be received no later than Friday, Sept. 7 at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, 212 N. Main St., Suite 101, Midland 79701. To obtain a form call Fierro at (432) 686-0647 or by e-mail at fierrop@lanwt.org

While breakfast and lunch will be provided,

Fierro said Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is requesting donations to help with the event.

"We would appreciate if any businesses or organizations could donate utensils, fruit trays, cups, plates, coffee, drinks, ice, snack items and the like," he said. "We will put sponsors names on a large board at the seminar for everyone to see."

For those unfamiliar with the Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, it accepts appointments

from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month in Big Spring at the Northside Community Center. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, Social Security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents may call the office

at ant time at 800-926-5630 or (432) 686-0647.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331, ext.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Wilma Pruitt, 67, died Thursday, August 2, 2007, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1A

Department have "adopted" the community and will provide landscaping plans during the coming school year.

"They'll be coming down in the fall and

they'll tell us what we need to do," Foresyth said. "They'll draw up the designs for us ... and we'll get a grant to complete the project."

The revitalization effort is not limited to Coahoma's main street, however. The group also plans renovation of the Coahoma Community Center, along with the

land adjacent to the building.

Foresyth said plans call for installation of playground equipment, sprinkler systems and restrooms in the area, as well as a new brick facade for the community center.

She expressed pride in the group's progress to date.

"It will be a long-term

effort, but the volunteers are committed to the project," she said. "They see the need for repairing downtown, as well as the entire community."

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Big Spring Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:15 P.M., August 16, 2007, in the Big Spring High School Board Room, 707 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040050/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.064038/\$100 (Proposed rate to bonded indebtedness)

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 expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	2.39%	increase
Debt Service	0.00%	increase
Total Expenditures	2.31%	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	\$ 1,088,966,197	\$ 1,418,014,299
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 5,319,526	\$ 2,032,394
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 778,838,816	\$ 1,075,780,747
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 5,319,529	\$ 1,926,044

* "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 26.01(2)(7), Tax Code
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 9,170,000.
* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.370050	\$ 0.064038*	\$ 1.434088	\$ 2,878	\$ 3,853
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.000050	\$ 0.064430*	\$ 1.064480	\$ 2,605	\$ 4,300
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.040050	\$ 0.064038*	\$ 1.104088	\$ 2,527	\$ 4,142

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 33,629	\$ 38,102
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 11,903	\$ 15,482
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate Per \$100 Value	\$ 1.434088	\$ 1.104088
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 170.70	\$ 170.93
Increase (decrease) in Taxes		\$ 0.23

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.104463. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.104463.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$3,266,200
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 171,371

30977

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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

Area's teen-agers now hard at work readying for play

Once again, the dog days of summer have arrived. Nonetheless, several hundred high school students throughout the Crossroads area are hard at work toiling in that heat, many taking part in two-a-day drills designed to hone a plethora of skills.

Most schoolboy football players began two-a-day practices today.

Volleyball players, as well as cross-country team members and tennis players at some schools are also honing their skills and conditioning for their seasons.

Also hard at work are members of high school bands throughout the area. Just like the athletes in their schools, they have their eyes set on mastering skills that will show up in front of the entire community.

The West Texas sun beats down almost unmercilessly in August, so coaches and band directors in the area do their best to schedule practices at times other than afternoons when the sun is at its scorching hottest.

Still, there's no real escape. Two-a-days by their nature, even if they were conducted in air conditioned comfort, are a grueling task.

So why on earth would the young people of this area put themselves through the agony?

It's the desire to be the best they can possibly be at their particular extracurricular endeavor.

We here at the *Herald* think that's admirable and that's why each year at this time we take the opportunity to salute each and every one of them.

Whatever the upcoming season holds, we believe these young people are most certainly en route to a job well done.

We are already proud of them.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

This is my first letter to the editor. I have wanted to and should have before, but never have. One time a nice man found a briefcase I had left beside my car, and he found it while walking, called me and returned it to me. Another time a young checker at HEB found one of my checks which was signed in the amount of \$75.95 but the payee was blank. He phoned me and I was able to get the check back. In both incidents I should have written to remind people that we have a lot of fine folks living here in Big Spring.

I found out something today that really upset me and this time could not resist writing. I have always known the gas was higher in Big Spring than almost anywhere around. That was just the way it was, although I never knew why and frankly I still don't.

Today while in Abilene we bought gas for \$2.73.9 and that was the price all over Abilene. It is \$2.95.9 and \$2.99.9 in Big Spring. I found out that at least one station in Abilene (no

telling how many more) buys gas from the Big Spring Refinery. Now you tell me. How can she have her gas trucked 110 miles and still sell it 26 cents cheaper than we can buy it here in Big Spring?

Now I'm not very smart, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that there is something wrong here. Is it price fixing, petty theft, highway robbery or what? You may have some better words for it than I do, or you may understand why it is this way. I personally think someone is lining his/her pockets and the people of Big Spring are the ones helping to line those same pockets because we have to buy the gas.

For the record, I do not think it is the people running the stations and selling the gas who are lining their pockets.

I know one little letter to the editor will not change a thing, but I am so glad we live in the good old USA where we can vent our frustrations and not be punished.

SHIRLEY JENKINS
BIG SPRING

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we touch base with You, Lord, everyday.

Amen

Overcoming dumb growth

You've heard the term, "Smart Growth." It refers to an exalted development principle previewing the Heavenly Kingdom right here on Earth. With luck we humans could create it even in the U.S. It already exists in Europe, which is why so many Americans go there on vacation. But Europe gained its basic structure back when marauding hordes forced tight urban density behind comforting walls. We Yanks, conversely, have always preferred open space.

But times change. Open space is fast disappearing, especially near cities, and marauding hordes have been replaced by merciless heat and pricey fuel. Thus the invention of Smart Growth. It calls once again for dense living, with dwellings, shops, and work sites all mushed together. Walking, biking, and transit are all cheered. Driving is jeered.

So to whose tender mercies are these fundamentals of civilization assigned? That's right — developers. Genetically, developers have but a single goal — profit. Thus when society decided it would pay a little more for better-organized living, developers quickly responded. They hired PR staffs to explain that whatever it was the boss wanted to do in the first place

could now be called Smart Growth.

Some of it actually is. Condominiums do indeed provide density, and mixing them in with office buildings offers at least a faint hope of walking or biking to work. Of course everything has to be upscale, and costly neighborhood services are usually items left to be worried about later. Prosperous new residents can lobby government for them on their own, after the builder moves on.

And these are just the good developers we're talking about. The majority still simply head for the suburbs, hammer in hand. Our son's family moved to one of those utopias, when they started having kids. A pleasant town noted for its apple orchards, it is now noted more for its subdivisions. Locals still conduct a very popular apple festival, but the apples are mostly imported now.

So are the people. This town is not ritzy, but you must have some wherewithal to buy one of those 4BR, 21/2B, 1 Ac. standard new homes. No, you don't have to be middle-class white to live there, but nearly everyone just happens to be. There are no new apartments or subsidized units to attract anyone else.

That's the way America works, smart or not. And Smart Growth isn't so intelligent if no one will pay for its special features. The developer sure won't. He wants cheap land outside of town for

new houses, or cheap land in town for new condos. His job description does not include transit, parks, integration, bike lanes, grocery stores, or schools.

Those are our job. So if society is going to get stuck with all that dirty work, why not include some of its cost in the price the developer pays for his permits. You say you want to build out in the countryside? OK, but chip in for the parks, schools, and bus line needed to service it. Putting up a shopping mall? OK, but add two floors of apartments up above. Constructing one of those spiffy office towers with snazzy condos on top? Go to it, but contribute to support a neighborhood supermarket as well.

America is awash in these problems. Our governor speaks of Smart Growth but has little clue as to what that really means. The state, like most, still subsidizes corporations to expand into the suburbs and to move from one town to another, but provides no place for their service people to live. We lavish transit money on prosperous folks commuting to the big city, but shortchange service workers commuting across town.

Smart Growth will only succeed when we make it profitable, or make dumb growth too expensive.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
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The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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• **JOHN CORNYN**
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• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
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BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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— Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.

GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

MANUEL RAMIREZ JR. — Home: 268-9692; Work (VAMC): 263-7361.

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361..

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835. Work: 267-7121.

TROY TOMPKINS — Home: 267-8769. Work: 263-0180.

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MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE — Home and Office: (432) 517-0707.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

Easier to say than accomplish

In a speech at the National Urban League's 2006 annual conference, Time-Warner Chairman Dick Parsons said the reason why he pursued higher education was that it was expected of him — by his friends, parents and the community as a whole. There was no question in the matter. He was just brought up that way.

Parsons' personal anecdote is something all African-American families should embrace and aspire to. If we demand that our children — especially our boys — make something of themselves and instill in them the value of education to achieve their goals, we'd have fewer behind bars or wandering the streets. But it's so much easier said than done. With more black men behind bars than in college, it's difficult for young black males, especially those from one-parent households, to find adequate role models.

More than half the nation's 5.6 million black boys live in fatherless households, more than 40 percent of which are impoverished. They are educated in school districts where 21 percent of teachers have less than three years of experience — more than twice the percentage of inexperienced teachers in majority-white districts. They live in a world where 18 percent less is spent for their education than for whites.

Since the mid-1960s, much progress has been made by blacks on the college education front. In the past decade or so — 1993 to 2003, black enrollment climbed nearly 43 percent to more than 1.9 million students. Black men, however, made up 38 percent of this

population in 2005, according to Census Bureau data. White men, on the other hand, made up slightly less than 50 percent of white college students.

The decline in numbers of black men on campus — even at Black Colleges, where at least 60 percent or more of students are women — has set off alarm bells among educators and politicians alike. Earlier this year, the Presidents' Round Table, a group of black community college presidents, joined forces with the Congressional Black Caucus to study the issue and make recommendations. But much of that needs to start at an early age with the help of effective role models. The reason why fewer black men are going to college is that they think it's unattainable or that they're better off on the streets. With the odds so stacked against them, it's a miracle that any of these at-risk black men get into college — let alone finish.

Where we need to focus our efforts is on these boys at an early age when they perform fairly well compared to white boys. Since 1992, the performance gap between black and white boys has narrowed. In reading, black boys at the age of nine lagged their white counterparts by 28 points in 2004, up from 32 points in 1992. In math, they trailed by 22 points in 2004, compared to 25 points in 1992, according to the NAEP. Progress has been made in the early years in closing the achievement gap. However, a major disconnect occurs by high school: by age 17, black males are further behind their white counterparts than they are at age 9.

In Maryland, an education task force characterized school as "an at-risk environment for African-American male youth" and recommended that the state take steps to

fix the situation "whatever the cost." That solution could come in the form of more all-male schools such as New York City's Eagle Academy that features mentoring as well as longer school days to remove some of the distractions and obstacles standing in the way of the education of black boys. Eagle Academy for Young Men has a school day that ends at 5:30 p.m. and requires students to attend on Saturdays for half a day.

While it's too early to assess the effect of these programs on test scores, Ossining officials point out that the percentage of black students in the 11th and 12th grades enrolled in college-level courses doubled in 2005 over 2004. And discipline referrals of black male second and third-graders have fallen 80 percent, the *New York Times* reported. Even in college, black males at times require special "intrusive counseling" by very committed mentors to stay on course. They tend to "come to the academic environment with incredible degrees of distraction and more often than not, not with the tools" that they need to succeed, says Malcolm B. Williams of Morehouse College.

Somewhere down the line a growing population of black males began to deem a college education as unattainable or just not worth the investment. This is exactly the attitude we must reverse in light of an increasingly high-tech economy.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of The National Urban League. He served two distinguished four-year terms as mayor of New Orleans. During that time, he also served as president of the United States Conference of Mayors.

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Don't say diet: Say BLT salad

By **KATHY MANWEILER**

McClatchy Newspapers

It's time to bring home the bacon, because tomato season is here and nothing tastes better with tomatoes than lettuce and bacon. But sandwiching those ingredients between thick slices of bread slathered with mayonnaise can strain your daily calorie budget.

For example, Arby's Ultimate BLT sandwich contains 779 calories and 45 fat grams. Eating McDonald's Double Quarter Pounder with Cheese instead would save you 39 calories and 3 fat grams.

I love BLTs, but one of those sandwiches would eat up about half of my calories for the whole day, and I can't afford that.

I started searching for a compromise and realized that if I skipped the bread and mayo, I could easily keep BLTs on my dinner table.

So I decided to turn my BLT into a salad instead of a sandwich, and my recipe is adapted from chef Kathleen Daelemans' BLT Salad.

This recipe tosses some roasted potatoes in with the rest of the salad, but if you're trying to cut down on carbs, you can leave

them out and add more lettuce and tomatoes instead.

Daelemans' dressing calls for olive oil. Even though it's a healthy oil, it still packs plenty of fat and calories, so I cut the amount of olive oil in half and added more balsamic vinegar to save about 230 calories and 27 fat grams.

The original recipe includes blue cheese, but I think mozzarella cheese makes a better match for this salad. Switching to mozzarella cheese made with 2 percent milk trims 80 calories and 8.5 fat grams from this salad.

I buy center-cut bacon instead of the regular kind to shave off an extra 64 calories and 8 fat grams.

Daelemans roasts a sweet onion along with the potatoes, but I leave the onion out of my salad.

Kathy's BLT Salad

- 1 1/4 pounds small white or red new potatoes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 3 medium tomatoes, cored and cut into large chunks
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 8 center-cut bacon slices
- 12 cups Romaine lettuce



MCT photo/G. Marc Benevidez

It's time to bring home the bacon, because tomato season is here and nothing tastes better with tomatoes than lettuce and bacon. But sandwiching those ingredients between thick slices of bread slathered with mayonnaise can strain your daily calorie budget. So turn the BLT sandwich into a salad.

or other salad greens, torn into pieces and loosely packed

- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese made with 2 percent milk

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Cut larger potatoes into quarters and smaller ones into halves. Place potatoes in a zip-top bag with 1 tablespoon

olive oil and seal the bag. Shake and toss the bag until potatoes are evenly coated. Pour potatoes onto a baking sheet and add salt and pepper to taste. Bake, turning once, for about 30 minutes or until potatoes are golden.

Place tomato chunks in a large bowl. To make dressing, whisk together remaining olive oil, bal-

samic vinegar and basil in a small bowl. Season with salt and pepper if desired. Pour about one-fourth of dressing over the tomatoes and set aside.

In a large nonstick pan over medium-high heat, cook bacon until brown and crispy. Drain the bacon on paper towels, then crumble it.

Divide the roasted potatoes among four serving plates. Place the salad greens in a bowl with tomatoes and toss with the remaining dressing. Arrange the salad on the serving plates, top with bacon crumbles and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese.

Serves 4.

Per serving: 322 calories, 11 grams protein, 33 carb grams, 338 mg sodium, 4.8 grams of fiber, 16.3 fat grams, 18 mg cholesterol.

(Adapted from a "Cooking Thin with Chef Kathleen" recipe)

Reach Kathy Manweiler at 316-268-6266 or kmanweiler@wichtaeeagle.com. For more Don't Say Diet recipes, visit the Alive & Well Web site at www.wichitaaliveandwell.com.

We'll slim it down for you

Do you have a favorite food or popular recipe that you'd like to see made healthier? Send your ideas and recipes, along with a daytime phone number, to me at kmanweiler@wichtaeeagle.com or: Don't Say Diet, c/o McClatchy Newspapers, P.O. Box 820, Wichita, Kan. 67201

Nutrition Wise: Soy, see it as food more than medicine

Many women have pinned hopes on soy as a treatment for menopause-related hot flashes or as a key to reducing risk of breast cancer. Yet research shows that it may be time to shift our expectations of soy and look at soy as one healthy food that has lots to offer as part of a plant-based diet.

In menopause, dropping estrogen levels can lead to hot flashes. Soy contains natural compounds that are plant estrogens. These compounds are much weaker than the estrogen our bodies produce, but some researchers and suffering women hoped that their estrogen-like effects might be enough to eliminate hot flashes. However, studies so far show mixed results. In one study, 99 women ate muffins containing about three servings of unprocessed soy foods daily. After four months, no effect on hot flashes was seen. Another study

that looked at soy and other aspects of diet in more than 2,000 women also found no link between soy intake and hot flashes. In this study, higher fiber intake and being less overweight were linked to fewer hot flashes.

The Journal of the American Medical Association published an analysis of studies on nonhormonal therapies for hot flashes. Six studies examined an isolated extract in soy called isoflavones, a group of compounds that seems to be the active ingredient in soy. Previous studies with soy foods had shown inconsistent results and researchers hoped studying the active ingredient might give clearer results, but the impact on hot flashes was again mixed. The authors conclude that overall evidence doesn't support soy isoflavones reducing hot flashes.

Earlier studies have shown soy foods may help reduce, but usually not eliminate, hot flashes. Women who benefit are mostly those who experience more than five hot flashes daily. The effectiveness of isoflavones separate from soy foods, as well as the safety of large amounts of isoflavones, is unknown. Breast cancer has been a primary

focus of the research on how soy affects cancer risk. Soy isoflavones act as antioxidants, as well as estrogens. Laboratory research shows soy's isoflavones may block cancer-promoting effects of estrogen in some tissues.

A 2006 analysis of 18 studies concluded that higher soy consumption could slightly lower risk of breast cancer, but the definition of "high soy" varied among the studies. In some studies, for example, high soy consumption referred to one or more daily servings while in others it referred to daily use. A 2003 review of 18 different studies concluded that soy has no effect on breast cancer risk, except possibly when consumed during adolescence or eaten in extremely large amounts. Researchers now say that early exposure to soy foods, which contain isoflavones, may lead to breast cells developing into a form more resistant to cancer-causing influences later in life. Some laboratory research found that soy might increase breast cancer risk in certain cases.

Until we have more data on the long-term safety of soy, experts suggest that almost all women can eat up to two or

three servings of soy foods a day. Women taking anti-estrogen drugs, such as tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors, should talk with their doctor about whether or not to consume soy during treatment. The safety of using large amounts of isoflavones over a long time, in foods or supplements, is relatively scarce and therefore, unwise.

Soy foods are a wonderful meat alternative, with plenty of protein that is low in saturated fat. They also supply fiber, magnesium and selenium. Instead of looking at soy as medicine, try enjoying it as a healthy food in a balanced diet. Use tofu, tempeh or edamame in stir-fries; munch on edamame or soy nuts for snacks; use tofu in smoothies and soups; and try soymilk to drink, on cereal or in cooking.

AICR's Nutrition Hotline is a free service that allows you to ask a registered dietitian questions about diet, nutrition and cancer. Access it online at www.aicr.org/hotline or by phone (1-800-843-8114) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday-Friday.

THE DARTTS



The Dartts, a Gospel Singing Quartet, will be at Birdwell Lane Baptist Church at 1512 Birdwell Lane next Tuesday August 7th at 7 PM. Their Music covers a broad variety of musical styles from traditional, western, southern, country, Bluegrass and even polka!! The Dartts write all of their music. Tracy Dartt wrote the song "God Of The Mountain", which the McKamays made famous. The group consists of Tracy Dartt, Sharon Dartt, son Stone Mountain Dartt and B.J. Speer from the Billy Speer family of Orlando, Florida. The whole community is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken to help with expenses and they have Christian Shirts for sale.

Come expecting a blessing!!

For information
Call 267-7157 or 267-8214

30980

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.

30980

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Trial begins for KFC murders defendant

NEW BOSTON (AP) — Nearly 24 years after the bodies of five people shot execution-style were discovered along an East Texas oilfield road, the first of two men charged with what became one of the state's oldest unsolved mass murder cases heads to trial this week.

Career criminal Romeo Pinkerton faces five counts of capital murder — and a possible death sentence if convicted — for what's known in Texas as the Kentucky Fried Chicken murders. The five victims were abducted during what prosecutors say was a robbery of a KFC store in Kilgore, driven to a remote area about 15 miles to the south near Henderson and then gunned down.

Lawyers for Pinkerton, 49, and his cousin, Darnell Hartsfield, 46, both from Tyler, will argue the slayings — which went unsolved for more than two decades — remain unsolved. Both men, who are being tried separately, have pleaded not guilty. Hartsfield's trial is likely to be held some time next year.

Study on dolphin deaths inconclusive so far

GALVESTON (AP) — An investigation into the deaths of nearly 70 dolphins that washed ashore on Southeast Texas beaches earlier this year has yet to determine what killed them, an official said.

The dolphins lived along the Texas coast, rather than offshore, investigators have learned, but the cause of the deaths remains unknown.

"Right now, we can't discount any causes of death but we also can't say anything definitely played a part in the deaths," said Heidi Watts of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declared an "unusual mortality event" and opened a special investigation after at least 60 dolphin corpses came ashore in Galveston and Jefferson

counties in March.

The number represented a spike from the nine dead dolphins discovered in March 2006 and 11 in March 2005. Scientists worried that a decline in dolphin health could indicate problems in the health of the ocean.

Mexican dam no longer a threat to El Paso

EL PASO (AP) — An earthen dam that threatened to burst in Ciudad Juarez and flood downtown El Paso during heavy flooding last summer no longer poses a danger and will eventually be taken out of service, officials said.

Engineers with the International Boundary and Water Commission have inspected La Montada dam twice. They said a new canal being built to channel water out of the reservoir should relieve pressure from the dike.

A deluge that brought more than 15 inches of rain to the El Paso area in July and August last year filled the reservoir faster than it could drain and sent water spilling over the levy. Fear of a breach in the dam, which is just across the border from El Paso, prompted El Paso to evacuate several neighborhoods near downtown.

"We can safely say that the dike does not pose a threat to the United States like it did last year," said Sally Spener, a spokeswoman for the boundary and water commission.

Still no arrest in death, disappearance

LUBBOCK (AP) — A year after two Lubbock State School employees were last seen alive, police have made no arrests in the murder of one of the women or the disappearance of her co-worker.

Peggy Merimon, 61, and Kay Harrelson, 51, were last seen leaving the state school with an unidentified man around lunchtime Aug. 9 last year. Searchers found Harrelson's remains 11 days later off a dusty road near Shallowater.

Family members continue to organize searches nearly every weekend for Merimon. Her husband, Gearl Merimon, said the search has taken him north past Cotton Center, west to Clovis, N.M., south to Tahoka and east to Possum Kingdom Lake.

Police said they are reviewing the case's details and re-interviewing everyone involved.

Researchers inventory Big Thicket preserve

FORT WORTH (AP) — A group of experts and citizen-scientists is setting out to inventory every living plant and animal species — from giant oaks to pond bacteria — in the Big Thicket National Preserve, a job that could take years.

Organizers say their work will help the National Park Service better manage the 1,900-square-mile preserve in southeast Texas.

Peter Gunter, a retired University of North Texas professor and author of "The Big Thicket: A Challenge of Conservation," said the preserve is less studied than other parts of Texas.

"The Big Thicket is the biological crossroads of North America," Gunter said. "And this project will identify every little form of life that creeps, crawls, swims, flies or grows there — everything."

The project began in June and is based on similar work in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which straddles Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Big Thicket is a collection of 15 parcels running from Beaumont north about 80 miles along the Neches River. It is considered one of the most endangered natural areas in the nation because of urban sprawl and plans by timber companies to sell their large land holdings.

Scientists have identified about 150 species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians and more than 1,800 invertebrates in the Big Thicket. But they think there are more.

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