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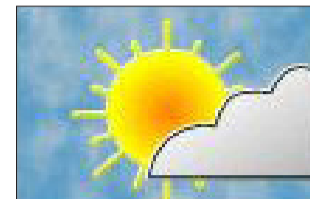
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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY
JUNE 27, 2008



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Downes resigns

Superintendent, board say ending relationship in their 'best interest'

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Citing "distractions" caused by an ongoing state investigation, Michael Downes and the Big Spring Independent School District reached a mutual parting of the ways Thursday night.

District trustees emerged from a marathon special meeting to announce that Downes, the district's superintendent since 2002, had resigned.

His resignation is effective June 30. No timetable has been announced for naming a replacement.

Downes has been under investigation by the Texas Education Agency since a complaint was filed against him



Downes

in November 2007. The complaint, filed by former BSISD instructor Jamie Owen, allegedly contains accusations of improper relationships with students during a previous stop in Downes' educational career, although details of the complaint have not been made public.

"When the board received notice in November 2007 of the TEA complaint, its perception was that Mr. Downes was performing a commendable job as the district's chief executive and sincerely believed that the allegations made in the TEA complaint would be resolved quickly," said Fred Stormer, the district's attorney, in a statement on behalf of the board.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring Independent School District Assistant Superintendent Steven Saldivar, left, and trustee Phil Furqueron listen to comments during Thursday's school board meeting. Saldivar is now the top administrative officer for BSISD after the announcement of Superintendent Michael Downes' resignation.

"A quick resolution did not ensue and the TEA investigation continues," Stormer added. "The TEA complaint has proven to be a distraction for Mr. Downes, the district's

faculty and students and the community at large. For this reason, the district and Mr. Downes determined that it would be in their best interest to end their employment

relationship."

The statement added that the resignation was entirely voluntary on Downes' part. An

See **DOWNES**, Page 3A

Ban order signed

Fireworks ban still needs OK from state

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard County officials are awaiting state approval of an emergency order banning the sale and discharge of fireworks through July 5.



County Judge Mark Barr said he signed the emergency order declaring a local state of disaster Thursday afternoon. He must now gain approval of the order from the state's emergency management director and the governor's office before the ban goes into effect.

Barr said he should receive word from state officials within the next two or three days.

Exceedingly dry conditions, combined with plenty of dry grass and brush in the area, have prompted county officials to consider either banning or severely limiting the sale and use of fireworks for at least the next few days. County firefighters have battled more than 200 grass and brush fires so far this year.

Midland, Ector and Andrews counties have instituted similar bans within the past week.

Currently, counties

See **BAN**, Page 3A

BSISD officials plan on balanced budget

But there will be less 'wiggle room' this time around, they say

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials plan on having a balanced budget during the next fiscal year.

After that, however, things could get dicey.

School trustees received a preliminary report on the district's new financial package during a budget workshop held in conjunction with Thursday's board meeting.

Sandra Waggoner, chief

financial officer for the district, said the state has placed a cap on how much money it will provide to the district. As a result, local officials will have far less wiggle room in this budget than has been the case the last two years.

The district will receive a flat rate per student from the state, so the only way to increase revenue, she said, would be for BSISD to attract more students.

"Basically, we've flat-lined on revenue," she said. "Last year and the year before, we could

do a lot of good things with the budget, but with the way revenue is capped ... it's going to be harder and harder for us to just balance the budget."

As it stands, the \$28 million budget will feature \$200,000 less in expenditures than last year, a direct result of the capped state funding, she said.

Despite the decreased aid, officials plan to provide a standard "step" raise for most teachers, as well as pay raises for teachers' aides, clerks and

auxiliary personnel. No raises are planned for administrators, Waggoner said.

Also, officials are considering a raise in the daily rate paid to substitute teachers and aides. Substitute aides would see their daily pay rate rise to \$55, while substitute teachers would receive \$70 per day.

There are few "big ticket" items in this year's package, compared to the past two years. Waggoner

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Poll: Math, yes; standardized tests, maybe

By NANCY ZUCKERBROD

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — More math, please.

A large majority of Americans think schools are placing too much emphasis on the wrong subjects, and more than half think they're doing just a fair job in preparing children for the work force or giving them the practical skills they need to survive as adults, according

to an Associated Press poll released Friday.

So what do people think the schools should focus on?

More than a third said math. English was a distant second, at 21 percent. A tiny fraction picked art, music and the sciences, such as biology and chemistry.

"I don't think math is getting nearly enough attention," said Larry Michalec of San Diego,

who has a grown daughter. "When was the last time you added up something without a calculator?"

Parents may want more math in school because they feel unprepared to help at home, said Janine Remillard, who teaches math-related courses at the University of Pennsylvania's education school.

"Math is the subject that

parents are often intimidated by," she said. "We've allowed a lot of kids to just say, 'I'm not good at math,' ... and those kids become parents."

The economy and gas prices are the most important issues facing the country, according to those surveyed. Education was rated after those issues, generally viewed to be as

See **POLL**, Page 3A



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IN BRIEF

UIL required physicals due for some athletes

UIL requires all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade athletes to have a physical before they are allowed to participate in any sport.

This includes practices and games. All local athletic departments are encouraging athletes and their parents headed into the listed grades above to make an appointment with their doctor and get this physical before the start of the school year.

Football and volleyball players would want to get this taken care of before the start of their two-a-days.

Contact your school's athletic department with any questions.

C. G. A. sets scholarship tournament

The Chicano Golf Association is holding their 18th annual scholarship tournament Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The format is a two-person scramble and cost is \$75 per player. Mulligans can be bought for \$5 a piece.

Bob Brock Ford is sponsoring Hole No. 3 Saturday with any participant that hits a hole-in-one receiving a 2008 vehicle.

There are closest-to-pin prizes awarded on holes 3, 7, 13 and 16.

All proceeds for the tournament goes to a scholarship fund for local students.

For more information, call Sammy Reyna at 267-5627 or Gilbert Rodriguez at (432) 853-5504.

Coahoma Little League electing new officers

Coahoma Little League Baseball Association is holding a meeting at 7 p.m. July 1 at the Dairy Queen in Coahoma to elect board members for the 2009 season.

If you are interested in serving on the board, the attendance at this meeting is required.

For more information, contact Andi Schneider at 270-2892 or Leslie Tindol at 213-4207.

Tennis camp set for July 28-31 at Figure 7 courts

Crossroads Tennis Association tennis instructor Ted Olesen is hosting a camp July 28-31 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

This is the second camp Olesen has put on this summer and attendance at the first camp is not a requirement to attend the second.

The camp is for all ages and abilities, and is designed to teach the beginner the basics of the game, while helping advanced players reach their full potential.

Participants do not have to take the full week of camp.

Cost is \$100 and includes a lunch each day.

Sandlot earning way to Series

Boys softball team has exceptional goal in mind

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Every team needs a goal and for many it's proving they're the best.

Big Spring Sandlot isn't any different. The 16 and under boys slow pitch softball team has been competing in tournaments throughout Texas and New Mexico for the past two years.

The Sandlot finished second at a state tournament two years ago and placed second in a national tournament held in Lubbock last year.

This year Head Coach Ben Flores and the boys have decided to up the ante a bit, attempting to throw their hat into what should be the most challenging pool of competition it has faced to date.

The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Youth Slow Pitch World Series is set for July 17-20 in Fayetteville, Ark. The

Series pits some of the top youth slow pitch teams in the world against each other in a double-elimination bracket.

However, two things must be accomplished before the Sandlot can qualify for the Series. First, they must place amongst the top three teams in Texas at a national tournament set for July 4 in Lubbock.

After accomplishing that, the only barrier remaining is coming up with the funds to finance the trip to Fayetteville.

"My concern is just the boys. We need \$3,000 to have a room and meals for all of them," Flores said. "I think we've accomplished quite a bit since we started three years ago and most of the boys are back this year."

To accomplish this, Sandlot has already sponsored a Memorial Day rag-

See SANDLOT, Page 2B



Courtesy photo

The Big Spring Sandlot is from left (kneeling): Junior Garcia, Mike Felton, Isaac Nieto, (standing) Coach Ben Flores, Justin Solis, Anthony Sarracho, Adam Guzman, Brandon Solis, Jake Hernandez, Jacob Acosta, Brian Solis, Auggie Rivera, Coach Tony Sarracho, (not pictured) Coach Frank Garcia, Daniel Lopez, Manuel Sosa and David Gonzales.

Steers, Bulldogs practice 7-on-7 skills



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Coahoma's P.J. Daylong (left) comes down with a jump ball against Big Spring's Zamir Linton Thursday at Blankenship Field in a practice 7-on-7 game. The Steers vie for a berth to the state tournament Saturday in a qualifying tourney at Permian High School in Odessa.

Bulls take Rose No. 1

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Minutes after the NBA draft started, Derrick Rose learned he was headed home. Long after it ended, O.J. Mayo and Kevin Love were on the move.

A night that began with the expected pick ended with a stunning trade, which had two top-five selections changing teams as part of an eight-player deal between Minnesota and Memphis.

The Timberwolves dealt the rights to Mayo, the No. 3 pick, to the Grizzlies for Love, taken two spots later, in a trade that wasn't completed until past 2 a.m. EDT, some two hours after Boston made the 60th and final pick of the draft.

Minnesota also received Mike Miller, Jason Collins and Brian Cardinal, and sent Antoine Walker, Marko Jaric and Greg Buckner to Memphis.

"We fully expected to have O.J. on our team next year," Minnesota assistant general manager Fred Hoiberg said. "This deal came up very late in the draft. We just felt this deal had too many pieces that addressed needs that we had that we just couldn't pass it

See DRAFT, Page 2B

Marquee names exit Wimbledon early

By STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — It's not often that a professional tennis player will admit he choked. Andy Roddick, though, pulled no punches after his early exit from Wimbledon.

"Any chance I got I pretty much choked it," the two-time finalist said after blowing all eight breakpoint chances in a 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (4) loss to Janko Tipsarevic in the second round. "That's tough to deal with. It's not an easy thing to say but it's pretty much what happened."

"I could sit here and try to dance around it all night, but it was what it was. It's like you want something so bad, you almost squeeze too tight."

Roddick wasn't the only big

name bounced from the tournament Thursday. Earlier in the day, 2004 champion Maria Sharapova was stunned 6-2, 6-4 by 154th-ranked Alla Kudryavtseva, her earliest loss in a Grand Slam tournament since her first full year on the tour in 2003.

The sixth-seeded Roddick, who lost to Roger Federer in the 2004 and '05 finals, has the big serve and grass-court experience to make him a perennial title contender. Instead, he failed to get to the third round for the first time in eight appearances at Wimbledon.

"I just didn't make anything happen out there tonight," he said. "Zero, zero, zero."

Despite scraping through the first set in a tiebreaker, Roddick came up short time and time again

in trying to break the 40th-ranked Tipsarevic and squandered three set points in the final set. The Serbian player, meanwhile, got two breakpoint chances and converted both.

"I played just horrific shots on break points both ways," Roddick said. "I put myself in position to win that match in straight sets. It was just the big moments. I blinked. There's no way getting around that."

Tipsarevic acknowledged that he benefited from Roddick's frailties.

"I could see that he was tight and this is one of the reasons why, especially in those important moments, I made him play," he said. "If you look at the other guy, professional tennis players feel the intensity and see when the

other guy is choking. If you read that, that's a great benefit for you."

The departures of Roddick and No. 3-ranked Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic, who lost the previous day to Marat Safin, would seem to ease the way toward a third straight final between five-time champion Roger Federer and two-time runner-up Rafael Nadal.

Federer, who has won 61 consecutive grass-court matches and 36 straight at Wimbledon, was scheduled first up on Centre Court on Friday in a third-round match against 53rd-ranked Marc Gicquel of France.

Two-time women's champion Serena Williams was to face 2006

See TENNIS, Page 2B

Obituaries

Janie Reeder



Janie Reeder, 101, of Chester, Conn., formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, June 19, 2008, in Chester, Conn. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 28, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Wendell Ferguson, of Coahoma United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 15, 1906, in Snyder, to Mary Julia and John Guy Davis, Sr. She grew up in the Olton and Dimmitt area.

She lived most of her life in Big Spring. In later years, she moved to Connecticut.

She was a lifelong Methodist.

She is survived by one granddaughter, Julianne Cataldo of Killingworth, Conn.; two grandsons, Wally Cataldo and his wife Merrie of Andover, Mass., and Matthew Cataldo of Madison, Conn.; and four great-grandchildren, Amy Cataldo, Ashley Cataldo, Lindsay Jones, and Scott Jones; three nieces, Dr. Keitha Scott of Hollywood, Calif., Suzanne Phillips of Amarillo, and Janis Thibeault of Oak Park, Ill.; and several cousins, including Eveleta Feagins and her husband, Gibson, of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two husbands, Albert Smith and Roy Reeder; one daughter, Bertie Mary Cataldo; one brother, J. G. Davis, Jr.; and one sister, Ina Richardson.

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

Carl Currie

Carl Robert Currie, 31, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, June 26, 2008 in Corpus Christi from injuries received in an auto accident. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

- Cornerstone Covenant Church will hold a free car wash on the back lot of the church, located at 12th and Owens streets, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. Free burritos also will be offered. For more information, call 466-4619 or 264-0015.

- The Big Spring Mall will be sponsoring a blood drive Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors are needed. Everyone gets a opportunity to win a Vegas Trip for two. All donors gets a Vegas T-shirt.

- June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Any group that would like to see a program on the topic can contact Bill Birrell at 263-0659. He has an 18-minute American Cancer Society VCR tape edited by Sidney Poitier.

- Ex-Students Homecoming at Forsan High School will be held Aug. 2. For more information, contact Jimmy Anderson at Professional Pharmacy at 267-2546 or at his residence, 267-6143.

- Mobile Meals need volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

- The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

Support Groups

FRIDAY
 • AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
 • Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY
 • Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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.



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Thursday:

- ALEXANDER QUINTANA, 27, 812 Anna, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- WILLIAM SCOTT, 43, Vidor, was arrested on a charge of failure to identify and a warrant.
- RANDY RAY MIER, 30, no address given, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANDREW AGUILAR, 39, 1615 Canary, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- RICHARD FUENTES, 46, San Angelo, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80 and the 100 block of Third.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1800 block of Settles.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 400 block of Fifth.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of Settles.
- THEFT OF SERVICE was reported in the 400 block of FM 700.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of 1st Ave. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 14th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Duke. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. It was a false alarm.

Your Local Weather

Sat 6/28	Sun 6/29	Mon 6/30	Tue 7/1	Wed 7/2
94/69	84/64	81/62	85/65	90/67
Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms later in t.	A few thunderstorms possible. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.
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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
 • League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

FRIDAY
 • Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 • AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 • Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 • Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
 • Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
 • Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
 • Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Thursday (note: there were 69 prisoners reported in the county jail):

- TRACI HOLDEN MYRICK, 37, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- CHAD PEDERSON, 32, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- JACE DELANE MINCE, 18, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs.
- MARCUS LANCE HATTENBACH, 36, was arrested on a parole violation warrant.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 10-30-28-13-34.
 Number matching five of five: 1.
 Prize per winner: \$25,473.
 Winning tickets sold in: Sweeny, Milt's Mini Mart.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
 Winning numbers drawn: 12-8-23-15. Bonus Ball: 18.
 Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn xxxxday night by the Texas Lottery:
 0-2-6-9. Sum It Up: 17

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery:
 3-4-9. Sum It Up: 16

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TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

winner Amelie Mauresmo in the next match on Centre, while top-seeded Ana Ivanovic was paired on Court 1 against China's Zheng Jie.

The 25-year-old Roddick's ultimate goal is to win another Grand Slam title to go with his sole major — the 2003 U.S. Open. He's skipping the Beijing Olympics to prepare for the Open. With Federer,

Nadal and Djokovic dominating the sport this year, the prospects for Roddick may be fading.

"It's almost at this point win another Slam or what," he said. "It's a tough thing to deal with. I think I was trying to press so much, even from practice, just trying to get to a level where I thought I could compete."

Roddick used a rock 'n' roll analogy to sum up his position.

"You know when you've seen the Rolling Stones

from the front row, and then all of a sudden you're seven or eight rows back and there's a really tall guy in front of you waving his hands and screaming? You can't see much. It's not going to be as good as the other show."

Sharapova, who has three Grand Slam titles, hadn't lost so early in a major since going out in the first round at the Australian and French Open and second round at the U.S. Open in 2003.

SANDLOT

Continued from Page 1B

ball tournament and put on a carwash in the Wal-Mart parking lot last weekend.

They have one more carwash set for this weekend in the Advance Auto Parts parking lot, and burritos will also be available for sell. Other opportunities to win prizes such as a hydraulic jack, battery charger and tickets to Schlitterbahn will also be

available.

As if the motivation of being called the best slow pitch squad in the world wasn't enough, Sandlot is also playing in the memory and honor of some special people.

"We're dedicating our play to some fallen soldiers in the service," Flores said. "One of them is Conrad Alvarez from Big Spring and another is Christian Mancheca. I also have a friend in Lubbock who lost two of his sons in Iraq Jose Freddy and Andrew Belez. We're going

to have these fallen soldiers' names put on the sleeves of the boys' camouflage jerseys.

"I want Big Spring to see what these boys have accomplished in the three seasons I've been with them," he continued. "They've been with me since they were 12 and now they're 15 and 16 years old. They've grown up quite a bit. Now, I just want to take them to compete against the best in the state and nation so they can prove they belong at the top."

DRAFT

Continued from Page 1B

up."

"Plans are on the fly in this business," Grizzlies GM Chris Wallace said. "We were hoping to get O.J., but awhile back it was obvious he was not going to drop to five."

Hours earlier, the Chicago Bulls selected Rose, who grew up on the city's South Side, with the No. 1 pick, choosing the Memphis guard over Kansas State forward Michael Beasley.

With Beasley going second to Miami and Mayo following, college freshmen made up the first three picks for the first time in draft history.

"We actually talked about this earlier," Beasley said. "We all grew up together and we all grew up playing against each other and we all made a pact together that we would all be here. Just to see it all fall into place and see it all happen is kind of crazy."

Five of the first seven players selected and 10 in the first round were freshmen, both NBA records. It was also a big night for the Pac-10 Conference, which had five of the first 11 picks.

Rose led the Tigers to the national championship game in his lone college season. The Bulls opted for the point guard's playmaking ability over the scoring and rebounding of Beasley, who ranked in the top three in the nation in both categories.

"We talked so much about it. We really did," Bulls general manager John Paxson said. "Very honestly, at the end when we made our decision, it

was unanimous with my scouts and coaches and myself. This was the direction we wanted to go in the end, and it has nothing to do with the talent of Michael Beasley. This had everything to do with the direction we felt was right for us."

The 6-foot-3 Rose put on a red Bulls cap, hugged some supporters, including Memphis coach John Calipari, and shook hands with Beasley, seated at a nearby table, before walking onto the stage to meet NBA commissioner David Stern.

"I was a little nervous when they came back out, but I always had that in mind that I want to be No. 1," Rose said. "So it was great hearing my name and being the No. 1 pick."

Expected to contend for a division title, the Bulls instead stumbled to a 33-49 record and eventually replaced two coaches. But with just a 1.7 percent chance, they won last month's draft lottery, giving them a chance to quickly return to the playoffs.

"It feels great to go in and compete," Rose said. "I'm just blessed to be in that position right now, because a lot of people aren't. And just knowing that we are a few pieces away from really contending as a team, it just makes me happy."

Miami settled for Beasley, who wasn't sure if the Heat would go for Mayo instead. Beasley averaged 26.2 points, third in the nation, and topped Division I with 12.4 rebounds per game. But with questions about his size — he may be 2 inches shorter than the 6-foot-10 he's listed at — the Bulls may not have believed he

could play the 4 spot in the NBA.

UCLA guard Russell Westbrook was the first non-freshman taken, going fourth to the Seattle SuperSonics — with new teammate and reigning Rookie of the Year Kevin Durant standing and applauding the pick from the back.

Love gave UCLA consecutive picks and the New York Knicks followed at No. 6 with Italian forward Danilo Gallinari, whose father played with new coach Mike D'Antoni overseas. Fans in Madison Square Garden weren't impressed, booing loudly.

"It's part of the game, all the players have got to hear this," Gallinari said. "Not every time can you hear good things. It's normal."

Indiana guard Eric Gordon became the fifth freshman taken, going to the Los Angeles Clippers at No. 7. West Virginia's Joe Alexander, whose stock began to rise after a strong run at Madison Square Garden in the Big East tournament, went to Milwaukee with the next pick.

Charlotte gave new coach Larry Brown a point guard, taking D.J. Augustin of Texas with the ninth pick. New Jersey took Stanford center Brook Lopez at No. 10, and Arizona's Jerryd Bayless joined fellow Pac-10 guards Mayo and Westbrook by going 11th to Indiana.

Bayless' rights were later traded to Portland along with Ike Diogu for the rights to Brandon Rush, the No. 13 pick from national champion Kansas, Jarrett Jack and Josh McRoberts. Rush's agent, Mark Bartelstein, told The Associated Press about the

and Sasha Kaun (No. 56, Seattle) were taken in the second round, giving the Jayhawks five players in the draft — and all had their rights traded.

Chalmers was picked by Minnesota but his rights were later dealt to Miami. Cleveland later acquired the rights to both Jackson and Kaun.

sudoku

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.

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



Community Guide

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DEADLINE: June 30th

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DOWNES

Continued from Page 1A

employment separation agreement — details of which were not immediately released — was reached between Downes and BSISD Thursday night.

Downes came to Big Spring as superintendent in 2002 after a similar stint in Bovina. In all, his educational career spans more than 20 years as a teacher and administrator.

He did not attend Thursday's meeting and was unavailable for comment.

After the meeting adjourned, a somber Irene Galan, president of the school board, said no timetable has been set for naming either an interim or permanent replacement for Downes. However, she expressed confidence that the school district would move forward in the meantime.

"This has been a very delicate situation, as you well know," Galan said. "But we feel this is the best scenario for everyone concerned. This situation has been very distressing, not just for Michael Downes and the district,

but for the community as a whole. Now, with this behind us, we feel things should start getting back to normal."

Galan said the district will likely name an interim superintendent soon, as well as contract with a search committee to find a permanent superintendent.

"But I feel confident we'll start the new (school) year off on the right foot, with or without a superintendent," Galan said. "Our employees have been here a long time and they all do a fine job, so I don't see a problem there."

With the district aiming at another bond election in November, Galan was asked whether Downes' resignation was an effort to eliminate unwanted distractions prior to the next election.

"This action was not connected with the bond election," she said. "I can't speak for the public. Maybe (Downes) was an issue, maybe he wasn't. We just feel this was the best solution for all parties."

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

News Briefs

DNA test clears Texas man in prison

DALLAS (AP) — A man who has spent more than 15 years in prison for kidnapping and robbery is expected to become the latest wrongly convicted Dallas County man proven innocent by DNA testing, a prosecutor said Thursday.

A hearing is scheduled for July 3 in state district court in Dallas for 38-year-old Patrick Waller, who was convicted of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery and cocaine possession in connection with a 1992 kidnapping and assault. DNA testing conducted late last year excluded Waller as the contributor of DNA found at the crime scene, said Mike Ware, the head of the Conviction Integrity Unit in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

The DNA testing proved a match to another man, whom Ware said has since confessed to the crime and implicated an accomplice. That accomplice has also confessed, Ware said.

Neither, however, can be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has expired. Both are free, although one is on parole, Ware said.

"Technological advances in science have proved another Dallas County man's innocence and identified the actual perpetrator, but because the statute of limitations has run on these offenses, the State cannot prosecute the two men who did this 16 years ago," Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins said in a statement. "It is a gross understatement to

say that we are displeased with the fact that we cannot seek justice for the victims in this case because of the laws back in 1992."

Telephone messages left for Waller's attorney were not immediately returned Thursday night.

DNA evidence led to Corpus Christi man's arrest:

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Authorities in Jim Wells County did not realize they had an apparent homicide on their hands until a farmer's discovery of human bones and a DNA swab from a missing woman's grandparents led investigators to the arrest of a Corpus Christi man.

U.S. marshals arrested Carlos Zuniga Jr., 37, on Monday in connection with the 1991 death of April Ann Repka, a Victoria teen who disappeared two weeks after her high school graduation. Zuniga was in Nueces County Jail on Thursday on a \$500,000 bond. He is charged with capital murder. Jail officials did not know if Zuniga had obtained an attorney.

U.S. marshals made the arrest after authorities confirmed that remains discovered in a field belonged to the teen, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported in its Thursday online edition. The paper also reported that the FBI found a bracelet and class ring in the field that belonged to the teen.

BAN

Continued from Page 1A

cannot ban fireworks sales and use unless the Keetch-Byram Drought Index wildfire assessment system surpasses 575. Barr said earlier this week that the index reading for Howard County surpassed the limit in some areas, while approaching it in others.

"But an emergency order would cover that, regardless of the index reading," Barr said.

Barr said the ban would remain in effect through July 5, but it was unknown

what impact it would have on the annual Pops in the Park celebration, which is highlighted by a fireworks show. He said he is in consultation with Pops Director Jan Hansen and state officials to try to resolve the matter.

"We need some clarification on how this would influence Pops in the Park," Barr said. "We don't want to do anything that would adversely affect that ... We'll just have to wait and see what the governor's office says."

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray believes the ban will not prevent the Pops fireworks show.

"It is my understanding



Condray

... that it will have no effect on Pops in the Park," Condray said. "That is a licensed, permitted show conducted by a trained technician. I support the fireworks ban. In fact, I'd rather people come to the licensed performance at the park rather than risk injury or property damage elsewhere."

Hansen said she was hopeful the situation could be resolved in a way that allows the fireworks show to go forward. But the show, as the saying goes,

will go on regardless, she added.

"We've been told our show is acceptable because it's done in a controlled situation, with the fire department standing by to help, just in case," she said. "But if they mandate (a ban), we will certainly abide by it ... We'll still have a show. There will still be plenty of events scheduled, plus, we'll have the symphony performing."

One particular problem a ban would cause Pops officials is they would have to decide what to do with donations submitted for this year's show. The lion's share of the cost

of the event goes toward paying for the fireworks display.

"If we're not allowed to put on a fireworks show, we'll have to decide whether to reimburse people for their donations, or just carry that money forward to next year," she said.

Aside from the pending ban, the sale and discharge of fireworks is prohibited within the Big Spring city limits. Persons violating the ordinance face a fine of up to \$200, Municipal Judge Tim Green said.

Barr said anyone caught discharging fireworks on public roads or right-of-ways outside the city

— or on private property without the owner's consent — would be subjected to a fine of up to \$500.

The ban received enthusiastic approval from Tommy Sullivan, chief of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

"We definitely need it," he said. "We need all the help we can get to keep people safe ... We hate to ticket people for shooting off fireworks, but we're facing a drastic situation this year."

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

said the purchase of four new vehicles — including two school buses — will be the biggest extras in this

year's budget.

Related to the budget, trustees also met with investment banker Vince Vialle of the Lubbock firm of 1st Southwest to discuss financial aspects of financing a construction bond.

Voters overwhelmingly defeated a \$34 million bond issue in May, but the district has been moving toward calling another election this November.

Vialle told trustees that payments on a \$34 million bond would cost the

district about \$2.6 million a year and raise the debt service tax rate by about 32 cents — unless state aid helps offset those figures.

The state has provided debt service relief in the past and Vialle said he had every reason to believe

legislators will continue to do so in the future.

"These numbers are just a worst-case scenario," he said. "The legislature meets in 2009 and that's when they decide whether (to continue debt service aid to districts). If they

do, the tax rate will be considerably less ... but we just don't know, yet."

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

POLL

Continued from Page 1A

important as health care. It was rated slightly ahead of the Iraq war.

Among minority parents, education is just as important an issue as the economy.

Minorities and whites rate schools differently. Fifty-nine percent of whites rate their local school as good or excellent, compared with 42 percent of minorities.

Minority parents are more likely to think their children are getting a better education than they received as children. Overall, the majority of those surveyed said the quality of U.S. schools has declined over the past 20

years.

Most think the United States is just keeping up or falling behind the rest of the world in education. On some recent international tests, U.S. students have posted flat scores and landed in the middle to bottom of the pack when compared with other nation's children.

Nearly all those surveyed say the quality of a country's education system has a big impact on a country's overall economic prosperity.

Americans have mixed views about standardized tests, which have grown in importance in recent years. The 2002 federal No Child Left Behind law judges schools based on math and reading tests taken by their students.

Schools face increasingly tough consequences for scores that miss the mark.

About half of those polled said standardized tests measure the quality of education offered by schools well, while the rest disagree.

The vast majority think classroom work and homework — not standardized tests — are the best ways to measure how well students are doing.

"I think the time spent doing all those exams could be better spent in additional class time," said Jamie Norton of Gridley, Calif., a dad to 5-year-old twins.

School districts are increasingly tying student performance to teacher pay. Americans seem to

support that trend. Sixty percent said the amount of pay teachers receive should be based at least in part on the performance of their students.

The nation is split over whether teachers should be allowed to strike, with half thinking strikes should be allowed. Whether strikes are allowed is governed by state law.

The AP survey of 833 adults and 854 parents of school-aged children was conducted June 18-23 and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for each sample.

The poll was conducted over the Internet by Knowledge Networks, which initially contacted people using traditional telephone polling methods

and followed with online interviews. People chosen for the study who had no Internet access were given it for free.

The research was financially supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Associated Press had sole editorial responsibility for the design of the survey questionnaire and the analysis of the survey results.

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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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

- Salvation Army Captains Russ and Linda Keeney, on providing for the needs of so many needy persons in the Howard County area. Thank you for your devotion and dedication. At the same time, we look forward to getting to know Captains Ed and Terri Cheshire. Welcome to Big Spring!

- KPEJ-TV, for deciding to host a “movie night” beginning Aug. 7 at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. This is a great idea for families.

- The Optimist Club on their fishing event last weekend. We hope the club will have many more.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

Coming Sunday: Letters on gangs, poor business tactics, thank-yous, and, of course, 'the dog.'

How To CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by **K. Rae Anderson**

May we give extra time to You, Lord. Amen

The great tolerant majority

Here's a nice news flash: Most people really are religious and tolerant, faithful and open, altogether American. That's the conclusion this week of a major Pew Research Center study of religion in America. They call it “non-dogmatic.” In what feels like an increasingly dogmatic world, it is ultimately our greatest strength.



SUSAN
ESTRICH

Among the key findings: “A majority of those who are affiliated with a religion do not believe their religion is the only way to salvation. And almost the same number believes that there is more than one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion.”

The point is not that religion doesn't matter for most people — actually, it does. It's that as seriously as they take their own religion, they are also tolerant of the view that others can pursue their own path to salvation.

Additional findings: “Among those who are affiliated with a religious tradition, seven-in-ten say many religions can lead to eternal life. Only among Mormons (57 percent) and Jehovah's Witnesses (80 percent) do majorities say that their own religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life.”

And “more than two-thirds of adults affiliated with a religious tradition agree that there is more than one true way to interpret the

teachings of their faith.” The only exceptions, again, are Mormons (54 percent) and Jehovah's Witnesses (77 percent), with majorities believing that there is only one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion. And those two groups, both of which have what are actually surprisingly high rates of “non-dogmatic” types, total some 2.4 percent of the American public, which leaves a lot of tolerant people out there.

The argument that religion has no place in political life is really that religious faith has no place in the messy business of politics, which depends on give and take. It's easy to play give-and-take with debating points — less so with matters of faith.

But it's just not possible to draw the line as brightly as you'd like it to be when you hear pro-choice politicians denounced as evildoers of the devil's work because they support Roe v. Wade or marrying gay couples, which will test tolerance in the next election.

Religious people can't help but be influenced by their religion in the doing of politics. The very same Pew survey shows that this is true, with all kinds of data correlating the intensity of religious practice with more conservative views on various values questions. Of course we're all influenced.

The point is that tolerance for the views of others is built into our faith, which allows us to bring our religious values to politics without always having to win. It's the “having to win” quality that makes faith a danger in politics, the “knowing you're right” to a

greater certainty than anyone else, to enough of a certainty that you ignore the actual count of winners and losers. That's what makes the “use” of religion in politics a cause for concern to those watching from other parts of the world who have lived through the havoc religion in politics can wreak.

In the public discourse about religion and politics, what and whom you hear most of the time are the extremes. Denouncing somebody else is bigger news than tolerating them; fear has more energy than peaceful coexistence. And when people talk about religious voters, they usually are talking code for conservative-values voters, who will vote those issues, as opposed to the majority, who don't think of them that way, which is in most cases a very good thing.

So it's reassuring, at least, to be reminded that most people are what you would hope your neighbors would be: diverse in their own views, but united in their tolerance for and acceptance of the validity of the religious views of others. If you don't hear as much of that on television and in the public discourse, it may be because, for most people, it's your own business. We really believe that.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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It's only about winning

The Washington Post reports that Sen. Barack Obama is aggressively trying to reintroduce himself to voters, echoing the spin of Obama's advisers that not everyone knows him yet. In reality, Obama's major campaign challenge will not be to reveal, but to conceal his true identity.

Obama is not trying to introduce himself to unreached voters, but is engaged in damage control with many he's already reached — and insulted and disillusioned.

As long as he was soaring above the fray with the lofty rhetoric of hope, change and unity, Obama could masquerade as a quasi-messiah figure. But once forced into the nitty-gritty of contested issues and debates, his false visage began to crack. Those cracks expanded into campaign-threatening fissures when voters learned about Obama's sordid associations and left-wing elitist snobbery toward small-town America.

The Post says that in his reintroduction, Obama has “offered a clear road map for the kind of candidate he is likely to become: an ambitious gamer of the electoral map, a ruthless fundraiser and a scrupulous manager of his own biography in the face of persistent concerns about how he is perceived.”

What the Post left out is that Obama has also shown himself to be an unscrupulous master of the politics of calculation and expedience. Whether on public finance, NAFTA, Iran, Iraq, Jerusalem, special interests, Cuba, illegal immigration or the decriminalization of marijuana, Obama has demonstrated a propensity for flip-flopping that could embarrass the grandmaster himself, Sen. John Kerry.

But here's what's scary: For all of Kerry's reputed smoothness and Eastern intellect, he often tied himself in knots trying to reconcile his absurdly opposing positions. Obama can flip and flop with unmatched alacrity and facility and with the absence of self-consciousness and accountability of an accomplished sociopath. This guy doesn't even acknowledge he's changing positions; he does it without breaking a sweat and never looks back.

Of course, Obama benefits enormously from a favorable press, one that, in furtherance of his electoral cause, will tolerate almost any degree of preposterousness from him.

In addressing Obama's stunning position shift on public financing, the Post gropes for the best possible spin. The flip, says the Post, reveals Obama's “determination to press his financial advantage, even at the cost of handing his Republican opponent the opportunity to raise questions about the sincerity of his rhetoric on reform.”

We are to accept Obama's change on public finance as a positive because, according to the Obama supporters the Post favorably quotes, it dispels the myth that Obama is naive and proves he is tough enough to take heat for his change.

I get it. We should be grateful for Obama's willingness to reverse himself on the issue of money and corruption in politics, which he led us to believe involved a nonnegotiable core principle, because it shows he's got courage — courage enough to stare down the likes of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Unbelievable.

But if pressed, even the slick Obama will have trouble squaring his new stance with his September 2007 statement that he would agree to public financing if his GOP opponent would and his February 2008 statement to Tim Russert that he would sit down with Sen. McCain and try to agree to a system fair for both sides.

But his shift on public finance is hardly shocking when taken in the context of his many other major (and some minor) flip-flops. I just ask you to consider the common thread underlying all of these turnarounds (though just a partial list): a) his condemnation of union contributions to the Clinton and Edwards campaigns as “special interest money” but his eager acceptance of such money for himself as coming from representatives of the “working people”; b) his flip on ending (January 2004) then retaining (August 2007) the Cuba embargo; c) his March 2004 statement that opposed a crackdown on businesses hiring illegal immigrants, compared with his Jan. 31, 2008, debate statement endorsing such a crackdown; d) his advocating the decriminalization of marijuana in January 2004 versus his Oct. 30, 2007, position opposing its decriminalization; e) his jaw-dropping same-day flip on having Jerusalem remain the undivided capital of Israel; f) his shameless reversal on NAFTA; g) his nearly immediate backtracking on whether Iran poses a serious threat to America; h) his progressive position shifts on Iraq — as documented by Peter Wehner and Michael Barone — from “don't go in, stay in, and get out”; i) and his vigorous defense then abandonment of both his pastor and his church.

The common thread, in a word, is expedience. It is not toughness; it is not savvy; it is not gravitas; and by all means, it is not admirable.

Barack Obama is every bit as politically calculating as Bill Clinton but twice as smooth. And if that doesn't jolt you, you're sleeping.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Church News

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church invites you to join us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship and Children's Church at 11 a.m., and evening worship at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available for all Sunday services. Wednesday evening prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Our Fifth Sunday Sing will be held this Sunday at 6 p.m. A fellowship meal will follow this musical worship service. Everyone is welcome to come and sing and enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship.

Salem is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters and is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. For additional information, call 394-4566.

First United Methodist Church

Many thanks to all those who had a part in preparing and serving at the brunch welcoming our new pastor, Rev. Sharon Wiese and her husband Bill. Garrett Hall was full to overflowing as was the serving table of morning goodies. Hats off to those who worked so hard decorating; everything was beautiful including the giant sized bird house lovingly made to look like a church and autographed by all those in attendance as a gift to the Wieses.

The Rev. Wiese will be preaching "Covenant-What Does That Mean" at both services of worship this Sunday as we get back to our regular schedule of 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages in between at 9:45 a.m.

Our 125th anniversary celebration is now only weeks away and volunteers are hard at work putting finishing touches on the plan. On Saturday, July 12, there will be an all church hot dog and ice cream supper at 6:30 p.m. just across the street at the Heritage Museum's

pavilion. The museum display of churches titled "Gimme That Old Time Religion" will be open for those attending to see in its last presentation day. There will be plenty of visiting and old time entertainment all sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry.

Sunday, July 13, there will only one service of worship at 10:30 a.m. with several of our former pastors remembering their days in Big Spring and First Methodist. Following the service there will be a covered dish luncheon and video presentation featuring folks and festivities from the past. Make plans to join us for this truly memorable weekend.

And mark your calendars, Vacation Bible School's "Outrigger Island" is coming soon. Check with Joyce Willis at the church office for registration information.

We'd love for you to join us for any and all of the activities and worship at our church. Come meet our new pastor and help us rejoice in the Lord for all the good things we have right here in Big Spring and at the corner of Fourth and Scurry.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Wednesday evening Bible study was at 5:17 p.m., but choir practice is suspended through July. The youth were still in Port Arthur on their mission trip. They return to West Texas Saturday.

During the worship service Sunday, we will collect the "Noisy Offering," a special offering of any change you have saved, which the Service Committee uses to buy food for local families in need. This is a part of our ongoing effort to alleviate hunger in the world.

The Session has called a congregational meeting at the close of worship Sunday to elect a pastor

nominating committee, whose task it will be to begin the search for a pastor. The meeting will precede a pot-luck lunch, sponsored by the Resource Committee in the Fellowship Hall.

Anthems by the choir for Sunday worship are "Behold the Tabernacle of God," by William H. Harris and "I Can Do All Things," by Virgil T. Ford.

The lectionary for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time is Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42. The Rev. Bert Bronaugh will preach on the subject "A Noble Gesture," based on Matthew 10:42.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to sing, pray and worship, led by commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

We were pleased to have Pam and Bobby Hicks at the party in honor of Ryan Beall June 15. Pam is still convalescing after a serious accident last year.

The July session meeting will be Thursday, July 10, rather than the regular first Thursday, because of the Independence Day holiday July 4.

Mark your calendars for the next FPC Coahoma Frolic, which will be Saturday, July 12, at the church social hall at 7 p.m. If you haven't been to one of these, you've missed an evening of old-fashioned homemade entertainment. Everyone is welcome to come and participate or just be a spectator.

Lectionary for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, is Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship service at St. Mary's this Sunday with Holy Eucharist

beginning at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Pastor Wayne Frost can be reached at 264-7395.

Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday services are at 6:45 p.m.,

On-going support items for June are neck coolers, baby wipes (soft packages), cold drink mixes and the AT&T phone card fund.

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church

A hearty welcome is extended to all for a series of meetings at the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be Elder Jeff Harris of Tifton, Ga. He is a former pastor of our church here in Big Spring and also a much-traveled evangelist, visiting India, Africa, Philippines, Mexico, and most recently, the Navajo Reservation in North Western New Mexico.

Services are: Bible study at 7 p.m. Saturday; worship services at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

The church is located at 201 E. 24th. We hope to see you there.

Call 263-6217 or 270-4618 for more information.

East Fourth Street

Baptist Church

The young girls and their leaders had a great time at GA camp this past week. Now the boys are waiting for July to get here so they can go to RA camp. The youth will be in Youth Camp at Alto, N.M. June 30-July 4.

East Fourth will have a booth at the Funtastic 4th celebration downtown on the 4th of July.

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer if you'd like to help spread the good news to those

See CHURCH, Page 7A

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs. North leads the queen of spades. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠A 5, ♥A Q, ♦A 3 2, ♣A J 9 8 7 6. East: ♠3, ♥9 6 4 3, ♦K J 7 5, ♣K Q 10 2.

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the six of clubs, on which South plays the jack. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠A 6 2, ♥K Q 9, ♦Q 9 7 6, ♣A Q 5. East: ♠K 9 4, ♥J 10 6, ♦A J 10 8 2, ♣8 3.

1. Win the spade with the ace, draw trumps, cash the K-A of diamonds and lead a diamond toward the jack. If North follows suit (or if the queen has already fallen), the slam is in the bag.

If North does not follow suit (and the queen has not fallen), you still have the heart finesse to fall back on.

Diamonds are broached before hearts in the hope that a heart finesse will prove unnecessary. Thus, if the diamonds are divided 3-3, you will make the slam regardless of which opponent has the queen. You also

succeed whenever North has four or more diamonds with or without the queen.

It would be wrong to finesse the jack of diamonds on the first or second round of the suit, as this would cost you the slam if South started with the Q-x of diamonds and North the king of hearts.

2. Assuming that North has four or more clubs, which seems likely, the contract cannot be defeated.

Win the club lead with the queen and play a heart — preferably the nine. If it holds, lead the queen of diamonds and finesse. Win or lose, you have at least nine tricks.

If the heart nine loses to the ace and a club is returned, duck once and win the continuation with the ace. Now try the diamond finesse. If North has the king, you've got 11 tricks, and even if South has the king you're home. He will not have a club to return if the suit was originally divided 5-3 or 6-2, and you wind up with an overtrick. If he does have a club to return, that means the suit was divided 4-4, and you finish with exactly nine tricks.

It would be wrong to attempt the diamond finesse at trick two, which would sink the contract if the finesse lost and North had the ace of hearts and five or six clubs.

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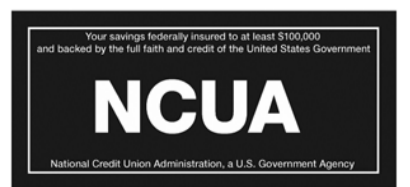
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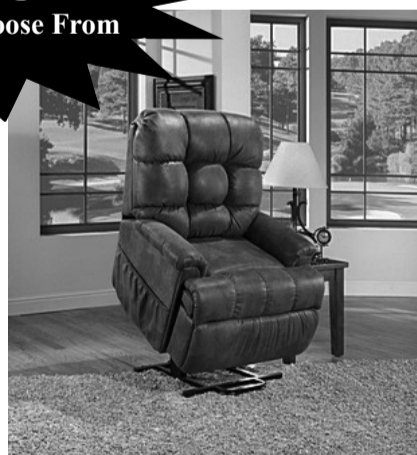
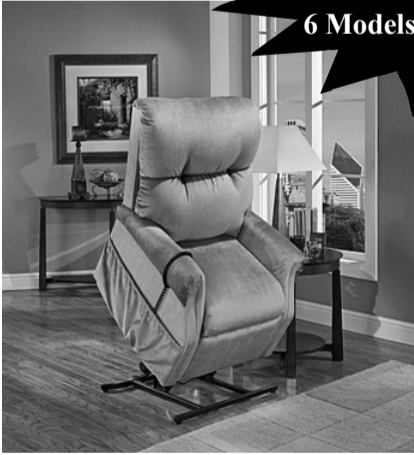
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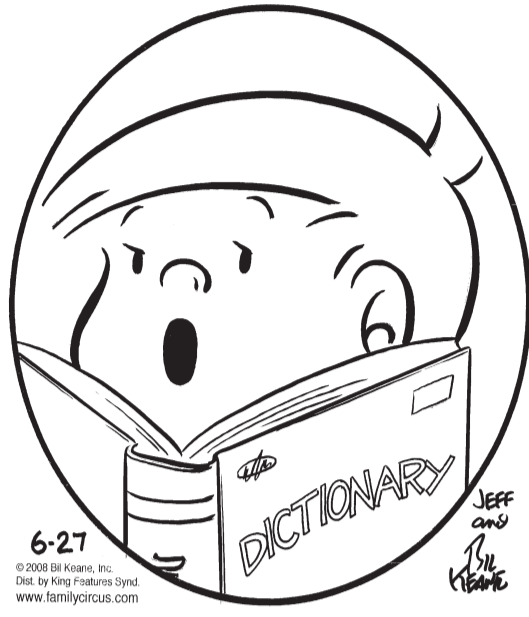
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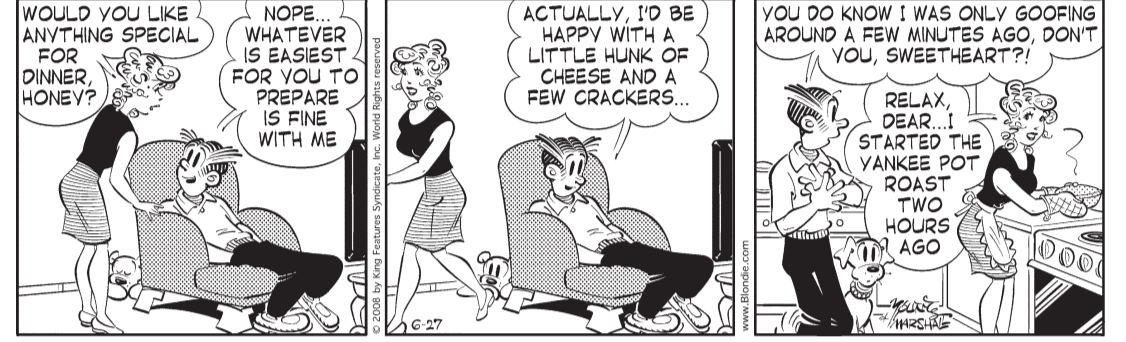


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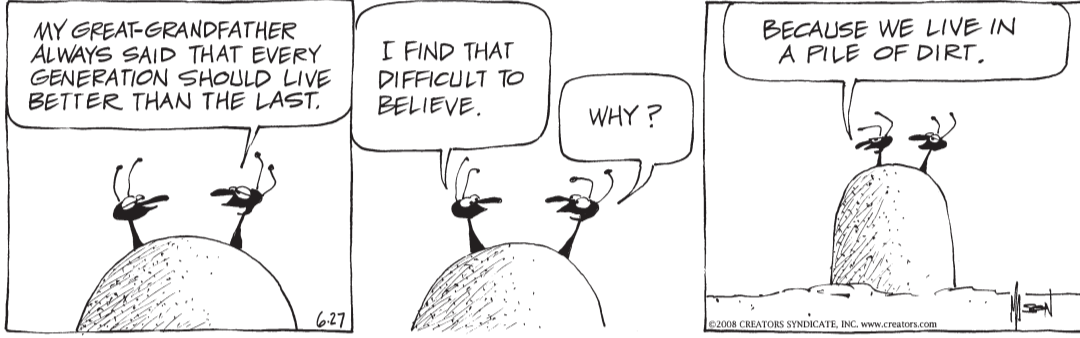
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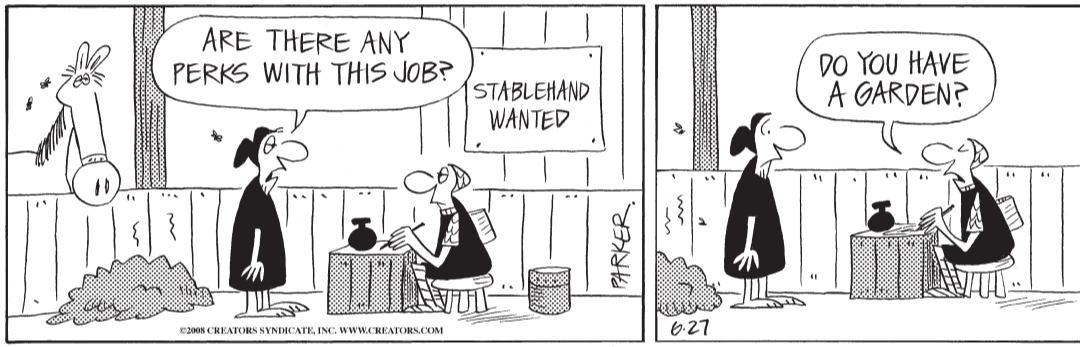
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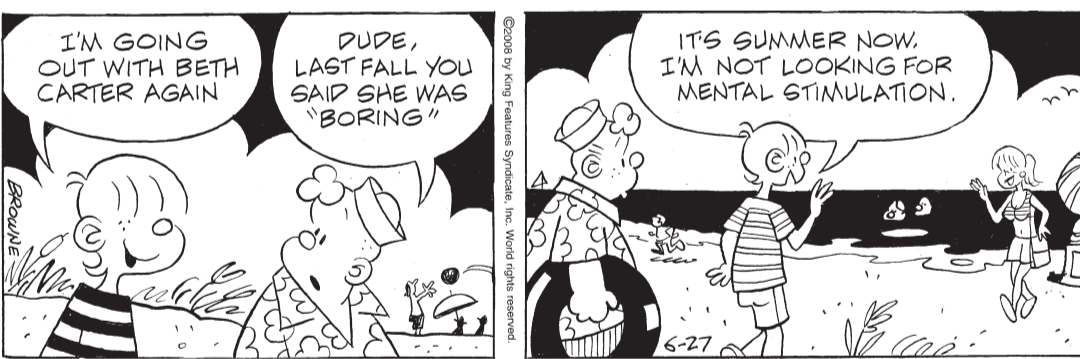
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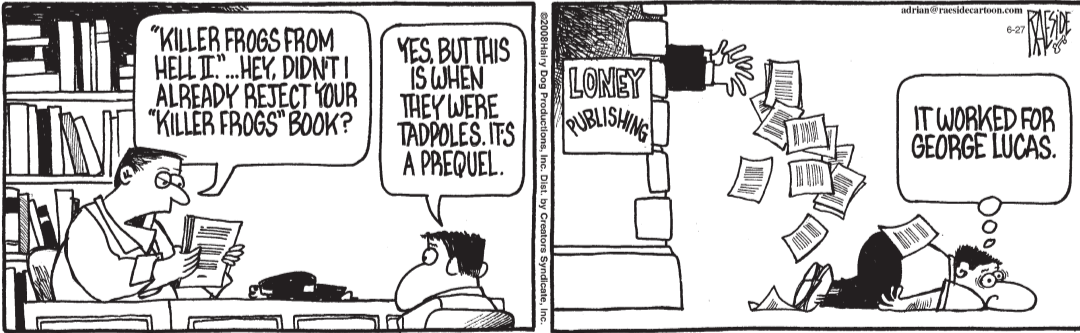
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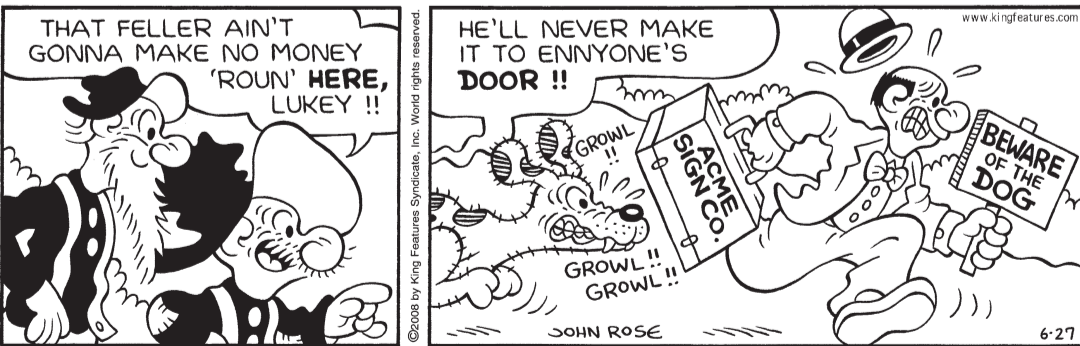
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, June 27, the 179th day of 2008. There are 187 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 27, 1957, more than 500 people were killed when Hurricane Audrey slammed through coastal Louisiana and Texas.

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 78. The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired Army General John Shalikashvili, is 72. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 70. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 66.

Thought for Today: "The highest purpose is to have no purpose at all." — John Cage, American composer (1912-1992).

Newsday Crossword

ON THE TOWN by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS 1 Actress Remini 5 Draws away from shore 9 Ranch rope 14 Woody's boy 15 Star Trek role 16 Hatred 17 Item on a officer's belt 19 Liza's half-sister 20 "Later!" 21 Milk, to Miguel 23 Piece in a gangster film 24 Inelegant laugh 26 Seek redress from 27 Comedy team, e.g. 28 Fist part 32 Off-white 35 Legendary name in racing 36 Jetson household member 37 Latish lunchtime 38 After-hours dispenser 39 Tea server 41 Affirmative on board 42 Place to land 44 Whittle down 46 Mr. Rogers' first name 47 Snickers, for instance 50 Female bighorn 51 Gallery work 52 Hit the hay 55 Highway-sign word 56 Like fusion cuisine, often 58 Pickle purveyors

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and the answer to the previous puzzle: SPAN TOADS ATMS, TODO ADREP WICK, ABET LOLLY EMMY, TOPSECRETCODE, EXTOL SAAB LAM, MVP MARINA, SPAS COAT MIMIC, CENTEROFGRAVITY, OAKEN FLIP ETAS, ULLMAN FIT, TEE CELS DODGE, BOTTOMFISHERS, ZOOM PREEN ALAS, ANNE ARLEN RIPA, PEEN YELLS ASHY.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

that come to the celebration.

VBS is July 7-11. Please be checking with Cathy Reitzer as to where and what you can do to help out. Our prayers go out to Cathy as she is dealing with a hurt ankle. We pray it heals quickly.

This Sunday, is our patriotic service. It has been requested for everyone to wear red white and/or blue, if possible. It is also our 5th Sunday Singing for the evening service. Contact Raford Dunagan if you wish to participate.

We welcome you to East Fourth Street Baptist Church at 401 E. 4th St.; our phone number is 267-2291. Keith Weaver is our pastor. Our Sunday services start with Sunday school (all ages) at 9:45 am; morning worship at 11 a.m.; mission classes at 5 p.m.; evening worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday: Adult prayer meeting and Bible study, youth Bible study/music, Children's Backdoor Bible study/music all starting at 7 p.m. Saturday mornings, men's Bible study at 7 a.m. Come and join us.

First Baptist Church

Do you like Krispy Kreme Donuts? We can help you. Our youth have had several fund-raisers to make money to offset the cost of their camp at Glorieta, N.M. Selling donuts is their final event. They will be at Wal-Mart July 12, but if you would like to pre-order some donuts, you can call the church at 267-8223 and tell us how many dozen you want. Glazed are \$7 a dozen, chocolate covered are \$8, and a dozen donut holes are \$3. They'll be selling the donuts at the middle entrance at 7 a.m. if you want to go and buy some without pre-ordering.

This Sunday, our pastor, Rev. Ken Coffee, will be preaching a patriotic sermon titled, "A Prodigal Nation." In the evening, he will continue in the series of Baptist's beliefs with "Salvation Only By Grace Through Faith." A 5th Sunday Night Fellowship will follow in the Family Life Center.

If you would like more information concerning our church, call 267-8223. God bless America!

Chapel of Faith

The members of Chapel of Faith invite you to come hear Pastor Joel Miller each Sunday morning as he brings a message of hope and inspiration. This week his message is titled

"Believers" and is taken from Acts 16: 1-5. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. with a time of fellowship before services start. So come a few minutes early to meet everyone and have coffee and cookies.

Chapel of Faith is an interdenominational church located at the corner of East 14 and Goliad. Everyone is welcome. Remember, God loves you.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

Do you remember the story of the "Little Engine That Could?" North Birdwell Lane UMC reminds me of that story. We are a congregation that has big dreams with very few people to carry out our dreams. When you have faith in God the Father, and you are an active partner with Him in prayer and worship, miracles do happen. We just keep on saying, "I think I can, I think I can," and before you know it, another miracle has happened.

This week, several prayers have been answered in our congregation as several members were blessed with grandchildren.

North Birdwell Lane invites you to visit us any time. Worship service, led by Lay Pastor Jaque Mauch, is at 9:30 a.m., with Sunday School following at 10:30 a.m. Allan Welch leads our Sunday School Class.

Our current study is Hebrews. Bible Study and United Methodist Women are not meeting during the summer. Evening service is at 5 p.m. each Sunday evening. Come and check out our open hearts, open minds, and open door policy. After all, God loves you and there isn't a thing you can do about it!

Angel Food Orders for June will be delivered this Saturday at 2702 North Birdwell Lane. Pick up times are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Don't forget to bring your box! Angel Food Ministry is a non-qualifying, faith-based program through the Department of Agriculture. This is restaurant-quality food. NBL takes only cash or money orders, and you must pay when you order. The July menus will be available on pick-up day. The menu changes monthly. Once you

It never fails

It never fails! Trouble always comes at the most inconvenient times. As I crawled out of bed Monday morning with Vacation Bible School on my mind, the phone was already ringing. The panicked voice on the other end of the line insisted, "I need to talk to Bro. Dwayne right now."



BONNIE WHEAT

I held my breath and prayed a quick "Lord-help" prayer as my pastor-husband listened to the urgent message and started making other calls. It turned out that someone had stolen a window air conditioner unit out of the church office and there was broken glass all over the office and the sidewalk.

Forgetting about the ailing church van that needed a miraculous healing in just a few hours because all the mechanics in town were busy, we threw some VBS supplies in the trunk of the car and headed to the church to see what was missing. Fortunately, nothing else had been bothered, and the deputy who did the investigation con-

cluded that, "Somebody just needed an air conditioner."

A short time later, the church office was abuzz with activity as VBS workers filed in and out complaining about the heat, the secretary talked to a service rep to find out why our copier wouldn't print card stock, and a couple of volunteers struggled to make a new pane of unbreakable, glass-like material fit into a bent window frame where the air conditioner had been.

In the midst of all the confusion, someone commented, "God must really have something special for us this week because Satan is working overtime."

In the book of James we are told, Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of you faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4 NASB)

It never fails! Trouble does come when we think we are least prepared to deal with it, but God is in the business of perfecting His children, even if they have to endure a little heat now and then.

purchase the box, there are meat specials that you can order if you wish. These boxes may not be purchased separately. There is no obligation to order each month. This is an "as you want to" ordering opportunity.

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to come and worship with us. North Birdwell Lane UMC is located at 2702 North Birdwell Lane. That is two miles north of Hubbard Packing on North Birdwell Lane. May God bless you, and we hope to see you soon!

267-7157 or 267-8214.

Wednesday, July 2, we will have a July 4 homemade ice cream fellowship at 7 p.m. in our fellowship hall.

For information on services, call 267-7157.

with God and His son, Jesus. Our purpose is to connect people to our wonderful Savior through our friendships and ministries. This week, let's focus on one of our

connection groups — the WOW class. This stands for Women of Worth and is a class of women of different ages that ministers to the specific needs of women. This class is led by our pastor's wife, Susie Teeters. This is a group that would welcome you and help you in your struggles as they pray for you and reach out in ways specific to your situation. This group meets at our Sunday school connection time at 9:30 a.m. We have a place for every member of your family from babies on up.

Our pastor, Dennis Teeters, is continuing a sermon series on the Parables of Jesus in our 10:45 a.m. worship service. This week's sermon is found in Matthew 21: 33 - 46 and is titled "Parables ... Tenant Trouble." Sunday evening our pastor will continue a series on what Jesus has to say on different subjects, with a sermon entitled, "Jesus on Prayer" and found in Matthew 6:5-15.

You get to Spring Creek Fellowship by going down I-20 east to the Salem exit. Go under the overpass and take a left on the service road. SCF is on the right, just before the on ramp to

See CHURCH, Page 8A

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Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Children's church for ages 4 through 12 is during the Sunday morning worship. For a ride to services, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. Midweek services are Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Vacation Bible School is planned for Sunday evening, July 6 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Wednesday July 9, for ages 3 through 12. For information on VBS call

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Club News

The Big Spring Art Association

The Big Spring Art Association recently held its meeting for June under the pavilion at the Dora Roberts Community Center. It was a nice breezy evening of "en plein air" artwork. Being outside gave members the opportunity to use a variety of mediums, such as watercolor, photography and pencil sketches. There were numerous subjects to focus on such as the limitless flora and fauna, sparkling lake and people enjoying all sorts of recreation.

Due to the heat and busy summer schedules, there will not be a meeting in July. However, it will more than be made up for in August when we will have an old-fashioned ice cream social. It will be held at the pavilion on Scenic Mountain at 7 p.m. Aug. 19. If you would like to join in the art session, bring whatever supplies you would like to work with.

One of the matters discussed was an exciting gallery tour to be held Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be a traveling tour of the galleries and homes of local Big Spring artists open to the public. Stay tuned for more information on that and the Membership Show to be held in the first week

of November.

Regular meetings in the library basement, will resume Tuesday, Sept. 16. We encourage everyone interested in art to attend the meetings and join the club. Please contact club president, Ruby Bruns, at 664-1943 with any questions or comments you may have.

TOPS TX No. 21

TOPS TX No. 21 met at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 23 in the Fellowship Hall of the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad. Laura Sickles conducted and led the group in the TOPS cheer. She called on Olnee

Menges to lead the TOPS pledge and Gladys Russell to lead the KOPS pledge. The welcome song was then sung by all members.

Minutes of June 9 and June 16 were then read by Linda Staples and approved by the members.

The business portion of the meeting brought up a motion to refund prepaid dues to a member who moved away. It was approved. Members were then reminded that area captain Clara Clegharn, would visit our chapter meeting June 30. A motion was presented for members to go the dinner with our visitor after the meeting. The motion carried.

Next, a motion was presented for members to bring packages of sugar-free candy to fill the piñata for the Mexican Fiesta KOPS activity day Aug. 9, 2008, to be held in Big Spring. The motion passed.

Roll call by Frank Sickles noted there were nine TOPS and three KOPS present. There was no program this evening due to the lengthy business discussion.

If there are those who are interested in help with weight loss and encouragement, contact Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342, or Olnee Menges at (432) 263-6819.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 7A

I-20. We'll be looking for you. Check out our church on the Internet at www.springcreekfellowship.org.

First Christian Church

Aye, Matey! Vacation Bible School at First Christian Church casts off soon for a fun week of Bible Adventure featuring Veggie Tales' "The Pirates Who Won't Do Anything." VBS will happen each evening from July 14-17.

VBS at First Christian is an intergenerational event including kid-friendly dinners, singing and games and age-related Bible-learning activities. A highlight of each evening will be fellowship singing led by the Rainwaters. VBS will start at 5:50 p.m. with dinner and end with a prayer at 8 p.m.

The theme this year is "Heroes of Faith." Age groups will be pre-school, K-4, grades 5-8, grades 9-12 and adults.

We are delighted to have Scott Willis, volunteer chaplain for the Big Spring Police Department, as our guest minister this Sunday while our pastor is away on vacation.



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