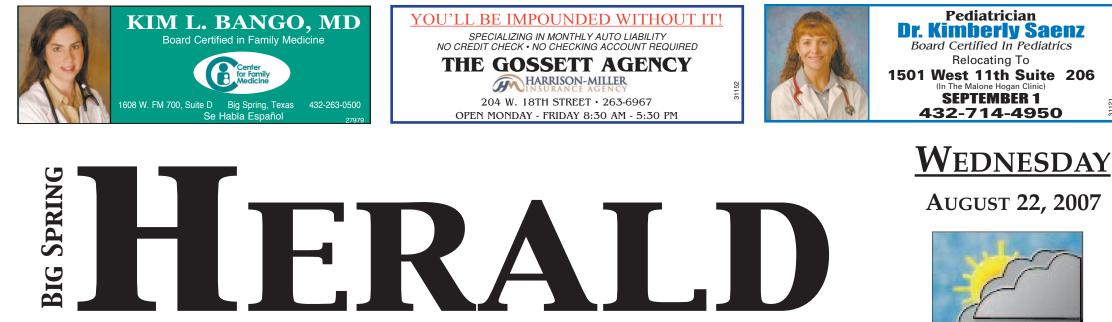
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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 229

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Testimony begins in murder trial

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Prosecutors spent most of the first day of Michael Harbert's murder trial painting a picture of events that led to the shooting death of former Big Spring High School track great Tory Mitchell.

The trial of Harbert, who stands accused of murdering ing hours of Dec. 24, began Tuesday morning in 118th District Court in Big Spring.

Early testimony Tuesday dealt mostly with forensics, with the most dramatic evidence being presented by Lubbock pathologist Dr. Thomas Parson.

Dr. Parson, of Texas Tech testified University, that

Mitchell during the early morn- Mitchell died from three .357caliber gunshot wounds to the back, all of which were considered "contact wounds," meaning they were fired at extremely close range.

"On two of the wounds, the muzzle was pressed against (Mitchell's) back, and the other shot was fired from within an inch," said Hardy L. Wilkerson, 118th District Attorney.

The most compelling testimony, however, came during the afternoon session of the trial. At that time, witnesses described details leading up to the shooting.

The prosecution formed the outlines of a motive toward the shooting when they presented two witnesses — Misty Clayton and Marcello Williams - who testified of an altercation

between Harbert and Mitchell the evening of Dec. 23.

Mitchell, Clayton and Williams traveled to Midland that day to do some Christmas shopping and, while inside a store at Midland Park Mall, Mitchell and Harbert exchanged heated words.

Williams said that during the

See TRIAL, Page 3A



Commissioners agree to tax rate above rollback

By THOMAS JENKINS

Howard County taxpayers expecting a lower tax rate for 2007-2008 thanks to higher appraised values can think again, as commissioners agreed to move forward with a tax rate identical to last year.

Commissioners agreed to move forward with a proposed tax rate of 48.787 cents per \$100 valuation, a 6.38-cent increase over the proposed rollback rate of 42.3974 cents the court

Alon will sue over appraisal **By THOMAS JENKINS** Staff Writer

Already struggling with a budgetary shortfall expected to go into the millions over the next several years, Howard County commissioners will have to deal with less revenue than expected this fiscal year thanks to possible litigation with Alon USA, owner of the Big Spring Refinery.

The increase is expected

to generate approximately \$700,000 in additional funding for the county over the rollback rate, which according to County Judge Mark Barr, will barely cover the recent shortfall caused by disputed tax appraisals from Alon USA, owner of the Big Spring Refinery.

"This will just cover that," said Barr. "This will give us \$1.2 million operate on from to October until the tax money begins coming in. It's not going to help with any of the other shortfalls we've had to look at during these budget sessions."

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, public hearings on the tax rate will be slated for

The news was delivered to the court Tuesday morning by Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the County Howard Appraisal District, who

See ALON, Page 3A

Sept. 4 and Sept. 14, with final adoption of the rate expected Sept. 24.

Commissioners also decided to move forward with cutting a number of positions from the county roster during the meeting,

See RATE, Page 6A

first-degree murder for his role in the alleged murder of Roland David 's body in a north of way 820

contractual inmate housing among counties within a 200-mile radius of Big Spring.

lived in area for reports, having moved to the area to work in the oilfield, where he was most recently employed by S&S Well Service.

Dickinson's body remained unidentified for more than a week before family members positively identified his remains. months, Howard County Sheriff

ed in April on a charge of according to sheriff's Dale Walker estimated the body had been at the location near Coahoma for three to four days

> results showed the cause of death to be blunt trauma to the head. The body, which was found clad

before its discovery. Preliminary autopsy

See HAYS, Page 8A

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To reach us:

By THOMAS JENKINS

Testimony is expected

Staff Writer

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



By THOMAS JENKINS

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker presents county commissioners with a map outlining the need — and supply — for

Hays trial set to begin Thursday

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a \$160,000 contract with Port Arthur consulting firm Carl R. Griffith and Assoc. Tuesday afternoon in hopes of streamlining the design and operation of a new county jail facility.

The decision came a day after the firm, which the

study to determine ways to speed up the criminal justice system for \$25,000, made it's final presentation to the court.

In addition to the criminal justice study, County Judge Mark Barr told commissioners in July the company was willing to act as a consultant on the design and construction of a new county jail at

county contracted with for a the tune of 2 percent of the bond, which is expected to be put before voters in November.

Based on earlier construction estimates of just more than \$10 million for the proposed facility, Carl R. Griffith and Assoc. would have charged a fee of more than \$200,000.

"They have agreed to go with a flat rate," Barr told

commissioners. "If the bond doesn't pass, then they will just charge us for their time and travel expenses, letters, e-mails and such."

Barr said he's unsure how much "time and travel" could amount to if voters turn down the bond on election day.

"I wouldn't expect it to be more than \$10,000," said

See COUNTY, Page 3A



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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.



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

Page 1B Wednesday, August 22, 2007

IN BRIEF

Coahoma booster club meeting today

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will hold at meeting at 8:30 p.m today in Coach Nichols' room at the high school. They will be finalizing plans for the Meet the Bulldogs and homecoming.

All supporters of Coahoma athletics are encouraged to attend.

Contact Paula Buske at 816-4034 with any questions.

Big Spring Boxing Club seeking site

The Big Spring Boxing Club is seeking a building to be donated so that they can get started with their program. Heavy bags, gloves, head gear and other

equipment has already been donated, but the club needs a place to begin practices.

Any small facility will do for their start up. Contact Willie Jenkins at 267-5822 or 264-0411.

Big Spring Jr. High equipment pick-up

Incoming Big Spring Junior High students wishing to participate in football for the upcoming season will need to pick up their equipment from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Call Kay Cook at 264-

3662 with any questions.

Meet the Steers on Saturday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will be hosting a Meet the Steers event at 6:30 p.m.

Longhorns seek return to Big 12's top

BIG HERALD

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — That national championship? Two seasons ago. Ditto the Big 12 title.

As good as the Texas Longhorns were for most of 2006, they crumbled at the end to finish 10-3 with no title and a return of the empty feeling that comes when a good team fails to be great.

Ah, but that's what always makes the start of a new season so enticing at Texas. So much talent, so much hype and such high expectations of champi-

onships.

Even coach Mack Brown has passed the point of settling for anything but perfection.

"It used to be we'd win 11 games and everyone was griping and I didn't understand," Brown said. "Now we don't win all the games and I'm the one griping."

Texas had its chances last season. The Longhorns were still in the national title hunt in November. Quarterback Colt McCoy was better than anyone expected, and the defense hung together despite giving up way too many big plays.

Then came a neck injury to

and a fall to the Alamo Bowl. Texas beat Iowa in San Antonio, but the hated Oklahoma Sooners won the Big 12.

"It was really frustrating because the two teams in the Big 12 championship were teams that we beat," McCoy said, also referring to Nebraska. "It really didn't make sense to us."

McCoy is a big reason the Longhorns are favored to win the South Division. He tied the NCAA freshman record for touchdown passes with 29, and all of his top targets return. The leader among them is senior

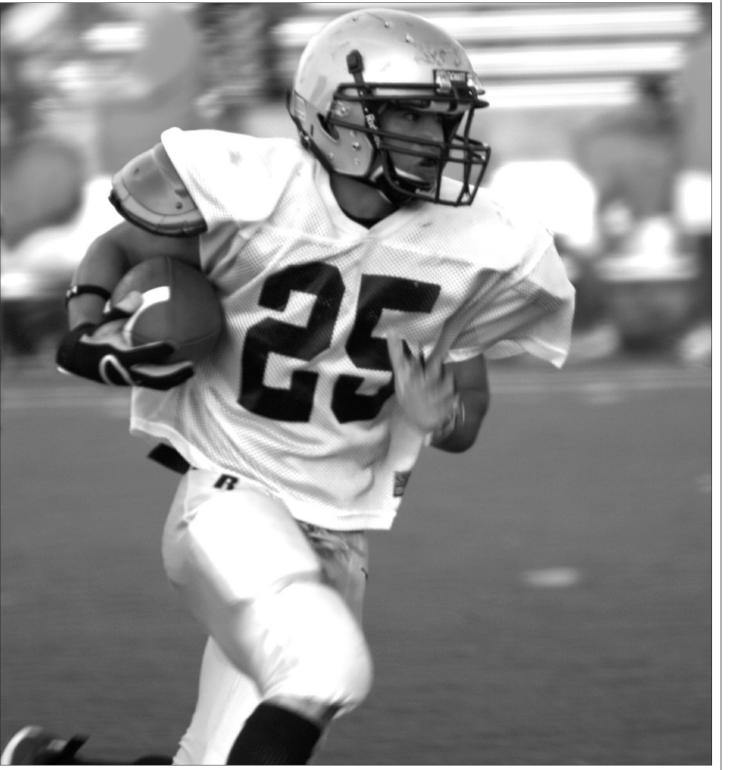
McCoy, a two-game losing skid receiver Limas Sweed, who tied a school record with 12 TD catches last season.

"All the veterans, every one of our skill position guys are back," McCoy said. "We didn't lose anybody. They can only be better than last year."

The biggest question is the offensive line, where Texas must replace three starters. The running game dropped off sharply last season as Texas failed to produce a 1,000-yard rusher for the first time since 1994.

See TEXAS, Page 2B

Steers ready for second scrimmage against Pampa



Orioles top Rangers, 6-2 **By DAVID GINSBURG**

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE — There was no fist-pump, no leap for joy. When Erik Bedard fired a third past Jarrod strike Saltalamacchia to end the seventh inning and tie the Baltimore Orioles' single-season record for strikeouts, the only emotion he felt was relief.

"Just to get the last out of that inning was the key, pretty much," the left-hander said.

Bedard struck out 11 in seven innings to win his ninth straight decision, and the Baltimore Orioles got home runs from Tejada Miguel and Aubrey Huff in a 6-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Bedard (13-4) increased his AL-leading strikeout total to 218, matching Mike Mussina's club record in 1997. The only runs he allowed came in the seventh, immediately closing out his perfor-

Aug. 25 at Memorial Stadium.

The public is invited to get a first glimpse at this year's Steer football teams.

All players from junior high to varsity will be introduced.

Crossroads Youth Football sign-ups

The Crossroads Youth Football Association have begun their signups for the 2007 season. Registration will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the old Athletic Supply building in the Big Spring Mall on every Saturday during August.

Cost is \$40 for flag football and \$100 for tackle. Any cheerleaders who will not need a uniform can sign-up for \$35. The cost is \$100 is a new uniform is needed. All children going into kindergarten through sixth grade can register. For more information, contact Daphne Coates at 714-4688.

YMCA hosting skateboard contest

The fourth annual Summer Skateboard Contest will be held Thursday at the YMCA Skate Park.

The contest begins at 6:30 p.m. with participants able to register until 6 p.m.

The registration fee is \$8. Divisions of competition will be set up based on the number of entries.

Prizes will be awarded to first and second place winners.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

HERALD photo/Ken Hollandsworth

Big Spring's Justin Amaro breaks away for a nice gain during the Steers scrimmage with Wichita Falls Hirschi Saturday at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene. The Steers will play their second scrimmage Saturday against Pampa 's Harvesters in Lubbock.

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Cowboys' Johnson ready to step in if needed

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Brad Johnson offers a deadpan response when asked about the generation gap between himself and Tony Romo, already a Pro Bowl quarterback without even starting a full season.

"I think I'm a very young guy myself," said the 38-year-old Johnson, whose 16th NFL season will be as Romo's backup with the Dallas Cowboys.

Johnson then starts talking about Warren Moon, his teammate for three seasons in the mid-1990s with the Minnesota Vikings and a nine-time Pro Bowler last selected at age 41, three years before Moon played his final NFL game.

Listen long enough and it becomes obvious that Johnson, who won a Super Bowl as Tampa Bay's starter in 2002, is being sarcastic about being young.

But while Johnson already has a well-earned reputation with the Cowboys of keeping things light - from his dry sense of humor and easygoing demeanor to pulling a penalty flag out of his pocket during practice when a referee blew a whistle – it is also clear he has no doubts in his

ability and is ready to play in Dallas.

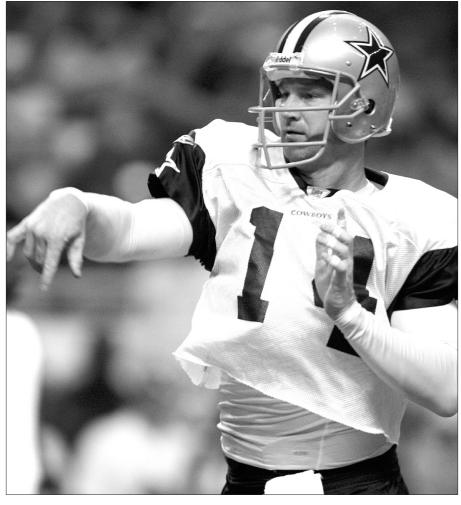
"My role doesn't change. The way I prepare doesn't change a bit," Johnson said Tuesday. "I was in a situation in '96 where I came in and played. In '98, I got hurt. Those things happen. ... Two years ago, people didn't ever think I would play in Minnesota.'

Johnson became a starter for the first time in 1996 when Moon got hurt, and started the first 13 games 1997 before his own season-ending neck injury. He was limited to four games in 1998 because of injuries before he was traded to Washington and spent two seasons.

After losing his starting role at Tampa Bay early in the 2004 season, Johnson revived his career when he returned to the Vikings.

Johnson became the Minnesota starter again in 2005 after Daunte Culpepper's knee injury, and led the Vikings to a 7-2 record before they missed the playoffs at 9-7. Johnson started the first 14 games last year for the Vikings before rookie Tarvaris Jackson took over the final two of a 6-10 season.

See JOHNSON, Page 2B



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

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Brad Johnson releases a pass during drills at training camp in San Antonio, Aug. 5.

mance by striking out Saltalamacchia.

"It feels good, just to be in the same category as Mike Mussina," the softspoken Bedard said.

Bedard didn't know he was in such lofty company until catcher Ramon Hernandez handed him the ball.

"It looked like he was trying to hurry up and get it over with," Orioles manager Dave Trembley said. "Knowing him as I know him, it's probably

LOCAL

BIG SPRING HERALD Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Obituaries

Lorene Massey



Lorene Massey, 86, of New Braunfels, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007, in New Braunfels. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Wayne Ogelsby of Abilene officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born April 12, 1921, in Locker, Texas, to Myrtle and James Currie. She married Leon Massey, April 23, 1938, in Blanket. They came to Howard County in 1947. He preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 2003. She was a licensed vocational nurse, having worked a number of years at Hall-Bennett Memorial Hospital. Her hobby was quilting. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, Vernon Massey and his wife, Elena, of Kingwood; one daughter, Faye Boydson of San Marcos; three granddaughters, Cheryl Stiles and her husband, John, of McQueeney, Kristin McNeely and her husband, Keith, of Missouri City and Shannon Ponthier and her husband, Graig, of San Antonio; eight great-grandchildren, Chandler and Peyton McNeeley, Rylan, Kaitlyn, Layne and Grayson Ponthier and Hunter and Garrett Stiles; four brothers, J.T. Currie of Alice, Job Currie of Victoria, J.W. Currie of Houston and Gilbert Currie of Brady; and one sister, Ida Mae Isom of Blanket.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother and four sisters.

Pallbearers will be Johnnie Rawls, Owen Rawls, James Rawls, Ernest Massey, Richard Rowden and Gary Massey. Honorary pallbearers will be Ken Paurm and Ronnie Passmore.

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

Haley Ann Seay

Funeral services for Haley Ann Seay, 16, of Bellville were held Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007, at 1 p.m. at Bellville United Methodist Church in Bellville with the Rev. Robert Stutes officiating. Interment followed in Oak Knoll Cemetery in Bellville.

She died in a traffic accident Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, in Bellville.

Born in Houston, Haley was the daughter of Wesley Seay and Paula Griffith. She was raised in Bellville and was currently attending Bellville High School where she was a straight A student. Haley was a member of the National Honor Society in junior high, Crime Stoppers, Bellville Young Life and Bellville United Methodist Church.

Haley is survived by her father, Wes Seay, formerly of Big Spring, and step-mother Tami Seay of Bellville; mother and step-father, Paula and Tom Griffith of Kenney; grandparents, Paul and Flo White of Conroe and Patricia Baxter Patton of Comanche; brother, William Seay of Huntsville; sisters, Amber Whitehead of Houston and Cara Grausam and husband Geno of Houston; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, George Edward "Tuffy" Seay III of Big Spring. Memorial contributions may be made to Bellville Young Life, P.O. Box 584, Bellville 77418 and Brenham Library.

James Wyatt Cowan

James Wyatt Cowan, M.D., FACS, DABU, died at his home in Houston on Monday, Aug. 20, 2007. He was 70 years old.

Dr. Cowan was born Dec. 17, 1936, in Dublin, Texas, to Ina Vaye Hodges Cowan and James Samuel Cowan.

Dr. Cowan was a beloved physician in Big Spring and Stephenville for many years and will be remembered by his family, friends and patients as a loving,

compassionate man. His generosity of spirit and cheery sense of humor were apparent to all who met him. Dr. Cowan never met a stranger. Although he was accomplished in so many ways, he was most of all humble. He loved God, his church, his country, his family and friends. He was loyal and true friend to many.

Although a serious man, he had a wonderful, magical laugh and his sense of humor carried him and those around him through many difficult times.

After graduating from Dublin High School in 1955, he left his birthplace to pursue his education at The University of Texas at Austin. He married Gaye Ann Harbin, also of Dublin, May 31, 1957, and the pair continued to attend school in Austin.

After graduation from the University of Texas with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry in 1958, he attended the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine in Dallas, graduating with a doctor of medicine degree in 1964. He completed his internship at John Peter Smith Hospital.

He served two years as a captain in the United States Army Medical Corps in Chicago from 1965 to 1967. Upon returning to Texas, he completed one year of general surgery residency at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. From 1968 to 1971 he practiced medicine at Stephenville Hospital and Clinic in Stephenville. Later, he finished his residency in urological surgery at The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. Upon completion of his surgical residency, he moved to Big Spring where he practiced urology at Malone-Hogan Clinic for the next 24 years.

He was Board Certified in urology by the American Board of Urology, a member of the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Urological Society, a fellow in the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Texas Surgical Society. He was also a member of the South Central Section of the American Urological Association, the North Texas Section of the American College of Surgeons, the Singleton Surgical Society, Society of Baylor University Residents, the Tri-County Medical Society and the Permian Basin Medical Society.

Dr. Cowan was an accomplished author, and published articles in the Journal of Urology and Transactions of the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons. He served as clinical assistant professor, Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, Lubbock.

Dr. Cowan was ordained as deacon of The First Baptist Church of Big Spring on April 27, 1980, and was a Paul Harris Award fellow in Rotary Club International. He also served as team doctor for the Big Spring High School football team. Dr. Cowan

Police blotter

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

• **DAVID COSLOW**, 27, of 1425 Sixth Street, was arrested Monday on a Montague County warrant.

• **STEVE HILDRAND**, 39, of 1300 Wright, was arrested Tuesday on charges of evading arrest with a vehicle and a fictitious vehicle inspection certificate.

• MICHAEL HAYS, 19, of 2300 N. Highway 350, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.

• **ROCKY AUTRY**, 23, of 1410 Dixie, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.

• **BOBBIE GIBSON,** 42, of 707 Magnolia, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.

• **ALLAN PLEXCO**, 44, of 1306 Lamar, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ALESHA KAY PACE, 32, of 1011 N. Gregg Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• EARNEST CLARK, 67, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.

- in the 600 block of Caylor.
- in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- in the 600 block of Nolan.

• **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANS-PORTATION** was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 700 block of Johnson.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

- in the 1000 block of Main Street.

- in the 1100 block of Settles.

• **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1500 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

• LATOYA MAXWELL, 22, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated - open container, assault of a public servant, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, resisting arrest, search or transportation, no liability insurance, no driver's license and terroristic threat against a public servant.

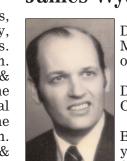
• **GENA KAY RAY**, 46, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.

• **RAYMOND IGLESIA ALVEAR**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 33, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **STEVEN WAYNE BRYANT,** 47, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.

• **DARREN HEFFINGTON**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a capias war-



Services were under the direction of Knesek Family Funeral Chapels in Bellville.

Antonia Cruz Terrazas



Antonia "Tona" Cruz Terrazas, 80, died Monday, Aug. 20, 2007, at her residence in Midland. Mass took place under the services of Fr. Frank Chavez at Our Lady of San Juan, where she was a parishioner. Interment followed at Serenity Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Tona was born to Nicholas and

Susanna Cruz in Big Spring on Nov. 19, 1926, where she was educated and raised. She married Fred R. Terrazas Sr.

on June 23, 1942.

She was preceded in death by a son, Raymond Terrazas, in 2005, and a grandson.

She is sxurvived by Fred "Lucky" and Marta Terrazas Jr. of Lovington, N.M., Mrs. Raymond Terrazas, Nick and Adela Terrazas, Albert and Mary terrazas, Pascual and Yolanda Martinez, Lupe and JoAnn Perez, and Raymond and Linda Flores, all of Midland; 23 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Services were under the direction of Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to pipkin@nts-online.net

Ruth Forester Kiser

Ruth Forester Kiser, born June 12, 1920, in Knott, passed away at the age of 87 in Houston after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. She married Clyde A. Kiser on Aug. 8, 1947. She moved to Hobbs, N.M., with her husband and their two children in 1964. She was a full-time mother and enjoyed bowling, playing bridge and sewing.

She is survived by her husband, Clyde; son, Keith Kiser and wife, Loretta; her daughter, Sheila McCormick and husband, Blake; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 20, 2007, at Niday Funeral Home in Houston. Interment was at the Houston National Cemetery.

The family suggests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Diabetes Association.

Correction

In the Monday edition of the Big Spring Herald, 410 Davis Road was listed as the address of record for Maria C. Hernandez, a 21-year-old woman arrested Sunday morning. According to police officials, Hernandez's address of record should have appeared on the department's media report as Hobbs, N.M. retired from his medical practice in 1998, and moved to Houston.

Dr. Cowan is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gaye Ann Harbin Cowan of Houston, children Kathrine Gaye and David Garrett of Tulsa, Okla., Cynthia Ann and Don Knight of Houston, Deborah Vaye and David Ward of The Woodlands, and James Samuel Ellis Cowan and William Taylor of Houston, and grandchildren Megan Michelle Knight, Meridith Ann Knight, Sarah Kathrine Beard and James Isaac Lidji. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Dick Yantis, brother-in-law Dr. Richard Harbin and his wife Myra of Stephenville, his aunt Eloise Brown of Dublin, and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

We wish to thank the Houston Hospice and his care givers and caseworkers from LivHome for their loving care and support.

Memorials can be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, First Baptist Church of Dublin, or the Heritage Museum of Big Spring. Visitation was held Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007, at the Bradshaw Carter Funeral Home in Houston and will also be held at Harrell Funeral Home in Dublin from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007. Memorial services will be 1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, 2007, at the First Baptist Church in Dublin. Graveside internment will follow at Live Oak Cemetery in Dublin.

Paid obituary

Vera Jane Clayton

Vera Jane Clayton, 67, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007, in the Home Hospice House of Odessa. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.



rant for non-payment of child support.

• **DOUGLAS BRENT PENNINGTON**, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.

• **STEVEN GLEN HILDEBRAND**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of displaying a fictitious/counterfeit inspection/insurance document and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• **DAVID COSLOW**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear - child support.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 700 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

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2B

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

Jamaal Charles, hailed as the next great Texas tailback after gaining 878 yards as a freshman on the national championship team, tailed off to 831 yards and scored only seven rushing touchdowns last season. He bulked up in the weight room in the offseason to get over 200 pounds, hoping to better withstand a long season of punishing tackles.

Charles has the speed of a world-class sprinter, but Brown wants him to be a tougher runner between the tackles and in the fourth quarter.

Perhaps the biggest difference in the running game will be the return of defensive tackle Derek Lokey, who was the blocking back in shortyardage situations. When Lokey broke his leg in the win over Nebraska, Texas lost its ability to gain tough ground.

defense, the On Longhorns have their third new coordinator in four years now that Gene Chizik is the head coach at Iowa State. Defensive backs coach Duane

dinator, will call the plays and has promised to get more pressure on opposing quarterbacks with more blitzes and pass rushers.

Akina, who was co-coor-

But the defense will be without two key players for the first three games. Linebacker Sergio Kindle and defensive end Henry Melton were suspended after drunken driving arrests over the summer.

Texas opens the season Sept. 1 at home against Arkansas State before hosting old Southwest Conference rival TCU. The first conference game is Sept. 29 against Kansas State.

The Longhorns have a favorable schedule with the Wildcats, Nebraska and Texas Tech at home. The annual matchup with Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas is Oct. 6. The toughest true road games should be at Oklahoma State and the traditional Thanksgiving matchup week with Texas A&M.

The Aggies knocked Texas out of the Big 12 title game by handing Texas a 12-7 defeat in Austin. It was A&M's first win in the series since 1999.

SPORTS

son.

JOHNSON

Continued from Page 1B

agent contract.

The Cowboys gave

"Brad is probably one of

the most underrated

guys," tight end Jason

Witten said. "He's a good

leader, he's won and he's

Vikings coach Brad

Childress indicated last

year that they were inter-

ested in having Johnson

stay in a mentoring role

for Jackson. But Johnson

didn't want to do that —

and he also doesn't con-

sider himself doing that

"You just want to have a

room, and you want to

have respect for every-

body," Johnson said.

"There's no such thing as

a mentor in this league.

There isn't. That's why

you have coaches to call

plays and coaches to

Plus, Romo has already

quarterbacks in

been around some veter-

Dallas. Vinny Testaverde

was with the Cowboys

before Drew Bledsoe, the

replaced as the starter

midway through last sea-

past Saturday and Sunday

friendly

Romo

with Romo in Dallas.

quarterback

teach you.'

quarterback

due to rain.

an

played in big games."

Johnson a three-year free

"They are different than me, way different than me in the way they play and their demeanor,' Johnson said. "But Tony's worked hard and deserves to be where he's at."

Johnson has started 122 of his 145 career games with Minnesota (1993-98, Washington 2005-06), (1999-2000) and Tampa Bay (2001-04). He has completed 2,620 of 4,237 career passes (61.8 percent) for 28,548 yards with 164 touchdowns and 117 interceptions.

Spotting Johnson on the practice field isn't very difficult. Look for the player wearing dark sweat pants and longsleeve shirts.

At first, Johnson didn't want to explain his unusual summer attire.

"It's my style," he said, before telling how it started when he had a brace on his surgically repaired knee after being traded to Washington in 1999.

"Everybody was making a big deal about my knee brace, so all right, you won't know if I'm wearing a knee brace or not," he said. "So if anything is ever wrong with me, you never know."

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to register a team.

QB Club meeting set for Monday

Spring Big The Athletic Training Cen-ter.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

not a big deal to him. It should be, but it's probably not."

Bedard gave up five hits, walked none and struck out at least one batter every inning. He has 26 strikeouts in two games against Texas this season.

After striking out 19 times against Minnesota on Sunday, including 17 against Johan Santana, the Rangers followed Monday's rainout in Baltimore by flailing at Bedard's offerings throughout a soggy night.

"I've seen enough of Santana and Bedard. They're two of the best in the game," Texas' Marlon Byrd said.

Playing at Camden Yards for the first time since his horrid 2005 season with the Orioles, Rangers DH Sammy Sosa went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts. Gerald Laird and Saltalamacchia each struck out twice.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

"It's the type of guys I'm sending up there right now," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "They're big swingers and they swing and miss a lot. We're going to have to deal with it."

Bedard is 9-0 in 12 starts since June 15.

His unbeaten run is the longest for an Oriole since Arthur Rhodes won nine in a row in 1996.

"It's a combination of luck and throwing good here and there and getting through the game," Bedard said.



BRIEFS

Continued from Page 2B

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

YMCA volleyball league sign-ups

The Big Spring youth Volleyball League is now accepting sign-ups for girls and boys in grades 4-6 to play at the YMCA.

qualify. Players can register until Aug. 30. A coaches meeting is also scheduled for Aug. 30. Teams begin practice Sept. 4.

and financial assistance

is available for those who

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Over-80 scramble rescheduled

The Big Spring Country Club was forced to cancel Registration fee is \$45 its over-80 scramble this come.

The scramble has been rescheduled for this coming Saturday and Sunday. A 1 p.m. shotgun start is set for both days.

It is a 2-person scramble format with the combined ages of the team members needing to equal 80 or higher.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus a golf cart fee. Private carts are wel-

Quarterback Club will hold its weekly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the

> Contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685 or Frank Stiles at 270-3041 for more details.



CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED $\star \star \star$ $\star\star\star$

 $\star \star \star \text{CARS} \star \star \star$

 $\star \star \star \star \text{TRUCKS} \star \star \star$

Benefits include:	2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Sandstone w/Tan Cloth, CD Player, All Power, Nice Car, 34,000	
6-year/75,000 Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty*	Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	Only 21,000 Miles. DULU NOW \$19,995
*Whichever comes first 115 point Variable Increastion	2004 Ford Mustang - Black w/Cloth, Speer I Power, Local One Owner w/23,000	2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/58,000
115-point Vehicle Inspection	Miles. DULD NOW \$14,995	Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
24-Hour Roadside Assistance	2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner	2004 Ford Ranger Superation 2.1. D. Beige, 6-Cyl., Automatic, All Power, Local
New Windshield Wiper Blades at Delivery	w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24.995 NOW \$21.995	One Owner w/55,000 Miles. O U L D Was \$14.995 NOW \$13.995
Full Fuel Tank at Delivery	2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles.	2002 Dodge 1500 SLT 4X4 - Dark Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, LocalOne Ownr, Very
 ✓ Oil/Filter Change at Delivery 	Was \$24,995 2004 Ford Forms 775 4 DB Block Automatic All Down Local One Owner w/20 000	Very Nice Truck, Low Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
Ask your salesperson about financing and extended service plan options as well as the vehicle history summary.	2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles.	1994 Chevrolet 1500 Reg. Cab SV 👯 👔 🕐 C 🚼 , 350 V8, Nice, Nice 94 Model.
2007 Ford Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD - Lt. French Silk w/med. Camel leather,	Was \$13,995	Was \$7,995 OULD NOW \$6,995
fully Loaded, 6 Disc In Dash, Power Moon Roof, Heated Seats, Wood Grain, Only 13,129	2004 Hyundai Tiburon GT - Silve will rall ather, 5 Speed, All Power, Moonroof, Only 29,000 Miles.	$\star \star \star$ SUV's & VANS $\star \star \star$
Miles. MSRP \$47,120 NOW \$33,995	Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	2007 Ford Expedition Eddie Barter Park Copper w/Camel, 2 Tone Leather,
2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature () as the Tricoat w/Dove Leather Seats	2004 Mercedes-Benz LK C240 - Gold w/Tan Leather, Woodgrain, Moonroof, Heated Seats, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Only 42,000 Miles.	Captain Chairs, 5.4 L V8, Loaded 7 1 R 1x I werfold 3rd Seat, Keyless Entry.
Fully Loaded, 6 Disc In Dash, Power Sonn of , or ted Seats, Wood Grain, Only 12,706 Miles.	Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995	MSRP \$36,620 2007 Ford Explorer XLT 4X2 - Redfire w/Lt. Stone Cloth, Fold Flat, 3rd Seat,
MRES. NOW \$33,995	2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Dark Red w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Heated Seats, Like New, Low Miles.	Comfort Group, CD, MP3 Player.
2007 Ford Mustang V6 Deluxe - Black w/Dark Charcoal Cloth, 5-Speed Auto.	Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	MSRP \$28,115 NOW \$23,995
Transmission, AM/FM, CD Player, Audio Input jack, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Only 17,421 Miles.	2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan leather, CD Player, Like New, One	2007 Ford Ford Escape XLT v. i a i e, w/Drk Flint Cloth, Power Seats, alarm, Privacy Glass, 6 Disc CP i 7
<u>Was \$23,995</u> NOW \$22,995		MSRP \$24,130 NOW \$20,995
2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Liquid Gray/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless, Only 18,000 Miles.	2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible - Silver w/Black Leather, Loaded, One Owner, 2	2007 Ford Expedition XLT 2 B cl Tan Cloth, Folding 3rd Seat, CD
<u>Was \$16,995</u> <u>NOW \$15,995</u>	Tops, Only 20,800 Miles. <u>Was \$27,995</u> <u>NOW \$26,995</u>	Player, All Poer, 4 Wheel ABS and I C I 11,000 Miles.
2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless.	2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Lt Tan w/Tan Leather, Loaded, CD Player, Nice Car.	Was \$30,9954 NOW \$29,995 2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice,
<u>Was \$16,995</u> NOW \$15,995	Was \$15,995 2003 Mazda MX5 Miata Convertible - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner,	Low Miles.
2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Kiwi Green/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless. Was \$16.995 NOW \$15.995	w/40,200 Miles.	Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995
2007 Mercury Grand Marquis Levin Leather, All Power, 6 Disc CD,	Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 42 Can The loth, New Tires, All Power, Like New, One Owner.
Heated Seats, Super Nice, Like New Collins.	2003 Ford Taurus SES - Light Blue, w/Cloth, Extra Clean, Automatic, All Power. Was \$10.995 NOW \$9.995	
Was \$23,995 2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4-Cyl., 12,000 Miles.	2003 Honda Civic LT - Gold w/Clock Lt that lear Low Miles, Automatic, All Power.	2005 Toyota Sequaia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Nice SUV, 44,000
<u>Was \$20,995</u> NOW \$19,995	Was \$13,995 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car.	Miles. Was \$27.995 NOW \$26.995
2006 Forud Taurus SEL - Dark Red, Gray Leather, 3.0, V-6, Moonroof, All Power, 12.000 Miles. MSRP When New \$24,870.	Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Gold w/G C P P er, One Owner, Super Clean, Only
12,000 Whiles. MSKF when New \$24,870. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995	2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000	19,024 Miles.
2006 Ford Taurus SE - White with the h, . V-6, All Power, 14,000 Miles. MSRP	Miles. <u>Was \$14,995</u> COLD <u>NOW \$13,995</u>	
When New \$21,450. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995	2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier, drin P. 1 White w/Leather, All Power, Local One	
2006 Ford Taurus SEL - Arizona I (get P b. Joth, All Power, w/17,000 Miles.	Owner w/39,000 Miles. NOW \$16.995	<u>Was \$18,995</u> NOW \$17,995
MSRP When when \$23,030. Was \$15.995 NOW \$14.995	2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles.	2004 Nissan Murano SE - Silver w/Black Leather, Heated Seats, All Power, Moonroof,
Was \$15.995 2006 Ford Freestyle SEL - White Centre Difference CD, Loaded, Super Nice.	<u>Was \$11,995</u> <u>NOW \$10,995</u>	Only 23,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995
	$\star \star \star$ TRUCKS $\star \star \star$	2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 SL - Gold w/Tan Leather, CD Player, All Power, Heated Seats,
Was \$22,995 2006 Ford Mustang V-6 - Satin Silver w/Graphite Cloth, All Power, Spoiler, Sport	2008 Ford F350 Crew Cab Lariat - Teacher, Loaded, All Power, 4X2,	Only 30,000 Miles.
Pkgs., 21,000 Miles.	Only 5,900 Miles. SULL NOW \$44,995	Was \$18,995 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000
<u>Was \$20,995</u> <u>NOW \$19,995</u>	2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Control of h 6 Disc CD/MP3 Like New	Miles.
$\star \star \star CARS \star \star \star$	Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel ABS, Privacy and in the heels, Only 19,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 NOW \$25,995	Was \$19,995 NOW \$16,995 2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles.
2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, LocallyOwned w/32,000 Miles.	2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XL1 , which is y Cloth, 6 Disc CD/MP3, Like New,	Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
<u>Was \$14,995</u> NOW \$13,995	Keyless Entry, 4 Wheel/AB S, Privation 1, in the Wheels, Only 14,000 Miles.	
2006 Ford Mustang GT - Blue v GO , A P v r , 5-Speed, Manual Transmission, Local One owner, 21,600 Miles.	Was \$26,995 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche - Tan w/Tan Cloth, V8, Automatic, All Power, Local One	2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner
Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995	Owner, 42,000 Miles.	w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20.995 NOW \$18.995
2005 Volkswagen New Beetle GL Carl Breet, an Leather, Automatic, Local One Owner w/Only 12,000 Miles.	Was \$26,995 2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One	2002 Toyota Highlander LTD - Silver w/Gray Leather, DVD, CD Player, All Power,
Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995	Owner, All Power.	Like New.
2005 Ford Mustang GT - Dark Red With Red Leather, 5-Speed Manual Transmission,	<u>Was \$25,995</u> <u>NOW \$24,995</u>	<u>Was \$18,995</u> <u>NOW \$17,995</u>
Loal One Owner With 10,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995	2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner	2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner
2005 Nissan Sentra 1.88 - Maroon w/Cloth All Power Local One Owner w/22 000 Miles	w/60,000 Miles.	w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
Was \$14,995 2005 Ford Five Hundred Limited - White w/Gray Leather, Automatic, 6 disc MP3,	<u>Was \$20,995</u> <u>NOW \$19,995</u>	1999 GMC Surburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K
Moonroof, Locally Owned	2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner.	Miles.
Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995	<u>Was \$18,995</u> <u>NOW \$17,995</u>	<u>Was \$11,995</u> <u>NOW \$9,995</u>

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Wednesday, August 22, 2007

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Announcements

CONCEALED HANDGUN CLASS SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007 CONTACT TOMMY SCOTT, (432)394-4492.

Cemetery Lots

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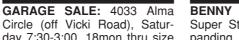
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www.scinow6.com 4320 W. Illinois Avenue, Suite A, Midland, TX 79703

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE 123 Jonesboro. Thursday 8/23/07, 9am-? Lots of good stuff, come see!!

GARAGE SALE: 2510 Cindy Lane, Friday & Saturday 8-12. Furniture, infant & kids clothes, baby items, knick-knacks and more.



day 7:30-3:00. 18mon thru size 7 in boys clothes, linens, furniture and other misc. items. **INSIDE SALE:** 2000 N. Bird-

Garage Sales

well Lane, Thursday Only 8-1. Women's apparel, chilly pepper decor., teen shoes, lots of misc. items. Cheap.

SATURDAY ONLY 8:00-? 2506 East 22nd Street (Lower Kentwood off Edgemere). Furniture, clothing, decorative items, lots of good stuff.

Help Wanted

AMERICMEX RIG Movers, LTD. now hiring road wench gin truck drivers and forklift operators, Must have CDL, and experience in moving drilling rigs. Call (432)264-7700.

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.

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Super Store in Lamesa is expanding and we need your help.

Part Counter Sales 401(k)

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CARPENTERS AND Carpenter Assistants needed. Must have own transportation, some tools required. Applications at Fiberod 3604 Berthel Dr., EOE. No Phone Calls Please.

> CHILDCARE \$7+ per hour DOE & Availability. Apply in person Jack & Jill 1708 Nolan

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Help Wanted

CLINE CONSTRUCTION is in need of Class A or B CDL Drivers light trucks involved. Please call (432)267-6006 or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

COMFORT INN needs evening grounds keeper from 4pm-8pm. Apply at 2900 East I-20, Big Spring. No Phone Calls.

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED KITCHEN HELP needed. Apply in person Tuesday thru Friday, 10:00-2:00. SWCID Cafeteria.

GREAT PAY & BENEFITS!

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4B

Help Wanted

DELIVERY DRIVER/ WAREHOUSE HAND

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for a delivery driver/ warehouse hand. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forkfift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:

Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

DOWN HOLE Pump Repair/ Delivery Person. Experience Preferred, but will train. Must have valid Driver License. Salary D.O.E. Full Benefits Package. Background and drug test required. Send Resume to P.O. Box 2234 or come by 2903 North Birdwell for application.

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



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Finance & Insurance Sales person needed. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins.. Apply in person at Pollard Chevrolet 1501 East 4th.

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Time Pay in Big Spring, TX! Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50. Outstanding company. Paid benefits, paid training, supplied uniforms. Unlimited advancement in a global company. Food service background not required. Must pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.

Opportunity is a call away! 432-263-2366 EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

FRITO LAY is seeking hard workers to fill full-time Route Sales Positions in the Big Spring area (\$36,900-\$42,000/yr). Benefits include 401K/retirement, stock options, health, dental, vision insurance and vacation leave. Candidates must have a solid work history, strong communication skills and an excellent driving record. No prior experience required. Please apply online at

www.fritolayemployment.com for consideration.

JOB OPENING- Part-time position for a physical therapy technician. Competitive applicants will have experience, dependable work history and good references. Responsibilities include assisting with patient treatments an performing some housekeeping duties. Apply in person at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, TX.

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

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The following positions are available:

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Help Wanted

LEE, REYNOLDS, Welch & Co. P.C., a local CPA firm seeks degreed accountant and an experienced bookkeeper for staff positions. Applicants should send resume to P.O. Box 3469, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Maintenance/ Roving **Crew Position**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has openings for Maintenance Workers and a Roving Crew Worker in Big Spring. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful.

District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer. 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.

NEED SALESPERSON, 87 Auto Series Anci, in person, 111 Gregg Street.

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

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

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Help Wanted

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POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57 annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PT/FT. 1-866-795-4058 USWA.

RELEASE OF Information Clerk in Big Spring area. Experience in a Medical Records Department or Doctor's Office a must. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 call or 800-873-1831

HAND SINGLE Welders wanted. Welding test, drug screen & travel required. Air-Arc gouging a plus. Per diem & mileage paid. Pay based on experience. Office (432)559-8432 or fax (432)264-0597.

THE CITY of Big Spring is hiring for the following positions.... Police Officers Cert. & Non

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BIG SPRING HERALD Wednesday, August 22, 2007

Real Estate for Rent

TRAVEL U.S.A. Publication Sales Co. hiring 18-23 sharp enthusiastic Individuals to travel the U.S. Travel, lodging, transportation provided. 1-800-781-1344.

Help Wanted

TRUCK DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a agricultural-chemical national company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company

100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.

Lost and Found

FOUND BLACK & white male puppy about 3 to 4 months old. in the vicinity of East Howard Field Rd. Call 432-263-0276 or 432-263-6769 to identify.

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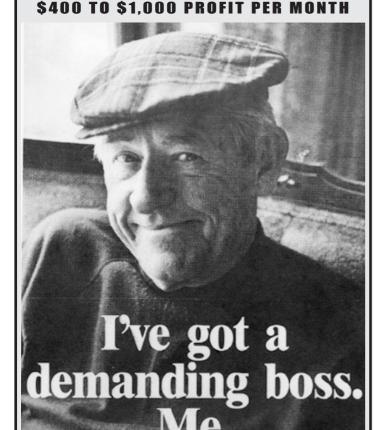
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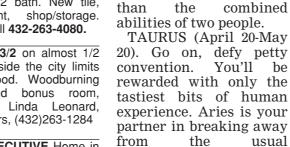
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ARIES (March 21-April

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Ever had a rough and

Tomorrow's Horoscope

potential to inspire and renew your optimism.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The planets support your social growth. You're becoming wise in the ways of friendship and Consider this love. lesson, too: Trustworthy people are more likely to trust others. Be skeptical of the person who is paranoid.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're changing and, therefore, will think twice about how you're being perceived. You don't have to perform! Search your soul to discover what's genuine for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). were promised You something, but the exact nature of that something was left vague. Now you have no idea what to expect. The suspense may not be killing you, but it is making you a bit anxious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your talent for distinguishing the finer points of an argument or deal is put to excellent use. Specifics will make or break a business situation. Well-chosen words can win a heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're smart not to spend major time on minor priorities. Now all vou have to do is teach certain loved ones to follow your lead on this, and then everyone can work in the same direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in a shopping mood — for a new job, perhaps, or a activities that have the new love. "Trying on" the greater happiness by SYNDICATE, INC.

merchandise in your mind is half the fun. The sexiest thing about you now is your philosophy. Share it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're widely accomplished. But be careful of the jack-of-all-(master-of-none) trades syndrome. You're better off homing in on what you do the best and delegating the rest to those who'd love to have the work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're the resident bon vivant, so everyone asks you where to go, who to take and what to wear. And you're going more places, in style, in the weeks to come.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "This year, Jupiter's due to influence, many times in my 'scopes it has said that any child I have this year will bring me much happiness. Last year I got pregnant, and my pregnancy ended. Would that child have brought much happiness into my life? I'm not feeling creative. and my romantic life has had some special highs this year, but with a lot of frustration, coolness, distance and heartbreak. how is Jupiter So positively influencing my 5th house this year? Also, my boyfriend broke up with me last month. Will I find love?"

For Aquarians, Jupiter Sagittarius in is indirectly sending rays to your 5th house of love, creativity and children, nudging you toward

asking what your heart desires most. Jupiter has moved lifelong dreams into the realm of "it's possible..." while the Saturn-Neptune

opposition asks for viability. With Saturn, reality always wins. Imagine the kind of world it would be if our every wish came true. Reality builds character so that when our wish comes true we're mature enough to handle it. Would bringing a child into an unstable relationship make anyone happy? Your pattern is putting up with irresponsible men, so look into that.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Are some people born for spotlight? the When Master P encouraged his son to lay tracks, rapper Lil' Romeo was born. His first solo record was made at age 11! Some wondered if Dad was pushing too hard. As a Leo, Lil' Romeo has the strength and talent to guide his own ship — the karmic meeting of the sun and south node suggests that leadership and creativity are second nature to Romeo.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please g_0 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. © 2007 CREATORS

Annie's Mailbox •: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am 36 years old, and my wife, "Lori," is 32. We have two pre-teen children. I love my family and would do anything for them.

About a month ago, Lori and I started to have some issues. The phone



wives. That should do it. Dear Annie: I couldn't

stop laughing at the letter from "Daniel," and his rant about "beck and call."

As a former English teacher (I'm now 64 years old), I got in the habit (in my younger days) of correcting people as they spoke. I lost TONS of friends that way. It wasn't until one kind person told me about this quirk that I didn't even recognize. I fixed it and have never been happier. I even tolerate sentences that end with а preposition. - A Fan in South Carolina

detach from emotional commitments altogether. Please explain this to your ex and request, nicely, that she save the sleepovers for when the children are with you. (This advice also applies

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.' This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: PHIL BARBER, d/b/a **B&B ROOFING**

You are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas, in the Courthouse in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Monday. the 10th day of September, 2007 then and there to answer the Peti tion of THE STATE NATIONAL BANK OF BIG SPRING, Plaintiff in Cause No. 45077, styled THE STATE NATIONAL BANK OF BIG SPRING vs. PHIL BARBER, d/b/a B&B ROOFING, in which THE STATE NATIONAL BANK OF BIG SPRING is the Plaintiff and PHIL BARBER, d/b/a B&B ROOFING is the Defendant. The said Petition, filed on the 17th day of November, 2006, discloses that the nature of said suit is as follows:

Defendant has defaulted in paving a Note held by The State Na tional Bank of Big Spring. If this citation is not served within

90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT on this the 25th day of July, 2007, in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.

Colleen Barton Clerk of the District Court of Howard County, Texas #5472 August 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2007

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bill came, and Lori hid part of it from me. When I asked her where the rest was, she said she must have filed it. When the current phone bill came, she did the same thing. I did some looking around and found out Lori is talking, texting and e-mailing another man at all hours of the

day. When I confronted her, she broke down and started to cry, saying they are just friends. But, really, Annie. She talks to him up to five times a day, always when I'm at work or otherwise not around. I say there's more going on.

Lori had a previous flirtation, and it took nine months for her to realize that the grass was not greener somewhere else. She says she doesn't want to lose me or hurt the kids with a divorce, but she won't stop talking to this man. She told me he is leaving town at the end of the summer and then she will only be able e-mail him. That to doesn't make it any better for me.

I love my wife with all my heart, but I don't know what to do. – Midwest

Dear Midwest: Your wife is fooling around, and whether it's а physical affair or an emotional one, it is still a betrayal of your trust and your marriage vows. Don't be so nice. All communication with this man must stop, and insist that Lori go with you for marriage counseling. She needs to understand what commitment means, and that the consequences of her flirtations can do major damage, not only to you, but to your children.

Dear Annie: I am a



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

recent widow in my mid-30s. I have been dismayed and repulsed by the behavior of some of the husbands of couples we were close friends with.

Since my husband's accident, these couples been have verv supportive, and although I welcome calls from the wives, the men phone me from work or when their wives and children are out for the evening — "just to talk." They call me "darling," "sweetme heart" and other endearments. If the situation were reversed and my husband made private calls to a young widow, I would be furious. And when I see these men, they always greet me with a big hug. Yuck.

Other than moving and leaving no forwarding address, what can I do? I feel forced into a very distasteful situation. Any suggestions? — L.

Dear L.: Some married men mistakenly believe they are doing you a favor by providing the male companionship you are lacking. Assert When they yourself. phone, say, "Thanks for your concern. I'll tell 'Betsy' you called. I'm sure she'll want to know how caring you've been. Bye." And hang up. If they reach out their arms for unwanted hugs, put one hand up and say, "Good to see you," and immediately move on to greet someone else. If they make serious advances, let them know vou will inform their

Dear Fan: We are so glad this is something up with which you have learned to put. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: My wife and I recently divorced after 10 years of marriage, because she had an affair with her manager. Our three children now live primarily with me and see their mother every other weekend.

My ex has a new boyfriend who sleeps over when my children are present. She sees no problem with this, and her mother (with five marriages under her belt) concurs. I see these sleepovers as simply showing our kids that it's OK to cohabit without commitment.

I would like to know how you view such an arrangement and if you agree that it is inappropriate. — Virginia Beach

Dear Virginia Beach: It is unhealthy for the kids. Unless Mom marries the current boyfriend, she is teaching her children that there is little value in marriage and that sexual relationships are transient. Younger children also can become attached to whoever is filling the "dad" position feel abandoned and (again) when the guy is no longer around. If it happens often, they can become fearful and anxious and learn to

to divorced fathers who bring their girlfriends home.)

Dear Annie: My good friend, "Sara," lives in an apartment complex with three cats and a puppy. Her apartment is a disaster. There is dried animal urine and feces all over the floor, including the kitchen. The cats have a litter box but don't use it. The dog is not potty trained. Sara won't open the windows for fear the cats will push out the screens.

The smell is nauseating and noticeable in the hallway. I'm not sure what, if anything, I can or should do. I think Sara may be neglecting the animals due to exhaustion from her shift hours. Or maybe she is depressed. have T suggested getting an enclosed litter box, I've shown her ways to train the puppy (I have several dogs), and offered to provide transportation to obedience classes. She makes excuses not to do anything I recommend.

Sara's living conditions are appalling, and now she tells me she is planning to move out and do it again somewhere else. I am tempted to call the SPCA or the apartment complex office. Should I? — Nauseated

Dear Nauseated: We're surprised Sara's landlord hasn't had her evicted. If the animals are being neglected, you should notify the Humane Society. Beyond that, all you can do is encourage Sara to get help. Tell her point-blank that her apartment is unsanitary and dangerous. She may need psychiatric help or just cleaning assistance, but we hope you can get through to her that this is neither normal nor healthy.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

argument, Mitchell asked Harbert to take the discussion outside. Harbert responded by making a hand gesture as if pointing a gun, pulling the imaginary trigger and telling Mitchell that if they met again, Mitchell's mother "would have to buy a black dress," Williams said.

Williams, Clayton and Mitchell soon returned to Big Spring, where Williams testified that he dropped off Mitchell at the home of Williams' mother on 2619 Fairchild. It was there, shortly

midnight after on Christmas Eve morning, that the final confrontation between Mitchell and Harbert occurred.

said Williams he returned to his mother's house shortly before a red Ford Focus pulled up the residence and Harbert exited the passenger's side door.

Williams said he told Harbert "over and over" to leave and was soon joined outside by Williams' mother Sheila, who also told Harbert to leave the residence.

Harbert responded by pulling a handgun from his sweatshirt. Sheila Williams said she retreated inside the house, telling Mitchell "not to go to the door," while her son backed away, as well, imploring Harbert not to go into the house.

Despite Ms. Williams' pleadings, Mitchell appeared in the doorway, according to testimony. At that time, Harbert allegedly fired for the first time, a shot that went into the ground.

Marcello Williams said he fled the scene on foot at that time, taking shelter a few houses away. Sheila Williams said a friend flung her into a corner and covered her with her body.

Both mother and son reported hearing subsequent shots fired. although neither saw the

LOCAL fatal blasts. Shortly after-

ward. Harbert fled the scene and Mitchell lay dying in the dining area of the house.

Big Spring Police Cpl. Nathan Londenberg was on patrol at that time and testified to receiving a dispatch about "shots fired" in the 2600 block of Fairchild. He also was told to be on the lookout for a red Ford.

While heading to the scene, he spotted a vehicle matching that description heading east on Highway 80.

"I thought it might be the suspect, so I turned my patrol car around and began to the follow it," Londenberg said. "The vehicle then turned into Sunset Boulevard ... and stopped in the middle of the road. I hadn't even turned on my emergency lights at that time, so I thought this was very odd behavior on their part."

Londenberg subsequently made contact with the vehicle's driver, Felica Aldridge, who had a male passenger later identified

as Harbert.

After explaining the sit-Londenberg uation, obtained permission to search the vehicle, at which time he discovered Ruger .357-caliber а revolver stuck between the front two seats of the car.

At that time, both suspects were detained and the gun was taken into evidence, the officer testified.

Subsequent testimony by Department of Public Safety Forensic Scientist Jeffrey Brown showed that the confiscated revolver fired the bullets that killed Mitchell.

Further testimony showed that Harbert indirectly admitted to the shooting on three occasions — to Londenberg shortly after his arrest; to BSPD Det. George Oliver during their first interview that morning; and to Identification BSPD Technician Wayne Jones while being tested for gunpowder residue.

"I tried to give (Harbert) his Miranda rights warn-

ing, and he kept interrupting me," Oliver said. "He kept asking me, 'What would you have done if someone had threatened your family?""

The first officer to arrive at the scene of the shooting was BSPD Cpl. Adam Binnix. Entering Ms. Williams' residence, Binnix said he observed Mitchell laying face-down on the floor. bleeding heavily from the mouth.

Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived soon after, but were unable to revive Mitchell, who was later declared dead at the scene.

BSPD officials searched the premises and discovsecond .357ered a revolver. That gun became a major focus of cross-examination by defense attorney Wayne Frost.

Marcello Williams testified that he returned to his mother's house shortly after Harbert departed and found the second weapon laying near Mitchell's body. He then said he "panicked" and

flung the gun out beyond the back yard fence, where it was later discovered unloaded by police.

However, neither Ms. Williams or Ismael Munoz, a neighbor who responded to the gunshots, told the court that the gun was near Mitchell's body after the shooting.

Brown, under crossexamination by Frost, testified that he examined the second revolver, but was unable to determine if it had been recently fired. He added that neither the bullets recovered from Mitchell's body or fragments found at the scene were fired from the second weapon.

Wilkerson said he expects to rest the state's case early Wednesday morning.

"I felt things went pretty smoothly," Wilkerson said of the first day's testimony. "We got a lot of material we intended to get in ... So far, we've brought what we've had to the table."

with the design and con-

struction of a new county

jail for nearly three years.

MYERS & SMITH

FUNERAL HOME

& CHAPEL

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Barr.

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the overall savings the consulting firm could bring to the table vastly outweigh the risks.

"I would support this if I didn't think we could save a lot more than what we'll be paying them,' Kilgore told the court.

Barr and the commissioners voted unanimously in favor of hiring the consulting group, which includes Dick Kirkland, a former sheriff of Reno, Nev., and Griffith, who is a former county judge.

Commissioners also heard a presentation from Sheriff Dale Walker Tuesday concerning a plan that could help spell financial relief for the county, which continues to struggle with budgetary shortfalls in the millions of dollars.

we can with what we have," Walker told commissioners. "The employees that are being laid off career-minded are employees, and a layoff can spell disaster for a family or a career. I just want the court to keep that in mind.

"Housing out-of-county inmates can be a serious money-making business. Bailey County built a 96bed facility and houses no more than 15 inmates from their county, and is currently planning a 48bed expansion. Their sheriff's office budget is \$1.16 million, and contract inmate revenue is more than \$763,000. That's 66 percent of their budget being paid for through contract revenue. The jail opened in 2004, and is now paid off. By 2008, they expect it will be totally self sufficient, bringing in revenue to cover 100 percent of the sheriff's office expenses."

in need of contract jail beds, and within the same boundaries there are nine contract facilities that are full and only eight that are still taking contract inmate housing contracts. The problem isn't just

spread out among Texas counties, according to Walker, who said there's a growing need in Big Spring as well.

"Both Cornell Corrections and Big Federal Spring Correctional Institution have expressed a great interest in utilizing beds here in Howard County,' said Walker. "They have inmates that are being held on state charges and are housing an average of 50 each month to county jails. And, thanks to immigration reform, they say those numbers are expected to grow."

Walker said looking at the geographic layout of Howard County in respect to other counties in need

"There are 83 counties in Texas that are housing their inmates out-of-county," said Walker. "That's a huge number, and much larger than I expected to see. If we use 50 to 60 beds for our county's inmates and use the rest for contracts at \$35 a bed which is extremely low we're looking at approximately \$500,000 in revenue a year.

"Because of the situation with immigration, there's a huge demand for jail beds. The federal government pays more than most agencies, as well. Where most counties only pay \$40 to \$45 a bed per day, the feds pay \$50 or more.

"Mv recommendation to this court is to proceed and proceed quickly — in getting a new jail for Howard County. Delays cost us all. I say we bring in some money for the county instead of just paying for everything with proposal, the idea did garner praise from at least one commissioner.

"I appreciate the time and research invested in this," said Commissioner Bill Crooker.

commissioner's The court has been struggling

<u>CINEMARK</u>a

CINEMA 4

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SUPERBAD (R) 1:40 PM 4:20 PM 7:10 PM 10:10 PM

BRATZ (PG) 1:50 PM 4:30 PM 7:20 PM 10:00 PM

• RUSH HOUR (PG-13) 2:00 PM 4:40 PM 7:30 PM 9:50 PM

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) 1:30 PM 4:10 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 F

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24th & Johnson 267-8288 Lorene Massey, 86, of Big Spring died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



'We (county department heads) have the same goal you do - to do the best

According to Walker, within a 200-mile radius of Howard County there are currently 25 counties

of jail beds, the construction of a new jail could pull the county out of its budgetary hole.

taxpayer money.' While the court made no

Auto • Home • Life

ALON

Continued from Page 1a

said the petro-chemical company has indicated it will pay taxes on a substantially lower amount than the county had anticipated.

"My office is required to put market value on property, regardless of what is going on outside of County,' Howard McKibben told commis-"Alon sioners. USA appealed it's appraisal, which was close to \$320 million saying it should only pay taxes on \$152 million. The appraisal

1501 E. 4th

review board upheld the \$320 million appraisal. The company has 45 days from the time the appraisal review board issued its findings to file a lawsuit.' The refinery, which

filed a lawsuit over increased appraisals in 2006, will likely do so again this year to contest an appraisal of \$320 million on its property and taxable goods, according to McKibben.

Until litigation is settled, the refinery will pay taxes only on the uncontested appraisal amount of \$80 million, according to Commissioner Jerry Kilgore.

"I spoke on the phone with David Foster, the manager of the Big Spring Refinery," Kilgore told the court Tuesday afternoon. "He indicated they are moving forward with paying taxes on \$80 million."

The difference between the two amounts will approximately mean \$264,000 less in tax revenue for the school district, while it will spell more than \$700,000 for the county.

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



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OPINION The making of a constitutional dictator

DITORIAL

"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

Bill McClellan

News Editor

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

OTHER VIEWS

Homegrown threat really must be eyed

urtling down the terror highway with our eyes firmly fixed on the rearview mirror guarantees only disaster. The road inevitably curves.

The New York Police Department for which terrorist attacks are much more than theory made a valuable contribution last week toward pointing us in the right direction with a revealing 90-page study, "Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat."

Produced by its excellent Intelligence Division, the report analyzes post-9/11 terror, urges us to look beyond simplistic views of al-Qaeda as the root of all evil and evaluates the growing threat of jihadist-inspired groups of "unremarkable" young men who can inflict great damage.

Our first impulse is to draw a straight line from each post-9/11 terror event whether successful or thwarted to a cave along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Mitchell D. Silber and Arvin Bhatt, authors of the NYPD report, study terrorist events and cells from London to Madrid to Amsterdam to New York, Toronto, Miami and Lackawanna, N.Y., and seek the root causes.

As we ask, "What signs did we miss?" they identify them. Their report draws a four-stage process pre-radicalization to self-identification to indoctrination to jihadization that tracks the "transformation of a Western-based individual to a terrorist." The report, which mostly slipped below the national media radar, also echoes recent national intelligence warnings that the jihadist ideology "is proliferating in Western democracies at a logarithmic rate," driven in part by access to the Internet. The idea of "unremarkable" men turning to terrorism should have particular resonance in Texas and especially our own area. Or have we forgotten that an unremarkable Dallas convenience-store clerk, Eyad Ismoil, joined a San Antonio cabbie and a Houston pizza deliverer all influenced by international terrorist Ramzi Yousef in the first World Trade Center bombing? That an unremarkable tire store worker from Arlington also served as Osama bin Laden's personal secretary and contributed to two U.S. embassy bombings?

ust when we thought there was nothing more Hugo Chavez could do to legally entrench himself as dictator Venezuela, out he comes with yet another proposal that we think free and democratic voters will have to reject.

But amazingly, they never do.

On several occasions, Venezuelan voters have had opportunities to stop Chavez's drive to replace Cuba's Fidel Castro as the leader of U.S.-haters in Latin America. But instead of booting him out of office,



MIGUEL Perez

they keep giving him more power to take away their freedom. It's absurd.

Castro has never held free elections because he knows the Cuban people would reject the misery and suffering his socialist revolution has brought them. But a majority of the Venezuelan people - seeing what has happened in Cuba and hearing Chavez say he wants to follow that model — keep creating the world's first democratically elected communist dictatorship.

And now, Chavez, elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000 and 2006, is taking the final step toward crowning himself a totalitarian ruler. In 1999, he won approval for a new constitution that abolished the lower house of the legislature, and in 2005, with the opposition foolishly boycotting congressional elections, his supporters gained total control of the legislature.

But that's not enough for this

communist egomaniac. Last week, Chavez, whose term ends in 2012, proposed radical constitutional changes that would allow him to be re-elected indefinitely. He wants to be Venezuela's president for life, and a huge number of the Venezuelan people are willing to give him whatever he wants. They would make him emperor if it would suit his narcissistic needs.

Why? Unlike Castro, Chavez reigns over an oil-rich nation, the world's sixth biggest oil exporter, and he has used Venezuela's nationalized oil industry to buy the loyalty of the country's poor majority with free health care and education and affordable housing projects. He also has used a lot of anti-American rhetoric — the kind that appeals to neurotic losers all over the continent.

He also uses Venezuela's petroleum dollars to bribe corrupt government officials and support leftist candidates in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and throughout Latin America. One of his bagmen recently was caught in Argentina with a suitcase filled with nearly \$800,000 in cash.

While the Bush administration has neglected Latin America, devoting most of its time and resources to Afghanistan, Iraq and other faraway places, Chavez has become the biggest philanthropist in the Western Hemisphere, and he has turned a lot of discontent and socially frustrated Latinos against the United States.

"We have broken the chains of the old, exploitative capitalist system," Chavez said as he announced his constitutional reforms in a long and rambling televised speech reminiscent of

Castro. "The state now has the obligation to build the model of a socialist economy."

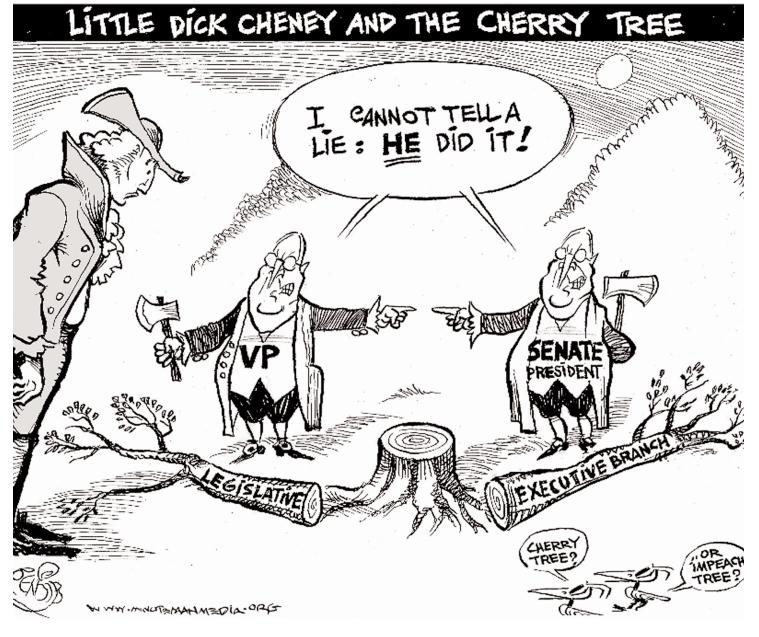
Since his re-election in December, Chavez already has nationalized some of Venezuela's energy and telecommunications industries. But now he is proposing a series of constitutional reforms that would abolish limits on re-election, extend presidential terms from six to seven years, strengthen his power to expropriate private property, nationalize natural gas and coal resources and assume control of Venezuela's central bank and its \$26 billion in international reserves. His plan also would create new military, municipal and federal districts, allowing him to undermine existing state and local governments and consolidate power in the presidency by leaving local decisions to popular, grass-roots organizations that would be under his control.

To sweeten his power grab, Chavez has added some incentives for the Venezuelan masses, including a six-hour workday and more housing and welfare for the poor.

The changes would have to be approved by a popular referendum that could take place as soon as December. But given the recent track record of Venezuelan voters, the indifference of the Bush administration and a few popular initiatives bundled together with measures to craft a totalitarian regime,

Venezuela may be on the verge of creating a constitutional dictatorship.

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Did we miss the signs? Did we know where to look? Did law enforcement federal, state, local do all it could to prevent these and subsequent attacks?

It would be a happy coincidence if the absence of post-9/11 terrorism on U.S. soil provided the answer. As the NYPD report tells us, refighting the last war is only a small part of winning the next one.

> THE MORNING NEWS DALLAS

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 emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we work together with others, Lord, toward Your love.

Paying a visit on Gator Country

met Big Al the other day. He's the biggest alligator in Texas (13 feet, 4 inches long and weighs 1,000 pounds). He's between 70 and 75 years old. When I was introduced to him, he was with his girlfriend Allie, who's just 9 feet. They've been together a long time.

Must be true alligator love.

They were both keeping cool among the lily pads in a pool at Gator Country, one of the most unusual places to visit in Texas. You can see alligators up close and personal, even feed and hold live alligators. It's located between Winnie and Beaumont on Interstate 10. Gary Saurage is one of the owners.

"We've been around the country looking at other parks and discovered there's not another place in the country that offers the chance to have close interaction with alligators that we have," says Gary. "We make it safe for people to

handle these gators."

Construction on the park started in 2005 and it opened in April of last year. Gary says they've been going strong since it opened. 27,000 people have visited the park.

I asked him where he got the 150 or so alligators on the place.

"We get them from all over -Taylor's Bayou, High Island, we've had them come in as far away as Tyler. We usually catch them ourselves. You know, people get alligators in their swimming pools and we go get them. Anytime we can get our hands on a gator, we bring them here.'

I was there during the summer nesting season. There were alligator nests all over the place. When the eggs hatch, the population will increase to around 250 gators.

Gary hunted alligators for years, and was an alligator hunting guide, but the more he learned about them, the more respect he had for them. He says the best time to see the alligators is during the summer because they're real aggressive feeders then.

"We get out there and do shows

with the gators. They'll be all around us, chomping at us," he said. "People love to take pictures of us feeding the big gators. They (alligators) love weenies. We go through about 300 pounds of them every week. And if you'll notice, our alligators are fat.

"We also alligator wrestle. We grab them by their jaw, bring them up and turn them over," he added. "We get school buses here full of kids on a field trip. When they get off that bus, they're running and screaming and are just so excited. When you let them hold one of those 2- or 3-foot alligators, their faces are just full of fascination. They really get a kick out of watching our shows. We've got a heavy wire over this big pond with all the alligators in it and we have a guy that glides across the pond dragging one foot in the water. We call it Redneck Seaworld. It's kinda dangerous.'

Admission to Gator Country is \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids and seniors. Shows are at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Besides alligators, the park has an assortment of turtles and crocodiles.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

LOCAL



Courtesv photo

Area Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipients were recognized recently by the Big Spring Rotary Club. They included, right to left, Shane Bowles, Michelle McMurtrey, Lauren Sage, Marshall Van Pelt and Malle Carrasco. Not pictured are Callie Partee and Samantha Whitehead.



Courtesy photo

5A

Rebecca McEndree was awarded an Energen Resources Scholarship during a dinner at KC Steakhouse recently. Vice President Paul Sparks said Rebecca was chosen from numerous applicants for her academic success and her many accomplishments while attending Coahoma High School. Rebecca plans to attend Howard College and then Texas Tech University. Pictured from left to right are, back row, Paul Sparks, Joe Niederhofer, Danny Hagins, Bruce Allen and Willie McEndree, and front row, Rebecca McEndree and Gina McEndree.

Why not check this out? At the library

For all you Texas History buffs, Joan Upton Hall has written a charming book on jails in Texas (what a timely subject). "Just Visitin': Old Texas Jails" (365.34 HAL J) is not an exhaustive listing of all county jails in Texas,

just those that have some sense of history. Hico, Monahans, Channing, LaGrange and many others are just a few that Mrs. Hall has been able to



McCright

research. This is really a very interesting volume and would be well worth it to check out.

Audio books

Here are some audio

(364.152 PAG C) by Carol Pogash and "Armed & Dangerous" (364.177 QUE W) by retired ATF agent William Queen. He writes of going undercover into a skinhead gang and was also instrumental in capturing a survivalist drug runner in the rugged mountains of California. It is a rather simply written book, but interesting all the same.

Health

Khaliah Ali is the daughter of Mohammad Ali and has struggled with obesity for most of her life. She has always felt insecure about her weight and tried many diets and weight-loss programs, but was never was she able to get below 220. Khaliah decided to try laparoscopic banding — a surgery this book claims has less risk, less recovery time and better

results than gastric

read them. When I saw Dr. Padwee's book, "The Cat Who Couldn't See in the Dark" (636.8 PAD H), I knew I had to read it. Padwee is a vet who practices in New York City. While he does have a full service veterinary practice, I think his heart is with cats. In chapter 2, he writes that while people choose to have a dog, a cat will choose you. This is a really neat, interesting book, all about cats and the whys and wheretofores of living with them.

Biography

Maybe you know who su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Taylor Hicks is? I didn't, until I read the book flap. He was a winner on American Idol. He has written a book about how he made it there. "Heart Full of Soul" (B HIC T) is his story.

I guess we are on a music kick. The Library has also acquired "Anchored in Love: An **Intimate Portrait of** June Carter Cash" (B CAS J) written by John Carter Cash and "Jacko: His Rise and Fall" (JAC M) by Darwin Porter. This is about Michael Jackson. Larry King has written

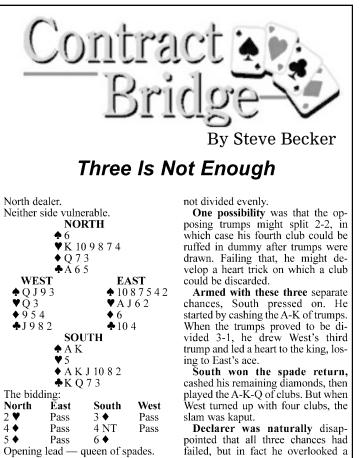
a book about Princess

Diana — "The Peoples **Princess**" (B DIA \hat{P}) and we also have "MacArthur" (B MAC D) written by Richard B. Frank about Douglas MacArthur, hero of the Pacific Theater during WW II.

Howard County Library hours have changed. New hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The library is

closed Saturday's until September. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. and will close at 5 p.m. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howardcounty.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



books for that last road trip before school starts. "Thirteen Moons" by Charles Frazier; Scott Turow's "Limitations"; "Blood and Thunder" (AUCD 978.02 SID H) by Hampton Sides; a great Civil War tour on "Civil War Battlefields" (AUCD 973.73 SHA J) by Jeff Shaara; and "Empire of Blue Water" (AUCD 972.904 TAL S) by Stephen Talty. This is about pirate Henry Morgan. More fiction: "Drop Dead **Beautiful**^{*} by Jackie Collins, S.J. Rozan's "China Trade," "The Tooth of Time" by Sue Henry; and John LeCarre's "The Mission **Song.**" Do check the New Book Binder as there is not enough space to put everything in.

Non-fiction

Another heart-stopping books is **"Forever After: New York City** Teachers on 9/11" (974.710 TEA C) published by Teachers College Press. While the fall of the World Trade Center Twin Towers is undeniably a tragedy, along with the loss of life and jobs is the loss of innocence of the school children of New York City. They lost friends, parents, teachers, cousins, siblings, etc. This is the story of what happened within the school rooms on that dreadful day.

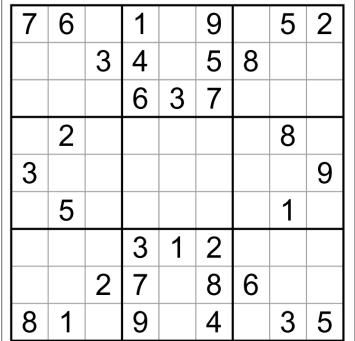
H. Paul Jeffers has written a World War II story of Darby's Rangers. "Onward We Charge: The Heroic Story of Darby's Rangers in World War II," (940.54 JEF H) will be interesting to those who read history. Some true crime: bypass. With the help of the band (which is wrapped around the stomach), Khaliah was finally able to lose the weight. She is a very likable person and seems to genuinely want to help others get results. The sections written by her doctors explain the mechanics of the surgery, who should or should not have it and what to expect if you do. The audience of the book is clearly limited to those curious about the surgery or at least in the market for a way to lose a large amount of weight. Review is from Publisher's Weekly.

Pets

I am a sucker for pet books - cat, dog, horse, you name it, I love to



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



Every declarer worth his salt looks for more than one way to make his contract before he begins to play. Finding an additional chance or two might not be satisfactory, however, if the best possibility is overlooked.

Take this case where South wound up in six diamonds after North had opened with a weak two-bid in hearts. Declarer won the opening spade lead with the ace and saw immediately that if the opposing clubs were divided 3-3, the slam was in the bag. He therefore focused on what could be done if the clubs were

superior line of play that would have brought the slam home. After playing the trump ace, he should have cashed the king of spades and discarded a low club from dummy. The A-K of clubs are then played, followed by a low club, ruffed with dummy's queen. Dummy's remaining diamond is led to the king, and trumps are drawn, leaving declarer with only a heart to lose.

This line of play fails only when the opposing clubs are divided 5-1 or 6-0, giving declarer a considerably better chance to make the slam than the three-pronged attack he chose.

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6A

STATE

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Condemned inmate facing execution would be 400th in Texas since 1982

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — An old leg injury surfaced as a key element in an appeal that seeks to keep a condemned inmate from a trip to the death chamber Wednesday evening and the notoriety of being the 400th executed in Texas since the state resumed carrying out the death penalty in 1982.

Johnny Ray Conner, 32, was before the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing his trial attorneys were deficient for ignoring a limp he suffers as evidence he couldn't have been the man identified by witnesses as the gunman who quickly ran from the scene of a convenience store killing in Houston nearly 10 years ago.

Kathyanna Nguyen, 49, a Vietnamese immigrant, was fatally shot in the holdup attempt while she was in a glass-wrapped cage intended to protect her from such an attack.

Conner would be the 21st condemned prisoner to receive lethal injection this year in Texas and the 400th in the state since the Supreme Court allowed the death penalty to resume.

Insurance commissioner blocks Allstate's planned home insurance rate hike

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Insurance has blocked Allstate's plan to raise homeowner insurance rates by 5.9 percent, faulting the proposal as unreasonable and excessive.

Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin's Tuesday order came one day after Allstate Insurance announced the rate hikes would take effect immediately for policy renewals.

The commissioner also said that Allstate is now restricted from raising rates without supervision from state regulators. The company has "repeatedly" tried to impose excessive rates on its customers over the last three years, he said.

Allstate, the state's second-largest home insurer, said

RATE

Continued from Page 1A

The cuts include two full-time positions and one part-time position from the sheriff's office budget, two full-time positions and one part-time position at the county library, two full-time and one part-time position from the county's road and bridge department, one full-time and one part-time position from the maintenance department and a single parttime position with the District Clerk's Office.

District Clerk Donna Wright pleaded with the court to reconsider eliminating the full-time position in her office, saying it will make it nearly impossible for her to operate in the coming months.

"I have two employees that have overlapping vacation and another employee that's getting ready to have surgery, and will be out from four to six weeks," Wright told commissioners. "If my office was under one roof, it might be possible for us handle this cut. to However, with the office in two locations across the hall from one another, this is going to make it almost impossible for us the rate increase is necessary considering the risks associated with doing business in Texas.

Former Texas pastor arrested in Montana on sexual assault of a child charges

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) - A former youth pastor accused of sexually assaulting a child in Texas was tracked down living here Tuesday, six months after he allegedly faked his own death.

Kevin Othell Laferney, 40, is wanted in Upshur County, Texas, on four counts each of aggravated sexual assault of a child and bail jumping.

According to the U.S. Marshals Service, he faked his death in February and disappeared before he was scheduled to appear in court.

Great Falls police and U.S. Marshals deputies arrested Laferney without incident at about 5 p.m. Tuesday when authorities knocked on the door of his apartment.

Rossmiller had no details of the alleged scheme, and the Upshur County sheriff's office declined to comment Tuesday evening. Texas media accounts of the sexual assault charges, which were filed in August 2006, said Laferney is a former youth minister at a church in the Gilmer area.

Lady Bird Johnson's will calls for entire estate to go to her two daughters

AUSTIN (AP) — Lady Bird Johnson's will calls for her entire estate to be left to her two daughters, Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson.

Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson, the wife of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, died last month at the age of 94.

Johnson, noted for environmental conservation efforts, also built a business empire with her own money, including multimillion-dollar holdings in radio and TV stations, banks and real estate. She held stock in the LBJ Holding Co., which comprises securities, including stocks and bonds, and some real estate and private equity.

to do."

Before recessing for lunch, Commissioner Gary Simer suggested exploring a different course to make up the difference on the expected shortfall, of which approximately \$360,000 is expected to be alleviated by the layoffs.

"Do we know what it would take if we did pay cuts across the board," Simer asked Olson during the meeting.

Following the lunch recess, no mention was made of across-the-board cuts in county employee salaries or allowed work hours.

The total number of lay-

offs expected as a result of the budgetary cuts, as proposed by the commissioners court, comes to six part-time positions and eight full-time positions.

"I knew it was going to be hard when I took office, but I didn't realize the county was already in such a financial bind," said Barr. "That's due largely in fact to the jail, and cutting people is awfully hard. I wish we had another way, but we don't have any alternatives. It's either this, or let the county go broke. And I don't think anyone wants to see that happen."

Edcouch city manager resigns amid allegations of dog mistreatment

EDCOUCH (AP) — The city administrator has resigned under pressure from the mayor, who accused him of allowing stray dogs to die and dumping their carcasses in ditches rather than bringing them to animal shelters.

Ernesto Ayala Jr. said his resignation Tuesday was unrelated to the allegations of dog dumping.

He said a majority of the Edcouch Board of Aldermen doesn't want him to leave, "but I can't see good things happening if I don't."

Jose Guzman, mayor of the South Texas town of about 3,300 residents, had said Ayala should resign over an animal control policy that Guzman said led to the deaths of about a dozen dogs.

The mayor said the dogs were tied up with little food or water outside the city public works department until they were brought outside city limits and released. He said some were tied up for days and didn't survive.

Ayala has denied allegations that the animals were mistreated.



A lesson in persistence

When Nola Ochs graduated with a history degree in May, she made history herself as the world's oldest college graduate. And, at 95, she says she's not through learning yet. Plus, finding John Henry and butter rum cake.



Pediatrician Dr. Kimberly Saenz

(Board Certified In Pediatrics)

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New Phone Number

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6B

Comics

BIG SPRING HERALD Wednesday, August 22, 2007

WEDNESDAY

		WFAA 2	KMID 3	UNI (4)	KPEJ 5	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT 13	DISC 20	AMC (21)	SPIKE 22	TNT 23	BET 26	DISN 27	ESPN2 28	ESPN 29	SCIFI 64
		Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
6			News Wheel-Fortune		King of the Hill The Simpsons		Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire		Dr. Swallow John Hagee		How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.			Han. Montana Zack & Cody	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be	" Little League	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7	:30	According-Jim Knights-Prosp	Knights-Prosp			(CC)	Madre Luna "	Outrageous Moments	55 55		the Ice (CC)	l v		Scene Invstgtn.		Dancers				Ghost Hunters (CC)
8		NASCAR in Primetime	NASCAR in Primetime	Destilando Amor		Criminal Minds (CC)	Juntos al TRI Pregame	Last Comic Standing	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	Cities of Light: The Rise and		Vengeance "	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Top 25 Fabu- lous Freaks	(CC) "	39	U.S. Semifinal Baseball	Ghost Hunters (CC)
9		The Nine (CC)	The Nine (CC)				Rumbo al Mundial:	Dateline NBC (CC)	Family Guy Family Guy	1	Fall of Islamic Spain (CC)	Cash Cab: After Dark	" Movie: Black			SOB Got-Do Better	That's-Raven Life Derek	Summer House	Tonight SportsCenter	Mind Control- Derren Brown
10	:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline		Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	1		Mexico vs. Colombia	News Tonight Show	My Boys Seinfeld (CC)	Update/Israel Dr. Young	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Dog (CC) "	Murder "	Without a Trace (CC)	Take the Cake (CC)	Zack & Cody Han. Montana		(CC) "	Flash Gordon (CC)
11		The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)		King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.		Noti-Telemndo 12 Corazones	" Late Night-		CCM Ministries Charles Scott	Sign Off "	Really Big Things		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Hell Date Jamie Foxx		Basketball:	Baseball NFL Live	Mind Control- Derren Brown
12	:AM :30		Extra (CC) Basco	Salome (SS) "		Show The Insider	" Programa			Update/Israel Del Sanchez	33	MythBusters (CC)	" Movie: Platoon			Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx		FIBA Americas Championship		Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



Roadside RESTAURANT

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"Ahhh! Feels good to sit down!"

COULD POP

CLEAN OUT

OF YOUR

NO--JUGHAID'S SCIENCE PROJECT IS

DUE !! TH' WHEELBARROW WILL BE

AT SCHOOL

ALL DAY !!

GREG MORT WALKER

NIGHT OF WOE



07 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

8.22

WIZARD OF ID

GOT ME CORNERED.'

BC



AGNES







BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 22, the 234th day of 2007. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

MASON

On Aug. 22, 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates of the Continental Congress.

On this date: In 1485, England's King Richard III was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, ending the War of the Roses. In 1846, Gen. Stephen W. Kearny proclaimed all of New Mexico a territory of the United States.

In 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained Japanese colonial

D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard M. Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI arrived in Bogota, Colombia, for the start of the first papal visit to Latin America. In 1978, President Jomo Kenyatta, a leading figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, died; Vice President Daniel Arap Moi was sworn in as acting president.

In 1985, 55 people died when fire broke out aboard a British Airtours charter on a runway iet at Manchester Airport in England.

In 1989, Black Panther cofounder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, Calif. (Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.) Today's Birthdays: Author Ray Bradbury is 87. Heart

surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley is 87. Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf is 73. Broadcast journalist Morton Dean is 72. Writer Annie Proulx is 72. Rockabilly singer Dale Hawkins is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 68. Actress Valerie Harper is 67. Football coach Bill Parcells is 66. CBS newsman Steve Kroft is 62. Actress Cindy Williams is 60. Musician David Marks is 59. Country singer Holly Dunn is 50. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 49. Country singer Collin Raye is 47. Actress Regina Taylor is 47. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 46. [®] 2007 The Associated Press.



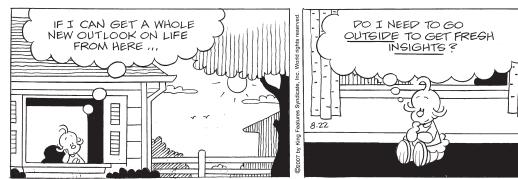
under rule until 1945.

In 1956, President Dwight





HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



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known as the America's Cup.

In 1904, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping was born in Sichuan province.

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Newsday Crossword

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fidget

NATION

NASA looks ahead to 3 more launches at risk

doomed Challenger flight in 1986

adjust to space. "I felt like I was upside down that entire first

She's hoping the readjustment

to Earth's gravity won't take as

long. At a news conference six

hours after touchdown, she still

looked pale and shaky, but was

"Probably easier adapting to

weightlessness than now, but

don't get me wrong, this isn't

that bad," she told reporters. "It

will go away and it's actually

pretty interesting if you could be

As for her 13-day flight, it was

'absolutely wonderful." Morgan

said she can't wait to see what

schoolchildren and teachers do

with the 10 million basil seeds

able to walk unassisted.

day." she said.

said it took her a while to

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Even as the wounded space shuttle Endeavour brought its seven astronauts safely home Tuesday, NASA is looking ahead to three more launches at risk for the same kind of damage.

There is a striking parallel with the 2003 Columbia disaster in the space agency's failure to anticipate the harm from breaking ice or insulating foam — this time from a new area of the shuttle's fuel tank.

The 3 1/2-inch-long gouge in Endeavour's belly did not put the astronauts at risk. And as soon as the damaged tiles are popped off, engineers know whether will repairs are needed to the aluminum underlying The gash structure. seemed to weather the return flight well, NASA said.

But for the early part of Endeavour's 13-day mission there was an eerie sense of deja vu.

Back before Columbia flew its last mission four years ago, NASA knew it had a foam problem with its fuel tanks but never imagined a piece of the airy insulation could severely wound a space shuttle.

The result: Columbia shattered during re-entry to Earth's atmosphere, just five days before engineers were to propose possible repairs.

This time, NASA knew it had a foam problem with brackets on its fuel tanks but never imagined a stray piece would ricochet off the tank and smash into the shuttle.

The result: Endeavour was gouged.

Retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., who headed the 2003 Columbia investigation, was reluctant to comment this fied that any change "is week on the troublesome brackets, which support the fuel feed line on the tank. He said he didn't have enough information. But he observed: "You have to assume things are going to happen and you have to mitigate the consequences, that's what our report was all about." Endeavour's gash, although deep, was too small for scorching atmospheric gases to penetrate and cause serious damage, mission managers said during the flight. It was also on the belly, a more benign area than the nose or wings, which are subjected to much higher heat. The hole platesize that brought down Columbia pierced the left wing. Commander Scott Kelly said he was "a little bit underwhelmed" when he saw the gouge for himself after touchdown. "We knew how big it was conceptually. We were told the dimensions. But to see it, it looked rather small," he told reporters. Officials who checked out Endeavour on the runway said there was no apparent charring to the exposed felt fabric, the last barrier before the aluminum frame. But now NASA finds itself playing catch-up. It's analyzing a variety of temporary bracket solutions, which may or may not be in place before the next space station construction mission in late October. Making the brackets with titanium, which would require far less foam insulation than the aluminum version, is the permanent solution ordered after the problem first cropped up last summer. But that won't happen

Room spins for teacher-astronaut, readapting to gravity

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -Adapting to weightlessness was hard. Readapting to gravity was even tougher for teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan.

Morgan passed up the opportunity to check out space shuttle Endeavour with her six crewmates after Tuesday's landing. She was too weak and wobbly and hinted that she was nauseous, as well.

"Actually, I was doing some good science back there," she later said with a laugh, referring to how she remained in the crew-transport vehicle following touchdown.

"The room still spins a little bit, but that's OK," she said.

Morgan — who was Christa

until next spring. By then, NASA will be just two years from retiring its three remaining space shuttles after wrapping up a demanding schedule for finishing construction of the international space station.

Engineers are considering a variety of shortterm options: shaving some foam from the brackets or possibly applying an oil to the foam to reduce condensation and buildup of ice.

Because the bracket problem has intensified for the launches since Columbia, engineers theorize it might be due to the one-hour earlier start of fueling — a new rule intended to provide more time for ice checks. That extra hour that the supercold fuel is in the tank could be allowing more undetected ice to form, which then can cause the neighboring foam to pop off.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said after Endeavour's landing that he will need to be satisnecessary and, in fact, beneficial" before ordering modifications. The last thing the space agency wants to do is to change something and make it worse. NASA still doesn't know whether the debris that smacked Endeavour was foam, ice or a combination of both. Whatever it ered with 4,000 pounds of was, it broke off the bracket, fell nearly 25 feet onto a strut lower on the external fuel tank, then shot into Endeavour's belly.

in my body."

The four-by-four-inch piece of debris, just a third of an ounce, was traveling more than 200 mph when it hit the strut and 150 mph when it bounced into Endeavour. Engineers were surprised the fragment didn't shatter when it hit the strut, which holds the tank to the shuttle's belly. That's why they suspect ice may have been attached to flying foam.

"We have been looking at this area for some time," said LeRoy Cain, a launch manager. Even though NASA factored the bracket debris into its risk assessment, Cain said managers didn't consider the ricochet possibility. That risk assessment is now being re-evaluated.

Shuttle program manager Wayne Hale called it unanticipated an "unlucky bounce."

"When we returned to flight, we knew that we had not eliminated all the risks," he said. "In fact, at the end of the day, we will never eliminate all the risk." Gehman agreed that launch debris can never be entirely eliminated. Each fuel tank is cov-

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is for students to devise minigreenhouses like the two she left behind at the international space station. When asked about her future

plans, Morgan said with a smile, "My first plan is to get rid of the room spinning, and that should happen pretty soon."

She said she really wants to figure out how the space agency can do a better job helping students and teachers. "And I would love to figure out how we can make more and more of these opportunities available for more of our teachers."

Morgan, 55, was teaching elementary schoolchildren in McCall, Idaho, when she was chosen as McAuliffe's backup. After the launch disaster, she returned to teaching. NASA

McAuliffe's backup for the she carried into space. The plan invited her into the astronaut corps in 1998, and she began training as a full-fledged mission specialist.

The 2003 Columbia disaster delaved her mission from fall of that year until now.

Morgan said she wishes she could have devoted more time to education in orbit but knew time would be limited because of the station construction mission.

As it turns out, the flight was shortened by a day because of concerns about Hurricane Dean, and Morgan lost out on an opportunity to speak with children in Lynn, Mass. She managed to answer questions from youngsters in Boise, Idaho, and Alexandria, Va., earlier in the mission, and squeezed in a session with Canadian students at flight's end.

foam and each bracket has only ounces of foam on it, NASA's space oper-Bill ations chief Gerstenmaier said. "We've really taken this huge complex problem ... and we've really shrunk it down to just very, very few areas, essentially ounce-size pieces of foam that we need to go work with." A NASA veteran who

now chairs the mission management team, John Shannon, is quick to point out that once the problem was discovered, the difference in the way Columbia the and Endeavour flights were handled was "night and day."

Columbia's damage was not seriously addressed by mission managers and worried engineers did not speak up.

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8A

LOCAL



The Burnin bush, a gospel rapper from Birmingham, Ala., will perform Thursday at the Grace Fellowship church of God in Big Spring.

HAYS

Continued from Page 1A

only in a pair of underwear and a white T-shirt, showed signs of a brutal assault, according to Walker.

Also indicted on firstdegree murder charges in the death were Billy Wayne Haynes, 30, of Houston; Christopher David Lovett, 33; and Calvin Ray Fox Jr., 22.

According to Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, the course of Hays' case will help determine how he decides to try the other

three suspects.

"I really can't go into the details at this time," said Wilkerson. "Hays is the primary suspect in the case, and there are some questions about what role certain evidence will play in the proceedings. That evidence has the potential to play a part in the other trials as well."

According to investigators, Hays confessed to murder, saying the Dickinson had been hateful and disrespectful to a family member.

All four suspects are believed to have ties to the Texas prison affiliated

gang known as the Aryan Circle, according to Walker.

arrested Also and charged with first-degree murder was Kirk Douglas Flanary, 35. Flanary was later cleared by investigators and charges against him were dropped.

"It's possible we could charge him with something else at a different time, but as of now he has cleared." been said Walker.

"Originally, he was named by a witness as being at the location at the time of the murder. Through our investigation, however, it was determined he was not at the location at the time of the crime.'

Special to the Herald

gospel

perform

p.m. Thursday.

The Burnin Bush, a

Birmingham, Ala., will

at Fellowship Church of God

- formerly College Park

Admission is free. A

love offering will be

taken. Pizza and door

Stephen Bush, who goes

by the stage name Burnin

Bush, is a born-again

Christian who spreads

prizes will be available.

Church of God — at 6:30

rapper from

Grace

Hays is represented by local attorney Robert D. Miller.

Jury selection in the case began Monday, with Wilkerson expected to begin presenting the state's case in 118th District Court Thursday at 9 a.m.

Contact Staff Writer

music.

at Grace Fellowship here

Burnin Bush to perform

He has performed at a variety of events, including the Joyce Meyers Ministries St. Louis Dream Center, McDonalds Gospel State Birmingham the at Heritage Festival, the RESPECT rally Jesus Jam in North Carolona, the Faith Hope Love Retreat in Atlanta, Ga., and many schools and churches across the country.

the gospel through his such projects as Priceless Camps Gospel Symphony and Short Tees Operation Save.

His new solo album, The Burnin Bush, shows his heart and soul from such songs as "Enemies Camp" to the wild, inyour-face lyrics of "Yaw," guitar riffs in "In This Life," and the melodic flow of "Peace."

The public is invited to hear his message.

Grace Fellowship Church of God is located at 603 Tulane.

He has appeared on

at citydesk@bigspringher-Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail ald.com







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