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Big plays hurt otherwise impressive Steer team
Page 1B



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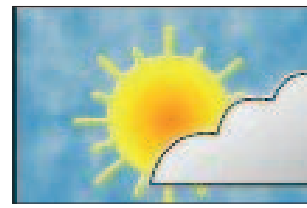


BIG SPRING

HERALD

SUNDAY

AUGUST 26, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 232

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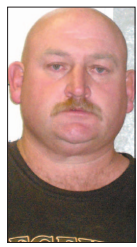
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99 years Guilty, jury finds

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A 118th District Court jury took about an hour to decide that John Michael Hays deserved a hefty sentence for murdering Roland Dickinson last January.



Hays

The eight-woman, four-man jury sentenced Hays to 99 years in prison for his part in the murder of Dickinson, who was beaten to death in Hays' home sometime around Jan. 1, then dumped in a ravine near Coahoma.

Under the sentence, Hays will have to serve at least 30 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

"It was a proper verdict," said 118th District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson. "We felt as though we had put the question squarely before the jury as to the brutality of the offense and what they would do about prison gang violence in

Death was not about insults, but betrayal, DA says

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was found guilty of murder Friday morning in the beating death of a 20-year-old man whose body was discovered in a ravine six miles north of Coahoma on Highway 820 in January.

John Michael Hays, who was indicted on a charge of murder in April, was accused of beating 20-year-old Roland David Dickinson to death at his home, located on S. Midway Road, sometime around or about Jan. 1 of this year.

Howard County. I believe they sent a strong message. Hays' connection with

"Mr. Miller wants you to think the victim was not as good a person as you, and because of that it's OK for him to be murdered."



Wilkerson

Thomas Beaver, Lubbock County medical examiner, told the court See **INSULTS**, Page 7A

the white supremacist group Aryan Circle — not See **GUILTY**, Page 7A

FARMER'S MARKET



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Charlotte Kellermeier of St. Lawrence had a truckload of cantaloupes and watermelons for sale at the Farmer's Market event Saturday morning at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

Commissioners could call for jail bond election Monday

Commissioners to set tax rate Monday morning. See Page 3A

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

An order calling for a bond election to finance

construction of a new county jail may come as early as Monday, officials say.

Howard County commissioners will meet in special session at 1:30 p.m. Monday to consider adopting an order calling

for the bond election. The meeting will take place in the commissioner's courtroom on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



Sijing Ye will perform during the Sept. 8 concert.

Symphony season debut nears

Tickets will go on sale at various locations beginning Tuesday

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

You can purchase season tickets in a couple of days. But you're going to have to wait just a little longer before the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium resonates with sounds of the great classics. It will be worth the wait, says Keith Graumann, conductor for the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra.

"I think we have a very good, very exciting year lined up. I am really looking forward to it," said Graumann.

The 2007-2008 concert season is titled "The Big Spring Symphony in Balance" and is designed to showcase the very best classics and pops. Two of the concerts will be traditional, while the other two will feature lighter repertoire.

"To get things started, we have again invited Maestro John Giordano to guest conduct the first concert of the season," said Graumann.

The "Great Classics" will be presented at 8 p.m. Sept. 8 in the Big Spring Memorial Auditorium, site of all of the symphony's concert

See **SYMPHONY**, Page 3A

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College trustees expected to approve 4.7-cent increase in property tax rate

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College trustees are expected to give final approval to a budget and tax rate for the coming fiscal year when they hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Tumbleweed Room in the Student Union Building.

At that time, trustees will likely give the OK to a modest increase in the tax rate — from 24.2 cents per \$100 valuation to 28.9 cents.

The major reason for that increase is recent voter approval of a \$21.6 million bond to finance construction and renovation on the Big Spring campus.

Debt service to finance bond payments during the coming year will add 6 cents to the overall tax rate, officials said.

That will mean a modest increase in property tax bills.

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

BACK TO SCHOOL

Crossroads area public schools will begin classes Monday and law enforcement personnel are asking drivers to be aware of school zones, school buses and excited children who may not be as cautious as they should be. Most important: Slow down, stay alert and obey traffic laws. Anything less is risking a ticket — or a life.



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The 2007 Ford Edge

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Sunday, August 26, 2007

IN BRIEF

YMCA skateboard contest results

Kris DeLeon, 19, reclaimed his crown at the Fourth Annual Summer Skateboard Contest that was held Thursday at the YMCA Skate Park.

DeLeon won the contest in 2005 and narrowly defeated Ben Janshen, 19, and nine other contestants with a score of 96.5.

Contestants were scored on two 90-second runs with their top score recorded for place of finish.

DeLeon began his second run with a leap off the side of the half-pipe, making a perfect landing. Janshen finished with a 94.5 for second place.

In the under-12 age group Noah Perez narrowly defeated Anthony Lopez with a score of 91.5 to 90.

QB Club meeting set for Monday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold its weekly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

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

Crossroads Youth Football sign-ups

The Crossroads Youth Football Association have begun their sign-ups for the 2007 season.

While there will be no more early registration dates, a late registration day will be held Sept. 1.

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 if 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 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.

Registration fee is \$45 and financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Players can register until Thursday.

A coaches meeting is also scheduled for Thursday. Teams begin practice Sept. 4.

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

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

Contact Willie Jenkins at 267-5822.

Forsan struggles with speedy Owls

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

The outcome was not what they hoped for, but Forsan's Buffaloes look to be headed in the right direction for their regular season opener next week.

With the regular season just a week away, the Buffs wrapped up the preseason, scrimmaging Reagan County's Owls in Big Lake Friday night.

The Owls dominated Forsan on

the scoreboard — outscoring the Buffs 5 touchdowns to none — but Buffs Head Coach Tommy Thompson feels like his team is going to be well prepared for the season opener against Kermit's Yellow Jackets.

"We did not get the win we would have liked, but in my mind, we vastly improved," said Thompson. "We showed much more intensity and moved the ball pretty well. We just have to stop giving up the big play and

get in the end zone."

The Buffaloes threw a balanced attack at the Owls, running about 50 percent between passing and rushing plays. The offense turned the ball over once and gave up three sacks.

"Offensively we got better largely because our offensive line was solid in pass protection and run blocking," Thompson said. "The real positive from the game was that they are really starting to understand how the

spread offense works."

The Forsan running game picked up close to 90 yards, while quarterback Alex Huckabee went 9-15 for 60 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, Thompson said his line did a good job pursuing the ball carrier and was much better at getting off the line of scrimmage.

"With our front four having more success, we were able to

See **FORSAN**, Page 3B

Big plays hurt, but resilient Steers impress

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The exchange of big plays can often dictate a football game. A team just hopes to be on the winning side of the exchange.

Had Friday's scrimmage with Pampa's Harversters counted, Big Spring's Steers would've found themselves on the losing end courtesy of three Pampa big plays.

Two of the game changing plays were the same. The Harversters ran an option between the quarterback and running back, stretching the Big Spring defense and finding long touchdown runs for its tailback on both occasions.

The other big Pampa play found Big Spring not to blame. Safety Jon Stiles rolled over the top of a receiver providing great coverage. However, the Harversters wide out was able to trap the ball against his pads with one hand and hold on as he slammed to the ground.

The Harversters would score two plays later when quarterback Casey Trimble found his tight end wide open in the flats.

Other than those three plays, though, Head Coach Mike Ritchey felt that his defense delivered a dominant performance.

"It boiled down to three plays for them and two of them were the same play," said Ritchey. "Then there was the great play on the catch, which Jon made a great play there as well. Take away those three plays though and our defense was dominant in this scrimmage. We showed a lot of effort."

The Steers' defense recorded four sacks during the live simulation of two quarters and brought consistent pressure in the quarterbacks' face. Defensive ends Matt Casteneda and Pavel Plakhotny and the rest of the line made charge after charge at the Harversters



HERALD photo/Ken Hollandsworth
Big Spring Steers' wide receiver Sidney Parker Jr. tries to escape the grasp of a Pampa Harversters' defender after making a catch in a scrimmage Friday night in Lubbock. Parker and the Steers will kick off their regular season on the road against Odessa High Friday.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Young Mustangs competitive in first test

Herald Staff Report

TRENT — Youth eventually turns into experience. However, getting to that experience is sometimes a long and winding road.

With an abundance of youth, the Sands Mustangs played their first and only scrimmage before their regular season gets underway Friday against Spur's Bulldogs at the Jayton Classic in Jayton.

The Mustangs got their first taste of live varsity action against Trent's Gorillas and Borden County's Coyotes Thursday in Trent. According to Sands Head Coach Wayne Henderson, the experience was incredibly valuable.

"It was important for us to finally get to go against kids of a

similar caliber," said Henderson. "It's one thing to scrimmage your junior varsity everyday, but the speed of a varsity game is so much faster."

The speed seemed to get to the Mustangs at the start of the scrimmage. They started the dual scrimmage against Trent and the Gorillas marched down the field and scored on their first simulated drive.

However, once the young Mustangs caught up with the speed of the game, they didn't allow Trent a first down in the last 20 plays.

"We were a bit overwhelmed by the speed of the game," said Henderson. "The kids came to the sideline shocked at how fast things were going. It was something they needed to see since

they're so young. They adapted very well."

The Mustangs would later score a touchdown of their own, courtesy of a 34-yard run by Daniel Armendariz. Being able to keep up with a Trent team that is filled with experienced juniors and seniors was encouraging for Henderson.

"We're pretty much playing our junior varsity squad from last season," he said. "We have nearly varsity experience going into the season. We're starting three sophomores. For us to keep up with these more experienced teams is very encouraging. We might be young now, but the sky is the limit for our potential."

Borden County was able to keep the Mustangs out of the end zone and took advantage of a

blown coverage to score on a long pass play.

"We played well against the Coyotes, but we had just one mental lapse," said Henderson. "Our safety was late in rolling over the top with his coverage and then missed a tackle allowing them to find the end zone. That was really the only play they hurt us on."

The Mustangs did well moving the ball against the Coyotes, taking it within the 10-yard line twice. However, a fumble and missed blocking assignments kept Sands from scoring.

"This was a good experience for us," noted Henderson. "We found out that we can compete with teams that are more experi-

See **SANDS**, Page 3B

Big Spring Art Association



From left, Belle Schooler, Tex Irvin, Linda Rupard Irvin, Jean Money and Estelle Howard



Kay Smith

Art Show particulars

The Big Spring Art Association annual art show is Sept. 1-8 at the Heritage Museum.

— Entries for this year's show will be accepted at the museum from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.

— Categories are oil/acrylic, mixed media, watercolor, pastel, photography and 3-dimensional. Entry fees are \$6 per entry for association members and \$8 for non-members. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded in each category.

All paintings must be original, dry and wired for hanging. A maximum of three entries per person will be accepted. The overall size of the entries must not exceed 30 inches by 40 inches. Each entry must have an identity form on the back with the artist's name, address, phone number, title of entry and price.

—The Art Association will receive a 30 percent commission on any work sold at the show.

— Categories are: oil/acrylic, watercolor, photography, mixed media, pastels/graphics (pen and ink, pencil, etc.) and three-dimensional (pottery, sculpture, wood carvings, etc.).

— Awards are first place \$50, second place \$30 and third place \$20. Cash awards will be given for categories with 15 or more entries. Also there will be an award of \$100 for best of show, and a people's choice a plaque and ribbon.

First, second, third place and honorable mention ribbons will be given in all categories.

— Winners will be announced in a special artist's reception at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1.

— All work entered must be picked up between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8.

Photos by Bruce Schooler



Jean Money



Estelle Howard



Linda Rupard Irvin

Obituaries

Willie Mae Howell



Willie Mae Howell, 88, of Houston, passed away peacefully in hospice Aug. 23, 2007. Born January 18, 1919, in Lewisville, she was the fifth of 11 children born to Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Haggard of Stanton. Willie Mae was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who became a successful hair stylist and long-time independent Houston salon owner, later residing several years in Texas City before final retirement.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother; husbands Thomas Eugene Graham and Earl Melton Howell; daughter Joyce Nelson Murff (and Joyce's spouses, Lois Nelson and David Murff); grandchildren, the Babies Nelson; brothers Jerry, James (and spouse, Faye), Rob, Buster, Alex and Tommy Haggard; sisters Helen (and spouse, William) Langley and Elizabeth (and spouse, Cornelius) Meek; and brothers-in-law Vernon Langley and the Rev. Leslie Kelly.

Willie Mae is survived by son Jerry Wayne (and spouse, Donna Shields) Graham of Weatherford; daughter Shelia Marie (and spouse, Forrest Brooks) Smith of League City; son Phillip Boyd (and spouse, Debra J.) Howell of Houston; son Melton Paul Howell (and partner, H. Richard Williams) of Houston; sisters Oma Clay (and spouse, Albert) Johnson of Stanton and Emma Jean Langley of Lubbock, as well as sisters-in-law, Esther, Mildred and Ruby Haggard of Stanton, Hazel Couey of Pearland and Gleta Haggard of the San Antonio area. Surviving grandchildren are pallbearer Marty Wayne (and spouse, Susan) Graham, pallbearer Stephen Michael (and spouse, Sandy) Graham, honorary pallbearer Phillip Joshua (and spouse, Ashley) Smith, Audrey Elaine and Chelsea Kathleen Smith, honorary pallbearer Samuel Jay Howell, and Michele (and spouse, Curtis) Farr. Great-grandchildren include Kendra, Jacklyn, Sydney, Maddox and Mason Graham, Shayna Bolin, Louis and Cade Ross, and (the anticipated birth of) Connor Smith.

She leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, including pallbearers, Leon Langley of San Angelo, Willie (and son, Chad) Wells of Stanton and Lonnie Newton of Big Spring.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring,

with the funeral service in the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 27. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

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

Paid obituary

John Camp Adams



McALLEN — John Camp Adams, age 88, passed away Monday morning, Aug. 20, 2007, in McAllen.

A native of Granbury, he was a retired colonel in the US Air Force with over 25 years of service. He was a veteran of WW II, a Pearl Harbor survivor actually flying into Pearl Harbor during the surprise air attack. He was also a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a longtime teacher in McAllen and was an associate of H&R Block for 18 years.

He was preceded in death by a son, Randal Bruce Adams; two brothers, Charles Adams and Darrel Adams; son-in-law, Leon Charles Hilliard; and by a granddaughter, Samantha Adams.

He is survived by his wife, June R. Adams of McAllen; daughter Jerene Hilliard of McAllen; son Kevin Adams and his wife Tatyana of Edinburg; seven grandchildren, Jason, Nancy, Elisa, Attila, Daniel, Sofia and Nikolas; and two daughters-in-law, Janet Adams and Susan Adams, both of California; one sister in law, Mary Adams of Midland; and numerous nieces and nephews

Funeral services were held at noon Friday, Aug. 24, 2007, at St. George the Great Martyr Eastern Orthodox Church in Pharr with Fr. Antonio Perdomo officiating. Interment with military honors followed at the RGV State Veterans Cemetery in Mission.

Funeral services are entrusted to the care of Skinner Silva Funeral Home of Pharr.

Paid obituary

Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

- BILLY ALDRIDGE JR., 20, 309 W. Fifth, was arrested on a local warrant.
MICAH LEVI PEARSON, 21, 801 E. 14th, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid and two citations.
BENJAMIN ISAAC MUNOZ, 26, 1311 Mulberry, was arrested on eight local warrants and a citation.
JUAN MANUEL GARCIA, 41, 205 Becker, was arrested on two local warrants and a charge of not wearing a seat belt.
ERNEST CLARK, 67, 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
AMANDA WINKLER, 46, 504 Young, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 1700 block of Third.
BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of Runnels.
DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
THEFT was reported in the 800 block of Interstate 20 and the 200 block of Marcy.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-25-30-35-37 Number matching five of five: none.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-9-2

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With grateful hearts, the family of GABRIEL 'CG' TALAMANTEZ wishes to express our gratitude to our friends. The flowers were most beautiful. The food abundant and wonderful. The cards, calls, and inquiries about our well-being were so thoughtful. Our beloved friends, have made this difficult time in our lives more bearable. As we yearn for tomorrow, Jehovah will keep the promise he made of no pain, no death, no sorrow. Your kind expression of sympathy and warm heartedness will not be forgotten.

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Full Fuel Tank at Delivery
Oil/Filter Change at Delivery
*** CARS ***
2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Sandstone w/Tan Cloth, CD Player, All Power, Nice Car, 34,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995
2004 Ford Mustang - Black w/Cloth, Power Steering, All Power, Local One Owner w/23,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Skylight, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver Metallic w/Leather, All Power, Skylight w/41,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$21,995
2004 Ford Focus ZTS 4-DR - Black, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995
2004 Hyundai Tiburon GT - Silver w/Black Leather, 5 Speed, All Power, Moonroof, Only 29,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2004 Mercedes-Benz LK C240 - Gold w/Tan Leather, Woodgrain, Moonroof, Heated Seats, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Only 42,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995
2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Dark Red w/Tan Leather, CD Player, Heated Seats, Like New, Low Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2004 Ford Mustang V6 Convertible - Black w/Tan leather, CD Player, Like New, One owner, Only 19,685 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible - Silver w/Black Leather, Loaded, One Owner, 2 Tops, Only 20,800 Miles. Was \$27,995 NOW \$26,995
2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Lt Tan w/Tan Leather, Loaded, CD Player, Local One Owner. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995
2003 Mazda MX5 Miata Convertible - Silver, Fully Loaded, Leather, Local One Owner. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995
2003 Ford Taurus SES - Light Blue, w/Cloth, Extra Clean, Automatic, All Power. Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995
2003 Honda Civic LT - Gold w/Cloth, Like New, Low Miles, Automatic, All Power. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995
2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995
2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2002 Lincoln Town Car Cartier - Silver w/Black Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/39,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995
2002 Ford Focus ZX5 - Silver, w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, 39,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995
*** TRUCKS ***
2005 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, With Only 21,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995
2004 Ford Ranger Supercab Edge - Red, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/58,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2004 Ford Ranger Supercab - Dark Blue, V-6, 6-Cyl., Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/55,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2002 Dodge 1500 SLT 4X4 - Dark Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner, Very Very Nice Truck, Low Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
1994 Chevrolet 1500 Reg. Cab SVT - White, V-8, 350 V8, Nice, Nice 94 Model. Was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995
*** SUV's & VANS ***
2007 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Dark Copper w/Camel, 2 Tone Leather, Captain Chairs, 5.4 L V8, Loaded, 4 Wheel Drive, 3rd Seat, Keyless Entry. MSRP \$36,620 NOW \$31,995
2007 Ford Explorer XLT 4X2 - Redfire w/Lt. Stone Cloth, Fold Flat, 3rd Seat, Comfort Group, CD, MP3 Player. MSRP \$28,115 NOW \$23,995
2007 Ford Ford Escape XLT - Silver w/Black Leather, w/Drk Flint Cloth, Power Seats, alarm, Privacy Glass, 6 Disc CD. MSRP \$24,130 NOW \$20,995
2007 Ford Expedition XLT - Dark Red w/Tan Cloth, Folding 3rd Seat, CD Player, All Poer, 4 Wheel ABS, 350 V8, 11,000 Miles. Was \$30,995 NOW \$29,995
2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995
2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4X4 - Black w/Black Cloth, New Tires, All Power, Like New, One Owner. Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995
2005 Toyota Sequoia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Nice SUV, 44,000 Miles. Was \$27,995 NOW \$26,995
2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Super Clean, Only 19,024 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995
2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Black w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, CD Player, Only 28,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
2004 Nissan Murano SE - Silver w/Black Leather, Heated Seats, All Power, Moonroof, Only 23,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995
2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 SL - Gold w/Tan Leather, CD Player, All Power, Heated Seats, Only 30,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/35,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$16,995
2002 Ford Escape XLT - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned, 48,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995
2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/64,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995
2002 Toyota Highlander LTD - Silver w/Gray Leather, DVD, CD Player, All Power, Like New. Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995
2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/81,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned, Over 100K Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$9,995
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Take a Child Fishing Tournament



Courtesy photo

The Big Spring Optimist Club held a Take a Kid Fishing Tournament June 23 at Comanche Trail Lake. 40 kids participated. Pictured above is first-place winner Brayden Sizenback (right), who caught his first bass, weighing 8.62 lbs. His total weight for the day was 11.009 lbs., earning the seven-year-old a new fishing rod. Second place went to Mia Oliva (center), 8, catching a total weight of 7.93 lbs. and winning a tackle box. Third-place winner Zack King (left), 11, won a net after catching 6.44 lbs.

NFL suspends Vick indefinitely

By LARRY O'DELL

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — The NFL indefinitely suspended Michael Vick without pay Friday just hours after he acknowledged in court papers that he did, indeed, bankroll gambling on dogfighting and helped kill some dogs not worthy of the pit.

Vick, however, insisted he placed no bets of his own nor took any winnings.

In disciplining Vick, commissioner Roger Goodell said Vick's admitted conduct was "not only illegal but also cruel and reprehensible" and regardless whether he personally placed bets, "your actions in funding the betting and your association with illegal gambling both violate the terms of your NFL player contract and expose you to corrupting influences in derogation of one of the most fundamental responsibilities of an NFL player."

A "summary of facts" signed by Vick was filed along with his written plea agreement on a federal dogfighting conspiracy charge. He will appear before U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson to formally plead guilty Monday and then await sentencing at a later date.

The court documents and a statement by Vick's legal team seek to portray him as less involved in the dogfighting ring than three co-defendants who previously pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against the Atlanta Falcons quarterback.

"While Mr. Vick is not personally charged with or responsible for committing all of the acts alleged in the indictment, as with any conspiracy charge, he is taking full responsibility for his actions and the actions of the others involved," the defense team said in a written statement after the plea agreement was filed.

"Mr. Vick apologizes for his poor judgment in associating himself with those involved in dog fighting and realizes he should never have been involved in this conduct," the statement said.

Vick signed the plea agreement late Thursday.

"Most of the Bad Newz Kennels operation and gambling monies were provided by Vick," the summary of facts said, echoing language in plea agreements by the three co-defendants.

The statement said that when the kennel's dogs won, the gambling pro

See VICK, Page 3B

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

backs.

The impact of the Steers' pass rush was evident, forcing Trimble to overthrow several open receivers. Linebackers Cade Hollandsworth and Nathan Doport led the Steers in tackles.

"The defense sparks the rest of the team," said Ritchey. "They are leading us right now. We had a good push up the field and everyone was getting to the ball."

Ritchey claims that the most impressive part of the defense's performance was the way they responded after giving up big plays.

"They caught us off-guard with that option play a couple of times, but we made adjustments and shut it down," he said. "I'm very proud of the way our defense made the adjustment to what Pampa was doing. That's a sign of a good defense."

Offensively, the Steers improved in many facets. The ground game found more room to run as tailback Monte Anderson was able to find some room along the edges of Pampa's defense. However, the Steers weren't able to sustain a drive deep into Pampa territory.

"The offense is coming," said Ritchey. "We looked like a machine going down the field early in the scrimmage, but we threw an interception and we got down. We have to learn how to recover from mistakes."

Doport got the start at quarterback, but Ritchey says the position isn't his yet.

"If I had to give the edge

to someone right now, it'd be Nathan," he said. "But Tyler (Tannehill) could come out and have a good week of practice. Truthfully, we're going to use both of them in games. Nathan is starting on defense so Tyler is going to get his chances. We like each in better situations over the other."

Wide out Sidney Parker Jr. remained the quarterbacks' favorite target. He caught four passes in the scrimmage, but drew three defensive interference penalties as Pampa's secondary struggled to cover him.

"Sidney is a weapon that other teams are going to have to focus on," said Ritchey. "He's a returning all-district player as a sophomore last season. Hopefully, we'll have some others step up and take the load off of him so we can get him

isolated and he can make some big plays for us."

The Steers play their first regular season game at 7:30 p.m. Friday when they visit Odessa's Bronchos. Ritchey notes that the team has to continue to pick each other up if they expect a successful season.

"We're a team. We have to keep playing as one," he said. "The defense had to spark the offense tonight. That's alright though. We have to pick each other up sometimes. There will be times that the offense has to do the same thing for the defense this season. Doing that will only make us better."

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

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Anniversary



Clark and Jolene Dunnam



Dunnams celebrate 50th anniversary

On Aug. 27, 1957, Charles Dunnam and the former Jolene Reynolds were married at Baptist Temple Church in Big Spring by the Rev. A.R. Posey. They met in study hall/library while attending Big Spring High School and later became sweethearts. Their first date was to an annual signing party. Shortly after graduation they married. Their love and friendship continues to grow each day.

The Dunnams have three children, Craig Dunnam and wife Carie of Big Spring, Jill Mize

and husband Johnny of Amarillo and Clark Dunnam of Midland. They have seven grandchildren and have lived in Big Spring their entire married life.

The parents of Charles and Jolene were Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. Grady Dunnam of Big Spring.

Charles and Jolene enjoy watching Texas Rangers baseball, fishing, traveling and looking forward to the entire family gatherings at Lake L.B.J. as they have for the past 27 years. Watching the grandchildren participate

in sports and their school activities is always something they have been involved with and continue to enjoy doing.

Charles worked for First National Bank for 18 years, then acquired Ackerly Oil Company. Later, he established Trio Fuels Inc. After more than 30 years in the business, it was sold and the Dunnams are enjoying their retirement. In the first years of marriage Jolene worked at Lynn's Jewelers and the city of Big Spring Tax Department, then chose to stay home and raise

their family.

Charles and Jolene attend First Baptist church, where they have been members since 1975.

A reception will be hosted by their children, their spouses and the grandchildren.

Menus

Senior Citizens Center

Monday: Smothered steak, macaroni and cheese, green beans, fruit salad, whole wheat rolls.

Tuesday: Ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce and tomatoes, potato soup, crackers, carrot cake.

Wednesday: Cornflake chicken, cream gravy, oriental mixed vegetables, biscuits, mixed fruit.

Thursday: Baked potato, chili, broccoli with cheese, crackers, vanilla pears.

Friday: Turkey, toast, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, vegetable salad, pumpkin crunch.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast - Waffles, syrup, sausage,

apple juice, milk; Lunch - Pizza, salad, apples, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast - Pancake sausage on a stick, apple juice, milk; Lunch - Shake n Bake chicken, baked beans, mac/cheese, bread, peaches, milk, corn dogs.

Wednesday: Breakfast - Oatmeal, sausage, apple juice, milk; Lunch - Smothered steak with brown gravy, corn, potatoes, bread, milk, burritos.

Thursday: Breakfast - Donuts, sausage, grape juice, milk; Lunch - Chicken fajita, cheese, salad, refried beans, milk, Hot Pockets.

Friday: Breakfast - Biscuits, gravy, sausage, grape juice, milk; Lunch - Deli turkey, potato salad, bread, apple slices, milk, ham and cheese sandwiches.

For your information

• LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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Commissioners to set tax rate Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are expected to vote on the 2007-2008 tax rate the court will pursue over the coming month Monday, and are poised to make a 6.38-cent increase over the rollback rate.

Commissioners recently 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 decided on two weeks ago.

The proposed rate is identical to the rate used last year, according to County Auditor Jackie Olson, which is expected to generate approximately \$700,000 in additional funding for the county over the rollback rate.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, the increase — along with

drastic budget cuts that involve employee layoffs from several county departments — 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 after receiving the news of the situation regarding Alon USA's impending lawsuit. "This will give us \$1.2 million to operate on from Oct. 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."

The county is also expected to hold a budget hearing for its 2007-2008 fiscal plan, which includes the elimination of six part-time positions and eight full-time positions, as well as adopt the budget during Monday's meeting.

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 part-time position with the District Clerk's office.

Also during Monday's meeting, the court is expected to consider:

- Bids for prescription medicines.
- Bids for a vehicle purchase for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.
- Personnel considerations.
- A plan concerning the courthouse beautification project from members of Keep Big Spring Beautiful.
- Approve physicians

and award pharmaceutical bids.

- An annual report on delinquent taxes.

- A report concerning civil fees from Sheriff Dale Walker.

- Approval of a statement of agreement between West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the commissioner's court.

Commissioners have also set aside time to discuss the design and construction of a new jail, as well as ongoing efforts to keep the existing jail open, during the meeting. Monday's meeting is to get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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

Bulletin Board

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Commissioner William Crooker said the court is awaiting final estimates from architects and consultants before putting its final stamp on the order.

"We don't have the final figures at this time, to be honest with you," Crooker said. "The point of what we're trying to do Monday is come up with a final figure."

A new jail — or, more exactly, efforts to build one — has been a bone of contention between commissioners and voters for the past decade. Voters have vetoed two bonds in that time, the most recent coming when they turned down a \$10 million, 144-bed jail issue last November.

Shortly after that election failed, the jail was closed by state officials because of various life and safety issues. It has

since reopened, but commissioners have been told one — has been a bone of contention between commissioners and voters for the past decade. Voters have vetoed two bonds in that time, the most recent coming when they turned down a \$10 million, 144-bed jail issue last November.

Although no firm cost figures have been attached to the proposed jail — a 96-bed facility on the west end of Big Spring — Crooker said preliminary figures received by commissioners are comparable to the \$10 million bond rejected by voters in

2006.

In order to place the bond on the November ballot, commissioners must formally call for the election within the next two weeks, Crooker said.

"We're anticipating a final vote on the matter by the end of the week," he said.

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

Weather

Sunday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds around 10 mph.

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

Tuesday... Partly cloudy. Highs around 90.

Tuesday night... Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Wednesday... Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

SYMPHONY

Continued from Page 1A

season performances this year.

First, however, the public is invited to a special dinner to get the season under way. Beginning with a social time at 6:30 p.m. and dinner to follow at 7, the Sept. 6 reception will feature Maestro Giordano as guest speaker.

"He has had a very colorful and interesting career, working with many of the world's premier orchestras and artists," Graumann said of Giordano, conductor emeritus of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Worth Chamber

Orchestra. "This is a great opportunity to for those who have never had the opportunity to visit with the maestro to do so."

Cost of the meal, to be held at Big Spring Country Club, is \$8.95, plus drinks.

Then on Saturday, the 8th, Giordano will lead the symphony in Lizst's "Piano Concerto No. 1," Respighi's "Ancient Airs and Dances" and Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite." Also that evening, 15-year-old prodigy Sijing Ye of China will perform as guest pianist. She won the 2007 Aspen Piano Concerto Competition, and, in fact, is the youngest winner in the history of the competition.

"Sijing Ye is a student of the renowned pedagogue Veda Kaplinsky. As readers may recall, Dr. Kaplinsky traveled here with her young student Peng Peng during his debut performance with the orchestra a few years ago," said Graumann. "I was very pleased to learn that Peng Peng was recently featured soloist on tour with the London (England) Philharmonic Orchestra. We are very proud that Peng Peng made his professional debut with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra."

Graumann asked Dr. Kaplinsky if she had another promising student. "She was quick to suggest Sijing Ye," said Graumann.

Also to be performed

during the opening concert are Wagner's "Meistersinger Overture," and "Clair de Lune" by Debussy.

The rest of the symphony season includes:

- "A Symphonic Christmas" Dec. 15, featuring The Coahoma Choir Kids under the direction of Sandra Wallace.

- "Bringing Europe to America" Feb. 9, 2008, featuring the music of Antonin Dvorak with Symphony No. 9, Op. 95 "The New World," and guest violoncello Jeffrey Lastrappe.

- "An Evening of Broadway" April 26, 2008, featuring soprano Renay Jobert.

Season tickets will be available beginning

Tuesday at First Bank of West Texas, Fayes Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the *Big Spring Herald*. Season tickets are \$50 for adults, \$30 for senior citizens and \$15 for students. The packet includes four tickets that may be used at any concert. Individual concert tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

"We hope you'll enjoy this season. We think it will be very entertaining," said Graumann. "Come out Thursday, Sept. 6, to the country club and help us get the season kicked off. Then be sure and get your tickets for Saturday, Sept. 8, for our opening concert."

Those who plan to attend the dinner at the Big Spring Country Club are asked to RSVP by calling 267-7210.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

Owners of a median-priced home in Howard County will see their college tax levy increase about \$20 next year, while those owning property valued at \$100,000 will pay almost \$50 more in the coming year, officials said.

Increased valuations helped keep the increase down, but less-than-anticipated state revenue forced trustees to do some belt-tightening in the budget.

For starters, most college employees will receive a flat raise of \$500 this year, below original plans. Also, personnel positions in three departments, currently vacant, will not be filled for at least the near future.

Tuition and fees also likely will increase, although a final decision in that area won't be made until October or November. College President Dr. Cheryl

Sparks said, however, that Spring 2008 tuition will increase by at least \$2 per semester hour.

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- The annual delinquent tax collection report.
- Summer enrollment and contact hour figures.
- Sale of surplus property.

ty.

- Bids for property insurance and athletic insurance renewal.

- Catalog and handbook changes.

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

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Phillips hopes to leave his mark on NFL with Cowboys

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The locker room has been shuffled so guys who might not otherwise mingle can get to know each other. Signs discouraging complaints are gone, the practice-field dress code relaxed. And there wasn't so much as an eyebrow raised when the mascot revved up his three-wheeler behind the end zone during training camp.

As Jerry Jones put it the day Wade Phillips replaced Bill Parcells as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, there is "less walking around on eggshells here."

The arrival of Phillips, the anti-Parcells, has certainly cut the tension and lightened the mood. Ask Phillips about it, though, and he laughs it off in his typical aw-shucks way.

See, at age 60 and going into his 31st year in the NFL, Phillips knows the specifics of how he runs the team don't matter.

The only thing that counts is how they do in January. And February.

Do well and he'll land a spot in the lore of "America's Team" alongside the only other native Texans to hold the job, Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson. He'll even get bonus points for being the savior who pulled the Cowboys from a franchise-worst 10 years of playoff purgatory (0-5 since a wild-card win in 1996).

Come up short and he'll be lumped in with the other coaches who've failed to deliver, like Chan Gailey, Dave Campo and, yes, that Parcells fellow. Worse yet, he'd deepen the brand already burned

onto his reputation — "Great coordinator, lame head coach" — because of his own playoff losing streak, 0-3 in his five seasons running Denver and Buffalo.

There is no in-between for Phillips, especially considering what he's inherited: a club coming off a 9-7 playoff season with a strong offense, promising defense and the benefit of being in a weak conference.

"I think I can prove I'm one of the better coaches in the National Football League, and that's as a head coach," Phillips said. "I've had over 200 wins as an assistant, but that doesn't count. It's only the head coach that they put down their record"

Phillips was hired for one reason: Defense. That's his specialty, and it's where the Cowboys haven't been getting their money's worth.

Parcells put in a 3-4 defense and spent a lot of Jones' cash filling it with draft picks and free agents. The pieces seemed in place but the results weren't, especially down the stretch the past two years.

Whether it was the fault of coaches, players or both no longer matters. It is simply Phillips' job to turn loose his playmakers, like he's done everywhere he's coached.

For a reference on Phillips' past success, look no further than his last stop, San Diego.

He arrived after the Chargers went 4-12 with a defense that was the second most-generous in the league. In his first season, they gave up the 11th-fewest points while turning their record all the way around to 12-4.

VICK

Continued from Page 2B

ceeds were generally shared by Vick's three co-defendants — Tony Taylor, Purnell Peace and Quanis Phillips.

"Vick did not gamble by placing side bets on any of the fights. Vick did not receive any of the proceeds of the purses that were won by Bad Newz Kennels," the summary said.

According to the statement, Vick also was involved with the others in killing six to eight dogs that did not perform well in testing sessions last April. The dogs were executed by drowning or hanging.

"Vick agrees and stipulates that these dogs all died as a result of the collective efforts" of Vick, Phillips and Peace, the statement said.

In the plea agreement, the government committed to recommending a sentence on the low end of the federal sentencing guideline range of a year to 18 months. However, the conspiracy charge is punishable by up to five years in prison, and the judge is not bound by any recommendation or by the guidelines.

Hudson has a reputation

for imposing stiff sentences, according to lawyers who have appeared in his court. The judge will set a sentencing date at Monday's hearing.

"Our position has been that we are going to try to help Judge Hudson understand all the facts and Michael's role," Vick's defense attorney, Billy Martin. "Michael's role was different than others associated with this incident."

Martin said Vick will "speak to the public and explain his actions."

Though he declined to say when and where, the Tom Joyner Morning Show, a syndicated program based in Dallas, said it will have a live interview with Vick on Tuesday.

The U.S. attorney's office, which has declined to comment on the case, said it would issue a statement after the hearing.

The case began in April when authorities conducting a drug investigation of Vick's cousin raided a Surry County property owned by Vick and found dozens of dogs, some injured, and equipment

commonly used in dog-fighting.

A federal indictment issued in July charged Vick, Peace, Phillips and Taylor with an interstate dogfighting conspiracy. Vick initially denied any involvement, and all four men pleaded innocent.

Taylor was the first to change his plea to guilty, saying Vick financed the dogfighting ring's gambling and operations. Peace and Phillips soon followed, alleging that Vick joined them in killing dogs that did not measure up in test fights.



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SANDS

Continued from Page 1B

enced. It's a nice boost of confidence."

Sands will face a familiar foe in Spur next week. Bulldogs Head Coach was previously at Westbrook and has played the Mustangs for the past four seasons. Last year,

the Bulldogs beat the Mustangs 38-36.

"We know this team well," said Henderson. "They're going to be a challenge for us. They're just the opposite of what we are. We're an incredibly young team. They're incredibly experienced with a lot of starters returning. We just have to go out there and compete."

FORSAN


Continued from Page 1B

see some good play from our linebackers," said Thompson, "Chance and Garrett Pool played well outside, while Ryan Flores and Josh Daniels were really strong inside. The Owls' quarterback is extremely fast and was hard to contain, but all things considered, we had very few breakdowns and contained pretty well."

With another tough test

coming up next week in Kermit, Thompson said he hopes to see his team continue to improve in practice and start to come together as a team.

"We have the talent and the experience to succeed this season as long as we put forth the right effort," he said. "The kids showed some fire against Reagan County and we will need to see more of that starting next week. Most of these guys got a taste of the playoffs last year and need to focus their desire on that feeling to get us back there."



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Anniversary



Charley and Bea Kelly

60th wedding celebration

Bea and Charley Kelly of Big Spring will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Aug. 28 with a quiet evening at home.

The couple have three children, Janis Edwards and husband Mike of Big Spring, Lisa Van Diemen and husband Rick of Tyler and Jimmy Kelly and wife Laura of Pasadena. They have eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Charley was born in Brown County. Bea, whose maiden name was Tull, was born in Van Zant County. They met in Colorado City while she was visiting her sister. They were married Aug. 28, 1947. They have lived in Brownwood, Colorado City, Comanche and moved to Big Spring in

1953.

Charley worked at Cosden and Fina. He retired in 1982. Bea owned and operated the Kut & Kurl Beauty Shop on Scurry Street.

They are members of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. Bea is a volunteer at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and

Charley was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels until he became ill.

They love to read and spend time with their children and grandchildren. Spending time with their church family is very important to them. They have always been very active in the church.

Births



Sunny Rose Barresi, a girl, was born at 5:58 p.m. June 13, 2007, weighing 7 pounds and was 21 inches in length.

Parents are Tom and Krista Barresi of Maui, Hawaii.

Sunny is the granddaughter of Rose Thomas

of Coahoma, Jack and Sue Thomas of Tampa, Fla., and Joe and Maureen Barresi of Saratoga, Calif., and the great-granddaughter of Bill and Lucille King of Coahoma and George Thomas of Denver, Colo.

Pamela Bach sued by divorce lawyer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Divorce may cost more than David Hasselhoff's ex-wife bargained for.

Pamela Bach was sued Thursday by her former lawyer, who alleges the actress owes him nearly \$40,000 in unpaid fees.

Attorney Gary Mitchell claimed he represented Bach in her divorce from Hasselhoff for about six months, but she never paid him for his services.

The lawsuit was filed a day after a Superior Court judge ruled that Hasselhoff, the former star of TV's "Baywatch" and "Knight Rider" and most recently a judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent," does not have to pay nearly \$200,000 in legal fees to another attorney who represented Bach during their child custody battle.

Hasselhoff, 55, and Bach, 43, were married in December 1989. He filed for divorce in January 2006.



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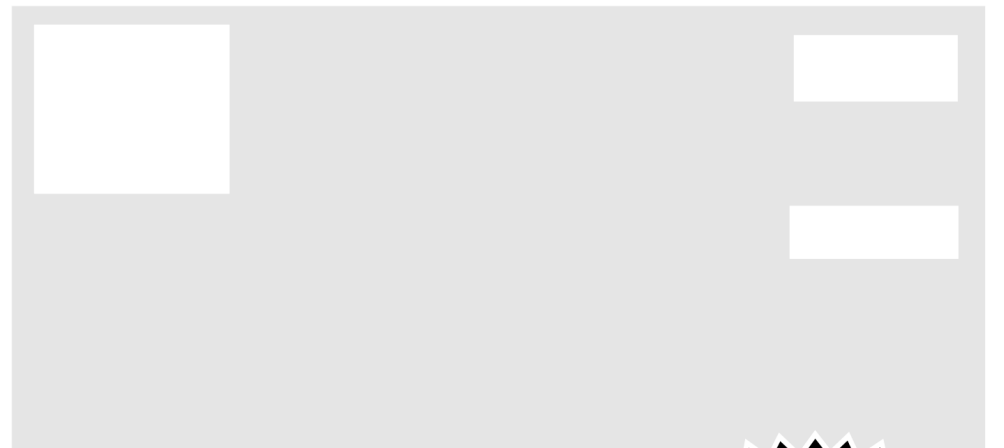
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

With our schools opening, please drive carefully

With classes scheduled to start all over the Crossroads area Monday, it's definitely time for all of us to remember to drive safely in and around school zones.

Many of us have spent the summer driving past area schools not having to concern ourselves with those flashing lights and reduced speed limits imposed during school months.

But all that changes Monday and that's why school officials and local law enforcement agencies are advising motorists to take extra caution when driving these first few days of the school year.

Of course, we should all exercise caution whenever we're driving. And regardless of where we are during those times just before or after school hours, we should remember that many high school students will be driving or walking to school.

Furthermore, we should all remember to obey the law and stop for school buses when they're loading and unloading students.

None of us is so busy, nor is there any emergency so important that we can afford to put the young people of our communities at risk by driving in an unsafe manner.

The bottom line, of course, is that none of us would want our own children endangered by a careless motorist.

We all need to remember that when we get behind the wheel.

ADDRESSES

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Phone: 202-224-5922
- **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
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U.S. Representative
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
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Phone: (512) 463-0604
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State Senator
Texas 31st District
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Big Spring, 79720
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How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Our efforts make a difference when we they are coated with Your love, Lord.

Amen

'Everything Happens for a Reason'

This Tuesday I got a call from my daughter Lindsey. Her call was a call that most daughters would rather not make. She wanted to tell me the news about an old friend. The news was that he had been very sick. His doctors found cancer in his colon and had operated on him last week and he was not doing very well.



RON MIDKIFF

After I sat at my desk for several minutes trying to regain my composure, I picked up the phone to give my old buddy, Dean, a call. Dean's sister-in-law answered and I asked her how he was doing. She said he was doing OK and told me that doctors had found cancer throughout his colon. I asked her if he could talk and she put Dean on the line. His voice was weak and he told me he was just getting his voice back from the two operations he underwent last week.

He seemed to be in good spirits. His doctors told him he could be cured and he would have to go through chemotherapy treatments beginning in about six weeks. We chatted about old times and caught up a little on our lives over the past few years.

Dean said to me, "Big'n, I'm just gonna take it one day at a time." That was a nickname he give me in high school. I told him I would check in on him in a few weeks.

Sometimes you just don't understand it. Dean is the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off

his back even if it was his only shirt. I shared the biggest part of my young adult life with this man and knowing how gentle and caring he is and how you wished more people were like him, it leaves you wondering how and why things like this happen to people like him.

Just a few weeks ago my good friend, Jim, in Dallas was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. He underwent surgery to remove the tumors and is now going through chemotherapy. Two years ago Jim was diagnosed with colon cancer and doctors were able to remove it. Jim has been like a father to me and like a grandfather to my son.

Jim took my family in like we were his own and there is not a nicer man on this planet. Once again I searched to understand why.

Two years ago, Rick, my 23-year-old next door neighbor died of cancer. He was like a son to me and always took the time to spend with my 15-year-old son Austin. I searched for a reason.

Eleven years ago my mother lost her battle with cancer. I will never be the same. Her passing changed my life forever, as I am sure it does with most sons and daughters who have lost a mother or father or those who have lost a loved one.

This Monday I left my office feeling down and out due to life's trials. I was missing my family in Waxahachie and not knowing when or if they would be able to join me here in Big Spring. These worries weighed heavy on my mind, compounded by the

thoughts of Jim in Dallas. I trudged up the steps and unlocked the door of my humble apartment and made it to the couch. There I sat staring at the blank walls. I finally settled into bed, tossing and turning all night until the alarm sounded at 6 a.m. sounding the beginning of a new day.

The call from my daughter that morning with the information about my friend Dean hit me hard. Like a ton of bricks.

What else could happen? That afternoon, Lindsey, sent me an e-mail that really opened my eyes. "Dad," she wrote, "I know how hard this is for you and I want you to know that I love you very much and understand how you feel." She also added, "Dad, you know that Everything Happens for a Reason and all we can do is have faith and put our trust in God."

Those are the same words my friend Isabel spoke to me shortly after I received Lindsey's e-mail.

All my troubles seemed so minuscule compared to the burdens my friends and their families are going through and have gone through. Life can dish out a lot of heartache. Have faith and believe.

If God wants me and my family in Big Spring, it will happen.

If God wants Jim and Dean to join him, he will call. And if there is more for them to do on this earth, they will do it.

"Everything Happens for a Reason."

To contact Publisher Ron Midkiff call 263-7331, ext. 250, or e-mail him at publisher@bigspringherald.com.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Several weeks ago you printed a letter from Chris Hogg about the Moss Lake Park area.

I'd just like to say maybe he doesn't go there often. I go almost daily and have seen the way the public can trash that place in one day.

I've also seen how hard the caretaker and his wife have worked to clean it up again and again.

People are the reason it is a mess at times. If everyone would pick up instead of throwing trash around, thing would be much better.

I love that park and lake and I try to clean up things as I go.

Mr. Hogg needs to give these people a chance and go more often. It's really beautiful and peaceful there 90 percent of the time.

VALORIE GASTON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

In the year 2007 BC Archimedes made a request: "Give me a place to stand on and I will move the world." Few outside the Greek scientific community noted or understood the brilliant mathematician's entreaty.

Almost exactly 2,200 years later,

an equally fervent plea is uttered on a daily basis. These petitions are voiced by literally millions of young people who ask not how to move the world; but rather for a place in the midst of this secular society that they can stand, find shelter, knowledge and resolution, to live and abide in this world. These pleas are not always heard or understood. Some, however, seek to offer help.

For the last 68 years a positive answer has been offered in Big Spring. A group of citizens have

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

A wolf in sheep's clothing

It doesn't take a genius to understand that being in the oil and gas or refining business is exceedingly lucrative these days. In fact, we've all but become numb to announcements from major oil companies detailing record profits and earnings per share.

And when the same kinds of announcements are being made quarterly by Alon USA, which operates the Big Spring Refinery, one would think all's well in our little part of the world.

After all, a company that's announcing record profits every quarter is bound to be a good corporate citizen, right?

Not really. No, really good corporate citizens don't do their best to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. They don't use their considerable financial strength to put the squeeze on school districts and local governments.

However, that is exactly what Alon USA has done since this time last year. That's when Alon appealed a \$260 million valuation of the Big Spring Refinery, maintaining that the property's value should be just \$62 million.

When the Howard County Appraisal Review Board announced that it would basically split the difference and list the property value at \$130 million in late August of 2006, Alon filed a lawsuit against the Howard County Appraisal District that has yet to be heard in court.

Meanwhile, Alon opted to declare it would pay taxes on a value of slightly less than \$41 million last year.

What did that mean? Well, it meant that instead of paying \$527,976 in taxes to Howard

County last year, it paid just \$199,688, according to figures compiled by County Auditor Jackie Olson.

In other words, by filing suit and declaring a value of \$40.93 million, Alon was able to pay almost \$50,000 less than the \$246,558 it had paid in fiscal 2005 on a valuation of \$45.2 million.

That's right, Alon still owes Howard County \$330,288 in taxes from the current fiscal year, unless it wins it's lawsuit.

That \$330,288 would have gone a long way toward covering the added expense Howard County faced when the Texas Commission on Jail Standards ordered closure of the county jail and the county had to pay about half a million dollars housing prisoners in other counties.

Unfortunately, this tale gets worse.

Last week Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the appraisal district, informed county commissioners that Alon has indicated it will file suit again this year, after the appraisal review board refused to adjust an appraisal of \$320 million on its property and taxable goods.

Guess the three members of the board weren't in a very agreeable mood when they heard Alon's appeal this year. That's not surprising, of course, since the appraisal district wound up being sued after they'd basically halved the company's appraised value the year before.

Good for them! This year Alon's appeal claimed it should only pay taxes on \$152 million.

With its appeal denied, the company has announced it will pay taxes on a declared value of \$80 million in fiscal 2008.

Oh, did I forget to mention that Alon receives tax abatements and TNRC exemptions of almost \$30 million? In other words, They will

actually pay on a value of slightly less than \$49.5 million in valuation during the coming fiscal year. Based on the county's planned tax rate of 48.78 cents per \$100 valuation, Alon will pay \$241,364 — well short of the \$1.413 million it would pay on its \$320 million valuation.

That means Howard County will receive \$1.172 million less in tax revenue from Alon next year than it should.

It gets worse. As a result of Alon's decisions, Howard College figures to take a hickey of about \$700,000 this year, and that's nothing compared to the damage the Big Spring Independent School District will face next year when it will lose significant state funding as a result of not taxing Alon on its full appraised value.

Who really winds up paying for Alon's tax battles?

We do. One need only look at the fact that county commissioners had initially planned on setting a tax rate of 42.3974 cents per \$100 valuation for the coming year, but last week were forced to increase it to \$48.797 cents due to the loss of revenue that will be created by Alon's actions.

While Alon has done many good things in this community — supporting events like Pops in the Park, ponying up for \$75,000 for computers given to the Big Spring ISD and the like — that "good" pales in comparison to the damage the company has done in short-changing Howard County coffers by \$330,288 this year, not to mention the damage it will do next year and in fiscal 2009.

Good corporate citizen? I think not. No, in this instance, Alon USA is more a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331 ext. 230 or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY ABCS

 <p>Always Look Both Ways Before Crossing The Street.</p> <p>A-Bob's Bail Bonds 110 E. 3rd St. 263-3333</p>	<p>Whether your child is going back to school, or will be attending school for the very first time, play it safe by taking time to review these important safety "basics" together.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="553 716 909 849">  <p>Original Designs in Silver and Gold 997 East FM 700 267-1480</p> </div> <div data-bbox="947 716 1303 849"> <p>Clanton Chem-Dry 263-8997</p> </div> </div>	 <p>Buckle Up When Riding - It's The Law!</p> <p>Blum's Inside The Big Spring Mall 267-6335</p>	
 <p>Cross The Street At Crosswalks Only.</p> <p>Comet Cleaners FM 700 & Virginia 267-2584</p>	 <p>Don't Pet Or Annoy Unfamiliar Animals.</p> <p>The Dance Gallery 2303 Goliad & 2500 R Ave. in Snyder 432-267-3977</p>	 <p>Eat A Good Breakfast Every Day.</p> <p>Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union 1110 Benton 263-8393</p>	 <p>Fire Safety Is Important, At Home And At School.</p> <p>First Bank Of West Texas 1810 E. FM 700 - Big Spring - 267-1113 607 Scurry - Big Spring - 466-0000 Member FDIC 500 W. Broadway - Coahoma - 394-4256</p>
 <p>Go Over Important Phone Numbers And Safety Instructions With Your After-School Sitter.</p> <p>Gill's Gold-N-Crisp Fried Chicken 2100 S. Gregg 263-4391</p>	 <p>Have Your Child's Eyes Checked For Problems, Before Starting School.</p> <p>H & R Block 1512 S. Gregg 263-1931</p>	 <p>Instruct Your Child Not To Open The Door When You're Not At Home.</p> <p>Wes-Tex Telecommunications 711 Scurry 263-0091</p>	 <p>Jaywalking Is Dangerous.</p> <p>Dr. Joseph Chavez 1501 W. 11th #205 714-4700</p>
 <p>Know The Background Of Your Child Care Provider.</p> <p>House Of Frames 111 E. 3rd 267-5259</p>	 <p>Let Your Parents Know If You Go Somewhere After School.</p> <p>Home Realtors 110 W. Marcy 263-1284</p>	 <p>Motorists Should Exercise Extra Caution Around School Areas.</p> <p>The Medicine Center 1001 Gregg St. 263-7316</p>	 <p>Never Go Anywhere With A Stranger.</p> <p>Nalley-Pickle & Welch 906 Gregg St. 267-6331</p>
 <p>Obey Your School Bus Driver Or Crossing Guards.</p> <p>87 Auto Sales 111 Gregg • 267-8787 210 Gregg • 263-2362</p>	 <p>Parents Should Discuss Safety Issues And Emergency Procedures With Their Children.</p> <p>Pizza Inn 1702 Gregg 263-1381</p>	 <p>Quick Thinking In An Emergency Can Make A Difference - Keep Important Phone Numbers Handy.</p> <p>Nichols A/C & Heat 610 E. 4th 263-3705</p>	 <p>Remain In Your Seat While The School Bus Is In Motion.</p> <p>Big Spring Health Food 1305 Scurry 267-6524</p>
 <p>Stick To A Populated, Familiar Route When Walking Home From School.</p> <p>Suddenlink 267-3821</p>	 <p>Tell Your Parents Or Teacher If Someone Is Bothering You.</p> <p>Trinity Baptist Church 810 E. 11th 267-6344</p>	 <p>Use Your Head — Wear Your Helmet While Biking.</p> <p>United Country Heart Of The City Realtors 714-4555 1209 Gregg</p>	 <p>Vacant Lots And Buildings Should Be Avoided.</p> <p>Fish Ophthalmology Clinic 207 E. 7th 267-3649</p>
 <p>Walk To School With Friends, Not Alone.</p> <p>Western Container Big Spring Plant</p>	 <p>X Marks Dangerous Railroad Tracks.</p> <p>Big Spring Herald 710 Scurry 263-7331</p>	 <p>Young children should be taught their name, address, and phone number.</p> <p>Big Spring WAL-MART 210 W. Marcy 267-3363</p>	 <p>Zzzzzz Getting A Good Night's Sleep Is Important To School Performance.</p> <p>Bowl-A-Rama 267-7484</p>

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Jacquelyn Molina and John Christopher Mulkey

Molina and Mulkey

Jacquelyn Kaci Molina and John Christopher Mulkey of Coahoma are pleased to announce their engagement and approaching marriage on Nov. 10, 2007, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Big Spring at 6:30 p.m.

The bride elect is the daughter of Juan and Georgia Molina of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of Josephine and the late Thomas Uranga of Big Spring and Juan and Angie Molina of Coahoma. She is a 2002 graduate of Coahoma High School and is employed at the Big

Spring H-E-B Pharmacy as a certified pharmacy technician.

The groom is the son of John and Cindy Mulkey of Coahoma. He is the grandson of Jerry and Phyllis Smith of Post and Barbara Smith of Big Spring and the late Lee and Christine Mulkey of Coahoma. John is a 2001 graduate of Coahoma High School. He graduated from Texas State Technical College in 2003 with a degree in computer science, majoring in programming. He is working in the family business, J.M. Construction.

BSHS Class of 1987

We are looking for the following members of the BSHS Class of 1987 for the 20-year reunion at homecoming set for Oct. 5-6.

Daniel Armstrong, Rodney Bailey, Cedric Banks, Jignesh Bhakta, Tonyia Booth, Mario Burciaga, Rebecca Burton, Salvador Calvio, Jimmy Casey, Lane Cayce, Sergio Cervantes, John Clark, Marjorie Cline, Camille Crenshaw and Donnie Davis.

Annisa Dean, Jessie Deleon, Todd Farris, Mary Lou Fierro, Thomas Figueroa, Layne Finch, Valerio Garcia, Bobby Garling, Albert Garza, Mario Gonzales, James Harlin, Frank Heideloff, Terry Hendricks, John Hernandez, Joanna Herrera and Elise Hilario.

Allen (Chris) Hill, Melissa Johndrow, Bonnie Johnson, James Johnson, Tabitha Jolly, Scott Jones, Anja Jorgensen, Dickie Kelley, Kelly Kerby, Kyla Kirkham, Monica Lockridge, Chris Lopez, Mollie Martinez, Phillip Matthews, Megan

McDaniel and Robin McDaniel. Amanda Morton, Elizabeth Morton, Joe Ontiveros, Albert Ortega, Cidney Parker, Donna Parnell, Dean Payne, Donny Peacock, Curtis Plant, Jerry Price, John Ramirez, Marina Ramirez, Cynthia Regalado, Mary Ann Rodriguez and Tommy Rodriguez.

Angelica Sanchez, Armando Saucedo, Matt Seamans, Wesley Shoup, Tina Smith, Sarah Stephen, Mary Anita Trevino, Shawn Ulery, Lisa Vega, Derrick Watts, Christie Webb, Jill Wells, Kevan Williams, Denise Wilson, Danny Wise, Tommie Woodall and Charles Young.

If you have information on any of these people, or if you have not been contacted or were involved with our class and want to be a part of the reunion, contact Loryne Colette at (432) 268-1135, or Patricia Priebe, (432) 263-2317, or e-mail tlpriebe@yahoo.com.



Courtesy photo

The Permian Basin Fair and Expo held the preliminaries to its Talent Show Aug. 18 at Music City Mall. Finalists in four age groups were chosen to perform and compete at the final show Saturday, Sept. 15, on the coliseum stage. Cash prizes will be awarded in each age category: 1st place, \$150; 2nd place, \$100; and 3rd place, \$50; and a \$500 prize will be awarded to the grand champion selected from all four age groups. Members of the Dancesations from Big Spring were among the preliminary winners. They are Destiny Mata, Lauren Smith, Bergan Trevino, Stevi Ward, Mariah Sarmiento, Chloe Bustamante, Baile Grant, Mady Gartman, and Megan Magalnes.

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Howard County Fair 2007

September 26-29, 2007
 4-10 pm weekdays, 10 am-10 pm Saturday

Entries for Creative Arts, Fine Arts, Baked Goods, Canned Goods, Antiques and other items for display will be accepted from 8 am - 6 pm, September 25.
Antique category: Cookbooks over 25 years old (published prior to 1982)

.....
 Entries will be judged the evening of September 25 and must remain on display throughout the fair. They may be picked up after 10 pm September 29 or between 1 pm and 4 pm September 30.
 Information and entry forms for all Fair events: www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com

QUEEN CONTEST

Date: September 15, 2007 Location: Dora Roberts Community Center
 Preliminaries (classes, etc.) - 9 a.m.
 Pageant begins at 1 pm. Public is invited to attend.
 Entry forms available at: Posey Cotton, 601 Scurry - before noon
 County Extension Office, Court House
 At www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com

NOTE: Entrants must have a sponsor. It costs \$35 to sponsor a girl.
 Information: Nancy Howard 353-4448 (No answer, leave message)

.....

QUILT

Theme: "Wildlife of Texas".
 On Display: Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler • 7 am - 3 pm, Monday-Friday
 Chances: \$ each or 6 for \$5. (Proceeds used defray expenses of the Fair.)
 Drawing: Saturday, 9:45 p.m.

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Rules:
 Size: 12x12. Must be in a protector sheet. Journal and decorate
 Must have name, address and phone number on the back of page or inside protector sleeve.
 Theme: Where, What, When, Who
 Judged on creativity, originality, presentation and journaling

.....

Fair Contests/Displays/Events

Fine Art
 Drawing, graphics, oils, acrylics, water color, mixed media, sculpture, pottery, computer, oil on wood

Photography
 Grandparents' Corner, "Kids Do the Darndest Things" photo contest, "Favorite Family Pet, photo contest.

Canned Goods
 Fruits, vegetables, pickles and relishes, jams, jellies, preserves, dried food products, juice/syrup, peppers, salsa/hot sauce, miscellaneous

Creative Arts
 Hobbies and crafts, handwork and needlework, clothing

Grandparents' Corner
 Photographs

Favorite Family Pet
 Photographs

Poetry
 Three youth divisions

"Kids Do the Darndest Things"
 Funny photos of children, at least 3x5 inches in size

Antique Cookbooks
 Must be published prior to 1982

Children's Fair
 Pre-K through 4th grades - Theme: It's a Jungle Out There - Classroom or individual projects

Antique Tractors
 Call Gene Adams at 263-4853 if you'd like to display your antique tractor.

Antique Tractor Pull
 Pulling tractors must be 1960 or older

Kountry Kids Contest
 Kids 0-5 years old, dressed in denim at least 50% cotton. \$10 entry fee.

Queen Contest
 Contestants must have a sponsor. Sponsorship is \$35. All high school and college age girls from Howard County are eligible.

31343

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

joined together as the Howard County Bible Class Fund Board. Their purpose is to see that classes in Bible are offered in all the high schools in the county. That "the Book" may be opened and the "Word" explained. That the long sought place of shelter, the tower of strength, the region of safekeeping can be found. That this good news be proclaimed!

Teachers are paid; all supplies are furnished. The cost this year will be about \$38,000.

This budget will not be met without your continued and unwavering support.

As a further report to our team, we have three classes in Big Spring High School, two classes in Forsan and one class in Coahoma. All told, we are trying to reach 10 percent of the students as our goal.

HAYES STRIPLING JR.
BOARD MEMBER
HOWARD COUNTY
BIBLE CLASS FUND

TO THE EDITOR:

This is in reply to the letter by A. Katherine Lusk printed in the *Big Spring Herald* on Aug. 21. First, it is obvious that Ms. Lusk is not acquainted with Ardis McCasland. He is a retired Fina refinery mechanical engineer whose intelligence and interest keep him aware of all current events. He is diligent in pursuing city, county, state and federal government issues. He has attended very few commissioners court meetings but keeps informed on city and county government through Channel 17 television. His conviction and integrity would not allow him to be a "mouth-piece" for anyone.

Second, let's face facts, Ms. Lusk, you state Commissioner Crooker has had "over 40 years on the court." Commissioner Crooker was elected as a county commissioner in Precinct 3 in November 1968. His present term will end Dec. 31, 2008. At that time he will have proudly served the public for 40 years. The next erroneous statement you make, Ms. Lusk, is "if Commissioner Crooker...had presented a reasonable bond issue from the start, or more importantly, been an advocate for the maintenance of the current jail facility over the years, this issue would be far less damaging." Last November there were four commissioners and one county judge on the court and they all voted to put the \$10.1 million bond issue on the ballot. Perhaps you were a mem-

ber of the "Fact or Fiction" group which led to the bond's failure.

As to Commissioner Crooker's being an advocate for the maintenance of the current jail facility, the original jail was built in 1952 and housed up to 60 inmates. In 1975 the jail was reconfigured to meet, as closely as possible, the requirements of the newly-created Texas State Commission on Jail Standards. This was primarily to provide the physical space needs as proscribed by law by the State of Texas and it lowered the number of beds to 26. Changes in 1984 added six new beds. Later, in 1993, the remaining space available on the fourth floor of the courthouse — namely the areas used to house the 118th District Court juries overnight — was converted to dormitory style housing for inmates. This brought the total bed space up to 49. Subsequently the 49 spaces were reduced to 39 by the Texas State Commission on Jail Standards due to changes in jail regulations.

In 1994 the commissioners court realized it had to build a new jail so a bond issue in the amount of \$3.2 million for a 96-bed jail was placed on the May 1995 ballot and, unfortunately, it failed by 88 votes. The portion of the bond for renovation of the courthouse building passed.

In 2004, Ms. Lusk had a residence in Precinct 3 and entered the race for county commissioner against Bill Crooker. She was defeated. In 2006, her next residence was in Precinct 2 and she entered the race for commissioner against Jerry Kilgore and she was defeated. I believe she is wasting her political talents locally. She should start campaigning on the state or federal level, particularly if she wishes to change requirements set by the Texas State Commission on Jail Standards. The members of this commission have these specifications set by statute and they insist the counties abide by them for the safety and welfare of the staff and the jailed inmates.

None of us want to have a relative or someone we know in jail, but it happens. The purpose of a jail is to protect the law abiding citizens from these criminals.

Ms. Lusk, you wrote "I am not going to vote for a multi-million-dollar jail or more tax increases or bond elections to improve conditions for those that choose to break the laws. We have these two issues backward. The criminals should be the ones in tents and substandard housing if need be." The laws of the State of Texas say no criminal can be placed in a tent. A jail must meet the specifications set by the state. Your letter offers no solution to the problem. I assume your position is to continue spending more than \$1 million yearly to house inmates in other counties. How long do you think Howard County can exist economically?

I firmly believe those with closed minds should keep closed mouths. Let's do what is best for our community.

JOYCE CROOKER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Here is something for our lawmakers to consider — it is called No School Sept. 11.

Everybody stay home from school on Sept. 11. No matter what school you go to or what state you live in.

Think about it, teachers show up and no one is in class. Then they will leave. Tell a lot of people and let's see if we can make it on the news.

Why Sept. 11? Because it's a day we should not be in school because of what happened. We get school off for a bunch of dead presidents, but not for a mass murder of people we probably did or did not know and all of the amazing firefighters that died for this country.

Just keep praying that we can let families that lost loved ones know that we will always remember that sad day, Sept. 11.

ALEXIA RAWLS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Well it is me again. We went to Six Flags over the weekend. It was our last hurrah for the summer, before school starts.

Let me tell you the best part of going to Arlington was the gas prices! The lowest price we saw was \$2.55 and the highest was \$2.75.

I figure that if they can sell their gasoline for \$2.55, and ours is \$2.85, there is a 30-cent differ-

ence, so I guess we in Big Spring are making someone very rich. If they pocket 30 cents from every gallon they sell to all of us here, well you do the math.

Someone is racking in the money at our expense. What would be a good idea, if everyone here could do it, is not to get any gas and see how long it takes to hurt those getting rich off of us. But we know we cannot boycott them. They have us where they want us and that is a shame. Price gouging is against the law, but they are doing it anyway! Even Wal-Mart was 2.55 in Arlington and Dallas. Then we came home to high gas prices.

People of Big Spring, we need to pull together and go to a council meeting and try to get something done about this. I also know that people that work at Alon get their gas a lot cheaper than we do. Now is that fair? Think about it Big Spring.

MARILLYN GROESBECK
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

Why do we need a 144-bed county jail? As of July 13, our current jail had 49 beds, of which only 39 can be used, according to the sheriff's department. If we build a 96-bed jail, we are, in effect, doubling the number of beds. So, with the non-incarcerated population of Big Spring decreasing for numerous years, why would we need 144 beds?

Are we expecting a huge crime wave to hit Howard County? The only way our population is growing at present is through incarcerated persons in the prisons and these people do not need more than one bed at a time.

If officials insist on jailing people for what, years ago, would have been a ticket and fine, why don't we have less secure places to house these non-

violent people — perhaps trailers such as those used at school sites for additional classrooms. They could be dorm style with bathrooms and perhaps a kitchen and eating area. One could even serve as a place for women prisoners, again, only non-violent. These could be included within a secure, fenced-in area. I see nothing wrong with having camera surveillance for these "dorms."

The hardcore, cement and bars jail could be much smaller, perhaps 48 beds and reserved for the violent offenders and the "observation" areas. The eating area could be in a secure place in the jail so that each "status" of persons jailed could have their separate eating time and not co-mingle.

I also think we need to re-think some of the offenses for which people are being jailed. If a person is jailed for a speeding ticket or even writing a bad check, what good does it do to incarcerate

them 24/7? While in jail, their family has no income for food, housing and necessities, so they possibly apply for public assistance — maybe even turn to crime. Now, not only are we housing the offending person but we are supporting the family or perhaps encouraging crime. Let the offender pay out his or her time on days off from work. If they don't work or have a family, then 24/7 doesn't impact others and the sentence can be served as such.

What ever became of the idea of an ankle bracelet for "house arrest" with the ability to continue working? If they are a habitual speeder, that would be different. If they habitually write bad checks, circulate and publish their names/pictures so the public is aware not to accept their checks. Some of these same suggestions were pointed out at a commissioners meet-

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

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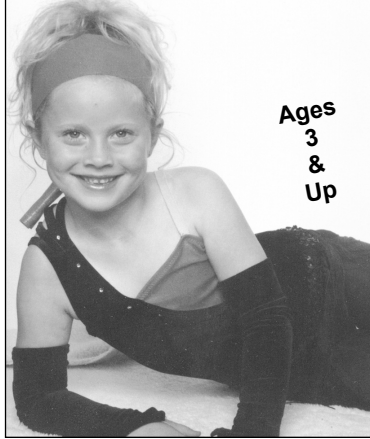
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BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 5C
Sunday, August 26, 2007



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Carolyn Metcalf, with scissors, owner of Nurse's Hospice of Big Spring, is joined by hospice employees and officials with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce during ribbon cutting ceremonies Friday morning. The hospice, located at 1008 E. Third St., received its state license this week and is now open for business, Metcalf said.

Energy Watch



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



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

• The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is hoping to hold a high-level meeting next summer to draw up guidelines for the global bioenergy market. Among the goals of the FAO is a removal of U.S. ethanol tariffs. It has suggested that without changes to the international bioenergy strategy, the world risks increasing poverty and larger amounts of environmental damage.

• The Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels, established by Energy Secretary Bodman, has concluded that America's unconventional fuel sources may provide up to 6.0 mbpd of oil equivalent by 2030.

• In its monthly report, OPEC increased its estimated demand for 2007 to 85.7 mbpd, up 1.5 percent year-on-year, and reflecting an increase of 0.2 percent from last month's forecast. Additionally, the cartel increased its 2008 demand forecast by 100.0 kbpd. OPEC noted that the uncertainty of the equity markets clouds its expectation for increased demand in the latter-half of this year. This is not encouraging for a production increase. We await OPEC's September 11th meeting and decision.

• The Iranian and Iraqi governments have signed an energy accord. The two nations plan to build pipelines to transfer Iraqi crude oil to Iran, where it would be refined. Those products would then be sold to Iraq. The plan is curious in light of Iran's current rationing program reiterating the fact they were unable to meet their own production needs. Iran is the world's second largest importer of gasoline.

• The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is eyeing Iraq. The foundation plans to help relocate over 150 scholars there because they are being persecuted. Congress has approved \$5m being put toward helping rescue the Iraqi scholars.

• An official with Libya's state oil company, Azzam Mesallati, suggested OPEC will keep its production steady when the cartel meets on Sept. 11th. He also said prices will fluctuate "plus or minus \$10". Using the OPEC basket, this suggests prices may move between \$60 and \$80/bbl. We recall comments from OPEC's president suggesting that prices close to \$80 worry the producer group.

• Brazilian state producer Petrobras released its new five-year business plan yesterday. It expects to invest \$112.4b through 2012. The plan represents a 30 percent increase, and over _ of the increase is slated to go to new investment.

• Since the failed coup attempt in April 2002, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has regularly suggested the U.S. will "attack" again. Saturday, the president said if the U.S. "attacks" again, "there will be no oil," and he reiterated his opinion that "oil prices are headed straight to \$100/bbl."

• During 2005 and 2006, China introduced policies meant to allow power producers to pass through their costs associated with higher coal prices to cus-

See ENERGY, Page 6C

Heart of the City Realtors advances to Master level

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — United Country Real Estate president Lou Francis recently announced the winners of the company's prestigious Master Salesman Award for the second quarter of 2007. Among the recipients of the honor is the local United Country —

Heart of the City Realtors office of Big Spring. The office earned this award within the first year of business.

United Country — Heart of the City Realtors is located at 1209 Gregg and is owned and operated by Sherri Key. The office can be contacted by phone at

(432) 714-4555 and on the Internet at www.heartofthecityrealtors.com.

United Country is the only national real estate franchise system specializing in residential, farm and ranch, commercial and recreational properties in small cities and

towns across America. With a heritage that dates back to 1925 and headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., the company has more than 650 franchises, 3,500 brokers and agents in 44 states and a national database of properties at www.unitedcountry.com.

Company scrap plans to build ocean wind park

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP) — Long Island's utility company intends to dump plans to build a \$700 million wind energy park in the Atlantic Ocean, a top official said.

"It's just too expensive," Long Island Power Authority Chairman Kevin Law told The Associated Press. "It's not going to work. This is an economically based decision. We didn't even have to consider environmental or aesthetic concerns."

The utility's board of directors will meet next month to officially vote on scrapping the project.

Initially popular with environ-

mental activists, politicians and residents, the project, which was to include 40 turbines in an 8-square-mile area, has lost support because of construction costs and concerns that it would mar the landscape of Long Island's south shore beaches.

It is the second offshore wind project to be scrapped in recent months. A developer in South Texas called off construction of about 170 turbines there after determining it no longer made economic sense to proceed. That developer said building an offshore farm would have been more than double the cost of one on land. Plans are proceeding for an off-

shore wind farm in Massachusetts, where a company called Cape Wind hopes to build 130 windmills in Nantucket Sound. Cape Wind has not said how much that project would cost. Developers in Delaware also are planning an offshore wind farm.

Original estimates for construction on the Long Island wind farm were between \$150 and \$200 million. In 2004, FPL Energy, a subsidiary of Florida Power & Light, won the right to build the project with a bid of \$356 million, pending regulatory approvals. The latest estimates put the cost at \$697 million.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Nick Reyna, left, code enforcement officer for the city of Big Spring, is shown with Nick DeWaters, whose home was named winner of the Doing Your Part residential award for this month.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Dr. David Long, left, is shown with city of Big Spring code enforcement officer Nick Reyna after being named winner of the Doing Your Part business award for this month.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 5A

ing by Carl Griffith & Associates. I checked into the jail situation in the county in Ohio where I was born and spent about 35 years. The population for this county is 284,664 persons and they have a jail with 422 beds. This means they have one bed for every 674 persons. They are overcrowded. Howard County population is 32,463 and our current jail has 48 beds. We have one bed for every 676 persons. We are overcrowded. It's ironic how similar the two are, but, that is where the similarities end.

We were planning an increase to 96 beds which would have one bed for every 338 persons. Now it is being pushed for 144 beds, providing one bed for every 225 persons. This is based on current population and, as stated earlier, our population is declining each year.

Yes, the county mentioned above is looking at all possibilities to solve its overcrowded jail problem. Yes, it may increase its beds, but I'm sure it will only be to double it, not quadruple it as is fast becoming our choice. The county mentioned above has 10.9 percent of its population living below the poverty level — we gave 19.9 percent below the poverty level!

Again, are we expecting a huge crime wave to hit Big Spring? How are we going to pay for this new jail? At the recent commissioners meeting, Sheriff Walker suggested that with a new jail we could start "renting" cells to prisoners from other counties or for federal prisoners.

This would be a great idea if we already had a

jail but we don't.

I know of no lending institute that will lend money based on speculation of money earned for "renting" beds. The sheriff suggested we could make \$587,000 a year doing this based on a 96-bed jail and keeping 60 beds for our own inmates. This is not so. We are still mandated by the TJC to keep 10 beds in reserve, dropping that figure to \$390,942 a year. Still a nice chunk of change, but at that rate, \$10 million divided by \$391,000, it would take 25 years to pay off the jail. In the meantime, you and I are paying higher taxes or certificates of obligation to pay for it. And, if this is such a great money making option, why not go all out and build a 288-bed jail and rake in big money and do away with taxes in Howard County all together — not the way to go.

It's a sad fact that jails and prisons are a huge money making business in the U.S. Inmates are treated like cattle and little if any rehabilitation is given while sentences are served. Violent, hardened criminals are housed with those who have committed lesser offenses. The lesser offender learns new "skills" while incarcerated but I don't think they are the kind we'd like. The more beds we have, the more "crimes" will be invented to fill them.

Our elected officials need to take responsibility for the duties of the position to which they were elected. They need to be held accountable when they do not comply with these duties. They also need to think long and hard about the money they are spending. Is there a better, more efficient way of accomplish-

ing the same task?

I think it would be a great idea if every three months the mayor, county judge, county commissioners and city council members held a "town meeting" with the citizens in their elected area. I wrote about ideas to improve our jail situation long before Carl Griffith & Associates suggested it, and my suggestions wouldn't have cost a cent. Perhaps with town meetings people would feel like their concerns are really heard and new ideas may be generated. We have a horrible track record for voting in this city and county — maybe this would encourage more citizen involvement.

A politician who follows through with campaign promises — what a novel idea, Mr. McCasland. I, for one, voted for Judge Barr because of this promise and I would expect him to honor his promise. Too often people are elected to public office and shortly after succumb to the pressure of those incumbent. Perhaps Judge Barr is acting responsibly by (hopefully) allowing the citizens to, again, make their wishes known rather than having another huge tax imposed on them when many are already over-taxed in proportion to their wages.

Nineteen percent of our citizens live below the poverty level. I believe the citizens of Howard County voted against the former jail, not because they didn't think we needed a new one, but because they didn't think we needed a 144-bed jail. Let's put the blame where it needs to be, the county commissioners and the former judge, as they did not give voters options other than big jail or none. And yes, the voters are screaming

bloody murder because the commissioners and former judge failed to maintain the current jail, necessitating its eventual closure and housing our inmates elsewhere — both expenses which were totally unnecessary if the jail had been maintained in an ongoing manner.

And yes, citizens are partly responsible for continuing to vote in the same people as Mr. Moseley suggested. Voting in people to do your bidding for you is good, if they do what is best for and wanted by the majority. In some cases they vote on things for personal gain or notoriety. Sometimes, when politicians have been in office too long, they lose touch with what those who elected them really want. And yes, they should just be voted out, but sometimes citizens become apathetic because of the good ol' boy "clubs" in some communities.

If you don't like how someone is governing or raises taxes, get out there and vote. If you don't vote you have no cause to complain, but the taxes that are imposed or the policies that you don't like will continue and they will pertain to you.

RITA M. BROWN
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a Special Education teacher of secondary education in Texas. February 28, 2007, my back was seriously injured by one of my high school students.

Before my student injured me I was a very physically and socially active individual and volunteered my services to help troubled and handicapped children and teenagers in equine therapy and horseback riding

programs. Since the injury, I am a cripple who hobbles around in constant, energy-draining pain. I have had to curtail all of my social and church activities and obligations and I have been placed in a position of financial ruin and extreme mental and emotional duress while wrangling with the Workman's Compensation System.

It appears that our state legislators passed a new tort reform in which any and all school district employees are refused Workman's Compensation income benefits throughout the summer months. All other employees who are injured on the job, but work in other occupational fields within this state, not considered 'seasonal work,' do not suffer under this new tort reform.

As a single woman, the Texas legislature's decision has led to my savings being completely drained, my near eviction in August, if not for a compassionate landlord, my vehicle being under threat of repossession and my being behind on all of my bills.

My quality of life and ability to work effectively have been negatively and radically altered, and instead of receiving the ethical social protection and overall compensatory safety while recovering, for which the Workman's Compensation system was originally created, I

have been further damaged on many levels by the changing ethical landscapes of that very same system.

None of the processes, humiliations or pain I have been forced to endure over the past three months have been conducive to my recovery.

Are we not a country that takes pride creating enlightened beings with a social conscience? Usually, what hurts one, hurts all; just as what benefits one, benefits all. Every life-stone — every stone of intention — has a ripple effect within the waters of life. What life-stones — what stones of intention are we choosing to cast into the waters of our nation?

LEAH SELLERS
GEORGETOWN

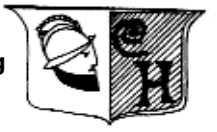
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94 FORD RANGER STRAIGHT BODY AND AC, #7158A \$2,991	97 DODGE VAN CONVERSION PKG, NICE AND READY, #7145p \$2,991	96 FORD CONTOUR FRESH TRADE, NEW TIRES, 91K MILES, #7219a \$3,987	98 FORD F-150 REGULAR CAB, AUTO, 4X2, #7184a \$3,999	92 BUICK REGAL ONLY 69K MILES, VERY NICE LOCAL TRADE, #7003b \$4,498	96 CHEVY TAHOE LS PACKAGE, CUSTOM WHEELS, #7163b \$5,982	93 CHEVY BLAZER 2DR, 4X4, SHARP, #73806c \$6,981	97 CHEVY TAHOE LEATHER, FRESH TRADE, #73122a \$7,915	00 FORD EXPLORER POWER OPTION GOOD MILES, #7214a \$7,957	04 CHEVY IMPALA NEW TIRES, VERY CLEAN, #7213a \$8,912	01 MERCURY GRAN MARQUIS LS PKG, 69K MILES, #7114a \$8,963	03 HYUNDAI SANTA FE ONLY 46K MILES, VERY SHARP, #73219a \$9,953	99 CHEVY 3500 4 DOOR, ONLY 79K MILES, POWER PACKAGE, #7050b \$10,982
04 CHEVY PICK-UP SWB, R/C, AUTOMATIC, #8047p \$12,974	00 CHEVY 2500 4 DOOR, 87K MILES, VERY NICE, #73192b \$11,825	04 CHEVY SWB REG. CAB, AUTOMATI, #8047p \$11,963	03 MERCURY GRAN MARQUIS LS PACKAGE, 39K MILES, PRISTINE, #7216a \$11,963	06 FORD FUSION POWER OPTON, 19K MILES, #73182 \$12,984	04 FORD ESCAPE XLT PACKAGE, ONLY 40K MILES, #73198 \$13,926	05 CHEVY AVALANCHE 4X2, PEWTER, #73215 \$14,925	06 HYUNDAI SONATA V-6, SUNROOF AND MORE, #73215 \$14,925	06 CHEVY PICK-UP V8 AUTO, SWB LOW MILES, #7151a \$15,973	05 FORD MUSTANG AUTO, V6, 1 OWNER, 27K MILES, #7238a \$15,977	06 MAZDA 6 V-6, POWER ALL THE WAY, #73208 \$15,979	05 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING PKG., #7175a \$17,925	04 VW BEETLE DIESEL, SUN-ROOF, LEATHER, AUTO, #7192a \$17,927
06 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE AUTOMATIC, SILVER SHARP, #73207 \$17,928	07 DODGE CHARGER V6, POWER OPTION, SAVE A LOT, #73188 \$18,928	07 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE READY FOR YOU, #73154 \$18,942	07 DODGE CHARGER V6, VERY WELL KEPT, #73188 \$18,999	07 NISSAN XTERRA ONLY 8K MILES, NEAR PERFECT, #73250 \$19,925	07 FORD 500 TEEN MILES, LEATHER, BEAUTIFUL, #75001 \$19,946	06 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LEATHER, VERY WELL EQUIPPED, #73222a \$19,956	05 FORD F-150 FX4 CREW CAB, LEATHER, BRUSHGUARD, #7193a \$19,999	03 GMC YUKON XL WELL KEPT WITH LEATHER, #73202 \$20,977	07 TOYOTA CAMRY LE LEATHER ONLY 10K MILES, #7206a \$21,984	07 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB 4X2, A DEAL, #73186 \$22,972	05 FORD F-250 CRE CAB, 4X4, XLT, 2 TONED, #73221 \$22,981	05 FORD MUSTANG GT LEATHER, AUTO, 1 OWNER, #7177a \$22,984
04 FORD F-150 4X4, FX4, LEATHER TOPPER, 27K MILES, #7153a \$23,986	05 CHEVY TAHOE 1 OWNER, DVD, SUNROOF, LTHR, #8021b \$24,952	05 GMC Z71 CREW CAB LT PKG., 32K MILES, #73187 \$24,981	07 NISSAN MURANO ARTIC WHITE LIKE NEW BUT LOTS LESS, #73178 \$24,983	06 FORD F-150 4X4 CREWCAB, 5.4, XLT, 22K MILES, #73155 \$25,911	04 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 1 OWNER PRISTINE CONDITION, #7187a \$25,981	05 BMW X3 ONLY 30K MILES, PRISTINE, #73210 \$25,983	06 LINCOLN MARK LT 4X4, 1 OWNER TRUCK, #7260a \$27,947	04 CADILLAC ESCALADE SHARP SUV WITH NAVIGATION, #73189 \$29,999	07 LINCOLN TOWNCAR SIGNATURE LIMITED, ONLY 15K MILES, #75000 \$31,951	04 CADILLAC ESCALADE EXT, NAVIGATION, SUNROOF, PRISTINE, #7120a \$31,999	07 FORD EXPEDITION EL WHITE SAND DVD, #73196a \$36,941	05 FORD EXCURSION 4X4, LIMITED, ONLY 36K MILES, IMMACULATE, #8049a \$40,985

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Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC

Warrants:
Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Samatha Ann Barrera, 606 Lamar, Sweetwater
Stephanie Renee Beaty, 2718 E. SH #176, Andrews
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Paul D. Calhoun, P.O. Box 482, Plains
Latonya Campbell, 5948 Callaston Lane, Fort Worth
Bufus Cannon, 3810 Wild Rye Trail, San Angelo
Lenard Carson Jr., 102 S. Peach, Pecos
Scott Carter, 3223 Cornell, Big Spring
Andrea Clardy, 2401 Ave. L, Snyder
Jared Coby, 901 S. High St., Longview
Patrick C. Criss, 8030 Catalpa, Texas City
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos, Midland
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave., San Antonio
Johnnie Lou Dry, Box 156, FM 20, Longview
Randy James Ellis, PO Box 391, Snyder
Fermin Lopez Flores Jr., 600 N.W. Seventh St, Big Spring
Hilda L. Fuentes, 502 S. Seventh, Lamesa
Aldo Gustavo Galindo, 922 Jeter, Odessa
Concedpcion Garcia, P.O. Box 16156, Lubbock
Claudet Garza, 3106 E. Elm, Laredo
Joe E. George Jr., 6356 FM 585, Bangs
Katherine A. Gladhill, CR 7670, Lubbock
Fernando Gonzales, 3000 Schadt No. B, Fort Worth
Naomi Gonzales, 1606 E. Fifth, Big Spring
Raul Gonzales, 2106 Johnson, Big Spring
Jeffrey Grams, 224 Lelon Lane, Springtown
Nora Gutierrez, 606 N. Eighth Street, Lamesa
Nicholas D. Hasenbalg, 207 W. Williams No. 9, Breckenridge
Dana L. Havink, 600 Star Linda Ct., Arlington
Robert Stephen Hoback, 1516 Cumberland, Odessa
Gerald R. Hodges, 4312 Crane, Houston
Allan J. Hoey, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 2, Big Spring
Emily Howard, P.O. Box 2224, Big Spring
Joann B. Hubbard, 504 Eugene, Midland
Lucas S. Hughes, #1 Courtney Place No. 7, Big Spring
Jeanie Renee Ivey, 5326 Old State Hwy 7, La Grange
Ronald Jeffery, 1101 Fitch, Odessa
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Alana Marie Lee, 2711 66th Street, Lubbock
Laura Lea Leon, 319 Rocky Lane, Midland
Christopher Luellen, 599 Truehart, Paint Rock
Patricia Lutrell, 2726 Redwood, Odessa
Stephanie Macias, 909 S. Sixth, Lamesa
Carol Lee McNeil, 2601 Westridge, Snyder
Brian Lee Mendez, 503 56th, Lubbock
Ebaline Flores Mendoza, PO Box 291, Mertzon
Melissa Merket, 402 W. Eighth, Colorado City
Elizabeth Rose Mills, 1204 Mulberry, Big Spring
Angela Moreno, 1712 N. Third Street, Lamesa
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Esiqueio Moreno, 709 Parker, Andrews
Jerry Musquiz, 2609 Cotton Flat Road, Midland
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Erica Ortega, 2233 SE Military Dr., San Antonio

Melissa Pena, 1317 Stadium, Big Spring
Katherine Hardin Perez, 4908 Parkway, Big Spring
Renee Perez, 2133 Glenwood, Abilene
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 1810 Owens, Big Spring
Keyana Cooley Rincker, 1905 Wasson Apt. 56, Big Spring
Alfredo Riojas Jr., 255, S. 11th St., Lubbock
Gustavo Alfredo Rios, of 1804 Scurry, Big Spring
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
Javier Rodriguez, 1002 W. First Street, Tyler
Veronica Rodriguez, 3010 Cherokee, Big Spring
Robert Rogers, 3815 S. County Rd. 1192, Midland
Sofia Romero, 409 N. Ave. Q, Lamesa
Robert C. Rosamond, 801 Lancaster, Big Spring
Jennifer Ann Rositas, 1429 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Steven G. Ross, 60 Cinnamon, San Angelo
Rudy Salazar, PO Box 1275, Stanton
Emily K. Sartain, 1806 37th, Snyder
Crystal Ann Schneider, P.O. Box 844, Coahoma
Harl Bradford Shaffer, 5603 Gail Hwy., Big Spring
Janie Spurgeon, 1212 Wadley, Midland
Shawn Spurgeon, 106 N. Adams, Denver City
Nikita V. Stewart, 711 SCR W. Apt. 2004, Odessa
James Sutton, 2225 Oakland, Abilene
Abelina Tercero, 127 Arthur, Longview
Tracy J. Trevino, 3306 Auburn, Big Spring
Jimmy Vasquez, 4000 W. Illinois, Midland
Brenda Vera, 1901 Ave. N, Snyder
Alicia N. Vernon, 9614 Dover Ridge, San Antonio
Tyler J. Voss, Fannin Co. Rd 4925, Leonard
Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa
Kristi Oden Womack, 710 Bell, Sweetwater
Bernest E. Wooldridge, 4110 S. Jackson, Amarillo
Colby Shea Worden, 1707 State St., Big Spring
Jerry Lee Wrightsil Jr., 2816 Ridge Road, Fort Worth

County Court Decisions:
Ray Carl McGee Jr., judgment and sentence, theft; 90 days in jail.
Leon James Scroggins, imposition of sentence, bail jumping and failure to appear; 60 days in jail, \$250 fine, court costs.
Vanessa Dawn Hollis, deferred adjudication, driving while license suspended; six months probation, \$250 fine, court costs.
Stephanie O'Brien, deferred adjudication, possession of marijuana; six months probation, \$250 fine, court costs.
David Arthur Wittrein, probated judgment, driving while license suspended; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$500 fine, court costs.
Darrell Scott Shultz, probated judgment, evading arrest; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$500 fine, court costs.
Jorge Garza, probated judgment, driving while license suspended; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$500 fine, court costs.
Joshua Kent Beck, probated judgment, driving while license suspended; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$500 fine, court costs.
Agustin Uriel Avila, probated judgment, possession of marijuana; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$1,500 fine, court costs.
Debra Dee Auld, probated judgment, possession of marijuana; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$1,500 fine, court costs.
Michael Cordona, probated judgment, evading arrest; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$1,500 fine, court costs.
Cherie Machelie Hannabass, judgment and sentence, prohibited weapon; 60 days in jail, court costs.
Robert Edward Baker Jr., judgment and sentence, hindering apprehension; 50 days in jail, court costs.
Eriberto Hernandez, imposition of sentence, driving while intoxicated; 90 days in jail, \$500 fine, court costs.
Luis Adolfo Pena, judgment and sentence, resisting arrest; 150 days in jail, \$500 fine, court costs.
Randall Wayne Conner, probated judgment, possession of marijuana; 180 days in jail/probated for six months, \$750 fine, court costs.
Ricky Dale Martin, imposition of sentence, theft; 180 days in jail, \$500 fine, court costs.
Travis Melton II, judgment and sentence, violation of protective order; 30 days in jail, court costs.
Randolf Randy Robledo, probated judgment, driving while intoxicated/open container; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$750 fine, court costs.
Anastacio S. Esparza, imposition of sentence, resisting arrest; 30 days in jail, court costs.
Christopher Frank Delbosquez, judgment and sentence, evading arrest; 180 days in jail, \$2,000 fine, court costs.
Nicholas Joseph Jimenez, judgment and sentence, driving while license suspended; 30 days in jail, \$500 fine, court costs.
David Fernando Evaro, deferred adjudication, driving while license suspended; six months probation, \$250 fine, court costs.
Daniel Steinberg, deferred adjudication, theft; six months probation, \$100 fine, court costs.
Jeremiah Coker, imposition of sentence, driving while license suspended; 14 days in jail, \$250 fine, court costs.
Luis Adolfo Pena, judgment and sentence, possession of marijuana; 150 days in jail, \$500 fine, court costs.
Alejandro Franco Jr., deferred adjudication, driving while license invalid; six months probation, \$250 fine, court costs.
Christopher Hernandez, probated judgment, failure to identify fugitive from justice; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$274 fine, court costs.
Brianna Graham, probated judgment, theft; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$500 fine, court costs.
Chancella Parker, probated judgment, driving while intoxicated; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$1,500 fine, court costs.
Joyce Pearson, probated judgment, driving while license suspended; 180 days in jail/probated for 12 months, \$1,500 fine, court costs.

District Court Filings:
Robert Foust vs. Leslie Foust, divorce.
Jennifer Jean Pepper vs. Stephen Shane Pepper, divorce
Linda Jenkins vs. Willie Lee Jenkins, divorce
Gary Walter Stovall vs. Tammy Mae Stovall, divorce
Kelly D. Myrick vs. Christopher Lee Myrick, divorce
William Dan Adams vs. Karen L. Adams, divorce
Ford Motor Credit Co. LLC vs. Juan T. and Delia Gonzales, accounts, notes and contracts
Korah Atkinson vs. Buddy Atkinson, divorce
Vanna Lynn Carpenter vs. Wayne Victor Carpenter III, divorce
Sara Merritt vs. Michael Cruz Soto, protective order
Glenda Brewer vs. Robert Brewer, divorce
Anna Renee King vs. Gerald Ray King, divorce
Clarence Palmer vs. Susan Palmer, divorce
Chad Douglas Small vs. Jennie Diane Small, divorce
Valentine Torres Jr. vs. Sandra Marie Torres, divorce

Marriage Licenses:
Jason Cesario Livera, 23 and Veronica LeeAnn Rodriguez, 21, both of Big Spring
Bobby Dwayne Goad, 25, and Tiffany Deann Deemer, 24, both of Big Spring
Paul Diz, 19, and Jessica Bravo, 19, both of Big Spring
Jonathan Edward Larez, 22, and Ashley Rae Hodge, 22, both of Big Spring

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Lazy J. Ltd.
Grantee: Larry K. Thompson
Property: 3.26 acre tract out of section 3, block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Date: Aug. 16, 2007
Grantor: Stan Partee
Grantee: Bob and Angela Parks
Property: 17.6 acre tract out of Kennebeck Heights subdivision.
Date: Aug. 17, 2007
Grantor: Robert Hicks
Grantee: Julian and Kim Rodriguez
Property: North 310 feet of tract out of tract no. 1 in warranty deed from C.W. Harrison to Robert Hicks.
Date: Aug. 17, 2007

Grantor: Arthur and Susie Valdez
Grantee: Arthur III and Jennifer Valdez
Property: Lot 1, block 13, Monticello Addition
Date: Aug. 17, 2007

Grantor: Swartz & Brough Inc.
Grantee: Amador Rios
Property: Lot 10, block 10, Earles Addition.
Date: Aug. 20, 2007

Grantor: Jimmy and Diana Bailey
Grantee: Kyhooya Partnership
Property: Lot 15, block 3, original township of Big Spring.
Date: Aug. 21, 2007

Grantor: Vergelio Garcia and Jamie Montes
Grantee: Velen Esquivel
Property: Tract of land out of west half of block 22, College Heights Addition.
Date: Aug. 21, 2007

Grantor: B&S Edwards Properties Ltd.
Grantee: Muy Properties Ltd.
Property: Lots 3 through 6, block 22, McDowell Heights Addition.
Date: Aug. 22, 2007

Grantor: Robert Castillo
Grantee: Matthew Ricketts
Property: Lot 15, block 22, College Park Estates
Date: Aug. 22, 2007

Warranty Deeds With Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Larry and Sharon Pew
Grantee: Janie Dominguez
Property: Lot 1, block 10, Hall Addition
Date: Aug. 17, 2007

Grantor: Robert and Elsie Henson
Grantee: Tony and Brandie Jetton
Property: tract of land out of SW

quarter of section 48, block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. survey
Date: Aug. 17, 2007
Grantor: Carl and Billie Barnes
Grantee: Lisa Brown and Lydia and Tom Frakes
Property: Tract of land out of NW quarter of section 44, block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. survey
Date: Aug. 20, 2007

Grantor: Derwood Blagrave
Grantee: Guadalupe Diaz and Hector Castro
Property: Lot 24B, block 7, Capehart Addition
Date: Aug. 21, 2007

Grantor: Judy and Loren Sprowl

Grantee: Jessie and Barbara Draper
Property: Lot 14, block 2, College Park Estates.
Date: Aug. 21, 2007

Grantor: C.F. and Ouida Watznauer
Grantee: Kandi and Daniel Campbell
Property: Tract of land out of NE quarter of section 1, block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
Date: Aug. 22, 2007

Grantor: Kandi and Daniel Campbell
Grantee: Troy and Cindy Pittman
Property: Lot 21, Block 26, Monticello Addition

ENERGY

Continued from Page 5C

tomers. However, during this year, coal prices have continued to rise and China has not allowed a pass-through. This shift in course likely suggests that the Chinese worry inflation may slow their economic growth.

• In southern China, some motorists are without fuel because the peak summer demand season has been met with some Chinese refiners choosing to export products to nations giving them a higher margin. Chinese product imports were virtually unchanged year-on-year during the first seven months of 2007. Meanwhile, product exports increased 26 percent.

• As Russia and Canada both attempt to make very public claims on the North Pole's seabed, we point out that the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the key agreement in this area. Under UNCLOS, a nation can extend its territorial seabed beyond 200 nautical miles if it can prove this is the case before the U.N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Within 10 years of applying the treaty, a nation's case must be presented to the commission. Canada's deadline is 2013; Denmark's 2014. The U.S. has not ratified the treaty, which complicates matters. This means the U.S. may be relegated to only exploiting the customary 200-mile shelf, without having an opportunity to move beyond what is allowed under current international law. The Russian deadline comes in 2009. The same is also true for Norway. What is little-known about the Russian flag planting, is that the mission was very important in terms of its geological and geophysical data collection. The results of this mission will likely be used by the Russians in forming their case.

Portions of this article were produced on Aug. 10-Aug. 16, 2007 by Eric Wittenauer, Energy Futures Analyst, Global Investment Strategy, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable; however, its accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G. Edwards. Additional information is available upon request by calling (432) 684-7335. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.



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Stanton, Tx 79782
Pre-employment drug screen required.
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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.

M&M GENERAL Contractors, Inc. is now hiring heavy equipment operators and Class A CDL truck drivers. Tank endorsement is required. Hazmat is not required but is preferred. We need dozer, maintainer, forklift, vacuum truck, and haul truck operators. Apply in person at 4205 N. Hwy 87, Big Spring, Tx.. No phone calls please. Apply between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Mon-Fri.. Bring a copy of our drivers license and physical card with you.

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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2. LVN - Wallace/ Ware Prison Medical Unit - 3pm -11pm shift.
3. RN - Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Unit - 7am-3pm shift
4. X-Ray Tech - Wallace/Ware Prison Medical Units
5. Part-Time EST - Mitchell County Hospital
These are full time positions with competitive salary and benefits. Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

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

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Lamesa, Texas 79331
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NOW SEEKING Part time LVN position for Martin County Home Health. If interested please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

OIL FIELD Wireline Service Company accepting applications for Equipment Operators for Odessa and Hobbs Districts. Must have Class B CDL and clean driving record. Full Benefits and Competitive Pay. Pre-Employment drug and alcohol testing required. Please send resume or job experience sheet to Cardinal Surveys Company, P.O. Box 729, Odessa, Texas 79720-0729 or call 432-580-8061 and ask for Darrell Norris or Annette Davidson.

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OPENING FOR LVN. Full time, 3-11, paid holidays, sick time, vacation, health insurance. Pay based on experience. Excellent work support. Contact Stephanie Potter, RN DON. Valley Fair Lodge, (325)728-2634.

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PART-TIME FEATURES WRITER
The Big Spring Herald is seeking a features writer to join our editorial department staff. A flexible schedule is available. Successful candidate will have strong writing and artistic skills. Knowledge of NewsEditPro and QuarkXpress software programs a plus, but we will train the right applicant. Salary negotiable. Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 432-263-7331, ext. 230, or send resume and any clips to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX. 79721-1431, or e-mail them to editor@bigspringherald.com

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• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF ALBERT "BERT" CARRILLO**, who was killed in a traffic accident near Fort Stockton. The fund has been set up at the Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union to help offset burial expenses. The Credit Union is located at 1110 Benton. Call 263-8393 for more information.

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

• **ST. MARY'S AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S ARE HOLDING A LAP**

BLANKET DRIVE to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

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

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

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

GUILTY

Continued from Page 1A

allowed during the guilt/innocence phase of the trial — was heard during consideration of punishment.

His video confession to authorities, which was edited to keep out any mention of the Aryan Circle earlier in the trial, was heard in its entirety Friday afternoon.

Hays admitted belonging to the group, which began in the Texas prison system in 1985. He joined the Aryan Circle while serving a prison sentence for dogfighting in 2003, he later testified from the stand.

"I am a member of the Aryan Circle," he said flatly.

He testified that he, along with the victim and co-defendants Chris Lovett and Calvin Fox, all belonged to the group.

Hays' attorney, Robert Miller of Big Spring, argued for a lesser sentence under the "sudden passion" statute in Texas criminal law, which allows juries to lower its sentence if it found the crime was committed

during an act committed extreme emotion, in this case, anger.

A finding of "sudden passion" would have reduced the punishment range to between two and 20 years in prison.

Hays had testified earlier that he killed Dickinson in a rage after discovering the victim had slapped a 14-year-old friend of the family. That had come on top of repeated insults by Dickinson against Hays' daughter and wife, the defendant said.

"I saw my daughter Amy in (the slapping victim's) eyes," Hays said. "And I got so mad I thought my face was on fire. That's when I turned around and hit (Dickinson)."

"Try and put yourselves in the shoes of someone who's just seen a 14-year-old you're close to slapped and decide what you would have done," Miller told the jury in his closing. "He's going to prison — we all know that — but does his whole life mean nothing? Does his whole life not count for something?"

In response, Wilkerson said the murder was not an act of sudden rage, but

of enforcing gang discipline.

"Did Roland Dickinson say some horrible things? Yes, but did he actually do anything?" Wilkerson asked the jury. "Hays' daughter is fine ... and she shows no ill effects for what Dickinson said."

Wilkerson painted Hays as the leader of the Aryan Circle group that included Dickinson, Lovett and Fox.

"Don't be deceived. This wasn't about protecting his family," Wilkerson said. "This was about him getting back his position and his dignity in the Aryan Circle."

And it was that Aryan Circle connection that Wilkerson hammered home as he finished his comments.

"What do you think about the existence of a prison gang in our town?" he asked the jury. "As big as a loud-mouth as Roland Dickinson was, he was administered the death penalty by that man over there."

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

INSULTS

Continued from Page 1A

the cause of the victim's death was blunt force trauma to the head during testimony Thursday, comparing Dickinson's skull to a "cracked egg."

According to several video-recorded confessions given by Hays, he and three other men — Billy Wayne Haynes, 30, of Houston; Christopher David Lovett, 33; and Calvin Ray Fox Jr., 22 — attacked Dickinson because he had made disparaging remarks regarding Hays' daughter and grandchild.

Emotions ran high as Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson and defense attorney Robert Miller presented their closing statements following a full day of testimony Thursday.

"Why did he kill him? Is this merely about insults?" Wilkerson asked the jury. "Roland Dickinson said these things about his daughter, calling her a Mexican whore, and those things hurt her. But they don't draw blood. They don't leave scars.

"If you're a 52-year-old man, what do you do with a 20-year-old kid who says these kinds of things, especially after you've given him a place to stay? You tell him it's time to go. You tell him not to come around anymore. This isn't about insults, it's about betrayal. It's about how the defendant

expected loyalty from Dickinson. There was no real harm in the things that Dickinson said, but it was the sense of betrayal ... It's a code of loyalty."

Wilkerson's references to "loyalty and betrayal" came a day after 118th District Judge Robert H. Moore III ordered the prosecution to omit any references to the Aryan Circle, a prison-affiliated gang to which Hays later admitted membership.

Moore told Wilkerson to "edit" any information concerning the Aryan Circle from his presentation, which included three video-recorded confessions from Hays laced with information regarding his place within the gang, as well as his alleged ties with the victim within the organization's ranks.

"I still have a hard time understanding what role the Aryan Circle plays in this case, other than to prejudice the jury against the defendant," Moore told Wilkerson.

Wilkerson said Hays had decided what he was going to do when and if he saw Dickinson again several days before the beating took place.

"He (Hays) had decided in his own mind that the next time he saw the victim, he was going to take care of business," said Wilkerson. "He's a 52-year-old man. He knew the consequences of his actions, and that wasn't enough."

Miller spent considerable time during his closing arguments concern-

trating on the character of Dickinson, calling him a "bad person."

"You can look at these pictures of him (Dickinson) and ask ourselves what kind of person he was," said Miller. "You can look at these tattoos on his knuckles — one hand says 'pure,' the other hand says 'hate' — and tell ... He was a bad person, and that's the bottom line.

"Mike (Hays) protects the people he loves. He's a family man, and he takes care of his family. This is an aggravated assault case. It's not a murder case."

Hays, who did not take the stand in his own defense, said in one of the video-recorded confessions shown to the jury he wasn't sure he wouldn't do the same thing if put in the same situation again.

"I'm not a professional killer, but I am a professional daddy," Hays told investigators. "I don't know that I meant to kill him, but I don't know that I would do it any differently."

Miller also attacked the methods Howard County Sheriff's Office Investigator David Wood used while interrogating Hays, which drew an animated and emotional response from Wilkerson.

"Confess!" yelled Wilkerson, slamming his hand down on the railing in front of the jury and startling several people in the courtroom. "That's not how David Wood talked to the defendant ...

Mr. Miller wants you to think the victim was not as good a person as you, and because of that it's OK for him to be murdered. That it's OK for him to be beaten to a pulp.

"You've been spoon-fed exactly what the defendant wanted you to hear in these videos. However, these recordings are not subject to cross examination. He's told you exactly what he wants you to hear ... The defense is trying to generate sympathy for the defendant. Don't be seduced by red herrings and rabbit trails."

The jury deliberated for approximately an hour before returning a verdict of guilty on the charge of murder.

Dickinson had lived in the Big Spring area for less than six months, according to sheriff's reports, having moved to the area to work in the oilfield, where he was most recently employed by S&S Well Service, the same company Hays

worked for.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

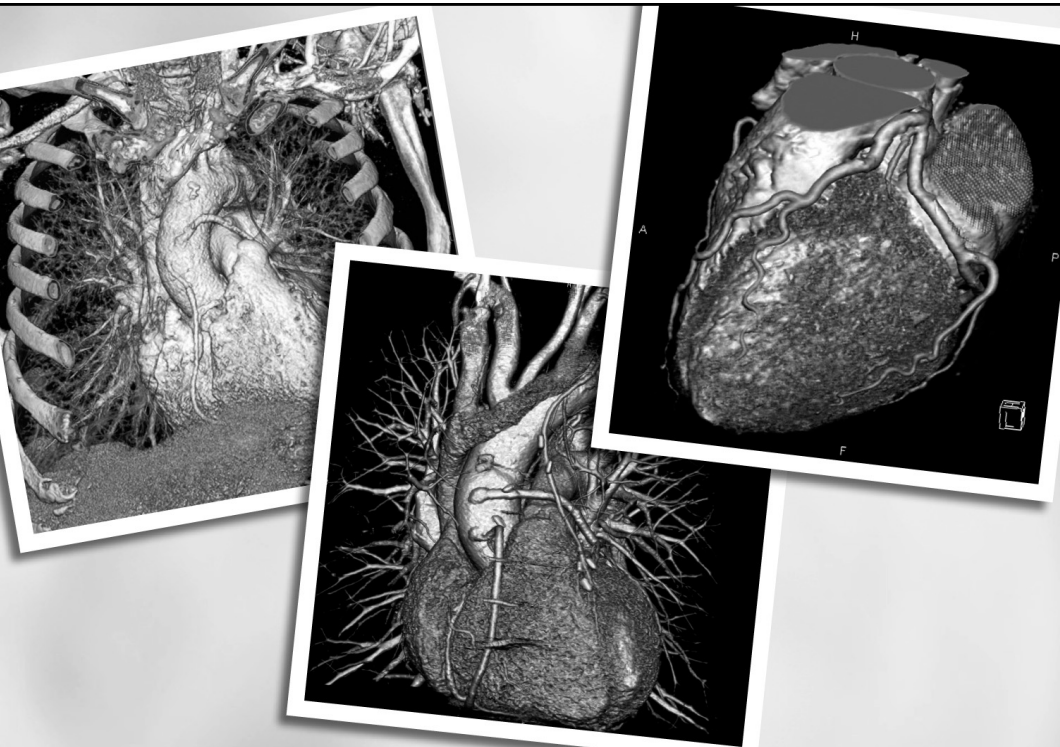


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► News in brief



MCT photo/Red Huber

Former NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak testifies during her hearing at the Orange County courthouse, Friday in Orlando, Fla.

Former astronaut Nowak apologizes to love-triangle rival

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Lisa Nowak wants the woman she allegedly attacked in a romantic astronaut rivalry to know she's sorry. She also wants to be freed of an ankle bracelet that electronically monitors her movement, and for the media to leave her alone.

Nowak made an emotional statement after court Friday, apologizing to Colleen Shipman, the woman she allegedly attacked after a 1,000-mile drive, and others affected by the case. The two met in court during a tense 6-hour hearing over the bracelet and defense motions to toss her arrest interview with police and the search of her car.

Circuit Judge Marc L. Lubet said he would rule on the anklet within a week, and told both attorneys to make room for another 6-hour hearing.

The whole case involves a strange love triangle between Nowak, fellow former astronaut Bill Oefelein and Shipman. Nowak told police she went to Orlando to confront Shipman and see "where she stands."

"The past six months have been very difficult for me, my family and others close to me," Nowak, a Navy captain and pilot, told reporters. "I know that it must have also been very hard for Colleen Shipman, and I would like her to know how very sorry I am about having frightened her in any way and about the subsequent public harassment that has besieged all of us."

Shipman had her attorney read a statement during the hearing and hadn't planned to speak, but Nowak's lawyers persuaded Lubet to make her testify.

Speaking firmly, the Air Force captain said she still fears Nowak and felt better with her under surveillance.

"When I'm home alone and there's nobody there with me, it is a comfort," Shipman said.

Nowak is specifically barred from Brevard County, where Shipman lives in Florida, and must file notice when visiting the rest of the state.

Under questioning from defense attorney Donald Lykkebak, Shipman acknowledged visiting her boyfriend in Nowak's hometown of Houston several times since Nowak's arrest. She didn't say if that boyfriend was space shuttle pilot Oefelein, who had a romantic relationship with both women.

Nowak, a 44-year-old mother of three who has been dismissed by NASA, has

pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted kidnapping, battery and burglary with assault in the February confrontation in an Orlando International Airport parking lot.

She is free on \$25,500 bail, though the tracking anklet is a condition of her release. Nowak told the court Friday it's bulky, uncomfortable and expensive — the weekly rental rate of \$105 exceeding \$3,000 so far.

She also claimed it prevents her from exercising as she's required as a military officer.

Agents find more than 58 illegal immigrants in single home

ALAMO (AP) — Federal agents acting on a tip found 58 illegal immigrants of various nationalities crowded in a single-story residence, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Friday.

Agents on Thursday found 15 women and 43 men, of which there were 33 Mexicans, 19 Brazilian, three Hondurans, two Salvadorans and one Peruvian.

The illegal immigrants were taken to the agency's Weslaco station pending formal removal back to their home countries.

Patriotism of Oscar Wyatt likely to be central facet of trial

NEW YORK (AP) — The government said in court papers that it is entitled to portray a Texas businessman as so eager to win oil contracts from Saddam Hussein's government that he told Iraqi officials about the impending U.S. invasion of Iraq and encouraged opposition to the war.

The government argued that jurors should hear about statements that Oscar S. Wyatt Jr. made to win favor with those who handed out lucrative Iraqi oil contracts. The documents were filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan late Thursday for Wyatt's Sept. 4 trial.

Wyatt, 83, of Houston, is accused of conspiring to pay millions of dollars in kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's regime to win contracts under the United Nations' oil-for-food program in Iraq. If convicted, Wyatt could face more than 60 years in prison.

Prosecutors said the evidence is even more relevant if Wyatt's lawyers are going to defend him by referencing acts of patriotism in his life.

Lawyers for Wyatt have said in court papers that the statements about their client should not be allowed in the trial because they are highly prejudicial and irrelevant and because they allege that Wyatt committed treason and helped an enemy of the United States.

The statements about him were contained in a diary kept by an employee of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization. The diary claims that Wyatt bragged at a Jan. 27, 2003, meeting that he had convinced a U.S. senator to speak out against an attack on Iraq. The diary said Wyatt also discussed the nature of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, including anticipated troop numbers, timing and direction of attack, prosecutors said.

Gerald Shargel, one of Wyatt's lawyers, said Friday that his client never told the Iraqis anything that was not publicly known leading up to the war.

"Oscar Wyatt has shown time and again that he's an American patriot," Shargel said. "He was a war hero, flying bombing missions in World War II. He

loves this country. He doesn't love this administration."

Texas Supreme Court refuses to hear custody battle

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court on Friday refused to consider the case of a woman who wanted custody of three frozen embryos following her divorce.

After her divorce from Randy Roman, Augusta Roman wanted to keep the embryos they had once hoped would bring children.

A Houston trial court had ordered the embryos turned over to Augusta Roman, but Randy Roman appealed that ruling and won. The case then went to the Texas Supreme Court.

The court did not issue an opinion with the ruling on Roman vs. Roman.

After the Romans married, she got pregnant but miscarried. When she couldn't get pregnant again, the couple sought help at a fertility clinic and eggs were extracted and fertilized with Randy Roman's sperm.

On April 19, 2002, the night before the eggs were to be implanted, Randy Roman told her he couldn't go through with it, giving her a list of complaints about their marriage, Augusta Roman has said.

With their marriage dissolving, they decided to freeze the embryos while trying to sort things out. But it wasn't long before the divorce and court battle ensued.

A key piece of evidence was a consent form both signed on March 27, 2002, that said the embryos would be discarded in the case of divorce.

Massive forest fires rage across Greece, killing at least 37

ZAHARO, Greece (AP) — Massive forest fires swept uncontrolled across Greece for a second day Saturday and killed at least 37 people in the south of the country, including several children, the fire department said.

Arson was suspected in several of the more than 170 fires that have blazed since Friday morning. At least 25 of the fires ignited after dark, not close to any of the fires that were already burning, said fire department spokesman Nikos Diamandis. Police and firefighting investigators were heading to the areas.

Earlier, 27 people had been confirmed dead across the Peloponnese, with at least 20 near Zaharo. Firefighters searching through charred houses in the region after daybreak found 10 more bodies in the village of Makistos, the department said. They were believed to

include a mother and her four children reported missing during the night, it said.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis — who last week called early general elections for mid-September — was to chair an emergency meeting of senior ministers in Athens.

"This is a day of national mourning," Karamanlis said after visiting burned areas. "I wish to express my deep grief over the lost lives ... We are fighting against heavy odds, on many fronts and under particularly tough conditions."

British police arrest 3rd teenager in gunshot killing of 11-year-old boy that shocked nation

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Police arrested a third teenager Friday in the shooting of an 11-year-old boy whose death has confronted a shocked Britain with the problem of youth violence and gang culture.

The victim, Rhys Jones, was kicking a soccer ball around with friends Wednesday night when he was hit in the back of the neck by a bullet — reportedly fired by one of two youths riding by on a BMX bicycle. Police said they believed a long-barreled, black pistol was used.

Two youths, ages 14 and 18, were detained by police Thursday on suspicion of murder, and released on bail within hours. Assistant Chief Constable Patricia Gallan said a 16-year-old was arrested Friday.

Pictures of the dead boy and of his agonized mother, Melanie, appeared on the front pages of most national newspapers Friday. "Just what has gone wrong with our country?" the Daily Express asked in a headline.

The tabloid Sun offered a \$200,000 reward in its Saturday edition for anyone who provides police with information that leads to a conviction in the case.

NKorea reports at least 600 dead from floods

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Floods that swept across North Korea earlier this month killed at least 600 people, double the previously known toll, the country's official news agency said Saturday.

Citing North Korea's Central Statistics Bureau, the Korean Central News Agency reported at least 600 people were dead or missing and thousands were injured. The report was the first time that North Korea's media have specified a precise death toll from the disaster.

Earlier, international aid groups put the toll at about 300 dead or missing.

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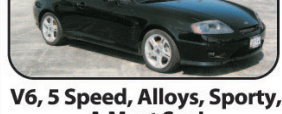
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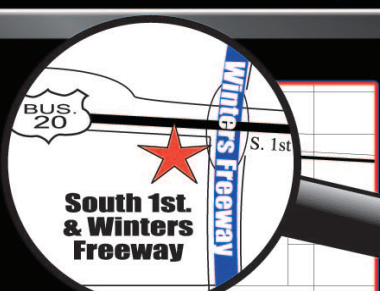
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Children's fussiness over eating new foods may be inherited

By **MARIA CHENG**
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — Having trouble persuading your child to eat broccoli or spinach? You may have only yourself to blame.

According to a study of twins, neophobia — or the fear of new foods — is mostly in the genes.

"Children could actually blame their mothers for this," said Jane Wardle, director of the Health Behavior Unit at University College London, one of the authors of the study in this month's American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Wardle and colleagues asked the parents of 5,390 pairs of identical and non-identical twins to complete a questionnaire on their children's willingness to try new foods.

Identical twins, who share all genes, were much more likely to respond the same way to new foods than non-identical twins, who like other siblings only share about half their genes. Researchers concluded that genetics played a greater role in determining eating preferences than environment, since the twins lived in the same household.

Wardle said food preferences appear to be "as inheritable a physical characteristic as height."

Unlike nearly every other phobia, neophobia is a normal stage of human development.

Scientists theorize that it was originally an evolutionary mechanism designed to protect children from accidentally eating dangerous things — like poisonous berries or mushrooms. Neophobia typically

"Parents should not feel like they're doing something wrong if they keep trying but their child is not overjoyed to be eating Brussels sprouts."

kicks in at age 2 or 3, when children are newly mobile and capable of disappearing from their parents' sight within seconds. Being unwilling to eat new things they stumble upon may turn out to be a lifesaver.

While most children grow out of the food fussiness by age 5, not all do. For parents of particularly picky eaters, experts encourage them not to cave in when their children throw food tantrums.

"Parents should not feel like they're doing something wrong if they keep trying but their child is not overjoyed to be eating Brussels sprouts," said Marlene Schwartz, deputy director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, who is not connected to the study.

While most people will eventually like any food — even one they initially disliked — after trying it about 10 times, more persistence may be needed when trying to convert a neophobic child.

"It's like learning to ride a bike," Schwartz said. "Some children have a harder time learning and it takes longer, but it's still worthwhile to teach them."

Other taste-related traits — like the ability to taste bitterness — are also inherited. Scientists have

experiences, tend to be willing to eat anything. Conversely, shy people tend to be reluctant to experiment with their palate.

"Food is just one kind of stimulus in the environment that people either approach or avoid," said Patricia Pliner, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto.

Still, experts say that the environment parents create is crucial to determining their children's eating habits.

"It can't all be genetics," said Marcy Goldsmith, a nutrition and behavior specialist at Tufts University. "Parents need to offer their children new foods so they at least have a chance to try it."



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Judge orders trials in 42 sex abuse cases against San Diego Catholic diocese

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego filed for bankruptcy in February, abruptly halting multiple sex-abuse lawsuits on the eve of trial, Michael Bang thought his chance for a day in court was gone.

On Friday, a federal bankruptcy judge revived hope for Bang, ruling that 42 cases be sent back to state courts for immediate jury trials.

"Doing that in February really reaffirmed to me how significant the cover-up is," said Bang, a 46-year-old Atlanta man who says he spent years of his boyhood as a sex slave to a reverend monsignor. "They want to do anything they can within the legal system to stop it, but all it's done is made me more committed to telling the truth."

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Louise DeCarl Adler's ruling was a victory for Bang and about 150 other people who claim they were sexually abused by priests as children.

Five trials out of about 127 filed against the diocese were scheduled to begin last spring in state court in San Diego. Lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that re-activating those trials was the only way to get the diocese to settle after more than three years of fruitless negotiations in state and federal courts.

"This just ratchets up the pressure on everyone to get the cases settled," said Irwin Zalkin, who represents 54 alleged victims. "Everyone understands it could go any way in a jury trial."

The San Diego diocese has offered about \$94 million to settle the claims as part of its bankruptcy reorganization plan. Plaintiffs' attorneys are seeking a settlement of

about \$200 million. The judge rejected the diocese's argument that she could return trials to state court only under "exceptional circumstances," saying she had broader discretion.

Even if the church were correct, "clearly this tsunami of child sex abuse cases against the Roman Catholic clergy would qualify as 'exceptional,'" Adler wrote.

Texas foster parents to get raise

AUSTIN (AP) — Foster parents in Texas will receive a slight raise beginning next week, one strategy in the state's plan to expand capacity in the foster care system.

The 4.3 percent raises correspond with the four levels of care to which foster children are assigned: basic, moderate, specialized and intense. For the most basic level of care, foster parents will see a daily increase from \$20.56 to \$21.44. For intense care levels, parents will receive \$85.76 a day, up from \$82.22.

With the raises, the amount the state spends on residential reimbursements will increase from \$21.4 million in 2006 and 2007 to \$38.9 million in the coming two years, officials said.

"We're just hoping to make it more feasible for folks that are interested in being foster parents," said Marissa Gonzales, a

spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The state has more than 18,000 children in the foster care system. Officials were criticized earlier this year by Travis County judges for having foster children sleep in state offices when there's nowhere else to place them.

Foster care advocates praised the raise as one tool that could attract additional parents to take in children. Roy Block, president of the Texas Foster Family Association, called the raise a step in the right direction.

Man in University of Texas shirt said he was attacked in bar

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Two men involved in a confrontation at an Oklahoma City bar last month — leaving one of them injured — are telling different stories about what happened after one of them walked in wearing a University of Texas shirt.

Allen Michael Beckett, 53, faces a felony charge of assault and battery as a result of the incident. He is accused of tearing the scrotum of Brian Thomas, 32, after Beckett taunted Thomas for wearing the Texas shirt on June 17.

Beckett, a federal government auditor and church deacon, was

arraigned Friday and released after posting a \$4,000 bail. If convicted, he could face a prison sentence of up to five years and a \$500 fine.

"It's a whole different story than what's been portrayed so far," said Beckett's attorney, Billy Bock. "He was acting in self-defense."

According to court documents, Thomas told authorities he was attacked without provocation after enduring verbal abuse from Beckett for about 20 minutes. A companion and a bartender offered similar accounts.

Beckett, a University of Oklahoma fan, said Thomas' claims are not true, Bock said.

Bock said Beckett initially jeered Thomas for wearing the Texas shirt into the bar, but apologized when Beckett realized his comments had been upsetting to Thomas.

Bock said Thomas returned to the bar about 30 minutes later and threatened Beckett.

"Mr. Beckett felt he had no choice but to defend himself," Bock said. "He took control of the situation."

Thomas' injury required more than 60 stitches. Bock said that while Beckett regrets

Thomas' injury, Beckett does not deserve to face a felony charge for protecting himself against a younger man.

Beckett is "the kind of gentleman who would walk a mile to avoid problems," Bock said.

In a written statement, Thomas' attorneys, Carl Hughes and Jeb Joseph, called Beckett's version of events "an outrageous and absolute lie."

Hughes and Joseph said the Oklahoma-Texas rivalry had little to do with the incident.

Alabama hopes to block early release of Wallace shooter

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama attorney general's office said Friday it would like to block the early release from a Maryland prison of the man who shot former Gov. George C. Wallace as the ex-segregationist campaigned for president in 1972.

While it appeared unlikely Alabama officials could do anything to keep Arthur Bremer behind bars, a longtime Wallace aide said he welcomed the effort by Attorney General Troy King.

The attorney general believes Bremer should

remain in prison, and his office is trying to determine whether it could postpone freedom for Bremer, King spokesman Chris Bence said.

"This is just another of many, many instances where someone's acts were so heinous and horrific that any early release makes a mockery of the law," Bence said.

Maryland parole official Ruth Ogle said there was nothing Alabama officials could do about Bremer because Maryland law allows inmates to reduce their prison terms with good behavior.

Bremer, 57, has earned enough credit to be released from his 53-year prison term no later than mid-December. He will have served more than 35 years.

But Elvin Stanton, who spent weeks with Wallace at a hospital after the shooting and watched the former governor endure years of pain in a wheelchair, said Bremer has never expressed any regret for his actions.

"If someone is not remorseful for what they did, should they get out of prison early?" Stanton, Wallace's chief of staff, said.

Wallace publicly forgave Bremer before dying in 1998.

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Be prepared to carry money

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
Akron Beacon Journal

Summer camp may be nothing more than a memory as you anticipate another new school year. The canoe you paddled downstream at Scout camp is likely stashed away by now, along with hikes, campfires and singalongs. You probably earned a few merit badges that represent new skills you learned at camp. Knot tying, fire building and identifying poison ivy will certainly come in handy in the future.

One hundred years ago this month, former British military officer Robert Baden-Powell assembled 21 boys into the first patrols at the world's first Boy Scout camp at Brownsea Island off the coast of Dorset, England. Training boys to be self sufficient in the outdoors was one of the goals Baden-Powell thought would build character and encourage young men to pursue

physical fitness.

The movement crossed the ocean in 1910 when Chicago publisher William Boyce founded Boy Scouts of America. His ideas of fashioning it after a business by using professionals to design and operate the program probably guaranteed its success.

He based the program in Washington, D.C. Today, Boy Scouts of America has grown into the largest youth movement in the country, with 1.5 million boys and adult leaders involved.

In honor of Boy Scouting's 100th anniversary and to help you remember another grand year at summer camp, I made a money pouch that can be slipped onto a belt with instructions I found on the Web at www.makingfriends.com/scouts/scoutsboys.htm.

You will need to download the pattern you'll find at the site. I've modified the directions for our

use.

Supplies you will need:

- 2 pieces of imitation leather 3 and one-half inches by 2 and three-fourth inches.
- 1 piece of leather 1 inch by 2 inches.
- 40 inches of suede cord.
- Glue.
- Stapler.
- one-eighth inch hole punch.
- Scissors.
- Decorations.

Print out the pattern for the pouch and cut out. Size it larger or smaller, depending on your needs.

Secure the pattern with staples to the imitation leather about 1 inch inside the edges.

Punch the holes through the pattern and leather where marked.

Begin lacing at the top right from inside.

Secure the end down inside the pouch with glue.

Lace the front and back together down the side,



MCT photo/Paul Topler

In honor of Boy Scouting's 100th anniversary and to help you remember another grand year at summer camp, money pouch that can be slipped onto a belt.

across the bottom and up inside with more glue.

the other side.

Lace across the front only then across the back. Trim the end and secure

Glue the small piece of

leather to the top and bot-

tom of the back of the pouch to make a belt loop.

Decorate the front of the pouch by gluing any picture you prefer, as long as its made of foam or some other durable material.

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