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TUESDAY

APRIL 29, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 128

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Jail fund established

Breakdown by line item called project blueprint

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved an itemized jail construction fund Monday morning, as the court moves forward with the construction of the \$11.57 million project.



Olson

Commissioners — without Precinct 1 Commissioner Emma Brown, who was unable to attend the meeting — voted unanimously to adopt the statement of expenditures that will help County Auditor Jackie Olson track the fiscal side of the taxpayer-funded project.

“It’s simply a breakdown by line item,” Olson told the court. “Jeff (Heffelfinger, project architect) prepared it, so questions regarding individual line items should be directed to him.”

Heffelfinger was not present for the meeting. The line items contained in the construction

fund include \$754,500 for architectural and engineering services; \$25,000 for survey staking and plating; \$150,000 for bond underwriting and attorney fees; \$75,000 for land purchases; \$9 million for general construction; \$142,000 for furniture, fixtures and equipment; \$35,000 for independent testing; \$675,000 for the construction manager’s fee; \$280,000 for reimbursable items; \$150,000 for payment and performance bonds; and \$180,000 for jail consultant services.

Of the \$754,500 set aside for architectural and engineering services, the county has paid \$606,630 so far this year, according to the expenditure statement, leaving a balance of \$147,870. Altogether, the county has spent \$674,974 on the multi-million dollar project since voters approved the issuance of general obligation bonds in November 2007.

“Can funds be moved around in this budget?”

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



Howard County commissioners look over an itemized budget for the construction of the new \$11.57 million jail during a meeting Monday morning.

Cinco de Mayo

Festival to be held here this weekend

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Coordinators for the annual Cinco de Mayo Festival say plans for food and fun are coming together nicely with thousands expected to flock to the Heart of the City Park Friday and Saturday.



Zant

Kelly Zant, festival coordinator, said the event will get underway at 6 p.m. Friday and make its two-day romp through downtown Big Spring.

“This will be the fifth anniversary for the Howard County festival,” said Zant. “The two-day event will feature a variety of Tejano bands that will bring the extraordinary sound of the accordion to life through various levels of rhythms and beats. The unique sound that is incorporated using different types of stringed, horn and electronic instruments — along with the vocal harmony of these colorful bands — brings the heart and soul of our Tejano community to life on the stage at the Heart of the City Park.”

Zant said the annual celebration attracts thousands of festival-goers each year, and offers something for everyone in the family.

“Along with the tradi-

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 3A

No arrest in local man’s death

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Investigators with the Texas Department of Public Safety say the April 19 accident that claimed the life of a Big Spring man was caused by an Odessa motorist, but no arrest has been confirmed by the state agency.

James Alford Simmons Jr., 56, was severely injured during the early morning hours of Sunday,

April 19, when his motorcycle was struck from behind by a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban.

“The accident occurred near the 165 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20,” said Linda Chavez, a communications officer with the DPS Regional Office in Midland. “Simmons was traveling west in the outside lane on I-20 on a 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle

when he was struck from behind. He lost control and hit the median, where he was ejected.”

Simmons was taken to University Medical Center in Lubbock, where he died from his injuries April 22 at 9:55 p.m., according to DPS records.

Chavez said the driver of the

See **NO ARREST**, Page 3A

Theft trial under way

The trial for Minnie Marie Wilson, 38, of 307 E. Fourth Street in Forsan began this morning in 118th District Court.

Wilson was indicted in March on a charge of theft by a public servant — more than \$20,000, less than \$100,000, following an extensive investigation spanning approximately eight years, according to BSPD officials.

Dewhurst hails Supreme Court ruling

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst hailed Monday’s Supreme Court ruling that approves states’ efforts to pass a voter identification law and said he looks forward to passing such a measure when the legislature meets again next year.

The ruling galvanizes a Republican-inspired effort that Democrats say will keep some poor, older and minori-

ty voters from casting ballots.

“With this legal challenge now behind us, I look forward to passing a fair voter ID law in Texas next year that fully protects the voting rights of all U.S. citizens registered to vote in Texas,” Dewhurst said.

Efforts to pass a voter ID bill last year divided the Legislature along partisan lines. The measure, which

would have required voters to present a photo ID, ultimately failed in a bitter Senate stalemate.

Democratic Sen. Mario Gallegos of Houston, who became a central player during the last legislative debate, called voter identification requirements “legal discrimination.”

“As long as my constituents are in danger of suffering the indignity of being

disenfranchised by an unjust law, I will oppose that and all similar legislation,” Gallegos said.

During last year’s debate, Gallegos was recovering from a major surgery, but returned to the Capitol to help his Democratic colleagues block the measure. A hospital bed was set up for him outside the Senate chamber.

See **RULING**, Page 3A

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IN BRIEF

Local high school baseball and softball playoffs schedule FRIDAY AREA

Big Spring softball vs. El Paso Canutillo in a best-of-three series in Artesia N.M. (around a 3 1/2 hour drive). Game 1 is at 6 p.m. (5 p.m. in N.M.) Friday. Game 2 is at Noon (11 a.m. in N.M.) Saturday with a third game, if needed, to be played 30 minutes following the completion of Game 2.

Forsan softball vs. Hamlin in a one-game playoff at Western Texas College in Snyder, 5 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Blanco in a one-game playoff in Coleman, 6 p.m.

BI-DISTRICT

Coahoma baseball vs. Ballinger in a best-of-three series in Snyder. Game 1 is at 4:30 p.m. Friday. Game 2 is at 4 p.m. Saturday with a third game, if needed, to be played 30 minutes following the completion of Game 2.

Pictures of Steers' spring sports needed for banquet

Anyone with pictures from the 2008 Big Spring High School spring sports season willing to temporarily donate them for use in a slide show for the 2008 Spring Sports Banquet scheduled for May 22.

Anyone with pictures please contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic to be held at the Big Spring Country Club May 17-18.

The tournament is limited to the first 100 paid teams with a two-man scramble format being used.

A handicap is required and the tourney will be pre-flighted by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance. The fee includes access to the ATMOS Energy hospitality tent, free beverages, a barbecue lunch for both days, an afternoon shootout on May 16 and a golf goodie bag. Call the country club's pro shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 for more information.

Amigos Washer Club holding Cinco De Mayo tournament

The Amigos Washer Club is holding a tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday in celebration of Cinco De Mayo.

The tourney starts at 2 p.m. and the entry team with \$30 per team. The registration deadline is an hour before the beginning of the contest.

First, second- and third-place trophies will be awarded.

Call Larry Lara at 264-6060 with questions.

Coahoma tops Forsan in practice game

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

FORSAN — Both the Forsan Buffalos and Coahoma Bulldogs (22-6) came into their practice baseball game Monday afternoon looking to work on a few fundamental areas and avoid the rust that a long layoff could produce.

"We just really needed to play this game," Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips said. "It's already been a week since we last played and we won't play for another week since we have the bye in the first round."

After the game with the Bulldogs, in which Coahoma won 14-4, Phillips found more than a few things his team needs to concentrate on if they are to advance deep into the playoffs.

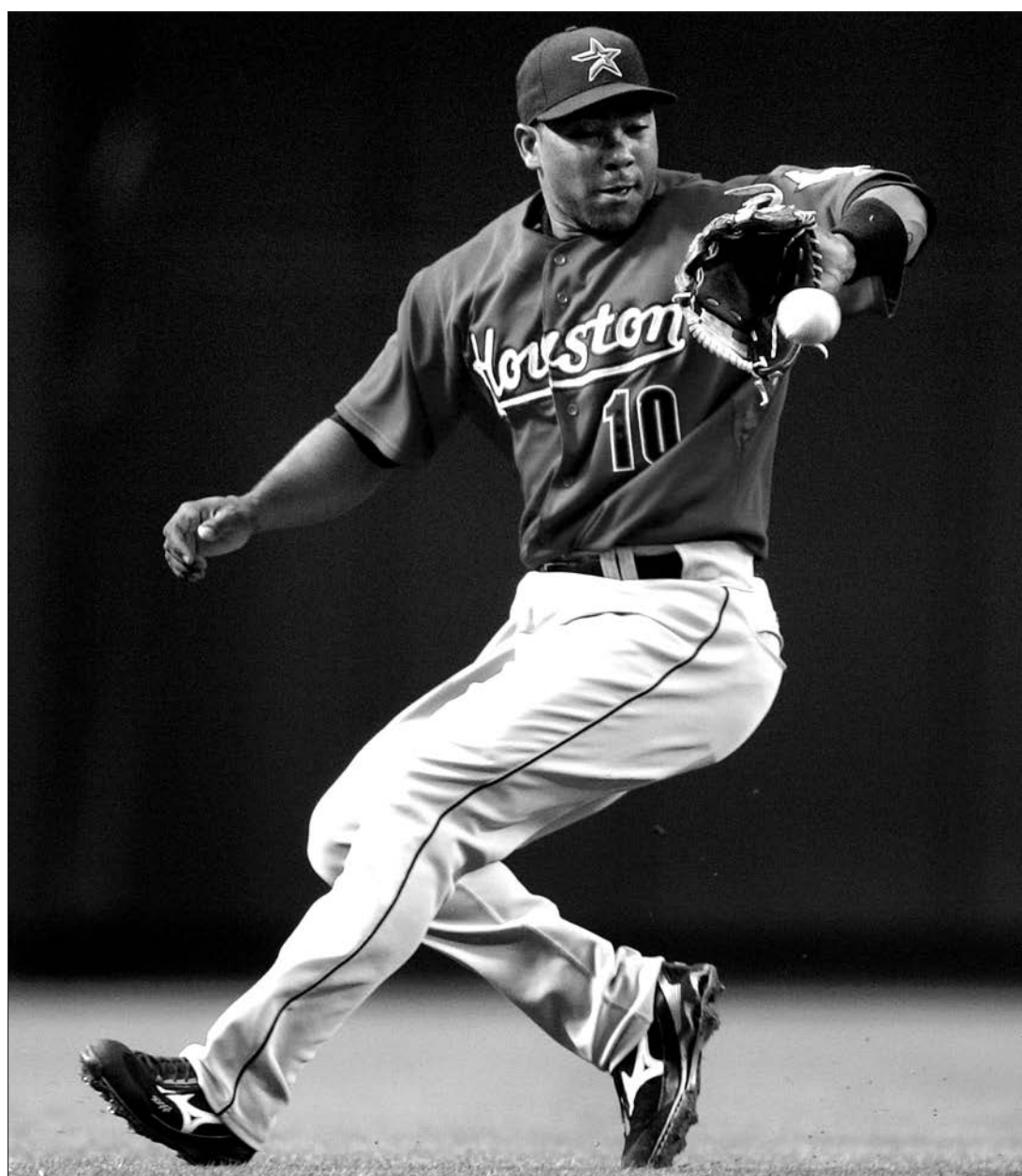
"We are just going to have to be more focused," Phillips commented after watching the Buffs commit eight errors to go along with the eight free passes, including four hit batters, given out by the pitching staff. "You can't give a good team like Coahoma that many gifts and expect to win. We will have to work on our defense some more and hope that it corrects itself. We will be able to tell more after our next practice game against Hamlin this weekend."

See PRACTICE, Page 2B



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback
Forsan's Dillon Lowery slides safely into the third base as Coahoma's P.J. Daylong looks on. The Buffaloes and Bulldogs played a practice game Tuesday in Forsan in order to help them prepare for the playoffs, which start Friday for Coahoma and next weekend for Forsan. The Bulldogs won the game, 14-4.

Haren pitches D-Backs past Astros



AP photo/Matt York
Houston Astros shortstop Miguel Tejada fields a hit by Arizona Diamondbacks' Mark Reynolds during the second inning of an NL baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Monday in Phoenix. Arizona won 5-3.

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Lance Berkman knew what was coming from Diamondbacks reliever Chad Qualls. It hardly mattered.

Representing the potential tying run with two outs in the eighth inning, Berkman struck out on five pitches against his former teammate in Arizona's 5-3 win Monday night over the Houston Astros.

"He came in and threw three nasty pitches," Berkman said. "There's nothing you can do when he throws the ball that way."

With that strikeout against the only batter he faced, Qualls — who came to Arizona from Houston in the trade for closer Jose Valverde — helped preserve a win for right-hander Dan Haren.

Haren (4-1) scattered five hits over a season-high 7 2-3 innings and Mark Reynolds hit a two-run double for the Diamondbacks, who improved their major league-leading record to 19-7. Haren, who also had an RBI double, retired the side in order six times. He finished with five strikeouts and one walk.

"That's definitely the best stuff I've had all year," Haren said.

Brandon Lyon pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save in 10 chances.

In the only other NL games, Cincinnati beat St. Louis 4-3, and San Francisco topped Colorado 4-0. Pittsburgh's game at the New York Mets was postponed by rain and rescheduled for Aug. 11.

Miguel Tejada had an RBI double in the eighth for the Astros, who have lost three straight after a season-best six-game winning streak.

Arizona is 10-2 at home. "We just keep our nose to the grindstone and play every day," manager Bob Melvin said. "You can't help but to take a look at the start we've had but it's just that — a start."

Haren helped his own cause in the third. After Stephen Drew doubled off the center-field wall, Haren hit a line drive to right field. Hunter Pence took two steps in and then backedpedaled in vain as the ball sailed over his outstretched glove and to the wall for an RBI double.

"It's a lucky thing they play me in more often than not," Haren said.

The Diamondbacks added three more runs in the fourth off Chris

See NL, Page 2B

Slow start puts Rangers' skipper on hot seat

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

Ron Washington and his Texas Rangers got a much-needed day off Monday, the first time in three weeks they didn't have to be at a ballpark for a game.

It was only a short reprieve from the second miserable start in two seasons under Washington, whose job is now in jeopardy.

By taking two of three at home from Minnesota, the Rangers (9-17) helped Washington stay employed at least until his 56th birthday — which is Tuesday. But it's going to take much more than one weekend series to keep him around.

After meeting with team owner Tom Hicks and general manager Jon Daniels before the Twins

series, new team president Nolan Ryan said it was important to see how the team responded to the adversity after getting home.

"In the big picture, that's beneficial," Ryan said.

"Obviously, you want to let your fans know that you're concerned with what you're seeing and that you're going to try to do what's realistic to change that," he said. "But also, I don't want to have a knee-jerk reaction and not make good decisions, or decisions in hindsight that weren't the right approach."

Even in winning two of three against Minnesota, there were some of the same problems that have plagued the Rangers all season.

Texas trailed 5-0 in the series opener, the fifth of six straight games with a deficit at least that

big. But the Rangers won 6-5 to snap a seven-game losing streak, celebrating like they'd won a title after David Murphy's RBI single in the 10th inning.

The Rangers had three errors — and other key plays that could have been — while allowing five unearned runs in a 12-6 loss Saturday night. But on Sunday, Vicente Padilla threw a complete game and Josh Hamilton went 3-for-4 with a homer in a 10-0 victory.

Hamilton, who leads the majors with 27 RBIs, said it was the first game "where we've done everything we needed to do. We pitched, hit and played defense. We were having fun in the dugout and it carried over onto the field."

Still, Texas has already set a team record for losses in April,

after tying the previous mark with 15 losses in Washington's first season. Despite the series victory over the Twins, they've still lost 13 of 17 games.

The Rangers were already seven games back in the AL West, with that deficit to grow by another half-game after division leaders Oakland and the Los Angeles Angels played Monday night.

Daniels has said he supports Washington, the manager he hired after the 2006 season to replace the fired Buck Showalter. But Ryan and Daniels haven't answered directly when asked if Washington's job is safe.

Still, Washington didn't plan to change his approach to the off day that preceded another long

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Obituaries

Janice (Boardman Rosson) Bond



Janice (Boardman Rosson) Bond went to be with the Lord on April 26, 2008, while surrounded by loved ones at Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, Fla., after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Janice was born in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 12, 1935.

She is survived by her husband of 10 years, Lane Bond of Big Spring; her three sons and daughters-in-law and five grandchildren, Brian and Johnna

Rosson and their daughter, Taylor, of Odessa, Barry and Linda Rosson and their sons, Matthew and Zachary, of Boca Raton, Fla., and Blake and Tracey Rosson and their sons, Brett and Hunter, of Aledo. She was preceded in death by her father, Jack Boardman; her mother, Portia Boardman; and her first husband of 38 years, Harold Rosson.

Although as a child Janice lived in several cities outside of Texas, she always considered herself to be a "West Texan at Heart." A resident of Big Spring most of her life, she continually tried to give back to her beloved community as much as she ever received from those who knew and loved her. She looked upon Big Spring as a nurturing and caring community, and often referred to the city as the "Caretaker of West Texas."

Education and service to others were always priorities with Janice. She was valedictorian of her graduating class of 1953 at Big Spring High School. She received her bachelors degree (summa cum laude) and master's degree from Texas Christian University, and her educational administration certification from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. At TCU she was a charter member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Throughout her career with the Big Spring Independent School District, she was an English teacher, guidance counselor, curriculum coordinator and principal. She belonged to many professional organizations, the highlight of which was serving as president of the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in 1993.

Her deep fondness for Big Spring High School led her to be co-founder and newsletter editor of the Big Spring High School Exes Association from 1973 to 2007. She was a longstanding board member and officer of the Big Spring Rotary Club, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, Big Spring Symphony Association and Heritage Museum of Big Spring. After retirement, she expanded her involvement in many other community outreach endeavors, serving as board member and officer of the Salvation Army, Region 18 Education Service Center and Texas Retired Teachers Association. Always an advocate for children, she was an avid volunteer with the Court Appointed Special Advocates program. After many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Big Spring, Janice was named the 2007 Woman of the Year by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Janice was an active member of the First Christian Church in Big Spring since 1959. She loved her church and devoted much of her time over five decades to serve as elder, deacon and Sunday school teacher. Music was a passion and joy in her life; she sang in the church choir and Big Spring Symphony Chorus for many years. She especially enjoyed singing in the annual Living Christmas Tree at the First United Methodist Church. Traveling overseas and throughout the United States brought her immense pleasure and excitement experiencing other cultures and regions of the world.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 1, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Donita Lea, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Coahoma, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She will be remembered by her family as a loving, caring and giving mother, grandmother and spouse. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity in her honor, or to the Howard College Scholarship Fund in her name at the Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, 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

Octavian Tavarus Smith



Octavian Tavarus Smith, 2 months, of Big Spring died Friday, April 25, 2008, at his home. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 25, 2008, in Odessa. He is survived by his mother, Okytra Cole of Big Spring; his father, Marcus Smith of Big Spring; four brothers, Domiono Cole of Big Spring, Malik Smith, Jacondric Smith and Tyrell

Smith, all of Houston; two sisters, Cienga Cole of Big Spring and Dezire Smith of Houston; grandparents, Brenda and Dennis Martin of Big Spring, Roger Cole of Kansas City, Mo., Particia and William Autrey of Wharton and Foster Smith of Houston; and a number of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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

Jessie Little



Jessie Little, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 27, 2008, in New Braunfels. Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born April 21, 1921, in Proctor to Jessie and Walter Gray. She married Troy Little on May 28, 1938. He preceded her in death Sept. 12, 1987. She was a cook at Malone and Hogan Hospital until retiring. After retiring, she was head cook at the Spring City Senior Center from 1988 until 2002. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by four daughters, Gerry Buchanan and her husband James, and Barbara Smith, all of Big Spring, Phyllis Hogan and Debbie Masters and her husband Dan, all of Canyon Lake; one son, Ronnie Little of Canyon Lake; one sister, Gracie Perry of Stephenville; 18 grandchildren; and 28 great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Robert and one daughter, Katherine; and eight brothers and sisters. The family will be at 302 N. E. Second.

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

Cynthia Smith

Cynthia Smith, 55, of Big Spring died Monday, April 28, 2008, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.

- **MELISSA ANN HERNANDEZ**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

- **JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **ROCKY ALLAN AUTRY**, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

- **MELISSA FINCHUM**, 40, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

- **SUMMER SNOW BAILEY**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of forgery to defraud or harm another and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information.

- **REGINALD DONTE PRIMER**, 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and violation of parole.

- **BRYAN JAY BARTLETT**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- **DENNIS EDWARD AUSBIE**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- **ALFREDO HINOJOS HARPER**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, Midland County probation violation for aggravated assault of a public servant and a motion to revoke probation for reckless driving.

- **JESUS ENRIQUE GARCIA**, 35, was arrested Monday by the Texas Parks and Wildlife on a charge of hunting from a vehicle.

- **SHANNON DEWAYNE SMITHIE**, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and assault - family violence

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Brown. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported near the 186 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. Service refused.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of N. First Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.

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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

- 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.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

Police blotter

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

- **AUSTIN MCRARY**, 19, of Hobbs, N.M., was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.

- **MELISSA HERNANDEZ**, 23, of Coahoma, was arrested Monday on a local warrant.

- **BRIAN HEDRICK**, 43, of 901 E. 12th Street, was arrested Monday on a Ward County warrant.

- **ADOLPH LABBE JR.**, 33, of 800 S. Nolan, was arrested Monday on a local warrant.

- **ALISHA MANETTE SMITH**, 35, of 4202 Colorado City Highway, was arrested Monday on a local warrant.

- **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

- **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 2100 block of Main.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- in the 200 block of FM 700.

- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 2100 block of Main.

- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 1500 block of Kentucky.
- in the area of Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20.

- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported:
- in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- in the 2500 block of March.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-11-22-26-34.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-20-25-29. Bonus Ball: 9.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-1-6-4. Sum It Up: 12.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-0-6. Sum It Up: 8.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Warmer. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Sunny...Windy. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the southwest 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs around 90. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Cooler. Lows in the lower 50s.

Friday...Sunny. Not as warm. Highs around 80.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Hornets primed to end Mavs' season

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Jannero Pargo's reaction to Jason Kidd's flagrant foul summed up the growth of the Hornets' confidence as they took a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series with the Dallas Mavericks.

"We didn't want him to get suspended," Pargo said after practice Monday. "We want them to be at full strength and have their best team out there on the floor, so that way, if we get the win, it won't be tainted at all."

Letting go of the ball just in time to brace his fall, Pargo narrowly avoided a face-plant on the hardwood after Kidd hooked his hand around the back of Pargo's neck and yanked the Hornets guard to

the floor to prevent a transition layup.

Kidd was ejected with 7:16 remaining in the Hornets' 97-84 Game 4 victory in Dallas on Sunday night, but the NBA decided Monday that Kidd wouldn't be suspended for Game 5 in New Orleans on Tuesday night.

If the Hornets' three double-digit victories in this series are any guide, it may not make a difference.

New Orleans won the first two games at home because of brilliant performances by Chris Paul, who had more than 30 points and at least 10 assists in each of those games.

Paul looked downright human during two games in Dallas, but that didn't prevent the Hornets from getting a split on the road.

David West picked up the slack with 24 points Sunday night and perimeter sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic added 19. New Orleans reserves played ferocious defense and attacked on offense as well, with Pargo and rookie Julian Wright each scoring 11 points.

"We've gotten them out of rhythm on the offensive end because of our defense ... and that's going to continue because we understand how important it is for us to play defense to win this series," Hornets coach Byron Scott said. "We have a lot of confidence that we can win this series."

Although the Hornets were seeded second in the Western Conference and the Mavericks seventh, Dallas came in with the more impressive postseason

resume.

This is the Mavs' eighth straight season in the playoffs, including a trip to the finals only two seasons ago. When Dallas earned the top seed in the West last season and lost to Golden State in the first round of the playoffs, it was considered a stunner.

The Mavs were expected to play like a team looking for redemption against a young New Orleans squad with relatively little postseason experience and led by a playoff rookie in Paul.

If experience means anything in this series, now is the time for Dallas to prove it. Otherwise, the Mavs may be in for a roster shakeup, if not the firing of coach Avery Johnson, following a second straight

first-round playoff exit.

"We've got to show some heart, compete until the end, never give up," Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki said.

Nowitzki has been Dallas' best player in this series, averaging 28 points per game. Jason Terry (16.6 ppg) also has been solid, but Dallas hasn't gotten enough help from Kidd (7.2 ppg), Josh Howard (12.8 ppg) or Jerry Stackhouse (5.0 ppg).

Howard has been in a rut since Game 2, heard boos in Dallas and demonstrated how low his confidence has gotten on Sunday night by hesitating on an open jump shot before tossing up an air ball. He was 3-for-16 in Game 4, while Kidd had only three points, three assists and four rebounds before his ejection.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

stretch of games — 16 in as many days.

"I'm not going to do anything (Monday) but relax. It gives you a chance after 19 days in a

row," Washington said.

"He's been upbeat. He knows just like we do what kind of talent we have," Murphy said, adding that the criticism pointed at the manager is unfair. "It isn't what he's been doing. It's what we've been doing."

Texas has committed an American League-high 27

errors, which has led Washington to consider organized fielded drills when the homestand resumes Tuesday with the opener of a three-game series against Kansas City.

The errors have resulted in a major league-worst 22 unearned runs. Plus, the pitching staff has a 5.34 ERA while allowing

122 walks and a .298 batting average — all the worst in AL.

Attendance at Rangers Ballpark has suffered, too.

There was an announced crowd of 19,911 on Sunday, the fifth time in 10 home dates with fewer than 20,000 people. The average attendance is 24,917 — about half the stadium's capaci-

ty.

"That's a concern of mine," Ryan said. "You understand the repercussions of a start like we've had."

Associated Press writers Paul J. Weber and David Jimenez contributed to this story.

NL

Continued from Page 1B

Sampson (1-3). Orlando Hudson walked and Conor Jackson singled. Reynolds followed with a double into the left-field corner, scoring Hudson and Jackson to make it 3-0. Reynolds then stole third and scored on Chris Snyder's single.

"We're playing good baseball right now," Jackson said. "We need to focus on what we're doing well and keep doing it."

Haren retired his first 12 batters before running into trouble in the fifth. Berkman walked, went to third on Carlos Lee's double and scored on an RBI

groundout by Pence.

Mark Loretta singled to make it 4-2. Haren hit J.R. Towles with a pitch, and Sampson was safe at first when his bunt rolled untouched between Haren and Reynolds to the left of the mound for a single that loaded the bases.

But Haren escaped further damage when Kazuo Matsui popped out and Michael Bourn struck out.

"We could have used a big hit when we had the bases loaded," Astros manager Cecil Cooper said. "We come through right there and it's a whole different ballgame. We need to get two-out base hits. That's what got us on our winning streak

and that's what we need again."

Eric Byrnes made it 5-2 in the fifth when he was hit by a pitch and scored on Jackson's single.

Sampson allowed five runs and seven hits over 4 1-3 innings with two walks and a hit batter.

The Astros chased Haren in the eighth on consecutive two-out doubles by Bourn and Tejada that cut Arizona's lead to 5-3, setting the stage for Qualls.

"The flu's been going around the whole team and I had it early in the year," Haren said. "It was really bad. I lost weight and everything, but I'm finally getting back into my normal routine."

Reds 4, Cardinals 3

Edwin Encarnacion had a pair of RBI doubles and made a standout play at third base in the seventh inning to preserve a one-run lead in Cincinnati's victory at St. Louis.

Bronson Arroyo (1-3) worked six solid innings for the Reds, who won their first series opener after losing the first nine. Francisco Cordero got his fourth save. Slugger Adam Dunn and second baseman Brandon Phillips had an RBI apiece to help Cincinnati win three in a row for the first time this season.

The Reds bunched five hits in the second and third off Todd

Wellemeyer (2-1), scoring twice in each inning to go ahead 4-0.

Giants 4, Rockies 0

Matt Cain got an early lead and his teammates held it, helping host San Francisco's hard-luck pitcher to his first win of 2008 with a 4-0 victory over the slumping Rockies.

Giants manager Bruce

Bochy moved past former San Francisco skipper Felipe Alou for most victories by a foreign-born manager in major league history with 1,034.

Cain (1-2) didn't allow a run over 5 1-3 innings, ending a five-start winless stretch to start the year. Vinnie Chulk, Tyler Walker and Brian Wilson finished the eight-hit shutout.

PRACTICE

Continued from Page 1B

Conversely, Coahoma Head Coach Brad Harman saw a few things that he liked in his teams effort that he said has been missing the past couple weeks.

"We were more aggressive on the base paths today than we have been in the last few games," Harman said after his team stole three bases and continually moved up a base whenever the opportunity presented itself. "We played a good ballgame today. I thought our pitchers did a great job today. We were able to get a couple in that we haven't used that much this year that we are going to need come play-off time."

Rey Gutierrez picked up the win for the Bulldogs, entering the game in the second to pitch the final four innings and finishing with six strikeouts while walking two. Gutierrez allowed only one unearned run and one hit — a lead off single by Ryan Flores in the sixth inning.

Chance Hart went 2-for-4 at the plate for Coahoma, driving in three runs in the first with a bases-loaded double. Bulldogs starting pitcher Donnie Garcia —

two innings pitched with one strikeout and one walk while giving up three runs two of which were earned — scored three runs going 1-for-3 at the plate with a double and two walks.

Gutierrez also scored three runs for Coahoma, including a steal of home in the top of the sixth that put the Bulldogs ahead by 10.

Flores was the big hitter for Forsan as the third baseman collected two hits in three plate appearances, including a first inning triple that drove in the second run of the day for the Buffs.

"I am glad that we were able to play them," Phillips said of the Bulldogs. "They are a very good team and any time you can play against someone of their caliber you are going to be better off for it. We will just take this game and learn from it."

Coahoma will start its quest for the Class 2A state title Friday as it goes against the Ballinger Bearcats in a best-of-three series this weekend in Snyder.

"They wanted it to be just one game, but we one the flip," Harman said of the upcoming series. "I think that one of the keys for us in the playoffs is going to be our pitching depth. You have to be two or three pitchers deep in

the playoffs if you are going to win and I think we have that here."

Forsan must wait a week to find out who they will face next.

"We will just have to stay focused," Phillips said. "We have that practice game this weekend

against Hamlin so I hope that will keep us from getting rusty."

Coahoma 301 721-14 13 2
Forsan 211 000-4 4 8

W - Rey Gutierrez L - Jeremy Robbins. 2B: CHS - Chance Hart, Donnie Garcia, Josh Paniagua. 3B: FHS - Ryan Flores. RBI: CHS - Hart (3), Adrian Amaro; FHS - Flores, Adam Bailey.

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Crucial Decision

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		
♠ Q 4 3		
♥ Q		
♦ K Q 9 8 2		
♣ J 9 7 6		
WEST		
♠ 9		
♥ 10 9 7 5 2		
♦ J 6 5		
♣ A K 5 4		
EAST		
♠ A J 8		
♥ 8 4 3		
♦ A 10		
♣ Q 10 8 3 2		
SOUTH		
♠ K 10 7 6 5 2		
♥ A K J 6		
♦ 7 4 3		
♣ —		

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	

 Opening lead — king of clubs.

How to play a particular suit combination is governed not only by the composition of the suit itself but also by the reality of what will give you the best chance to make the contract.

Take this typical case where declarer is faced with a crucial guess in trumps. West leads a club, ruffed by South. There is no good reason not to lead trumps, so South plays a low spade to the queen, losing to East's ace.

Back comes a club, declarer ruffing again. Now South leads a low heart to dummy's queen and returns a trump. When East produces the eight, declarer has to choose between playing the ten or the king.

Ordinarily, South would play the king, because mathematically there is a slight advantage in playing for the jack to fall. But in this deal, South should play the ten for a very good reason. Playing the ten assures the contract, while playing the king jeopardizes it.

If the ten wins (because East has the jack), declarer cashes the king and loses at most two diamond tricks to make the contract.

If the ten loses (because West has the jack), South still has the situation firmly under control. Whatever West returns, declarer can eventually cash the A-K-J of hearts and discard three diamonds from dummy. Thus he loses only a diamond to the ace, ruffing his third diamond in dummy to avoid a second loser in the suit.

Note that if in the actual deal South plays the spade king instead of the ten at trick five, he goes down. When East gains the lead with the ace of diamonds, he cashes the jack of spades, removing dummy's last trump, and declarer winds up losing two diamonds and two spades to go down one.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The planets contrast perceptions and communication styles today. Neptune is a spiritually unifying presence, but he's an oddball to mental Mercury. It's tempting to believe everything we think, or get lost in abstract concepts. With Mars in Cancer nearby, moving conversations from head to heart sends a much clearer message.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your well-being is tied into how your work is going. Lucky for you, it's going well. In fact, you'll hear from just the person you needed to talk to in order to take a deal to the next level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not easy for you to surrender a measure of control to the people in your life. However, when you can show how much you need them and they need you, life gets instant-

ly brighter for both of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You achieve mastery over the mundane. You don't overdo anything; rather, you do it with joy in your heart. This makes the pet checkups, teeth brushing or bill paying go quickly so you can get to the fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some people don't like to rehearse. But right now, you just don't feel comfortable with the idea of winging it. Besides, there's plenty of time to prepare. Plan away to your heart's content.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Getting back to basics is a very personal process, since what is "basic" to you is not even in the realm for someone else. Get what you need without wondering why you need it or telling yourself that you shouldn't need it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a unique gift for translating your ethereal experiences into everyday language that even your most practical friends can understand. Create two-way conversations that enrich your

soul.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Start talking about your ideas with equally creative people -- especially those who are strong in areas you know little about. You could very well brainstorm your way into a new job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Teamwork always works best when everyone is working together. Sometimes you have to take yourself out of the equation in order make sure that the other person is pulling his or her weight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even when you're in a joking kind of mood -- as you are today -- you recognize the importance of getting serious when it counts. Others are put at ease because of your sensitivity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're realizing the importance of stellar communication skills. You're honing yours by trying to communicate outside of your comfort zone and talk to those who don't easily understand you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.

18). Don't go for the drama. It's your reserved and truthful statements that will get the kind of attention you need. You play heartstrings by stating the facts, just the facts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can celebrate the fact that your comfort zone has expanded in so many different ways. There was a time, long ago, when you were intimidated by the prospect of calling someone you didn't know. Now, you kind of like it!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Cancer born July 17, 1967 and I've been dating a Capricorn born January 12, 1962 for seven years! I would like to get married (although we argue every day). He says marriage is just a piece of paper. He was really burned badly by his ex-wife."

Cancer wants nothing more than to build a home and have a family -- with the right person. You are still, unconsciously, asking yourself if he's part of you. For the most part, I see him as happy with the way things currently

stand. That you have not handed over an ultimatum yet is a powerful testimony to the unyielding fortitude of Capricorn! As Saturn passes your Venus for most of the summer, you're contemplating the bottom line of your heart. So what would this piece of paper change for you? Would it change the quality of love shared, the balance of power, offer financial security or anything else you don't currently have? September is the perfect time to bring up your needs as plainly and clearly as possible -- once. Then let the subject rest. By year's end, you're a whole lot clearer about where you're headed.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My daughter, "Meg," moved to Florida to attend college and graduate school. She is now engaged to a nice young man and will marry in June.

My daughter has always been very flat chested, like me. On my last visit, however, I noticed there was an increase in her bust size that was unmistakably the real deal. I asked her when she had undergone breast augmentation. She turned to me with a shocked look and gasped, "Who told you?" I told her it was obvious. She confided that she'd had it done a month before. Her boyfriend took care of her post-op.

I confess I was hurt my daughter chose not to inform me when she had major surgery, but there was no point getting angry since she wasn't going to "undo" it. She doesn't want me to tell her father because she thinks he will be upset. He will. He'd say it was a stupid choice and, as a result, would have not felt obligated to pay for her upcoming wedding. He'd tell her if she could find the money to pay for fake breasts, she could certainly find the money to get married.

I decided to keep quiet and let Meg tell him, but she hasn't yet, and meanwhile, he's given her an enormous amount of money for the wedding. Yesterday, she sent me pictures of her in the wedding gown. The dress is strapless and absolutely everything is on display. I am mortified at the thought of everyone discussing her new breasts during the ceremony -- and you can bet they will -- and I shudder to think of my husband's reaction.

I am going to visit Meg once more before the wedding. Should I share my concerns and suggest she talk to her father? Or should I keep my mouth shut and let the chips fall where they may? -- Worried Mother-of-the-Bride

Dear Worried: Yes, talk to Meg. She needs to tell Dad before he balks at walking Suddenly Buxom Daughter down the aisle. You can help ameliorate his anger by repeating that she isn't going to "undo" it, and add that it obviously makes Meg feel better about herself (even if you both disagree). If he asks her to pay back the money for the wedding, let them work out an



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

arrangement to do so.

Dear Annie: My sister and I own the house we live in. Last year, we borrowed money, together, for renovations and repairs. The contractors were paid by personal check out of my sister's bank account where the money was held.

I kept rough track with invoice data on the account's balance. Recently, when I approached my sister with a plan for spending the remaining money, she informed me that nearly \$30,000 had vanished, unaccounted for. Repairs stopped.

I absolutely don't believe the money simply disappeared. How can I not trust my only sibling? What should I do? -- Confused in California

Dear Confused: How estranged are you willing to be? If the money truly disappeared, your sister should not object to an investigation. Otherwise, you can talk to a lawyer about suing your sister to recover it. Decide which you value more -- the money or your sister -- because we don't think you're going to have both. Sorry.

Dear Annie: I cringed after reading your response to the newspaper carrier who asked about sending thank-you notes for tips.

I deliver papers and often receive tips and small gifts at Christmas, and send thank-you notes to every customer. These "tips" are gifts for service well done and should be acknowledged appropriately. Otherwise, the giver may not know that you even received their gift. -- Grateful in Ohio

Dear Ohio: We aren't against sending a thank-you note. (Heaven forbid.) But in general, such tips are already a "thank you" from the client, and whenever possible, an in-person acknowledgement at the time is sufficient.

However, we're glad to know so many newspaper and letter carriers are taking the time to do it right.

Dear Annie: My wife is overly attached to her parents. Just before bed and the first thing in the morning, she calls to check in with her folks. They also call her multiple times each day. These are the same parents who prevented her from attending medical school with a scholarship so she would stay home and help them. She has lived a life of duty to parents who provided both physical and mental abuse.

After we married, her parents moved within an hour of us. Since then, they have demanded so much of her time, it leaves none for me. It's like my wife is married to her mother. There are no boundaries. Her mother continually makes decisions about our marriage.

When I bring up my concerns, I get rebuffed. She accuses me of being jealous and trying to drive a wedge between her and her parents. Begging her to be more involved in our marriage is perceived as an ultimatum. We have had a great deal of counseling, but my wife isn't honest with the therapist and denies these issues exist.

I have given up complaining, as it does no good. Every day, I grow more bitter and resentful that the parents who stole my wife's childhood are now stealing her adult life as well. I don't know what to do. -- Lonely in Wyoming

Dear Lonely: We would consider it your wife's business to be close to her family, in spite of her upbringing, except that it is having a very negative impact on your marriage. Abusive relationships are complicated, and what seems obviously controlling or manipulative to you may not be so clear to your wife. Go back for joint counseling, but with a counselor who recognizes when your wife is dissembling and will push her to work on it. As always, if she won't go, go without her.

Dear Annie: My neighbor, "Bob," constantly trespasses onto others' property. When my neighbors are not home, Bob takes oranges off their tree, helps himself to their flowers, uses their garden hose, dumps sediment from his flower pot on their lawn, puts his trash

in their trash bins and allows his dog to defecate on their lawn.

Is this behavior merely rude and insensitive, or is it criminal? Should I say something to my neighbors or just shake my head and keep quiet? -- Fuming in California

Dear Fuming: By all means, tell your neighbors exactly what is going on. Bob needs to know people are aware of his behavior because he thinks he's getting away with it. Is it criminal? It depends on the local laws and what your neighbors may have permitted him to do (such as take oranges). However, if he is stealing or vandalizing property, he should absolutely be reported to the police.

Dear Annie: I was so grateful to see that you mentioned angry moods and increased energy as episodes of mania in bipolar disorder.

I was diagnosed with depression in college and, despite various medications throughout the years, continued to struggle with extreme anger and an inability to sit still. I self-medicated with alcohol. I never considered my moods abnormal, so I never elaborated upon them in therapy. A suicide attempt prompted a trip to a new psychiatrist. I accidentally arrived an hour early, and by the time I saw the doctor, I literally could not sit still.

When the doctor diagnosed me as bipolar, I was shocked. I had depressive episodes, but never happy ones. It is really important to understand that the opposite of the "low" in bipolar is not necessarily "happy." It could be excessive energy or anger. The diagnosis saved my life, my marriage and my friendships. I finally realized other people were not experiencing the same mood swings. I only wish I could get back the 20 years of not knowing. -- Looking Forward in North Carolina

Dear N.C.: We're sorry it took so long for you to get a proper diagnosis, but please know your letter will surely help others. Thank you.

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.

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News Briefs

School says father of assault victim stabs student

HOUSTON (AP) — The father of a Houston-area teenager was arrested Monday for stabbing a male student who allegedly witnessed a sexual assault involving the man's daughter.

The man and his wife had gone to Wunsche High School in the Spring school district north of Houston to tell administrators about the assault, which they said took place off campus over the weekend. Their daughter is a student at the school.

The parents were in a security lobby area outside of the doors of the main campus when the father, identified as Ruben Carlos Cuellar, saw a male student who was allegedly present during the assault, said school district spokeswoman Karen Garrison.

Cuellar is accused of stabbing the unidentified student three times with a knife at around 8:30 a.m., about an hour after classes had started. The student had apparently arrived late to school, Garrison said.

Cuellar was arrested by Spring ISD police and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. There were no records Monday afternoon to indicate whether he had an attorney.

"A campus police officer was nearby when the incident occurred and very quickly intervened and arrested the man," Garrison said. "Everything happened in the lobby outside of the doors to the main campus. Other students were not in danger or anywhere near that."

The student was stabbed in the chest, abdomen and on one of his hands, officials said. He was taken to a hospital in the Houston suburb of The Woodlands, where he was listed in good condition.

An attorney representing the 17-year-old junior said the boy was not involved in the alleged weekend assault.

"It's a crushing blow to them. Their child is being portrayed as a thug," attorney Fernando Valdes told the *Houston Chronicle*.

School bus carrying children flips on side

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — An Arlington school bus carrying more than two dozen elementary school students flipped on its side Monday after being struck by a sport utility vehicle that ran a red light, police said.

None of the children on board were seriously injured, Grand Prairie Detective John Brimmer said. Nine were taken to nearby hospitals with minor scrapes and bruises. Six of the nine were in good con-

dition at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

Officials said the bus carried 29 children, who escaped by climbing out the broken windshield and roof emergency hatch after the bus came to rest.

Heated presidential campaign increasingly souring Democrats on rival candidates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Loyal Democrat Richard Somer says if Hillary Rodham Clinton gets his party's presidential nomination, he just may sit it out this Election Day.

A Barack Obama supporter, Somer says he has been repulsed by her use of "slimy insinuations" in the campaign. He especially disliked her attacking the Illinois senator for his relationship with William Ayers, a former Weather Underground radical with provocative views.

"She's better than that," said Somer, 72, a retired professor from Clinton, N.Y. He said he expects the Democrats to carry New York anyway, so he might not vote "as a protest to Mrs. Clinton."

Somer is not the only Democrat whose views of his party's rival candidate have soured.

Party members increasingly dislike the contender they are not supporting in the bruising nomination fight, an Associated Press-Yahoo News survey and exit polls of voters show. That is raising questions about how faithful some will be by the November general election.

3 twisters rip across Va., injuring more than 200 residents and tearing apart buildings

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP) — Russ McCrocklin has been through it all before. When Hurricane Ivan hit Florida a few years ago, he had to wait until the next day to see if he would have a home to return to. His house was fine then, but McCrocklin fears he won't be so lucky this time around.

McCrocklin and others will assess damage to their homes and businesses Tuesday, a day after three tornadoes ripped through Virginia leaving smashed homes, tossed cars and more than 200 injured residents behind. Many, like McCrocklin, spent the night in emergency shelters.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency, which frees up resources for those areas hit hardest. Kaine will visit some of the most damaged areas on Tuesday.

The twister in this city outside Norfolk cut a fickle, zigzagging path 25 miles long through neighborhoods,

obliterating some homes and spraying splintered wood across lawns while leaving those standing just a few feet away untouched.

Senate debates how to make aviation system safer, more efficient

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is taking on what Sen. Jay Rockefeller calls "a national embarrassment," an antiquated air traffic control system that is making flying more unpleasant and possibly less safe.

Legislation being debated this week in the Senate to modernize the nation's aviation system could provide immediate relief to suffering passengers. It would set a three-hour limit on how long airliners may sit on a runway without allowing passengers to get off.

Rockefeller, D-W.Va., heads the Senate Commerce aviation subcommittee. He is citing predictions that none of the 1 billion people predicted to fly in 2015 will reach their destination on time if aggressive steps are not taken in the meantime to upgrade air traffic control.

The House passed its version of the bill in September. It stalled in the Senate because of disputes over how to pay for the needed modernization efforts.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said an agreement reached last week would provide an additional \$800 million every year for the Aviation Trust Fund. One source of new money would be raising the tax on jet fuel used by noncommercial aircraft from the current 21.9 cents a gallon to 36 cents a gallon.

Fed poised to cut rates, may take a breather after that as it battles economic crosscurrents

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is poised to deliver another interest rate cut to millions of people and businesses this week, although that could be the last break they get for a while.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues open a two-day meeting Tuesday afternoon to take a fresh pulse on the economy and decide their next move on interest rates.

The Fed is widely expected to lower its key interest rate by one-quarter percentage point to 2 percent at the end of its session Wednesday.

That would mark a modest rate reduction after a recent string of hefty cuts.

The Fed is facing a difficult juggling act of trying to shore up the faltering economy while also trying to keep inflation from taking off.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore asked Olson during the meeting.

"Yes, Jerry, they can be shifted from one line item to another," Olson answered. "This budget just gives us something to apply the expenditures to, basically a blue print to

work from."

Also Monday, commissioners discussed whether to renew a mechanical maintenance agreement with Anthony Mechanical, a contract that is costing the county approximately \$49,392 a year.

County Judge Mark Barr said members of the county's maintenance team had expressed their

willingness to fill the void if the contract was abandoned, but commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the contract was worth far more than \$49,000 because of its capacity to act as an insurance policy.

"When we first signed a mechanical contract, major work had to be done to the chiller on the roof," said Kilgore. "It would have cost us a lot

more than just the contract if we hadn't had it. Heaven forbid we drop this contract then everything breaks down."

Commissioners spoke with Bill Hale, a representative of Anthony Mechanical, in a conference call during the meeting, with Hale explaining the coverage the contract provides for not only the county courthouse, but

also for the county library and annex building across the street from the courthouse.

After speaking with Hale, the commissioners — with the exception of Barr — seemed satisfied with the contract, which places financial liability for almost all mechanical systems on Anthony Mechanical, with the exception of refrigerant

leaks.

"I suppose I'm pretty well outvoted anyway," said Barr with a laugh. "We'll let the contract go ahead and renew."

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

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

tional festival food fare of hamburgers, barbecue, corn on the cob, hot wings and other delights, there will also be many food booths specializing in festive foods and many different culinary delights from the Tejano and Mexican cultures," said Zant. "Food specialties like gorditas — which are made from cornmeal, fried and then stuffed with fajita meat, chicken,

chicharones, beans and then topped with vegetables — are a unique delicacy and a must-try meal experience. Various tacos made with flour or corn tortillas and then topped with salsas of varying heat temperatures and other condiments will make your mouth water and have you craving for more.

"The festival will start Friday at 6 p.m. and run until midnight. Saturday, the festival will open at 11 a.m. and close at midnight," she added.

Zant said festival-goers with a competitive streak will get a chance to try their hand at a game that has been a West Texas tradition for years.

"If washer pitching is your game, be sure and enter the tournament slated to start Saturday at 1 p.m.," said Zant. "There will be cash prizes and trophies for the winners."

The tournament organizer is Manuel Ontiveros.

"This is a multi-cultural event. It's a family event... What we're trying

to do is bring about a cultural unity, to bring the people in our area together to celebrate our community. We want to uplift everyone and give them a place to take their families and just celebrate being from Big Spring," Zant added. "There just aren't enough opportunities to celebrate who we are, and this is a big part of who we are as a community."

For more information on the festival, contact Zant at 213-5703.

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



NO ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

Suburban left the scene of the accident, but was later tracked down in Sweetwater.

"The driver of the Suburban was identified as Paul Eugene Henson of

Odessa," said Chavez. "I don't currently have any information regarding whether any charges were filed against Henson or if he was taken into custody."

Henson's name did not appear on an inmate list at the Ector County Jail or list of recent arrest as of Monday afternoon. A

call to the Nolan County Sheriff's Department was not returned before press time.

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

RULING

Continued from Page 1A

ber. Democratic state Sen. Rodney Ellis, of Houston, said the Supreme Court ruling would lead to disenfranchised voters.

"I will continue to fight to preserve the right to vote for all people, not just people with picture ID's," he said in a statement. "To this point, no one

has proven that there is any voter impersonation at the polls. Until they do that, voter ID requirements are still nothing but a not-too-thinly veiled attempt to turn away elderly, minority and young voters."

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Coordinating board made right decision

Texas may not be the next Kansas after all. The state's Higher Education Coordinating Board voted Thursday to deny a biblically based institution the right to offer online graduate degrees in science education.

We applaud the board for setting this precedent in what will surely be a long series of battles involving science education in Texas. After the wars over the teaching of both evolution and intelligent design that have splintered Kansas for the past nine years, Texans can breathe at least a momentary sigh of relief.

The Dallas-based Institute for Creation Research, which sought coordinating board approval for an online master's degree in science, lacked many of the standards required of other universities to award degrees. Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes said that the institute, by insisting on a literal interpretation of Bible's creation story, would fail to prepare students adequately for the field of science education.

The decision follows both Paredes' recommendation and a unanimous vote Wednesday by a coordinating board panel to deny the institute's petition. The proposed degree became an issue because a coordinating board advisory committee last year recommended approving the course of study. Paredes has said the advisory committee's review process was flawed.

Dedicated learning in its many forms is generally wonderful. But course work must be labeled correctly. The state is right to require that a graduate degree in creation studies, which the Institute of Creation Research offers, be called what it is — a degree in religion, not science.

State education officials should continue to keep religion separate from science as they debate and make final changes to the state's science curriculum this summer. Just as a graduate degree in science education shouldn't have a religious base, creationism should remain separate from elementary, middle and high school science education.

Once the State Board of Education approves a public school science curriculum, it will begin selecting new science textbooks. Texas has immense power in the textbook arena because it is the second-largest state, after California, to choose its books on a statewide basis. Textbook publishers tend to sell a Texas version of their books, depending on what the state deems acceptable. Many other states, in turn, adopt the Texas books for their students.

Texas officials must use their power over course curriculum and textbooks in responsible ways to ensure that Texas students receive the best science education possible. Failure to do that diminishes the ability of Texas students to compete nationally.

Paredes and the coordinating board took a correct and principled stand in denying the creationist institute's science course.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We come from a solid base, Lord, when we come to You.
Amen

Ben Bernanke should resign

Having now undermined America's financial system, eviscerated the dollar and greased the skids for millions of homeowners to become renters again, Ben Bernanke should turn in his passport and his limo, submit his resignation and sail off into exile. And that journey should require a fair sized yacht because he might as well cart Alan Greenspan, Henry Paulson and a serious list of former treasury secretaries along with him.

The Cayman Islands would be a fine locale. It's already steeped in financial chicanery. The new settlement might be called "Shenanigans." It could advertise in The Wall Street Journal for more settlers. Bermuda or Panama would be similarly qualified. And we're not even talking here about presidents, senators, congress members, et al. Not yet.

The underlying philosophy of these moguls is plainly that what's good for Wall Street is good for America. However, such "wisdom" is more supported by their gravity of countenance and cost of wardrobe than by any commendable public record. Rampant credit card companies and devious mort-

gage speculators have plagued our citizens for a generation while the Federal Reserve and the Treasury have largely winked approvingly. Take the ongoing destructive housing bubble. Non-profit economists have been warning about it for years. And do you think it was kept secret from Bernanke that Bear Stearns and other avaricious investment bankers were gathering up fishy mortgages and sugar-coating them as high-yield investments? Who's kidding whom? The whole administration knew what was going on. It's just that no one wanted to spoil the fun.

Thanks, guys! Here in my home state of Connecticut, where many of those culprits live, you notice less willingness these days for distinguished-looking gentlemen to look you in the eye. Some have lost their jobs but others are being bailed out at our expense.

Yes, the Fed is lending cheap money to these giant investment banks in order to "protect our financial system." Too bad they couldn't find a way to lend that money to you and me at 2.25 percent. That would rocket up the economy a whole lot faster than subsidizing Bear Stearns.

Unfortunately, the Federal Reserve, despite its plenary banking powers, has never viewed its role as a protector of individual citizens. That would be like giving flak vests to the deer during hunt-

ing season. We deer are simply the bottom of the food chain and should be prepared to sacrifice our financial lives for the welfare of banks, credit card issuers, investment houses and hedge funds.

They're the ones who make our country great, providing us with jobs and loans that allow us to buy and lose our homes.

In the end, the Fed's grand scheme of supporting the big guys failed to support us. But don't fret...it wasn't supposed to. It was supposed to give opportunity to wealth, greed and avarice to keep turning those quarterly profits. But on the inside, most players knew that it couldn't last. They just wanted a few more juicy quarters before nature took its course.

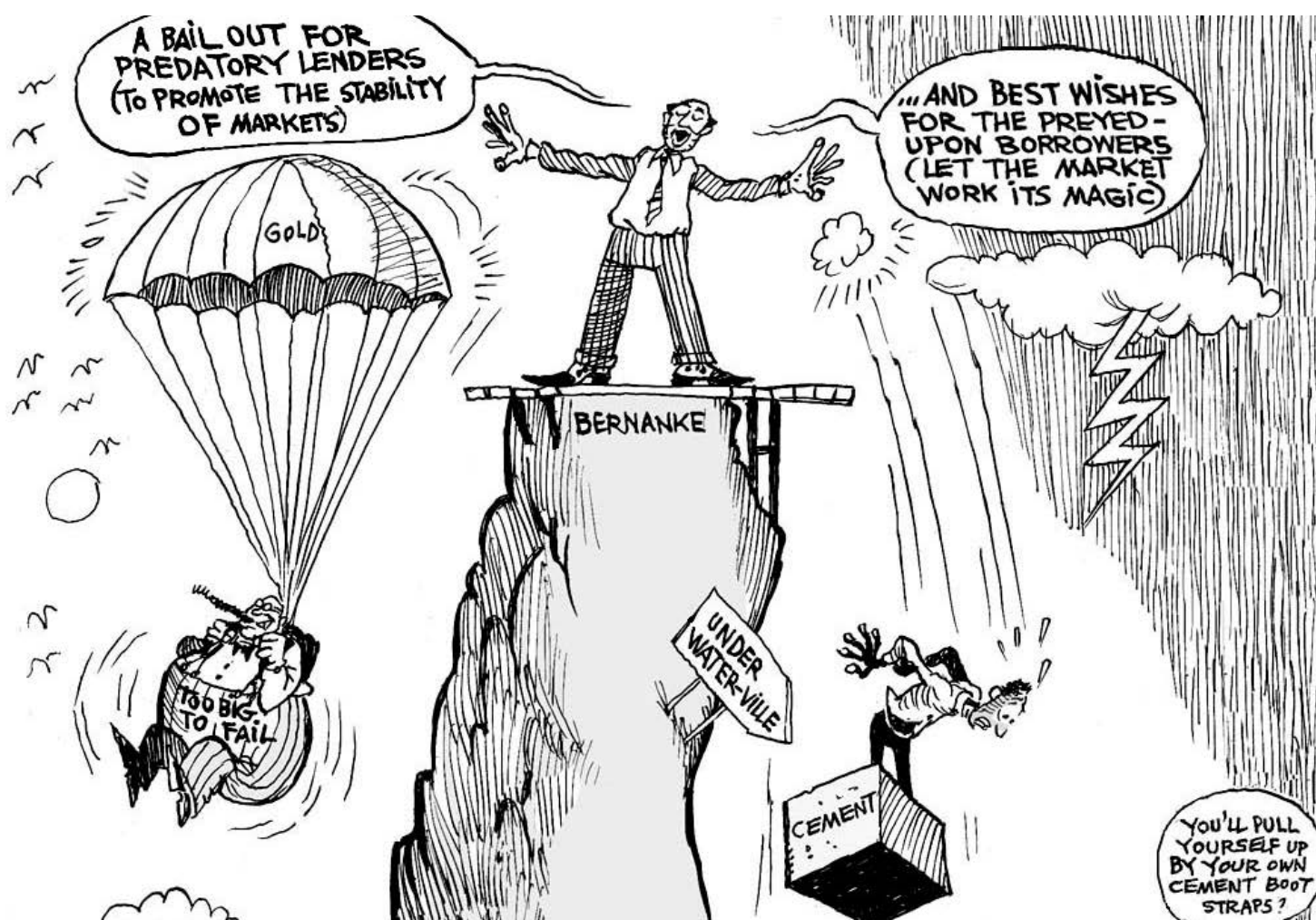
Well, nature has now arrived, the financial landscape is strewn with victims, the big guys are reveling in cheap interest and the dollar is on life support. Fed and Treasury leaders ought to apologize, resign and go away. Is there no shame?

Sure, the president would then just appoint some new turkeys, but it would be a good precedent. Bernanke and Paulson are lucky this isn't ancient Japan, where such ill motive required harsher penance.

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



WILLIAM A. COLLINS



Sensible approach to juvenile justice

At younger and younger ages, children and teens in the juvenile justice systems of many states are condemned to long terms at large youth detention centers and adult prisons. They languish in cells surrounded by walls and razor wire. Often they are locked down for long periods of the day with no real opportunities for rehabilitation, treatment or education. Many youth become more hardened criminals while incarcerated, and at the end of their sentences, they are released into communities that don't have adequate resources to reintegrate them.

It is a disgrace that this is largely what passes for juvenile justice in many places throughout our nation. But there is a better way.

Mark D. Steward, founder and director of the Missouri Youth Services Institute, and his colleague, Pili Robinson, are lights on the horizon for urgently needed nationwide juvenile justice system reform. Mark served as director of the Missouri Division of Youth Services for more than 17 years until retiring in July 2005.

Their approach to youth incarceration is a sharp departure from most conventional methods. Their rehabilitative and therapeutic youth program has been one of the best success stories in the country. Missouri's juvenile recidivism rate is low, with only 8 percent of those incarcerated coming back into juvenile custody and 8 percent going into Missouri's prisons. How did Missouri do it? First, it

eliminated its huge, rural detention facility that warehoused 2,500 young people. In its place, Missouri established 33 residential facilities and 11 day-treatment centers in five regions. These aren't just smaller prisons; they're designed to provide a dormitory atmosphere for groups of no more than 12 children and teens. Under this system, none of them is more than two hours away from their homes and community services.

The key to Missouri's success is its focus on the development of each child or youth in a positive environment. When you walk into a Missouri juvenile detention facility, there are no cuffs or shackles, no cells, no bars; there are no isolation rooms and no correction officers. What you find instead are youth counselors and team leaders in a dorm-like environment with bunk beds, pillows, couches and carpets, and young people wearing their own clothes, explained Robinson. "We allow kids to be themselves and take them back to being kids," he said, noting that many children are forced by their harsh environments to grow up too fast.

Education and job training are essential components of the program. There are two facilities located on the campuses of women's colleges for girls who go to a residential program with full-time mentoring. While attending high school, they slowly transition directly into college life. Instead of being locked down and locked in, the youth throughout the system participate in community service projects at nursing homes and food banks and take field trips to places like Washington, D.C., and Boston. They sponsor Career Days, Multi-Culture Festivals and

their own Olympics.

Much of the rehabilitation involves working through youth peer groups and does away with the idea of adults preaching down to them. The youths learn leadership skills and how to facilitate group sessions. Staff members are trained to facilitate teams of 12 and are prepared to meet the needs of each youth, making referrals to family therapy and substance abuse counseling generally unnecessary.

The Missouri Division of Youth Services also has created a seamless case management system so that once each youth is adjudicated, a single caseworker follows him or her and the family throughout the entire stay in the system, facilitating eventual reentry into the community.

Significantly, this system comes with a considerable cost savings. The annual cost for detaining a youth in Missouri is less than half of what other states pay.

We should stop spending a fortune on large, traditional and non-therapeutic correctional facilities and then releasing youths back into our communities with little done to address their rehabilitation, treatment and education. It makes infinitely more sense to support rehabilitation programs like the Missouri Division of Youth Services, which have high rates of success turning troubled children into productive citizens. We hope that more states and municipalities get that message soon.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council.

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Bird Poop: Young barn owls display 'terrible' table manners

Night after night she left the nest to hunt for food. Her nestlings required constant feeding. As they grew, so did their appetites.

In and out the door until the first light illuminated the metal structure, the mother had brought her catch to waiting mouths.

After giving each youngster its final bite, she watched as they quickly settled down for their lengthy sleep.

With her nightly duty completed, the mother moved away from the nestlings. Knowing that her brood had been fed, she slept.

Awakened from her deep repose by the movement under her feet, she struggled to free herself from this unknown danger. Encompassed by a situation she could not escape, her world suddenly went black.

When the phone rang mid-afternoon, I sensed the utter disappointment and sadness in what the caller was describing. "Crushed by the roll-up door on the barn," said the man. "Since she's not there to feed 'em, will you take the babies?" was his plea. Agreeing to meet the man and his

wife, we gathered our gloves and carrier for the orphaned young.

Concern for not only wildlife but domestic animals was evident in the personalities of the couple we met. Assuring them that the two barn owls would be raised by a surrogate parent and released, we felt this was the only consolation we could offer for such a tragic accident.

Removing the first nestling from the couple's container, I was greeted with striking feet and a piercing scream. The second youngster followed suit. "They're pretty feisty," said the man, whose grin told me he had undergone quite an experience in rescuing them.

Once home, we allowed the vocal twosome time to adjust to their new home. As evening approached, we placed baby mice in their carrier. Assuming the owls were large enough to be self feeding, we decided to check on them much later to be certain.

Approaching the carrier, we noticed the uneaten mice. Defiantly hissing with heads swaying from side to side, the twosome started their screaming routine. Unsure they would eat during the night, we had to feed each one in spite of the protests.

The strength of both owls was evident as we removed them from their temporary home. Each in



Courtesy photo

Feeding the young barn owls from Ackerly was difficult. While one moment the nestlings were playfully grabbing at each other with their feet, the next second these extremities had become formidable weapons.

turn grabbed the leather glove in a pinching, crushing hold. The deafening cry from such vulnerable young had our ears ringing.

After using a hemostat to place a mouse in each owl's mouth, we were thanked for our effort by their slinging the mouse aside and resuming their screaming. While Art held one, I forcibly placed the tiny rodent so far back in the other's throat that it swallowed the morsel before realizing I had won that round.

Continuing what

worked, I managed to get four mice in each owl amidst the continuous screaming. Feeding accomplished, the owls were returned to their enclosure. Once we left the room, their silence informed us they had nestled together for the night.

Checking with the wildlife center the next day to make sure the owls were receiving enough sustenance for their rapid growth, we agreed to provide mice also during the morning. Once again, the food was refused and the battle

began.

With their menacing behavior, the barn owls exemplified the ultimate in wild young. Having fed numerous young barn owls previously, we certainly could tell the difference in these two beings. We began to wonder if they were possessed.

After three days in which the nestlings never changed their approach to table manners, we delivered them to South Plains. Since we had other birds to deliver, we marked their area and numbers on the card-

board carrier in black ink: "Ackerly Owls, No. 1 and No. 2."

Calling us the next day, volunteer Gail Barnes asked what we had done to the Ackerly owls to make them so mean. Unable to get the youngsters to eat on their own, she had encountered the same defensive resistance. "And they never stop screaming," was her closing remark.

Although she had to force feed the nestlings for days before they would finally eat on their

See OWLS, Page 6A

Parent's Corner:

What really means the most to us?

Mary and her husband Jim had a dog named Lucky who was a very interesting character. Whenever the couple had company come for a weekend visit, they would warn their friends to not leave their luggage open because Lucky would help himself to whatever struck his fancy.

Inevitably, someone would forget and something would come up missing. Mary or Jim would go to Lucky's toy box in the basement and there the treasure would be, amid all of Lucky's favorite toys.

Lucky always stashed his finds in his toy box and he was very particular that his toys stay in the box.

It happened that Mary found out she had breast cancer. She was afraid she was going to die as she scheduled the double mastectomy. The night before she was to go to the hospital, she cuddled with Lucky.

A thought struck her, what would happen to Lucky? Although the 3-year-old dog liked Jim, he was Mary's dog through and through.

If I die, Lucky will be abandoned, Mary thought. He won't understand that I didn't want to leave him. The thought made her sadder than thinking of her own

death.

The double mastectomy was harder on Mary than her doctors had anticipated and Mary was hospitalized for more than two weeks.

Jim was faithful to take Lucky for his evening walk, but the little dog just drooped and whined because he was so miserable.

Finally the day came for Mary to leave the hospital. When she arrived home, Mary was so exhausted she couldn't even make it up the steps to her bedroom. Jim made his wife comfortable on the couch and left her to nap. Lucky stood watching Mary but he didn't come to her when she called. It made Mary sad but sleep soon overcame her and she dozed.

When Mary woke for a second she couldn't understand what was wrong. She couldn't move her head and her body felt heavy and hot. But panic soon gave way to laughter when Mary realized the problem. She was covered, literally blanketed, with every treasure Lucky owned!

While she had slept, the sorrowing dog had made trip after trip to the basement bringing his

beloved mistress all his favorite things in life. He had covered her with his love. This devotion caused Mary to forget about dying. Instead she and Lucky began living again, walking further and further together every night.

It's been 12 years now and Mary is still cancer-free. She and Lucky still take their walks and he still steals treasures and stashes them in his toy box but Mary remains his greatest treasure.

The moral we must learn from this story is that we must live every day to the fullest; keeping in mind that life is a blessing.

We must love generously, care deeply and speak kindly.

We must attempt to be kinder than necessary, for everyone we meet is fighting some kind of battle.

And we must be aware that those who make a difference in our lives are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They're the ones who care.

I love the quote by Luciano do Crescenzo: "We are each of us angels with only one wing, and can only fly by

embracing each other."

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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Boy's Haven kids quilt for soldiers

By JANE MCBRIDE

Beaumont Enterprise

BEAUMONT — The children and teens who live at Boys' Haven in Beaumont have numerous opportunities to be on the receiving end of acts of kindness and compassion.

Recently, they turned the tables, helping make quilts to be sent to wounded American servicemen and women fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They were getting to give to someone — and that was exciting for them. They were making something that was going to a war hero, someone in battle," said Jenni Beaumont of the Golden Triangle Quilt Guild. "It seemed like it made a difference to them, some especially. They were really proud to have worked on them."

For almost a decade, members of the quilt guild have been making and donating quilts for newly-arrived boys at the Haven, a residential facility for nonviolent boys in need of a temporary home with a safe, nurturing environment. Many of the boys come from a single parent home. Others might have emotional problems.

The boys usually are placed at Boys' Haven for one year, though some stay less before returning home and some longer. Any boy who stays at the haven longer than three months gets to take his quilt with him when he leaves.

The last time the women made a delivery of quilts to Boys' Haven, a couple of the boys said, "We want to learn how to do that. We want to make a quilt," Beaumont said.

Most, if not all of the 15 boys who showed up on work day never had operated a sewing machine, let alone cut fabric

and piece it together.

The older ones used scissors while younger ones pieced fabric together. Several of the boys got to use the sewing machines.

"They did wonderful. We ended up with four quilt tops. Many of the women took them home and put the backing and binding on and did the quilting," Beaumont said.

Juvenile privacy issues prevent the boys from being interviewed or identified in photographs, but observers said the group had fun while learning a new skill that made them look at life a little differently.

At first, some of the boys seemed a "little bored" with the idea, said Annette Charles, 37, activity director at Boys' Haven, thinking it was something only girls do.

"After they had a chance to participate in the stitching and the sewing, and see what the experience was like, they really enjoyed it," Charles said. "The quilt guild usually brings the quilts to them, but this was a hands-on experience."

Shari Pulliam, public information officer for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, said she often sees children who are in protective custody develop a need to do something for others. The most recent example was foster children who wanted to help out at a free community event April 5 in Beaumont to promote awareness of child abuse and prevention.

"We had a lot of children in foster care ask if they could work at the Blue Ribbon Kid's Fest and give back. They came out and said how good it felt to do something for child abuse prevention, because they had first hand knowledge," Pulliam said.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Mike Mathis, left, and Gaylon Knowlton, center, pick up a card while participating in the poker run portion of the Howard College Relay for Life team's Bike-A-Thon fundraiser on the college campus Saturday morning.

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OWLS

Continued from Page 5A

own, Gail admitted she had never had any young barn owls act like this twosome. When we sent her another carrier with "Ackerly Owl No. 3," she called immediately.

Although the owl had come from another town, our designation let her know quickly that here was a third bird with the same type of behavior.

Several weeks later, we met the man who had rescued Nos. 1 and 2. After telling him about the owls and the impressions they had left on us

and the wildlife center volunteers, I asked what had he fed them while in his possession. With a grin that would come to typify his wry sense of humor, he answered, "Jalapeno peppers!"

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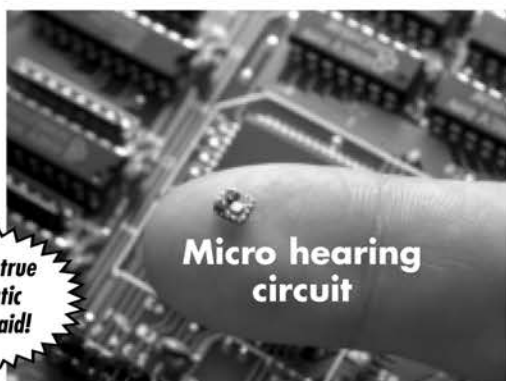
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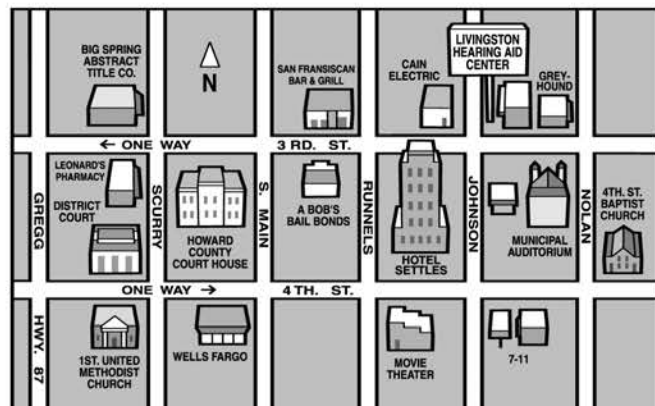
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OUR PRICE \$445	OUR PRICE \$805	OUR PRICE \$1,345

Medicaid Accepted.



ZERO DOWN
Six & Twelve Months

ZERO INTEREST
With Approved Credit

