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BIG SPRING

HERALD

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 298

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AND I WANT...



The jolly old elf from the north takes a moment to listen to 3-year-old Emily Jones' Christmas wish list during Saturday's reception at the Heritage Museum, which included the unveiling of the Dear Santa exhibit. **HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins**

Careful

HCVFD Fire Chief warns of wildfire danger in county

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

If the men and women that make up the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department seem a little weary these days, it's not a matter of imagination.

According to HCVFD Chief **Tommy Sullivan** his personnel are responding to an average of one to two grass fires a day, thanks to plenty of dead vegetation left over from the growing season.

"We're averaging at least one grass fire a day right now," said Sullivan. "Some days we won't have one at all, and then some days we'll respond to two or three. The last few days we've had back-to-back fires, such as the one up on the interstate highway, and then another one out in the fields where they are driving over the combustibles. That one was caused by volunteer cotton growing in the middle of the roadway, and an electrical meter reader drove over it."

"We're seeing a heavy influx of wildfires," he added. "We expected that because of the rains this year. Rain is always good for our area, but the end result is always high fuels. We have the highest amounts of fuel this year than we've seen in the past 25 years. What happened in California over the recent weeks, the possibility of seeing those kinds of fire in the Howard County area are very real right now. We're fixing to see high winds, and right now one

of the most important things we can do is to impress upon the readers the importance of fire safety."

Sullivan said he and his firefighters are doing everything they can to keep the public educated on the level of danger, but in the end, it comes down to many county residents helping themselves to avert disaster.

"All of your local fire stations in the county — especially in the urban areas — will have fire danger signs up," said Sullivan. "The signs at all of the stations right now are set at extreme danger. I've also talked to the county judge, and were expecting to enact a burn ban at the county commissioners meeting Monday morning. That ban will also be reflected on the signs, that way people can keep a watch on them and we can keep them updated on the fire dangers, which range from low and moderate to extreme."

"We have to have the citizen's help. We're volunteers, and it takes us five to six minutes just to get to the station before we can respond to your house. If there's a quick moving wildfire close to your home, you have to help us save your property by taking precautions. You're going to make the difference in the first four or five minutes of how that fire impacts your house and property."

Sullivan said one of the most important things county residents can do to protect their homes against wildfire is to make sure brush and other debris is cleared

See **FIRES**, Page 3A

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

Council set to OK clubhouse design

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Final approval of the architectural contract to design a new clubhouse for the municipal golf course and final approval of a sell-back option for city employees looking to cash in their sick leave top the agenda for the Big Spring City Council's Tuesday meeting.

First reading of the contract was approved by the council on a 6-1 vote approximately two weeks ago, with Councilman Greg Biddison standing against the measure.

Darden said the \$500,000 price tag includes architect and engineering fees for the facility, as well as construction costs.

The construction is aimed at complementing the ongoing reconstruction of the course, which began earlier this year with the closure of the course and is expected to wrap-up in June 2008. Financing of the course renovations came through an energy conservation contract with Siemens Technology.

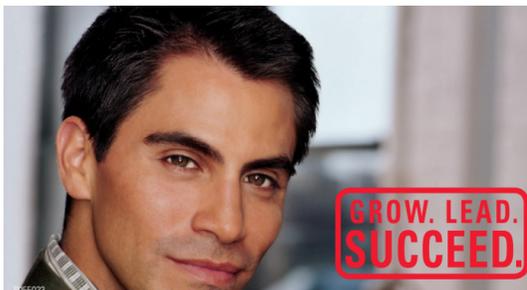
The council is also expected to consider final approval of a buy-back measure for city employees to cash in unused

sick leave hours, having approved the first reading of the resolution Oct. 30.

According to Peggy Walker, city finance director, the measure will allow employees to cash in unused sick leave hours at the tune of 15 days a year, at a 3-1 ratio, with longer tenured employees able to sell back an additional 10 days each year.

"Assuming everyone took advantage of the program the first year, we would be able to reduce the number of accumulated sick leave by 9,800 hours," said

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A



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Sports

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

Page 1B
Monday, November 12, 2007

IN BRIEF

Crossroads region high school football playoff pairings

FRIDAY
Coahoma vs. Ballinger, 7:30 p.m., Mustang Bowl in Sweetwater.

SATURDAY
Big Spring vs. Hereford, 2 p.m., Lowrey Field in Lubbock.

Forsan vs. Winters, 7:30 p.m., Bobcat Stadium in San Angelo.

Youth B-ball league sign-ups have started at YMCA

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League for boys and girls are taking place at the YMCA through Saturday Divisions of play include separate boys and girls teams in grades 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6.

Outlying communities may form their own teams, but must have a mix of players from each grade in each division.

Games are played on Saturdays beginning Dec. 8.

Practices start the week of Nov. 26. A coaches meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at the YMCA. Teams will be formed at this meeting. Players are not required to attend.

Registration fee is \$45 with an \$8 credit for those who will use the same game jersey as last season.

Call the YMCA at 267-8234 for more details.

Individuals needed to referee area basketball games

Individuals are needed to referee area subvarsity basketball games for the 2007-08 season.

Anyone interested should call Adam Rodriguez at 517-0300.

Howard College announces Hawk Buddies Program

The Howard College Women's Basketball team is tipping off its season with the Hawk Buddies Basketball Program for girls in kindergarten through eighth grade.

It starts Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum with a basketball clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Each Hawk Buddy will receive an opportunity to learn how to play the game from Howard players and coaches for a fee of \$20. A T-shirt will be given to each participant that will also serve as a free family season pass when worn to Howard College home games.

A second clinic is scheduled for Jan. 12 to be followed by a pizza-party with the women's basketball team.

Each Hawk Buddy will be recognized at halftime of the Hawks home game Jan. 21.

For more information, contact Assistant Coach Eric Rodewald at 816-4327.

LSU tops in BCS, Kansas climbing

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — Beware of Kansas.

LSU moved into the first place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday and Oregon jumped into second place, a day after previous No. 1 Ohio State was upset by Illinois.

But third-place Kansas is the only remaining unbeaten team in the six conferences with an automatic bid to the BCS and history suggests the Jayhawks will play for a national title if they stay perfect.

An undefeated team from a major conference has never been left out of the BCS national championship game in favor of a one-loss team.

Kansas has a home game against Iowa State on Saturday, then plays Missouri at Kansas City on Nov. 24. Win that one and Kansas goes to the Big 12 championship game, where the most likely opponent will be Oklahoma.

Those games could give the Jayhawks the boost they need in the polls to overtake the Ducks, regardless of how Oregon finishes.

"I think they might even catch LSU," said Jerry Palm, a BCS analyst who runs www.college-bcs.com. "Why not? You're undefeated in a major conference and beat two top-five teams in your final two games."

LSU can rest easier than Oregon. With three games remaining, including the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 1, LSU will likely reach the BCS title game in New Orleans by winning out.

"I don't see LSU doing worse than No. 2 if they win the way they're supposed to," Palm said.

"A 10-7 over Mississippi (on Saturday) could change things, because margins matter to voters."

The Ducks also have three games left, but they're past the toughest part of their schedule. The Ducks play at Arizona on Thursday night, have a road game against UCLA on Nov. 24 and finish the season against rival Oregon State at home on Dec. 1.

None of those teams is ranked, so if the Ducks struggle to a victory it could open up an opportunity.

See BCS, Page 2B

BSHS cross country places third at state

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

ROUND ROCK — When a team returns four out of seven individuals from a state championship team, then a repeat performance is generally expected.

Unfortunately, that didn't hold true for the Big Spring High School cross country team Saturday at the state meet in Round Rock.

The Steers finished in third behind Katy Seven Lakes and Mesquite Poteet, proving how difficult it is to defend a state title in cross country.

"There's so many good athletes at state that it becomes hard to defend," Head Coach Randy Britton said. "I'm still disappointed, though. We had four returning runners. There's no reason we shouldn't have been more competitive for the title. It was all mental. Some of these guys believed they could come out and duplicate what they did last season without putting in the work to get better. It doesn't work that way. We just weren't prepared mentally to defend."

The Steers had two runners — Zach Dawson (third) and Jordan Valle (12) — finish in the top 15, but didn't have another runner cross the finish line until Jessie Sanchez did at 39th.

Dawson finished in the exact same spot as last year with a time just 15 one-hundredths of a second faster than his 2006 effort.

"Zach ran a strong race, but he didn't jump out fast enough

again," Britton said. "He has to realize he can't close on athletes of this caliber. He has to jump on them from the start."

Dawson finished four seconds behind winner Rory Tunningly of Lockhart and just five one-hundredths of a second behind second-place finisher Alex De La Garza of Mercedes.

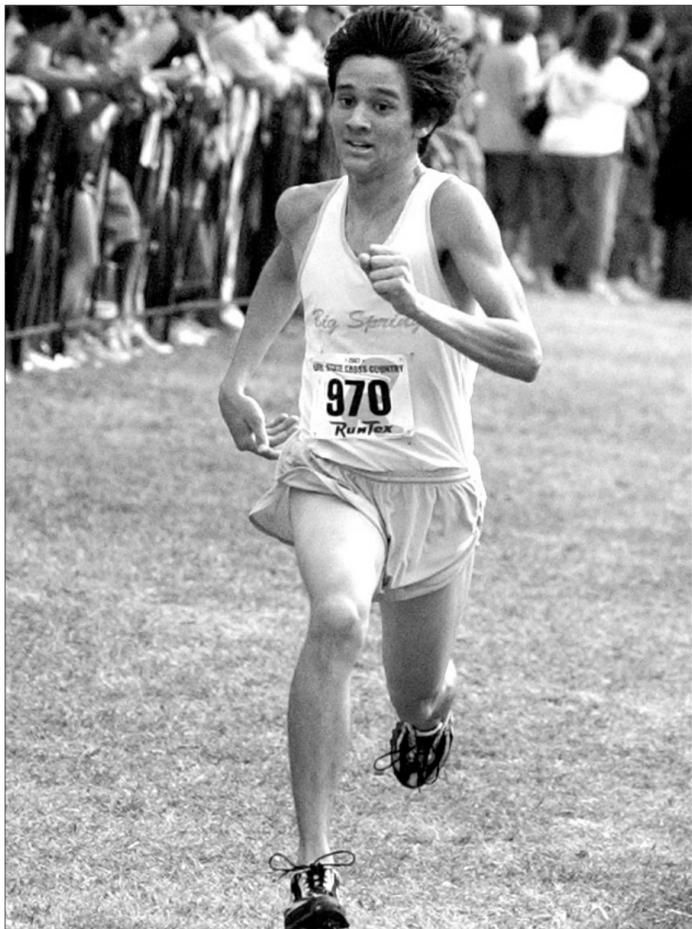
Valle's improvement from 2006 is extremely substantial. Last year, he finished 168th with a time of 18:20.90. He improved his time by more than two minutes, finishing the 3-mile course in 16:01.35.

"Jordan is a poster child of how dedicated a runner has to be in this sport," Britton said. "He worked so hard to improve this season. I wish everyone had the attitude he did."

Kade Parker finished in 71st and Shane Allen came in 125th to round out the Steers' scoring runners. Sammy and Daniel Segundo finished 189th and 264th, respectively.

Esther Tobar finished 18th in the Class 4A girls' race. Grady's Roy Rodriguez finished 16th and Eva Dyck finished 12th in their respective Class 1A races. Two Crossroads' athletes participated in the boys' Class 2A race. Stanton's Albert Lozano nabbed 13th place and Coahoma's Josh Jones finished 28th.

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



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Big Spring's Zach Dawson races to a third-place finish in the Class 4A state cross country race held Saturday at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. The Steers team failed to defend its state title, placing third overall.

Romo, T.O. lead Dallas' torching of Giants

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Instead of using a Sharpie or running off at the mouth, a more patient Terrell Owens is letting his play dominate games these days.

He's one of the main reasons the Dallas Cowboys are in command in the NFC East and looking like one of the front-runners to challenge for a sixth Super Bowl title.

Owens caught touchdown passes of 25 and 50 yards to break open a tight game in the second half and the Cowboys snapped the New York Giants' six-game winning streak with a 31-20 victory on Sunday.

"This is why I feel Jerry brought me here," Owens said of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. "I want to be the playmaker for this team. I brought my level of focus up with this team. I know every play can be a big play. We have teams on their heels a little bit."

The Cowboys (8-1) have the division reeling after sweeping the Giants (6-3).

Dallas leads New York by two games and has the tiebreaker should they finish tied. The Cowboys also have a three-game edge on Washington (5-4) and a four-game margin on Philadelphia (4-5).

Owens has been a big part of that recently, of course, with the help of Tony Romo. The two hooked up six times on Sunday for 125 yards. It was Owens third straight 100-yard game.

"With this offense, I know we're capable of putting points on the board," Owens said.

"Everybody on this team is making plays. I'm a big part of that. I just have to remain patient."

Owens had three catches for 31 yards in a first half that was more noteworthy for some foolish penalties by Dallas that handed New York 10 points.

In the second half, the big plays came Owens' way. He ran by cornerback Sam Madison on his 25-yard scoring catch to snap a 17-all tie. When New York had to settle for a field goal after losing a TD on a holding penalty, Owens whizzed past safety Gibril Wilson on his 50-yard score.

"Obviously today, we had more penalties than we would like, and we have to eliminate those," T.O. said. "That was everybody's emotions running high. There was a little trash-talking by them. We came here, the game was played and I feel like we made a statement."

Romo was a big part of that statement, too. He completed 20-of-28 for 247 yards, hooking up with Tony Curtis on a 15-yard score and Patrick Crayton on a 20-yarder.

"A win like tonight just adds to your confidence," Romo said. When you do something like this, you have a chance to do something special."

The last time the Cowboys started a season at 8-1 was 1995, which also was the last time they won the Super Bowl.

With seven games left, the Cowboys are tied with Green Bay for the best record in the conference. The two will play in Dallas on Nov. 29.

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



AP photo/Kathy Willens

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens heads toward the end zone after hauling in a Tony Romo pass for a fourth-quarter touchdown in the Cowboys' 31-20 victory over the New York Giants at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Sunday.

Obituaries

Rev. Dr. Shane Alden Brue



The Rev. Dr. Shane Alden Brue went to be with the Lord on Nov. 10, 2007, at his home in Big Spring after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 40 years old. A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church in Big Spring on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007, at 2 p.m. with a reception following. Graveside services will be in Amarillo at Llano East Cemetery on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Shane was born on Sept. 14, 1967, in La Puente, Calif. His family lived in Idaho before moving to Vega where Shane graduated from Vega High School in 1986. In high school he was active in sports, band, scouting and church activities.

Shane graduated from McMurry University in 1990 with a degree in psychology. While at McMurry, Shane was active in HEI social club, chanters, campus ministry and was named outstanding male graduate. He served at Clyde United Methodist Church as a youth minister for three years.

Shane was called to be a pastor. He graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., in 1993 with a Master of Divinity degree. He married Jill Smith on Dec. 18, 1993, in Amarillo. They began their ministry in Plainview in 1994, serving Trinity United Methodist Church. Shane was called to serve Haskell United Methodist Church in 1997 as well as Rule United Methodist Church. In 2002, Shane was accepted to a doctoral fellowship program at Asbury Theological Seminary. Shane was one of 20 pastors selected for a year of intense study and preparation for church leadership and biblical preaching. This experience was a highlight for Shane as he endeavored to be the best pastor he could be for the Lord. After their year in Wilmore, Ky., Shane and Jill moved to Abilene in 2003 to serve St. James United Methodist Church. He received his doctorate of ministry degree from Asbury in 2005. Shane then moved to serve Big Spring First United Methodist Church in 2006.

Shane had a contagious enthusiasm. He enjoyed running and ran in marathons and other racing events. He loved scouting and was an Eagle Scout. He served as a leader in the Boy Scouts. He loved working with children and youth and helped lead Christian camping programs for years. As a pastor, Shane loved his calling and enjoyed preaching and leading the church, especially leading others to Christ. Shane was a devoted father and active in his children's lives, setting up campouts in the backyard, playing games together and teaching his children new skills. He was a loving husband and a good friend to many.

Shane was preceded in death by his sister, Debby Tveidt.

He is survived by his wife, Jill, and children, Benjamin, Jacob, Ryan, Micah and Megan of the home; his mother, Maxine Brue of Tulsa, Okla.; his twin brother, Shawn and his wife, Krystal, and their three children of Cache, Okla.; a sister, Mary Helppie and her husband, Mike, of Boise, Idaho; a brother, Jimmy Larsh of Boise, Idaho; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jim and LuAnn Smith of Amarillo; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law Scott and Laura Smith and their three children of Amarillo; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Juli and Kevin Peak of Forest, Va. He is also survived by his loving church families that blessed his life, and by numerous friends and extended family.

The family suggests memorials to First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-12-17-42-53
Number matching six of six: None.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$21 million.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-21-25-35
Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$13,804.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston and Liberty City.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

...

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 0-0-7-4.
Sum It Up: 11.

...

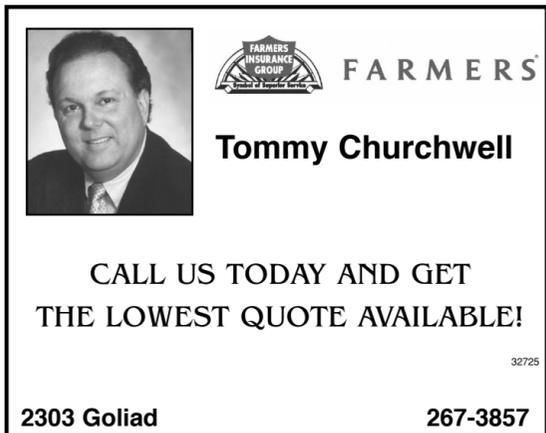
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 5-0-4

...

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order: 1-0-4-8.
Sum It Up: 13

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order: 2-0-9



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Sarah Guthrie



Sarah Guthrie, 95, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, at her residence. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007, at Trinity Memorial Park. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Flynn Long and the Rev. Allan Guthrie officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Jan. 26, 1912, at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Florence and William Malloy. She married G.T. Guthrie on May 24, 1936. He preceded her in death on March 23, 2001. She had been a resident of Howard County for more than 70 years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and had held all offices in the church. She was one of the first women elders. She taught Sunday School for a number of years and was also active in the Presbyterian Women's Work. She was employed by Cosden for more than 10 years and had also taught briefly at Coahoma. She is survived by one daughter, Betty Lee and her husband, Buck, of Big Spring; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Virginia Olson and her husband, Bill, of Houston; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by five brothers.

The family suggests memorials to the First Presbyterian Church or Home Hospice.

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

Mary F. Marin

Mary F. Marin, 90, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- **JOSE LUIS DELACRUZ**, 46, transient, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants and a Pecos County warrant.
- **RAMON ALVEAR**, 29, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants and a charge of public intoxication.
- **ROBERT LEE AKINS**, 44, transient, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and solicitation by a pedestrian.
- **CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ**, age not provided, of 410 Owens, was arrested Sunday on four local warrants.
- **MARIE ANN ESCAJEDA**, 27, of 1500 E. 11th Place, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **JESSICA M. CHAVERA**, 26, of 1512 Sycamore, was arrested Sunday on an Ector County warrant and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **JAMES MICHAEL PEREZ**, 30, of 2300 Brumley Road, was arrested Sunday on a local capias warrant.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 2100 block of 25th Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 11th Place.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 2700 block of Wasson.
- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1300 block of U.S. Highway 87.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 3300 block of FM 700.
 - in the 2700 block of Central.
 - in the 1800 block of Duquoin.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY - FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 800 block of 18th Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1000 block of 20th Street.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

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



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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- 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.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- 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.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7 p.m. at TravelCenters of America truck stop.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Lamb meeting room in the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

- **GUERRERO OLIVAS JR.**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- **MARK MATTEN LINDEM**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify.
- **ALBERTO MOLQUIN OCON**, 28, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **GAVINO JOSE ORTIZ**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of violation of parole and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information.
- **JASON BRIAN FLUD-GILMAN**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **FRANK LEE JACKSON**, 49, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **ALFONSO BARRERAS**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for third-degree criminal mischief.
- **JOSE DELACRUZ**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.
- **RICKY LOPEZ**, 17, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and no driver's license.
- **RICKY LEE TATE**, 19, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Areas of fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds around 10 mph.

Tonight — Increasing clouds. Lows in the mid 50s. Light and variable winds.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the southwest in the afternoon.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the lower 70s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north in the afternoon.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday — Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the lower 70s. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

For the Giants, their best hopes for a playoff berth seemingly are a wild-card spot.

"It does put us behind the 8-ball," defensive end Justin Tuck said. "If you ever play pool, I've seen people make shots from behind that 8-ball. That's what we are looking at."

Eli Manning threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Shockey, who tied his career high with 12 catches for 129 yards. Reuben Droughns scored on a 1-yard run and Lawrence Tynes kicked field goals of 40 and 26 yards.

The second field goal came after New York had Brandon Jacobs' potential tying touchdown run early in the fourth quarter nullified by a questionable holding penalty on guard Chris Snee against Roy Williams.

"I didn't think I held him, but you have to go with the call," said Snee, who originally thought Dallas was being called for a penalty.

Notes: Line judge Jeff Seaman pulled a hamstring in the second quarter and referee Jeff Triplette's crew worked the rest of the game with six officials. ... Corey Webster, who started at

cornerback for the Giants in the season opener and lost his job in Game 3, was inactive. ... The Giants are now 1-3 wearing red jerseys. ... Giants RT Kareem McKenzie suffered a bruised back in the second half and was replaced by Guy Whimper. ... Dallas DT Tank Johnson had three tackles, a sack and a penalty in his first action since serving an eight-game NFL suspension for off-field problems.

Bills 13, Dolphins 10

At Miami, the Dolphins controlled the ball for nearly 37 minutes. However, Buffalo scored 11 points in the final 9:46 to improve to 5-4.

Buffalo's only touchdown came after a long drive by the Dolphins put them ahead 10-2.

The Bills capped a 66-yard march with a 3-yard run by Marshawn Lynch, who then ran for the tying 2-point conversion.

Miami's first-round pick Ted Ginn Jr. returned the ensuing kickoff 86 yards for an apparent score, but the touchdown was negated by a holding penalty on Greg Camarillo.

Rams 37, Saints 21

The Saints (4-5) saw their four-game winning streak snapped against a

team that not only was 0-8 coming in, but hadn't even led on the road.

The most crushing blows came on third-and-long situations, when Holt routinely found a seam in the defense and Bulger found Holt. Bennett's 3-yard touchdown reception put the Rams up 34-7 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter.

Chargers 23, Colts 21

At San Diego, Adam Vinatieri missed a 29-yard field goal attempt with 1:31 left and Peyton Manning was picked off a club-record six times.

Manning had driven the Colts (7-2) to the Chargers 12. Vminatieri, who had won two Super Bowls for New England with last-second kicks, pushed his kick just wide right.

Darren Sproles brought back the opening kickoff 89 yards for his first NFL touchdown. Then he ran back a punt 45 yards for his second score later in the first quarter.

But the Colts scored two touchdowns and a 2-point conversion in 23 seconds early in the fourth quarter to pull to 23-21.

Cornerback Antonio Cromartie celebrated his first NFL start by picking off Manning three times as San Diego (5-4) took sole possession of first place in the AFC West.

Packers 34, Vikings 0

Brett Favre joined Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to throw for 60,000 career yards as host Green Bay (8-1) humbled the Vikings (3-6).

Favre was 33-of-46 for 351 yards and three touchdowns before he was relieved by backup Aaron Rodgers. Favre broke Marino's record for career touchdown passes against the Vikings earlier this year, and now trails Marino's all-time passing yardage mark by 1,105 yards.

Ryan Grant finished with 119 yards against a tough Vikings defense.

BCS

Continued from Page 1B

nity for not only Kansas, but fourth-place Oklahoma or fifth-place Missouri.

Palm said it will be difficult for the Sooners or Tigers to reach the top two without LSU or Oregon losing.

"I wouldn't expect them to get the same kind of juice an undefeated team would get," he said.

LSU is No. 1 in both the Harris and coaches' polls and top-rated by the computers. The Tigers have a BCS average of .980.

Oregon is No. 2 in the polls, but third in the computer ratings, giving the Ducks a BCS average of .938.

Kansas is ranked fourth in both polls, but second in the computer ratings and has a BCS average of .909. Oklahoma, third in the polls and seventh in the computers, is at .854. Missouri is sixth in the polls and fifth in comput-

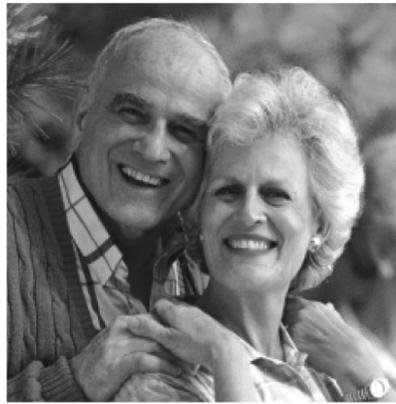
ers for a .810 average.

The Ducks have had their national championship hopes dashed by a Big 12 team before. In 2001, Nebraska got to play Miami for the national title in the Rose Bowl even though the Cornhuskers failed to reach the Big 12 title game.

Oregon was relegated to the Fiesta Bowl, where Joey Harrington and the Ducks beat Colorado 38-16. After Miami pounded Nebraska 37-14, Oregon finished No. 2 in the rankings.

Hawaii, the only other unbeaten team in major college football, remained 16th in the BCS standings and still needs to move up four places by the time the final standings come out on Dec. 2 to earn an automatic BCS berth out of the Western Athletic Conference.

The Warriors (9-0) have games left at Nevada and at home against Boise State and Washington.



su | do | ku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 5 4
♥ Q 10 9 8 3 2
♦ 3 2
♣ —

WEST
♠ 10 9 3
♥ 6
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ Q J 10 8 6

EAST
♠ Q 8 6
♥ 5
♦ K Q 5
♣ A K 9 7 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A K J 7 4
♦ A 9 8 4
♣ 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 4♥ 5♣
5♦ 6♣ 7♥ Dble
Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

One of the most dramatic deals in the long and illustrious history of the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams occurred in Dallas in 1997. As fate would have it, the hand was the last of a 64-deal quarterfinal-round match between two top-flight teams, and the result had a direct bearing on the ultimate winner of the event.

The deal involved teams captained by Richard Schwartz and Kit Woolsey. Although the players were not aware of it, the Woolsey team held an eight-IMP lead as the final hand began. With Woolsey holding the South cards, the auction went as shown, culminating in a very shaky grand slam in hearts, doubled by East.

West led a diamond, and Woolsey could see that his only legitimate chance to make the contract was to find West with the Q-x-x of spades. In that case, a successful finesse in the suit would allow declarer to discard all three losing diamonds from his hand. This would normally be about an 18 percent chance, but given the opposing bidding, it was somewhat less likely to succeed.

Woolsey, of course, had no way of knowing the state of the match at that point, or what had happened at the other table. But, he reasoned, it could not be good to go down in a doubled grand slam. So, after taking the diamond ace and drawing trumps, he tried the spade finesse. East won with the queen and cashed a diamond for down two — 500 points for East-West.

At the other table, North-South also bid seven hearts, but here there was no double, and West led a club instead of a diamond. Declarer ruffed in dummy, drew trumps and tried the spade finesse. But since a diamond had not been led, South was able to escape for down one — minus 100.

The difference in the score at the two tables — 400 points — translated to nine IMPs, giving the Schwartz team a one-IMP victory. Schwartz's group then went on to win the title.

Meanwhile, Woolsey was left to reflect on the bitter irony that if he had simply conceded down one instead of trying to make the doubled grand slam, his team would have won the match by five IMPs!

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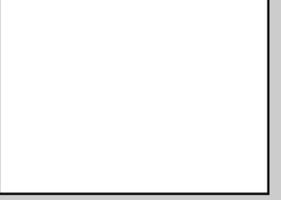
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

In the right frame of mind, the most determined, persistent of feelings can find breathing room to change. The Sagittarius moon gives the Scorpio sun just that perspective. Talking with a wise friend, reading a self-help book or taking your laptop to a new environment offers the distance you need to see a thing emotionally refreshed.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This way or that way? Decide quickly, and then don't worry and don't look back. When the difference is big, you know what to choose, and when the difference is small, it does not really matter what you choose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may feel that your life is at a standstill, but this is only one way to interpret this calm period. In actuality, when you are doing practically nothing, you are preparing for the powerfully imaginative state that's coming.

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). You wisely realize that needing others too much is a sure way to repel them. So you're on to the business of making yourself very, very happy now. And loved ones get caught up in your trend.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Waste no time in trying to convince others of the errors of their ways. If you simply cannot let it go, the most convincing thing to do is to let others have their own way. Consequence will be the best judge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Creative vibrations are strong now. And though you enjoy reasoning in the abstract, when you're put to the test, you'll come through by acting in accordance with your intuition and common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your commitment to a special person is put to the test. Keeping your word on the little things is just as important as keeping it on the big things. The same goes for the other person's promises to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are feeling extremely sensitive to those around you. If your environment seems at all uncomfortable, you're inclined to silently sort through your emotions until the time is right to

express yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stay focused. Taking excellent care of yourself is essential to your current mission. You steer a narrow course between the rocks and cliffs of your own talent and ambition.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're loveable. And since other people get a charge out of doing favors for you, why don't you let them? As hard as it is for you to relax and be served, it's good for you, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People around you are eager to interact with you. Will they entertain, challenge or teach you? It's up to you. Set an intention for the dynamic you'd like to experience, and it will be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Self-enforced prisons are the hardest kind to break out of — and yet you will! And as you do, you'll enjoy freedom in the very area you once associated with suffering. Education plays a huge part in this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a clear-cut high road and low road. You know the difference and make a conscious choice. There are financial rewards for your integrity, but of course that has nothing

to do with the reason you're so honest.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Why is a Gemini, born May 24, 1963, not supposed to be compatible with a Virgo born Sept. 12, 1962? Virgos have that knack for spontaneity that Geminis love."

There's more magic and less formula to mastering the nature of love, but astrologers still try! Yes, you two have that knack because Gemini and Virgo are both influenced by the planet Mercury, Mr. Spontaneity himself. Intelligence, curiosity, playfulness and the ability to make a spinning dime rest on its side are the ingenious qualities you appreciate in each other. But this particular Gemini is outnumbered by Virgo 5 to 1 — five Virgo planets to his or her Gemini sun. So your Mercurial connection is more method than madness, more "let's consider all our options" than "fly by the seat of our pants." You're each attracted to what the other has, but you aren't intrinsically in agreement as Gemini's Venus-in-Taurus eyes Virgo's smoky Venus-in-Scorpio across the sky. Jealousy is a potential pitfall here — and an avoidable one. You'll find

it helpful to be up front about what you enjoy in intimacy, taking turns being pleased and pleasing. And acknowledge that what you each appreciate from the other can be quite different.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Spies, undercover assassins and covert operations — all in a day's work for Scorpio Peta Wilson, a.k.a. Nikita, who has an Aries-moon twist. Both signs have warrior energy — Scorpio has physical stamina and wicked intuition, and Aries fights her own battles. Peta could use her supermodel beauty and superwoman strength to be a role-model in self-defense and empowerment classes for young women.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband is very successful, but intense. He always has to be right, always has to have the answers, and expounds and explains everything over and over. He elaborates on every issue and always has to know the reason something is the way it is or why you feel a certain way. I have overlooked this for years, but it's reached the point where I can't ignore it anymore.

During a casual conversation, if a statement is made that he disagrees with, it becomes monumental. If I say the house is blue, he'll insist it's gray. If I agree, he makes me admit he was right. If I say I was mistaken and I'm sorry, he wants to know why I thought it was blue to begin with.

If he cannot remember someone's name, he obsesses over it, even going through the alphabet out loud until he remembers which letter it starts with. If something is misspelled, he delights in pointing it out. He will yell out an answer to something we



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

discussed two days ago and expect me to know what he is talking about.

Right now, I don't want to say anything at all for fear it will cause an argument. I admit I don't always get my facts straight, but if it's not a matter of national security, why not just let it go? It's as if I'm waving a red cape at a bull every time I open my mouth. Otherwise, he is a good guy. Is this some kind of disorder? — Frustrated Girl

Dear Frustrated: Let's just call it "Annoying Spouse Syndrome." Your husband isn't likely to recognize this as a failing or do anything about it. Some behaviors, over time, become worse, so we sympathize, but if he won't change, you will have to find a way to deal with it. Try telling him, in plain English, that you've had enough and he needs to stop. If he won't (or can't), we urge you to humor him ("Yes, dear, you're right.") or tune him out as best you can and let him fume alone.

Dear Annie: Recently,

my wife's parents stayed with us, along with my wife's sister and her husband of five months.

During their stay, the newlyweds not once, but twice thought it would be appropriate to shower together. We may only have one bathroom, but there is plenty of hot water for everyone to shower separately.

It was awkward for us, and I would not dare do this at someone's house. Is this appropriate behavior? Please advise. — Brother-in-Law

Dear Brother-in-Law: They're newlyweds, and although showering together and other intimacies may make you uncomfortable, it is perfectly normal for them to want to do so, especially if they are staying more than a weekend. Considerate guests do not make themselves too obvious, and gracious hosts look the other way. If, however, they are making a spectacle of themselves, your wife should tell her sister to be more discreet or knock it off.

Dear Annie: I am writing in response to "Nauseated on Cape Cod," whose neighbor smokes cigars outside and the odor permeates her deck and the open windows of her guest bedroom.

I would suggest they get several small tabletop fans and set them up in the guest bedroom and on the deck so that they face the neighbor's house. Once the fans are turned on, they should blow the smoke right back in his direction.

As long as they keep the fans blowing while he is smoking, it should take care of the odor problem. It also could make the point without any harsh words between neighbors. — Lynne in Florida

Dear Lynne: A reasonable suggestion — and we hope it is effective.

Dear Annie: I am 50 years old, single (after 21 years of marriage) and enjoying my freedom. The problem is, when I meet a man and explain that I really just want to be friends, they agree. But after a time, when I

won't sleep with them, they don't want to see me anymore.

I have had a very nice and caring relationship with such a friend for three years. "Fred" is 82. We go for dinner, walks, etc. He is very generous and considerate. He says he loves me and that I don't love him as much because I will not sleep with him. This has been an ongoing problem for a while. The other day, Fred told me he can no longer continue to see me because when I deny him, "it tears his heart out" and he needs to "get over me."

My girlfriend says there are two kinds of women in a man's life — those they have slept with and those they haven't slept with yet. I find this very distressing. Not only do these men limit the friendship, but they add sexual pressure to it.

What is it with men? Am I to have only girlfriends in my life? The more I think about it, the more I believe maybe that is best. — No Way, Buddy

Dear No Way: Both men and women are capable of friendships with the opposite sex, but it is not unreasonable for one party to expect (or hope) that the relationship will become more intimate, especially if that person has fallen in love. Of course, there are some men who are interested only in sex, and you may be attracting the sort who take your attitude as a challenge. And you may be giving the wrong signals — holding hands while walking or cuddling up at the movies, either of which a man may see as a prelude to something more intimate. But if you are only looking for friendship, why does it have to be with a man? Any person should do — male, female or whatever.

Dear Annie: We have friends who frequently tell us they're too tired to do social things with us. Then we later discover they've gone out with others on the same day our invitation was issued.

I say these people

shouldn't be asked again. My husband disagrees. Should I be "Southern polite" and continue on, or should I stop inviting them? — In a Quandary

Dear Quandary: How many times has this happened? If it's been more than three times, we say they do not value your friendship enough. Feel free to remove them from your dance card.

Dear Annie: I have to respond to "Stay or Go," who was trying to decide whether he should leave his serial-cheating wife at age 60 or stay because it is easier and more comfortable.

I was in an abusive marriage for over 30 years and stayed because of finances and because I didn't think there was anything better out there. When I turned 60, I decided I didn't want to waste whatever time I had left with a man who didn't care about me. I left while he was out of town and drove a thousand miles across the country to live where I knew only one person. It was the most daring thing I have ever done, but I have never been happier. I even met the man of my dreams.

Tell "Stay or Go" to get his things together and get out. There are good people in the world, and with a little luck and a little effort, his life could turn around just like mine did. — Michigan Maddie

Dear Maddie: We're glad to hear you got out of that abusive relationship and found happiness. It's never too late to improve your life.

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

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

EJ Jones plays the highland bagpipes for an impromptu performance following the St. Mary's Episcopal Church St. Andrew's Day 2006 Celebration. Scheduling conflicts with the performers caused the event to be scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 9.

Church slates St. Andrew's Day event for Dec. 9 due to conflicts

Special to the Herald

It may be a little late this year but the festivities are sure to be as grand.

The parishioners of St. Mary's Episcopal Church will present their sixth annual St. Andrew's Day Celebration at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9.

Usually held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the popular event was scheduled later this year because of scheduling conflicts of the pipers and drummer.

Returning as special guest artist will be EJ Jones, highland bagpipes, and Randy Wothke, Scottish snare drum, members of the internationally acclaimed, non-traditional Celtic band, The Rogues.

"St. Mary's is pleased to announce that Richard Kean, the other piper from The Rogues, will be joining EJ and Randy for the Celebration on the 9," said Linda Hill, St. Mary's organist/choir master. "All three performers compete both nationally and internationally, and have won

numerous awards in traditional Scottish piping and drumming events."

In addition to traditional music for pipes and drum, the Celebration will feature well-known hymns and anthems from the British Isles. The audience is asked to join in the fun by singing patriotic songs from the United States, England, Wales and Scotland.

Several talented area artists will join once again with St. Mary's including Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor of the Big Spring Symphony. Graumann will conduct the combined choirs of St. Mary's and St. Nicholas Episcopal Church of Midland. Big Spring vocalists Joyce Bradley, Joseph Dawes and Susan Dawes will lend their talents for the evening.

Special guest instrumentalists included Rocky Harris, trombone

and Big Spring High School band director; Ryan Harris, trombone; Desmond Garcia, trombone; Sam Hale, trumpet and French horn and BSHS assistant director; and Gloria Steelman of Midland, flute and violin. Darryl Knapp, organist/choirmaster for St. Nicholas Episcopal Church of Midland, will be the organist for the service.

Following the service, a gala reception featuring a wide variety of traditional Scottish fare will be held in the Parish Hall.

Under the leadership of Cynthia Marshall, preparation of many of the dishes by the women of St. Mary's is already underway. Some of the favorites served from the past receptions that will again make an appearance including lemon curd tarts, meat pies, pickled onions and a variety of scones. Several new

recipes will be added to this year's Celebration reception.

There is no admission charge for the St. Andrew's Day Celebration, and the public is cordially invited to attend. The wearing of Scottish attire is encouraged. St. Mary's is located at 10th Street and Goliad in Big Spring.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Tommie Billingsley, 79, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Elsie Cunningham, 89, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Sarah Guthrie, 95, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park. Memorial Services will be at 11:00 AM at the First Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 6:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Walker. "It would cost the city approximately \$110,700 the first year, and most likely decline in coming years as the accumulated balances decreased.

"It's important to remember they have the option to sell their sick leave back, but they aren't required. These figures assume 100 percent participation, but I'm sure there are a few that are looking at extended illnesses that may not want to participate."

Walker went on to say the buy-back incentive would also help decrease the number of overtime hours needed to fill positions left empty when a city employee calls in sick.

The council discussed putting a cap on the number of sick leave hours an employee hired after the

implementation of such a plan could accumulate, but that idea met with mixed feelings among the staff.

The council passed first reading of the resolution by a 6-1 vote, with McEwen voting against the measure.

The council is also expected to consider first reading of a revision to its purchasing policy that would allow the city staff to skip the formal bidding process on purchases under \$50,000, a tool Darden said would streamline the process and allow for negotiations when they are needed.

"We recently had to go out on bid for a flocculator drive for the water plant," said Darden. "We had already budgeted \$25,000 for it, and it's about a \$16,000 purchase. However, because we had to get an engineer and a bid bond for a formal bid, that cost an additional \$6,000. It's also taken

about a month-and-a-half for the whole process to develop. That \$6,000 could have gone for a piece of playground equipment.

"We're not asking for a blank check. However, it would give us the chance to negotiate with the vendors, rather than go through a sealed bid process where there's nothing we can do, and that's crucial."

State law requires municipalities use a formal bid process for any purchase more than \$50,000, but allows cities to set its own limits below that mark. The city of Big Spring currently uses formal bids for any purchase more than \$10,000.

The meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

away from the structure. "Make sure there's as little fuel around the home as possible," said Sullivan. "What you basically want to do is develop a fire-break around your home. Make sure there aren't any large quantities of dried grass or weeds, or any other combustible material, close to your house.

"Fire prevention is more of a proactive thing than a reactive thing, because once a fire starts it's too late. I see a lot of homes with trees and brush around them, and one thing they can do to help protect their home is make fire breaks — simply mowing around the structure — so the volunteer fire fighters will have a more defensible space if something happens."

In the end, however, Sullivan said it's the human factor that plays the most important role in fire prevention.

"About 90 percent of the fires we see are caused by humans," said Sullivan. "It ranges from people riding the rim of their car on a flat tire to people pitching their cigarette butts out the window. Fireworks is another major cause of fires, along with exhaust pipes and catalytic converters on vehicles driving over the brush and grass.

"If you have to pull off the road, be sure to look for a gravel area and stay away from areas where the grass is tall enough to come into contact with your vehicle's exhaust system. It only takes a few minutes of being parked there to start a small fire that can grow quickly. We see it pretty often on ranches and farms as well."

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD



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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

Very little time left to register parade entries

Four more days ... that's all the time that's left for registering entries for the 22nd annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade — the event that officially kicks off the Yuletide in Howard County.

The parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1, but the deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday.

Registration forms have come in from individuals, businesses and church, civic and school groups who are planning their entries in keeping with this year's theme — "Peace on Earth."

The parade, which first wound its way down Gregg Street in 1986, will again be a lighted parade. And once again, first-place plaques will be awarded to winners in four categories — Individual or family entries; those from churches, civic groups or schools; commercial entries; and those from industries. Second- and third-place finishers will receive certificates.

And as was the case last year, the entry judged "Best of Show" will receive a \$100 cash prize. The Mayor's Trophy for best use of lighting will earn one entrant \$75 and the Grand Marshall's Award for best costuming will receive \$50.

In addition, the *Herald* will present a trophy to the best mounted entry from a sheriff's posse or riding club.

But you have to get your entries registered by the Friday deadline.

The parade is again set to begin at 5:30 p.m. that Saturday and we here at the *Herald* want to encourage everyone to come out and help us in getting the Christmas season off to a rousing start.

It's important to remember that a parade this size takes time to plan and coordinate. That's why we need those entries turned in no later than Friday afternoon.

And that's why we are again reminding our readers about the need to get those entries submitted.

An entry form is printed in each edition of the *Herald*. In addition, entry forms are available at the *Herald's* offices located at 710 Scurry, and you can also download them from our Website at www.bigspringherald.com.

So, if you are involved in any of the many organizations or businesses that annually take part in the Christmas Parade, and you haven't yet registered, get your entries filled in as soon as possible and let us know what you're planning to do.

Entry forms should be mailed to the *Herald* at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79721-1431. For additional information concerning the parade, contact Rick Nunez or Elizabeth Flores at 263-7331.

As always, we're asking the community to help us make this the best Christmas parade Big Spring has ever had.

So come on, get those entries turned in, and join us in kicking off what we all hope will be another magical holiday season.

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

With You, Lord, anything is possible. May we have the peace and reassurance of knowing You.

Amen

The path to good citizenship

"My job is to make the country work, and help it to come together." I don't remember the name of the young woman who said that, but I certainly remember the circumstances. It was at a high school in the southern Indiana congressional district I once represented. As a member of Congress, you get asked regularly to speak at high schools and I always tried to comply.



LEE HAMILTON

I also tried to meet with small groups of students beforehand to talk about what being an American meant to them. I was especially interested in how they saw the responsibilities of citizenship — and in particular, whether they saw dimensions to it that went beyond simply voting.

It has been a while since I made visits like these. Those young people have grown up and, I'm sure, forgotten our conversations. I still think about their comments, however.

I do not want to suggest they were typical; indeed they were not. That's one reason their statements have stayed with me for years.

Then, too, they were so young — most of them couldn't even vote — yet displayed none of the disconnection or apathy that we so commonly attribute to teenagers.

Some, for instance, were focused on their own road forward. "My job is for me to become the best I can be," one student said, while another added, "Mine is to over-

come all the obstacles, and succeed." Both reflected not only the opportunities this country affords its residents, but the obligation this imposes on us to take advantage of them despite the challenges we sometimes encounter. "My job is to have a good, decent, hard-working family," said another — a purely personal goal, in one sense, but a boon to society in another.

Other students thought of their responsibilities in what amounted to moral terms.

"My responsibility is to do the right thing, always," one told me, while another was determined "to respect everyone, get along with them, treat them decently, work with them, and try to help them." This emphasis on integrity and generosity of spirit acknowledged that how we behave toward others is also a part of good citizenship — that sometimes, doing the right thing can reverberate throughout a community.

Much of the time, the young people I spoke with thought of citizenship in broad terms.

They'd obviously pondered what it meant to be a citizen of their own towns, their nation or even the world.

They talked about "making my town and my neighborhood better, and improving them in any way I can," as one put it. They spoke about having "been given a marvelous country, and it is our job to pass it on better than we found it."

They talked, too, about their responsibility as U.S. citizens to promote this country's strengths elsewhere: "My job," one said, "is to help keep the country free — and to share that freedom with others." And they saw a role for

themselves not just in political terms, but in environmental ones, speaking of their obligation to "protect the earth: the water, soil and air," as one said.

These sentiments were often couched in simple terms, but they expressed complex ideas. In particular, they took it as a given that part of being a citizen is building on the strengths or doing all one can to reverse the shortfalls of the communities and the nation they lived in.

Not only did their comments show real insight into our democracy, they brought home a crucial point: There is no single path to good citizenship. These students all saw different ways of being a citizen and I don't think it's overreaching to say that our country thrives because it gives us all the chance to interpret our place in it in our own fashion. Those who work hard and focus on raising a family or on becoming experts in their field contribute just as surely as those who tutor in schools, organize rallies to fight some injustice or volunteer to protect U.S. interests abroad.

Indeed, as a society we depend on multiple interpretations of what makes for good citizenship.

Every time I left one of these high-school gatherings, I felt reinvigorated and reassured.

For what came home to me time after time as I talked with those students was that we would face a grim future indeed if they weren't thinking about citizenship at all.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

ADDRESSES

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Lies make the war go round

Question: When is truth relative? Answer: In war — especially counterinsurgency — always. With photographers in tow, armed helicopters overhead and a heavily armed escort, generals and politicians can stroll down selected streets without helmets or flak vests, declaring that security has improved.



DANIEL SMITH

To one battalion of the 1st Infantry Division assigned to Baghdad's Sadiyah neighborhood, this is a lie. "The higher-ups...only go to the safe places, places with a little bit of gunfire" (Washington Post, Oct. 27). The administration hypes these snapshots of "progress" by trumpeting the post-"troop surge" fall-off in Iraqi and coalition fatalities — which is real — but conveniently omitting the cost: some 40,000 (not 29,000) additional troops.

The very dangerous Baghdad that these 1st Division "grunts" see is a world — and 20 deaths — apart. When they arrived 14 months ago, Sadiyah bustled with business and traffic. Today, after continuous assaults on Sunni residents by Shi'a militias and intimidation by a Shi'a police brigade, street life is largely limited to starving dogs and American patrols — reminiscent of Kipling's refrain: "only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noon-day sun."

The irony is that the Bush administration, like the British in World War I, did not have to get

mixed up in the maze of contradictions and civil unrest that are rife in Iraq and the entire Gulf region. Introducing foreign occupation forces into the mix simply compounds the opacity of motives and alliances that, in turn, can tip the balance of power in contested areas in unpredictable ways.

Conversely, the existence of a UN mandate authorizing foreign troops as a "stabilizing force" reduces some ambiguity as this implies a degree of self-governance through which the Iraqi people's voices can be heard. And what the UN is hearing from more and more Iraqis and from Afghans through their parliaments and presidents is frustration bordering on outright hatred of western ground and — increasingly — air forces.

The reality seen by those people on the ground is the disproportionate if not unaccountable and unregulated use of air power.

On October 28 — and not for the first time — Afghan President Hamid Karzai publicly protested to the UN and U.S. the increasing use of coalition attack planes. Unverified targeting has killed more than 300 Afghan non-combatants so far this year — about the same number of non-combatants killed by the Taliban — that is making 2007 the bloodiest year of this war.

In Iraq the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the coalition presence must be renewed in December. The last time it was renewed, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki requested an early vote by the Council to pre-empt plans by Iraqi parliamentarians to attach conditions. This time parliament is working on mandatory conditionality: e.g., geographic limits such as no air operations in urban

areas and restrictions on types of activity such as training and border security. (Separately, the UN plans to look into recent incidents in which U.S. aircraft struck supposed al-Qaeda and Taliban "hide-outs" but subsequent ground reports raised questions about the accuracy of the military's press release describing the incident.)

Governments, especially governments at war, are adept at holding hearings and developing policies that get to "the truth" — or their version of the truth. Individuals, however, especially those in a battle zone, don't need "truth." For them, truth has nothing to do with policy and politics and everything to do with simply staying alive.

That is also the "truth" that confronts soldiers — a most apt thought for Veterans Day. No one wants to be the last one killed or injured in their unit, most particularly when, as now, it is clear that a war was started and is being continued on the basis of mistakes, errors, and lies by politicians, many of whom have no experience of war. And that is how Iraq (and Afghanistan) likely will end: with the lie that U.S. objectives have been reached.

It is a lie that Americans might embrace. The U.S. battalion in Sadiyah, with 20 dead and a month to go, undoubtedly would. One soldier put it succinctly: "I don't think this place is worth another soldier's life."

Col. Daniel M. Smith (Ret.), a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran, is the senior fellow for military affairs at the Friend Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker-based public interest lobby founded in 1943 and headquartered in Washington, D.C.

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NUTRITION WISE

Healthy pies and all about spinach

Q: Are some types of pie healthier than others?

A: How a pie is made has a larger influence on its fat, calorie and nutrient content than what kind of pie it is. Pecan pie is one exception to the rule, however, as it nearly always adds an additional 100 to 200 calories beyond traditional fruit pies. Apple pie, for example, may contain from 300 to 400-plus calories per slice, depending on the fat and sugar added during preparation. A slice of pumpkin pie usually contains about 300 calories and roughly 15 grams of fat. The good news: recipe adaptations can help cut fat and calories while providing additional nutrients.



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

To try your hand at healthier baking, use evaporated skim milk in pumpkin pie and, when making pie crusts, substitute canola oil for some of the butter and opt for up to half whole-wheat flour. If the pie filling is what you love, you can skip the crust altogether and save up to 150 calories per slice. Portion sizes can also be adjusted. If pecan pie is truly your favorite, simply opt for a smaller slice; you'll likely be more satisfied with a sliver of what you like best than a plate full of something you don't really enjoy.

Q: How do fresh and frozen spinach differ nutritionally?

A: Freshly-picked spinach is at the peak of its nutritional quality. The vitamin and mineral content is highest when these greens go directly from field to plate — or field to freezer, for that matter (flash-frozen produce is usually considered nutritionally equal to fresh). However, researchers at Pennsylvania State University found that folate, a B vitamin involved in the creation and repair of DNA (and also linked to the prevention of cancer and heart disease), drops significantly when fresh spinach is subject to lengthy transportation or storage times.

Beta-carotene and other carotenoids in spinach also decrease during extended storage and handling of fresh spinach — a practice increasingly common today as much of the produce at your local grocery store travels cross-country, even cross-continent. In the end, if "fresh" spinach has been subject to lengthy storage times, frozen is likely nutritionally superior.

Taking Thanksgiving international

By **DANA JACOBI**

for AICR
Melting pot. Tossed salad. Regardless of how you define cultural diversity in America, it is perhaps best evidenced during our yearly Thanksgiving feasts. Having enjoyed two very different ethnically-influenced Thanksgiving dinners, I can safely say that they were among my most memorable.

My first encounter happened while dating an Italian American from a food-obsessed family. I was happy to join his assembled clan on Thanksgiving Day and overjoyed when his mother unveiled an awesome baked ziti with sausages and peppers. I was surprised (but even more delighted) when she then brought out a roast turkey accompanied by all of the usual trimmings. Since then, other friends have informed me such dual feasts are typical for many Italian American families.

Even more striking was my experience sharing Thanksgiving with a Mexican family temporarily residing in New York City. After answering countless questions about the typical American fare, I looked forward to tasting Senora Vieras' version of a Thanksgiving meal. To my surprise, we feasted on turkey baked in Mole Poblano — a complex sauce made from 20 to 30 ingredients (including chiles, seeds, nuts and chocolate) that can take an entire day to create. The turkey was accompanied by a refreshing salsa combining tomatoes and fresh cranberries. Yams baked with piloncillo — a molasses-flavored brown



sugar — were also served. This creative melding of cultures proved to be one of my best Thanksgiving dinners ever.

Keeping ethnic blending in mind, I've chosen Greek avgolemono soup to serve as a first course this Thanksgiving. Its sharp lemon flavor is the perfect opening act for the big meal. The soup is light, yet full of flavor, and can be prepared at least partially in advance. To help lighten your load on Thanksgiving morning, prepare the broth a day ahead, add the rice the day of and mix the egg into the hot soup just before serving. Also note that this soup thickens considerably if left in the refrigerator overnight, transforming into a risotto-like consistency.

Lemon Chicken Soup with Rice

- 1/2 cup Arborio rice
- 2-4 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill (or 1 tsp. dried dill)
- 1 large egg
- Juice of 1 to 2 lemons (about 1/4 cup)
- 2 Tbsp. cold water
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

- 1 pound skinless chicken legs or bone-in skinless chicken breast

- 1 medium onion, halved
- 5 cups fat-free, reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 small leek, white part only, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced

Place the chicken and onion in a deep, heavy saucepan. Pour in the broth, bring to a boil and reduce the heat. Partially cover the pan and simmer the broth for 20 minutes. Remove the chicken and set aside. Discard the onion. Reserve the broth.

Line a large strainer with two sheets of paper toweling and place it over a bowl. Strain the broth, tilting the strainer as needed to help the broth drain. Set the strained broth aside.

Heat the oil in the saucepan over medium-high heat. Sauté the leek until it is limp, about 3 to 4 minutes. Pour in the

broth. Add the rice and dill. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to a simmer and partially cover the pot. Cook for 15 minutes or until the rice is tender. Remove the pot from the heat.

Meanwhile, pull apart the chicken, discarding the bones.

Place the egg in a mixing bowl and beat well. Whisk in the lemon juice and 2 tablespoons of cold water. While whisking, very gradually pour 1 cup of the hot soup into the egg mixture (this will prevent the egg from solidifying). Add the beaten egg back into the larger soup pot, whisking gently. Add the chicken. Season with salt and pepper.

Return the pot to medium heat. When the soup is hot (but not boiling) divide it among bowls and serve.

Makes 5 servings.

Per serving: 252 calories, 7 g total fat (2 g saturated fat), 22 g carbohydrate,

24 g protein, 2 g dietary fiber, 635 mg sodium.

"Something Different" is written by Dana Jacobi, author of 12 Best Foods Cookbook and contributor to AICR's New American Plate Cookbook: Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Guns linked to outlaw Pancho Villa sold

FREDERICKSBURG (AP) — Three guns linked to outlaw Pancho Villa sold at auction for almost \$29,000, with the winning bids apparently falling below what organizers expected the firearms tied to the 1910 Mexican Revolution folk hero to fetch.

"That's the fun of auctions — sometimes you get bargains," said Amy McMurrrough, a spokeswoman for the auction.

Selling for \$18,000 was the prize of the auction — Villa's Remington single action revolver that is engraved with his real name, "Doreteo Arango," on one side of the barrel.

A rifle that Villa reportedly dropped in the Rio Grande during a skirmish with opposition forces sold for \$7,500, and a pistol owned by Villa's bodyguard was sold for about \$3,450.

Besides the guns, a sword belonging to Villa that was made in Spain sold for \$7,500, McMurrrough said.

Greyhound touting overhaul of buses

DALLAS (AP) — The old dog is getting a new look. Greyhound Lines Inc. says it has spent \$60 million over the past three years to freshen up its fleet of 1,250 buses and its largest terminals.

Next, the company plans an advertising campaign designed to bring back former customers and attract new riders between 18 and 24, and Hispanics.

Greyhound officials say the makeover is part of an upgrade that began in 2004, when the company eliminated many small-town stops and routes to speed up service between larger cities.

Patty Herbeck, Greyhound's director of marketing, said the company has refurbished more than 900 buses with new seats and paint jobs and spruced up 125 of its roughly 940 terminals by repainting, renovating restrooms and adding plasma-screen televisions in waiting areas.

Teachers say paperwork demands excessive

HOUSTON (AP) — Teacher groups said they will appeal to the Texas Education Agency for relief from the district's paperwork requirements after the school board rejected their complaints.

The Houston Federation of Teachers has lodged three formal complaints with the school board this year over teachers' increasing dissatisfaction with paperwork, especially lesson plans. The board unanimously rejected their entreaties.

The federation and the Congress of Houston Teachers say the Houston Independent School District is violating the state's Paperwork Reduction Act, which limits the amount of paperwork that districts can require of teachers.

District spokesman Terry Abbott said the paperwork

requirements benefit students and do not violate the law. He said it's possible that some schools have seen an increase in lesson-plan requirements because their former requirements weren't as diligent as other schools.

Agency lines up farmer to provide produce

AUSTIN (AP) — Employees with the Texas Department of State Health Services are getting a chance to buy fresh produce at their Austin office.

The department, working with the Sustainable Food Center of Austin, recently started placing weekly orders with Sonny Naegelin, a farmer in Lytle, about 20 miles southwest of San Antonio.

"The whole concept was to encourage our people to eat healthier," said Doug McBride, a department spokesman. "What we were looking for was a pilot program, something we could try to see if it worked."

Andrew Smiley, of the Sustainable Food Center, said the nonprofit developed a Web site where state employees can order and pay for a food basket. The orders are sent electronically to Naegelin on Monday night for delivery on Thursday.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I believe I'd ever be doing this," Naegelin said. "I've learned that people are willing to pay for good, local stuff."

Participants pay \$25 a week for basket of fresh produce, which last week included squash, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes and bell peppers. The number of employees who took part increased from 140 two weeks ago, when the program started, to 171 last week.

Lindsay Rogers, an obesity prevention specialist at the department who helped start the partnership, said she compared prices and found that the goods in the \$25 basket would cost more than \$28 at a grocery store.

"For the first time, I'm getting paid ahead of time for the stuff I grow," Naegelin said. "I get to meet the people I grow for. They get to trust you like their mom or their dad. It's a good feeling."

Del Rio student suspended for posting video

DEL RIO (AP) — School officials have suspended a student who recorded a fight at school and posted the video on the Internet site YouTube.

The student, who was not publicly identified, taped a

fight involving several girls in the halls of Del Rio High School earlier this month.

Principal Jorge Garza said the video violated several district rules, including bans on using cell phones in school and on recording individuals without their prior consent.

"What I am trying to do on my campus is protect the rights of every child," Garza said. "What if it were your child on that video, wouldn't you want their rights protected?"

State keeping fines promised to hospitals

AUSTIN (AP) — Money raised by fining red-light runners is being withheld from its intended purpose of funding medical trauma centers because legislative budget writers didn't appropriate money for the program, officials said.

The Legislature this year gave cities permission to use red-light cameras, largely because supporters said half of the fine money would be dedicated to emergency rooms and trauma care centers.

But the money in the red-light fund was not appropriated, meaning it can't be spent. The fund wasn't expected to build up substantially until next summer.

"There was no appropriation made for that fund, so whatever's collected will stay in that fund," said R.J. DeSilva, spokesman for the Comptroller's Office.

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