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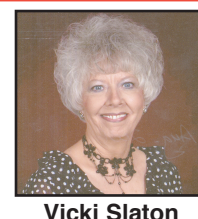
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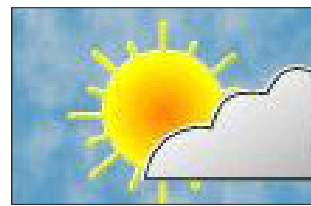
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

AUGUST 7, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 214

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Howard County must find new ME

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Texas Tech's recent announcement it will no longer provide medical examiner services to approximately 80 counties by the end of next year has many local

officials wondering just where to turn.

Lubbock County Judge Tom Head said this week that Texas Tech Health Sciences Center officials recently informed him the school intends to end its contract to manage the Lubbock County

Medical Examiner's Office by the fall of 2009, saying the forensic work doesn't fit the school's overall mission.

According to Howard County Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman, that decision leaves the Big Spring area in limbo.

"We'll simply have to find another medical examiner's office to contract with," said Wiseman. "Currently, we don't have any other contracts with other offices, so we don't have anything up our sleeves. We'll just have to start over, for the most part.

"This is certainly going to mean an increase in costs, if for no other reason than transporting the bodies. Currently, the funeral homes handle that, but I imagine we're going to have to

See **ME**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

B.J. Herring, 32, prepares to move his glider onto the runway in preparation for the activities later in the afternoon. He is one of more than 50 hang gliders participating in the Big Spring International competition taking place at Macmahon-Wrinkle Airpark this week.

Gliding conditions 'epic,' displaced Texan contends

By **ALEX NEWSOM**

Herald Intern

"The conditions in Texas are epic. I can't believe I've never flown in Texas before," glider pilot B.J. Herring said in an airport terminal conference room at Macmahon-Wrinkle Airpark. Herring is one of about 50



Herring

hang gliding enthusiasts who have gathered for the Big Spring International competition that began Saturday.

Although he was born in Fort Worth, it's his first year to hit Texas skies, which is surpris-

ing considering the local weather for hang gliding is considered among the best in the world. The 32-year-old left for college in Colorado in 1994 and never came back.

"I'm really into skiing and mountain-biking, and I've got a

See **GLIDING**, Page 3A

BOOT CAMP

United Way volunteers prepare for campaign; luncheon set Aug. 16

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Features Writer

Volunteers for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County's 2008 campaign headed to boot camp Tuesday — no push ups were necessary.

"We had a great turnout," said Jan Hansen, executive director of the local United Way. "We even increased in the number of volunteers. We have some new companies participating this year that haven't in the past."

Hansen hopes the increase in participants this early in the campaign could turn into more dollars to allocate to the area agencies.

"We see Tuesday's turnout as a good sign for our campaign," Hansen continued. "We would like to see participation increase in each division of the campaign."

The "boot camp" training session was designed to provide loan executives — volunteers who run the individual campaigns for their respective business-

es — strategies for effective fund-raising.

Monies raised from the annual campaign, which runs Sept. 1 through Nov. 15 this year, is used to fund 15 area not-for-profit agencies.

"The United Way is an organization designed to pull together local monies through our fund-raising activities and distribute the funds to agencies that are providing much-needed services to our community," Hansen said.

And community input is vital to the organization, Hansen added, not only by way of the pocket book but also in helping to distribute the money to where it is most needed.

"Our allocations committee consists of members of the community who look at each agency, what the organization requests and its needs. Then the members allocate the funds where they are most needed in our community," Hansen said.

Donors can chose a variety of ways to give — from payroll deductions to a one-time cash payment. Donations can also be earmarked for one particular

See **UW**, Page 3A



Hansen

INDEX

Classified 3-5B

Wheels 6A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



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Desert to start rocking Friday night

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Ready, set... Ignite.

Christian musical acts from all over the nation will help light up the desert — or more specifically, the Midland area — Friday night, as the 2008 Rock the Desert music festival gets under way.

"We've confirmed Switchfoot, The Newsboys, Disciple, Red, Paul Wright and Group

1 Crew for the concert," said Mike Goeke, the festival's former executive director. "The Newsboys will be headlining the show Aug. 8 and Switchfoot will be headlining Aug. 9. They've been a very versatile band and have been a best selling band on both the secular and Christian charts. We also have Hawk Nelson, Family Force Five, Disciple, Needtobreathe and several other

groups. In addition, Christian illusionist Brock Gill and the Outcast BMX Bike Expo will be sharing the gospel."

According to Goeke, the festival will kick off Friday with gates opening at 3 p.m. and the National Anthem at 4 p.m. After that, a slew of Christian acts will take the stage at the RTD encampment, located at 2000 N. FM 1788 in Midland. Friday's performers include

Needtobreathe, 4:15 p.m.; Paul Wright, 5:15 p.m.; Group 1 Crew, 6:30 p.m.; Family Force Five, 8 p.m.; Brock Gill, 9:15 p.m.; and Newsboys, 10:30 p.m. Gates are set to close at 11:45 p.m.

Friday's line-up will also include a special teen tent, which will feature Tyler Dodds at 6 p.m. and The Wed-

See **CONCERT**, Page 3A

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Goodbye, cheeseheads — hello, Broadway

Packers break ties with Favre by trading quarterback to New York Jets

By **CHRIS JENKINS**

AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre's journey from retirement and back has finally ended — in New York.

The Green Bay Packers reached an agreement Wednesday night to trade their three-time MVP and Super Bowl-winning quarterback to the New York Jets, ending an emotionally grinding month of indecision over Favre's future.

The move, ending a remarkably ugly split between Green Bay and one of its most beloved players, allows the Packers to move forward with new starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers and gives Favre a fresh start — although not exactly the one he wanted, as Favre's first choice was widely believed to be the Minnesota Vikings.

Terms of the trade weren't immediately available.

"It is with some sadness that we make this announcement,

but also with the desire for certainty that will allow us to move the team and organization forward in the most positive way possible," Green Bay officials said in a statement.

Jets chairman and CEO Woody Johnson issued a statement early Thursday.

"I am looking forward to seeing Brett Favre in a New York Jets uniform," Johnson said. "He represents a significant addition to this franchise, and reflects our commitment to put-

ting the best possible team on the field."

Green Bay had been talking with the Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers since deciding earlier this week that they could no longer coexist with Favre.

The Packers decided to move forward with Rodgers as their starter after Favre announced his retirement in March. Given their commitment to Rodgers, team officials weren't particularly receptive when Favre decided just over a month ago

that he might want to play after all — the latest development in several years' worth of flip-flopping about his football future.

The agreement was first reported by Fox Sports on its Web site.

"We just felt like this was an opportunity to go get somebody of Brett's stature and what he's accomplished," Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said during a conference call

See **FAVRE**, page 2B

Passing

the stick

Olympians refine baton pass skills

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

DALIAN, China — Lauryn Williams was running toward Allyson Felix when suddenly Williams noticed something not going as planned.

"Wrong hand, wrong hand," she shouted.

Somehow, they still managed to exchange the baton cleanly and Felix took off — a happy ending this time, but also a prime example of why practice really matters in the fickle world of relay races.

"It's a lot of time and a lot of space and a lot of things coming together," Williams said about the art of passing the baton.

When things go well, as they did on most of the practice exchanges Thursday at the U.S. Olympic track team's training camp, the

Americans wind up with gold medals around their necks.

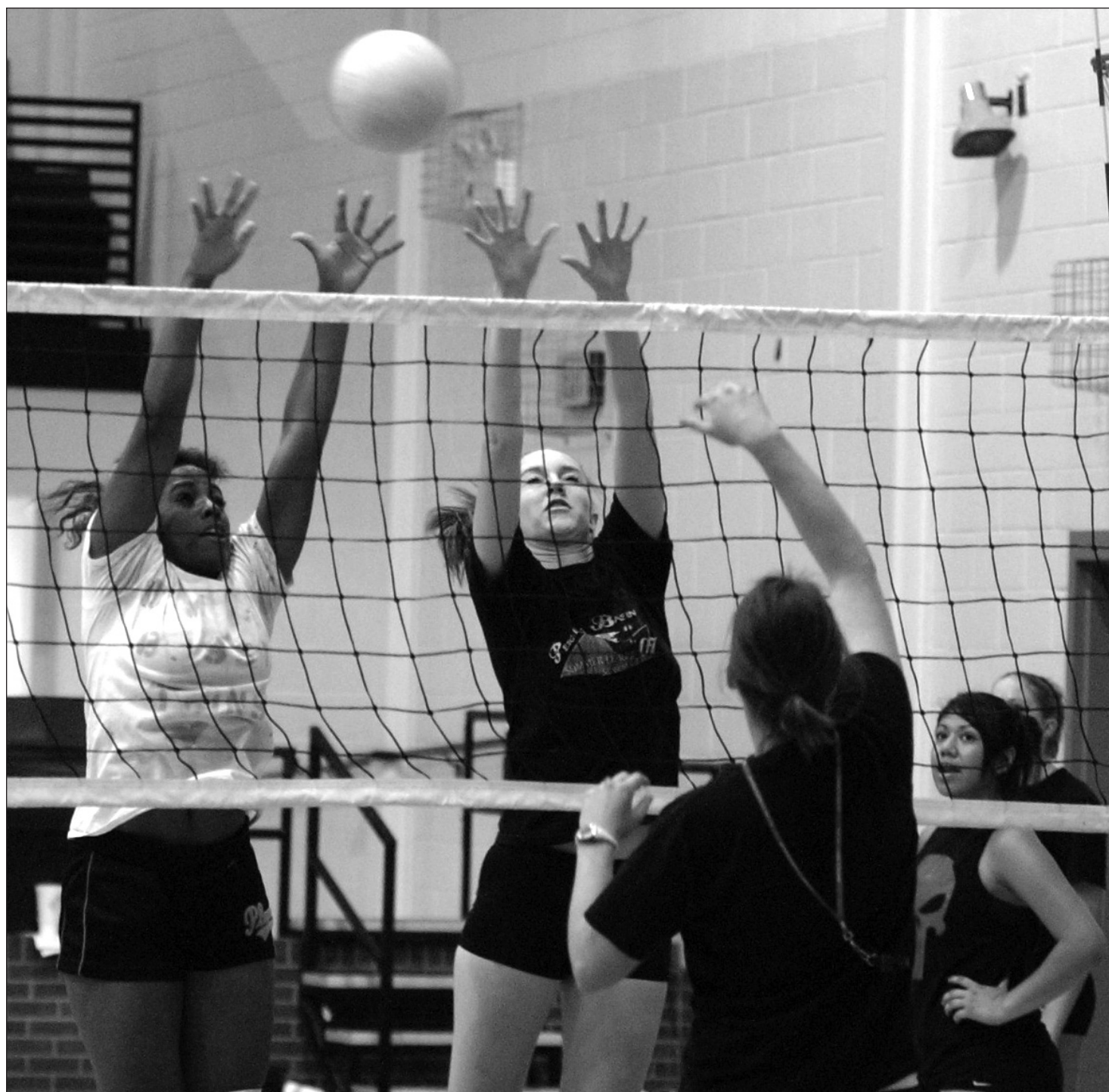
When things don't go as smoothly, they get results like 2004.

In Athens, Williams took off a bit too soon and Marion Jones couldn't get the baton to her for the third leg of the 400-meter relay. The U.S. team was disqualified for making the exchange outside the 20-meter handoff zone.

"I have absolutely no idea what happened on that one. I never watched it again," Williams said.

On the men's side that year, Justin Gatlin took a slow handoff from Shawn Crawford, then didn't hand off the baton cleanly to Coby Miller, stepping on his foot and tearing a hole in Miller's shoe. All those precious

See **STICK**, page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Desiree Anderson (left) and Macy Graves attempt to block a spike by new Lady Steers Volleyball Coach Meghan Blake at two-a-day practices in the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium Wednesday. The Lady Steers have their first game at 6 p.m. Tuesday against Sweetwater and Seminole at Steer Gym.

Sports in brief

Steer football season ticket sales have begun

Big Spring High School 2008 football season tickets have gone on sale at the Athletic Training Center.

Only people who have previously owned season tickets are able to buy through Thursday.

Sales for the general public begin Monday and end Aug. 22.

Tickets can be bought Monday through Thursday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the ATC.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

Crossroads Youth Football Association sign-ups Saturday

Crossroads Youth Football Association begins sign-ups for both football and cheerleading for the 2008 season Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

Subsequent sign-up dates will be held Aug. 16 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the mall. Late sign-ups for football only is Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no late sign-ups for cheerleading.

For more information, visit www.freewebs.com/cyfa. For questions regarding football, call John Sotelo at 816-3060, and for cheerleading, contact Trish Hobby at 393-5647.

Big Spring Youth Soccer Association sign-ups Saturday

The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association will have election of officers at 7 p.m. Thursday in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Sign-ups for the 2008 season begin Saturday from 1-5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. Sign-ups will continue to run from Aug. 11-15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day and end Aug. 16 from 1-5 p.m.

Boys and girls from ages 4-11 are eligible to play. The sign-up fee is \$60 with no fund raiser.

For more information, contact Jamie Scott at 213-0430.

HCYHC hosting series of Jackpot Play Days

The Howard County Youth Horseman Club is hosting a series of Jackpot Play Days open to the public at the HCYHC Arena, located on Garden City Highway — half a mile off N. Highway 87.

The first play day in the series is at 6 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 213-6177 or 267-8041.

Hunter education class to be held Saturday

The next hunter education class in Big Spring is set for Saturday at the Chamber of Commerce office.

The class begins at 8 a.m., and cost is \$15 per student.

All persons born after Sept. 2, 1971 are required to have hunter education before they can legally hunt in Texas.

Students should be at least 9-years-old at the time of the class. All states have some sort of hunter education requirement and all states have a reciprocal agreement with the State of Texas.

For information, or to register, please call Steve Poitevint at 264-7033.

Flag football league schedules sign-ups

Signups will be held for the NFL Flag Football League on the following dates and times:

- Friday — 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.
- Aug. 16 — 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Aug. 23 — 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Signups will be held at the Coahoma Community Center.

This league is a flag league affiliated with the NFL's Youth Programs. There will be one coed division for children ages 9-11. Cost per participant is \$35 and will include an NFL style jersey. There is no fundraiser. Anyone wanting more information or interested in coaching should call Adam Tindol at 213-4193. This

league is for all children in the area.

Registration open for v-ball league

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Volleyball League continues through Aug. 30 at the local YMCA.

The league is open for children entering grades 4, 5 and 6 this school year.

Registration fee is \$50; financial assistance is available for families that qualify.

Teams will be formed at a coaches' meeting Sept. 2 and games will be played on Saturdays beginning Sept. 20.

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

Stanton site for Sept. 1 5K run

Stanton will host a 5 kilometer run/walk Sept. 1.

Registration will be held at 7:30 a.m., with the race starting an hour later at 1101 W. Broadway (the Martin County EMS Building).

Early registration costs \$15 — race day registration will cost \$20.

There will be awards to the top three male and female runners in several age groups.

For more information, call Bob Teveni at 661-8597 or pick up entry forms at Dr. Pablo Teveni's office at 109 E. First St. in Stanton.

Scramble scheduled for Big Spring CC

Big Spring Country Club will host an Over 80 Scramble (the combined ages of the two-person team must be 80 or more) Aug. 16 and 17.

Entry fee is \$60 per player. Fields will be flighted by first round scores and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

Call 267-5354 for more information.

Obituaries

Esperanza 'Hope' Gonzalez Barrera



Esperanza "Hope" Gonzalez Barrera, 87, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, in an Odessa nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 8, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

She was born Nov. 15, 1920, in Yrapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, and married Eleno Barrera in 1943 in San Diego, Calif. He preceded her in death May 22, 1965.

Esperanza came to Big Spring in 1927 from Mexico. She was a homemaker and a Catholic.

Survivors include two sons, Albert Barrera and wife, Corina, of Odessa, and Jesse Rios and wife, Kim, of Big Spring; one daughter, Irene Barrera Lopez and husband, Joseph, of Abilene; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Maria Larez; four sisters, Juanita, Clementina, Angela and Amalia; and three brothers, Luis, Jesus and Lucas.

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

Ronald Christopher Pingleton

Ronald Christopher Pingleton, 34, of Deming, N.M., passed away Monday, Aug. 4, 2008, at the University of New Mexico Medical Center in Albuquerque.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. Jackie Thomas officiating. Interment will follow at Mountain View Cemetery in Deming, N.M.

He was born Nov. 1, 1973, in El Paso to Barbara Hines and Michael Pingleton. Ronald had most recently worked as a maintenance attendant at Pepper's Service Station and had been a Deming resident since 1989, coming from Lauders.

Survivors include his father, Michael, and step-mother, Stacy Pingleton of Big Spring; brothers, William Robert and Lonnie Ray Pingleton, both of Deming; and his grandmother, Helen Pingleton.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara Pingleton; and his grandfathers, Roy Pingleton and Floyd Hines.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Baca's Mimbres Crematory of Deming

George Moore

George Moore, 63, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- JAIRO ESTRELLA, 18, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of racing on the highway.
- MICHAEL GONZALES, 18, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of racing on the highway.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 1000 block of Main.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1000 block of Main.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of Alabama.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 4000 block of Vicky.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 49 inmates at the time of this report.
- CODY ROSENBAUM, 19, was transferred by the BSPD to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of racing on the highway.
 - MICHAEL LEE LOPEZ, 20, was transferred by the BSPD to the county jail Wednesday on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of a controlled substance – more than 4 grams and less than 200 grams.
 - CHRISTOPHER RYAN CASTANUELA, 24, was arrested by the HCSO Wednesday on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
 - JAMES ALLEN HODNETT, 23, was transferred by the BSPD to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of false report to a police officer/law enforcement employee.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. 21st Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1800 block of E. FM 700. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Settles. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. Eighth Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Sunset. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. Eighth Street. Service refused.

Take Note

• The local Eagles Lodge will host a benefit dance and brisket supper for Kody Jackson Saturday from noon until 1 a.m. Brisket plates will be available beginning at noon until supplies run out and are \$7 per plate with delivery available. An auction will follow, with the dance set to begin at 9 p.m. featuring Country Tradition. Tickets for the dance are \$5 per person or \$8 for each couple.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1998 10-year reunion will be held Sept. 12-13 during the BSHS homecoming weekend. To get details and register, visit www.free-webs.com/bshs1998 or contact Traci Bellinghausen at (817) 308-9845 or Jacob Cordova at (432) 935-0533.

• BSHS Class of 1978 30-year reunion is Sept. 12-13. Contact Kent Rice at 870-918-5875 or kent_rice@murphyoilcorp.com

• Big Spring High School Class of 1988's 20-year reunion will be held the weekend of Sept. 12-13. Contact Cheri Wyrick Reibe at 432-268-9587 or reibel@suddenlink.net for information. The class still needs classmates' contact information so please contact Cheri to pass those along.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a community health survey. The informa-

tion will be used to study barriers to health care and other public health issues. Your personal information will not be used, other than the comments portion of the survey. You will not be asked for your name. The survey is available online and takes about 15 minutes to complete. For the English survey, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929625. For the survey in Spanish, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929626.

• Mobile Meals needs 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.

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue.

All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

Your Local Weather

Fri 8/8	Sat 8/9	Sun 8/10	Mon 8/11	Tue 8/12
 92/67 Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 92F.	 95/70 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 97/72 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 93/71 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	 95/70 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.

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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

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- 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.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 15-7-41-34-38-27. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-19-21-27. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 1-7-9-9. Sum It Up: 26

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 0-4-9. Sum It Up: 13

Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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.

• 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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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FAVRE

Continued from page 1B

early Thursday morning. "We felt it was in the best interest of the team and when the opportunity presented itself, we felt it was the right move for us to make and we went ahead and did it."

A number of fans made it clear throughout training camp that they wanted Favre on the Jets with signs and "Get Brett!" chants. Favre's new No. 4 Jets jersey already was for sale on the team's Web site about an hour after the trade was announced.

Tannenbaum, who said he had a "good" conversation with Favre, wouldn't speculate whether the quarterback will play in New York beyond this season.

"We had discussions with him and his agent, Bus Cook," Tannenbaum said, "and we're going into this and we're going to take this one year at a time and we're excited to have Brett on the team this year."

The arrival of Favre signals the end of Chad Pennington's career with the Jets. Tannenbaum said there would be another transaction regarding Pennington, who spent his first eight seasons with the Jets.

"It's a bittersweet moment for us," Tannenbaum said. "I have all the respect in the world for Chad as a person, as a player. We've accomplished a lot of good things with Chad ... He gave his heart and soul to this organization for a long, long time. I really appreciate everything he's done."

Favre left Green Bay on Wednesday, boarding a private plane that left for Hattiesburg, Miss. at 1:25 p.m. EDT with his wife, Deanna, and Cook. Favre's family home is near Hattiesburg.

In Mississippi, Favre confirmed that he was considering the Jets and Buccaneers.

"We're working on it," Favre told Jackson TV station WJTV. "Hopefully, we can get something resolved. I've been saying that for quite a while now. I don't want to say we're running out of time, but I need to get into a camp somewhere."

The 38-year-old Favre holds most major NFL passing records and led the Packers to the NFC Championship last season, where they lost to the New York Giants. Favre threw what would prove to be the decisive interception in overtime.

The Jets went into training camp with an open competition between Pennington and Kellen Clemens after neither established themselves during a 4-12 season.

Crayton settling in as second receiver

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — Patrick Crayton hears outside talk about the Dallas Cowboys needing another veteran receiver, somebody in the No. 2 spot to complement Terrell Owens.

The chatter comes even though Crayton aptly handled the role last year when Terry Glenn, waived at the start of this training camp, didn't play until the regular season finale.

"I stopped thinking about that a long time ago," Crayton said. "I said forget about it. I'm not going to be able to please everybody."

Overlook for a minute the dropped pass that could have been a touchdown in the Cowboys' playoff loss to the New York Giants, and Crayton had a pretty

good season overall.

Crayton, a former seventh-round pick who was a quarterback and receiver at NAIA school Northwestern Oklahoma State, set career highs with 50 catches for 697 yards and seven touchdowns last season. His TD total would have been at least tied for the most on 17 other NFL teams.

"He did a great job last year handling it, and he even knows that he's the guy with the No. 2 spot and so he's taking full advantage of it," receivers coach Ray Sherman said Wednesday. "It's the same offense as last year."

The offense also has the same vital parts, including Tony Romo, who set team records by passing for 4,211 yards and 36 touchdowns in his first full season as the starter; Owens, who had 81 catches

for 1,355 yards and a team-record 15 TDs; and tight end Jason Witten (team-high 96 catches).

"No one has to adjust to any new players coming in and stuff like that," Crayton said. "We know what we want to achieve, so I think that already everybody is on the same page."

Crayton was still primarily the No. 3 receiver going into last season, before Glenn sustained a right knee injury that required two operations and kept him out the first 15 games of the season.

Since Glenn was hurt the first day of training camp last summer, Crayton got most of the snaps with the starting offensive unit that was learning then-new coordinator Jason Garrett's scheme. That didn't change during the season.

STICK

Continued from page 1B

milliseconds allowed Britain to pull a stunning upset and win the gold by .01 seconds, the closest finish in Olympic relay history.

It was only the second time in the Olympic 400 relay that the Americans had lost a final in which they weren't disqualified for an illegal pass.

"We had four of the fastest guys in the world, three guys who go 9.8 and a guy who goes 9.9 and we only managed a 38.08 to get second," said Darvis Patton, who ran in qualifying rounds on that relay team. "Great Britain, I think their fastest guy ran like 10.1 that year

but they managed to get gold with great handoffs."

In other words, raw speed may win the sprints. But it takes both speed and teamwork to win relays.

A number of runners in this year's American relay pool agree that passing the baton is part art, part mechanical — and part skill, with a bit of luck thrown in.

"It's something you can craft into an art by practicing hard at it and going out and focusing every time you hand off and every time you receive," Crawford said. "When you practice hard, you make it look easy, and when you make it look easy, people can interpret that as, that's nice art."

In the span of about two minutes at practice Thursday, the

huge difference between art and something much less was on display.

Both times began with Crawford tearing down the backstretch, feet pumping, arms churning. The first time, he and teammate Walter Dix got mixed up in a mess of arms and legs, a poor exchange that will cost the Americans the medal if they repeat it on Aug. 22. But on the second try — perfect. Dix went tearing down to the finish line and the dozen or so coaches and teammates watching the drill applauded wildly.

"You've got to be able to read people," said U.S. assistant coach Harvey Glance, a member of the 1976 gold medal relay team. "You've got to read speed. It's timing. You've got to be in the right place at the right

time."

There is, indeed, a very precise method to what often must feel like a crapshoot.

Each runner at this level needs between 25 and 28 strides to get from the start to the finish of his leg. The receiving runner counts the trailing runner's steps and waits for him to reach a zone near the passing point, decided in advance. Once the approaching runner hits the zone, that releases the receiving runner and allows him to take off. The object is for both runners to be going about the same speed during the exchange.

There isn't much room for error.

"It's a pretty finite spot," Patton said. "But that's why we practice, to get used to seeing where the guy in back of you

hits the spot. Once they hit the spot, that releases you. If you trust them and trust the borders, you're probably going to get a good handoff."

Building trust and chemistry is key to this drill, which is why head coach Bubba Thornton bristled a bit when asked if Tyson Gay's absence from the camp might have any effect.

In the past, all possible relay members have been asked to show at training camp. Gay stayed in Beijing, though certainly, America's fastest runner will be on the relay team. Thornton said there will be time to practice in Beijing. Gay and Patton will both have ample time because they're in the 100, but not the 200. The 100 ends on Aug. 16 and relay prelims don't start until Aug. 21.

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins
An officer with the Big Spring Police Department talks with one of the drivers from this traffic accident on FM 700 near the main entrance to the Big Spring Mall. No injuries were reported as a result of the crash, which squelched traffic in the area for a short period of time.



UW

Continued from Page 1A

agency. Virtually all the money raised by the campaign, stays in Howard County, Hansen said, with about 10 percent of the funds going toward administrative costs. The campaign officially kicks off Aug. 19 with the annual luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. in First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall, at 400 Scurry St. Radio personality Tumbleweed Smith, a Big Spring resident, will be the guest speaker. Tickets for the luncheon are \$12 and can be purchased at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third. For more information, call 267-5201. Area Agencies which receive funding through the United Way are:

- The American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter. This agency provides disaster

relief services, assistance to military personnel and their families and offers first aid instruction.

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (C.A.S.A.) of West Texas. CASA volunteers serve as advocates for abused and neglected children who are in the care of Child Protective Services when the court is considering the permanent placement for the child. Location, 210 Third St.; Phone, 263-4162.
- Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. This is an educational and character-building program for boys and young adults. Location, 610 Scurry; Phone, 263-3407.
- Big Spring Humane Society. The Humane Society provides shelter and care for abandoned, abused and neglected cats and dogs and also arranges pet visitations for elderly and disabled. Location, W. I-20 North Service Road; Phone, 267-7832.
- Boy's Club of Big Spring. The program offers guidance, instruction, recre-

ation and leadership to boys 6-17 years of age. Location, 212 E. Third St.; Phone, 263-1822.

- Northside Community Center. Northside provides clothing, household articles, rent and utility payments, emergency shelter and counseling for those in need. Location, 108 N.E. Eighth St.; Phone, 263-2673.
- Dora Robert Rehabilitation Center. This is a rehabilitation program to help improve the health and welfare of disabled children and adults. No one is turned away due to their ability to pay. Location, 306. W. Third; Phone, 267-3806.
- Isaiah 58. The program provides food, clothing and other essential of daily life to those in need. It also provides assistance with prescription drugs, rent and utilities. Location, 107 Runnels St.; Phone, 263-4758.
- Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin. Girl Scouts provide programs aimed for girls age five through 17.
- The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provides a

number of services for the poor including meals and lodging for the homeless. Location 811 W. Fifth St.; Phone, 267-8239.

- Victim Services. The volunteers for victim services for immediate after-crisis support for victims of rape and sexual assault. Twenty-four-hour support hotline, 263-3312.
- Y.M.C.A. of Big Spring. The YMCA offers a number of physical activities for children and adults along with after school and summer activities. Location, 801 Owens; Phone, 267-8234.
- Westside Community Center. This program provides an education-based, after-school and summer programs for public school children. Location, 1311 W. Fourth St.; Phone, 267-6680.
- Westside Day Care Center. This program provides day care and education for children ages 0-12. The parents must be employed or participate in training that will lead to employment. Location: Big Spring Industrial Park; Phone, 263-7841.

ME

Continued from Page 1A

travel a lot farther." Wiseman said Howard County currently pays \$2,000 per autopsy.

"It costs the county \$2,000 for each autopsy, plus the cost of any labs. There's also an increase in the cost for autopsies on infants," said Wiseman. "I'm not sure how those costs compare to other medical examiner's offices, so we could end up paying considerably more wherever we go. It's just too early to say."

The upcoming search for a new medical examiner's office won't be the first Howard County has faced, according to Wiseman.

"We began looking for someone else to contract with a few years back," said Wiseman. "The Lubbock office was taking up to four months to get some death certificates back. A family is basically left in limbo until they get that death certificate, so we began looking, however, we never found anything. It looks like we'll be looking again."

Wiseman said Howard County currently has several autopsies pending with the Lubbock County Medical Examiners Office, including the autopsies of a pair of Big Spring residents killed in a drive by shooting in early May.

Valerie Garcia, 20, and Michael Cardona, 21, both of Big Spring, were pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center shortly after a shooting was reported at 905 E. 16th St. at 9:38 p.m. Sunday, May 4. According to police reports, Garcia was pregnant at the time of her death.

"If they are going to keep going until next fall, I'm sure they will finish the autopsies they have already started, such as the shooting victims," said Wiseman. "However, as we get closer to that deadline, it's going to raise some serious questions."

Howard County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the announcement raises some concerns for the already stretched thin budget facing commissioners in 2009.

"There's little doubt no matter what we do, it's going to cost more," said Kilgore. "We'll just have to see what we can find. We may have to go as far as Dallas. It's hard to say at this point."

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

GLIDING

Continued from Page 1A

good business," he said. He got into hang gliding five years ago by pure convenience and is now hooked.

"I was going to get my private pilot's license, but it was too expensive. But for this, once you get trained it's pretty cheap. All you need is gas to drive to the top of the mountain or aerotow if you're down in Texas where it's flat, and then you can just fly for hours and hours and hours — and it's free because you're not burning gas in the air. It's addicting too, because you never know when you're going to get a thermal. You can climb 10,000 feet in a thermal. Last week, I climbed a mile in one thermal in five minutes."

A thermal is a column of rising air caused by the uneven heating of the earth. When you think about a

bird catching a breeze to rise higher, they're really catching a thermal. Thermals are a hang glider's fuel.

One reason Herring is so excited about the flying conditions in Texas is that they enabled him to reach a personal best of 180 miles Sunday, beating his former 101 miles. "I was stoked," he said, grinning.

He arrived in Big Spring Friday, began flying Sunday and has already accumulated around 14 hours of flying. He came down from Colorado with two others: Jim Yocum, a fellow hang glider, and Tim Collard, who was involved in an ultralight crash Monday.

"The ultralight that crashed was our dragonfly that we had just got running in Colorado. We were excited to get it going, but now we're out until next spring," said Herring. "There were really strong conditions, and a dust devil was probably breaking up."

During the discussion of

the crash, David Glover, one of the event's organizers, could be heard in the background going around trying to get everyone to sign a card for Collard.

"Has everybody signed Tim's card? If you haven't signed it yet, sign it right now," Glover yelled.

Herring said he flies a lot in Colorado, but he's also flown in California, Utah and Arizona—whenever he goes on vacation. The farthest place he's traveled to hang glide is Peru.

"Usually we can hook up with the locals. The hang gliding community is really tight. So when I went to Peru, I looked up a local hang glider on the Internet, and all of a sudden, you might as well be brothers," Herring said. "They put you in their house even though they've never met you before, and then you even end up borrowing their car. It's really cool. It's almost like Texas hospitality. I grew up here, so I know how friendly everybody is. It's almost an

extension of that. You end up having hang glider buddies in almost every state. I just call them up and we go flying."

The hang gliders are allowed to get to 17,999 feet (around 3.5 miles). According to Herring, he hits the limit quite often in Colorado. Flying over mountains 14,000 feet tall, which would be alarming to some people, is just another fun part of his favorite hobby.

"Hang gliding is addicting. It's like gambling because when you don't know if you're going to win the money, it keeps you coming back hoping you'll get it next time. That's what thermals are like. Because you can't see them, you hope if you go a little farther, you'll get one. And the longer you fly, the better you get at finding them."

But he's not just here for the weather that led Big Spring to host the hang gliding world competition last year.

"There are some really

good people who come to Big Spring for this event," he said, gesturing to the group of pilots nearby who were waiting in the terminal for the meeting before launching later that afternoon. "We've got such talented pilots down here. Which is why I'm here: to learn. Being a five-year pilot, I'm still young. I've done all the things I want to do, like get high, go far and all that. But there is so much you can do to get better, and all of these guys will help you. We're all so passionate about it, and we love to share our passion with everyone else. We want nothing more than to spend the entire day talking about hang gliding, so for about nine days straight, that's pretty much all we do."

Speaking of addiction, Herring said the pilots have to keep their hang gliding balanced with ev-

erything else going on in life, which sometimes proves difficult.

"They call hang gliding AIDS because a lot of the pilots are divorced, and they call it Aviation Induced Divorce Syndrome. It's ends up taking over your life—it's that amazing," he said.

"Everyone would tell me, 'You've got to try the flying down here,' but I never had. I had no idea how cool it was. I figure I'll be back every year from now on because this place is just, well, epic."

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

ding at 7 p.m.

Saturday's festivities are set to begin at 1:15 p.m. with the National Anthem and welcoming remarks and the announcement of the National Talent Search winner at 1:25 p.m. Next up are The Wedding, 2 p.m.; Day of Fire, 3 p.m.; Jimmy Needham, 4:15 p.m.; Disciple, 5:30 p.m.; Hawk Nelson, 7 p.m.; and RED, 8:30 p.m.

The concert will finish out the night with San Di-

ego, Calif., multi-genre act Switchfoot. The band first gained mainstream recognition after the inclusion of four of their songs in the 2002 movie "A Walk to Remember." This recognition led to their major label debut, The Beautiful Letdown, which was released in 2003. It went on to sell over 2.6 million copies and produced the band's best-known singles, Meant to Live and Dare You to Move.

Saturday's line will also feature a teen tent, with performances scheduled from Brock Gill, 2:30 p.m.; Outcast BMX, 4 p.m.; Paul

Wright, 5 p.m.; and Needtobreathe, 6:30 p.m.

Advance tickets for the two-day concert are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.rockthedesert.com or by calling the RTD office at (432) 697-4548. Tick-

ets will also be available at the gate for \$25.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

As a new school year begins, pray with your children. Pray for safety. Pray for wise choices. Pray for good attitudes. Pray for good health. Pray for opportunities to encourage others. Pray for a willingness to learn. Pray for teachers. Pray for administrators. Pray for other students. Pray for kindness as family routines are readjusted. Pray for patience as busy schedules bring frustration.

I often hear the sentiment, "School needs prayer because my child needs to begin the day with prayer." I usually respond, "Does your child's day begin when the school bell rings?" If your child's day begins at school, begin the day with prayer. If your child's day begins at home, begin the day with prayer. (I do appreciate the bumper sticker, "As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in school.")

School activities and busy schedules remind us to, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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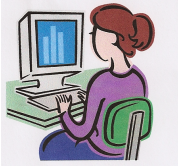
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Solzhenitsyn
opened eyes
to Soviet state

Nineteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and 17 years since the demise of the Soviet Union, it may be hard for younger Americans to believe there was a time when communism looked as though it might eventually triumph.

In the 1960s, the Soviet Union was building a vast nuclear arsenal, keeping Eastern Europe enslaved, assisting "national liberation movements" in the Third World, and watching the United States being bled by Soviet-supported communist North Vietnam. Marxism was even attracting adherents in Europe, the American counterculture and the academy.

But amid the gloom, there was a small, piercing light that could not be darkened, in the form of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. He was just a soldier in the Red Army when, in 1945, he was sentenced to eight years in a Soviet labor camp for referring to Josef Stalin, with a criminal lack of reverence, as "the man with the mustache."

After years of imprisonment and internal exile, he was allowed to publish a fictional but shocking account of life in a prison camp called "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich." Before its publication, a friend read it and told him, "There are three atom bombs in the world: Kennedy has one, Khrushchev has another, and you have the third."

The book offered a look at the crushing brutality that was the essence of the Soviet state, became a worldwide sensation, and made it impossible for anyone to ignore the true nature of Marxism-Leninism in action.

It also brought retribution against Solzhenitsyn, who after 1963 was not allowed to publish in his native land until 1989. But he kept at work, at grave risk to himself, writing books that were smuggled out and published in the West, most notably his monumental history of Stalin's prison camps, "The Gulag Archipelago."

The Moscow regime faced a bitter dilemma. It could not tolerate his defiance, but his worldwide renown — he had won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 — made it inadvisable to imprison or kill him. So in 1974, he was arrested, stripped of his citizenship and put on a plane for what the government assumed would be permanent exile in the West — the first time it had banished an enemy since Leon Trotsky in 1929. Solzhenitsyn settled in Vermont, kept at work on books mercilessly exposing the reality of the Soviet Union, and dreamed of return.

In 1994, he did, and his own work deserves a significant share of the credit for making that possible. As *The Times of London* said in its review of the first "Gulag" volume, "The time may come when we date the beginning of the collapse of the Soviet system from the appearance of 'Gulag.'"

No one did more to reveal the crimes that sustained Soviet communism from its inception. No one did more to illustrate why the greatest threat to tyranny is the truth.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A return to the 1970s

Last week's energy debate in Congress gives voters concerned about gas prices a good idea where U.S. energy policy is headed.

If Barack Obama is in the White House, Democrats win a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate, and Nancy Pelosi has fewer pesky Republicans to ignore in the House, this will be energy rule No. 1: Forget more drilling. Offshore. Alaska. Doesn't matter. Then step two, let slip by an unidentified Democratic aide recently in *The Hill* newspaper: "Right now, our strategy on gas prices is, 'Drive small cars and wait for the wind.'"

In other words, Suck it up, gas-guzzlers. Break out the Carter-era sweaters and hair shirts, turn down the thermostats this winter, and let the drill bits rust. Policies of the 1970s are good enough for the 21st century.

Only when the high priests of sacrifice see true remorse and combustion engines are offered up on the conservation altar will a mighty wind blow — from top Democrats, not turbines — touting the wonders of alternative energy.

And wonders they are. Necessary ones, crucial for environmental, economic and national security reasons. There's bipartisan consensus on much of it: clean energy, new technologies, alternate fuels. Look at John McCain's Lexington Project (www.johnmccain.com), Obama's energy plan (www.barackobama.com) or the House GOP's "all of the above" package (www.republican-leader.house.gov).

There's even a growing acceptance of nuclear power, though it's grudging in some circles. As the mostly self-anointed President Obama evolves on this one — expect an

"As I've said consistently" head fake — look for subsidies to shrink, plants to become unaffordable and the release of "The China Syndrome" — 30th Anniversary Edition," with an intro by Oscar-winning scaremeister Al Gore.

Necessary as all those energy sources are, though, the reality is we'll need oil for decades, and the less we get from unstable regimes the better.

And that's where the consensus ends. You see the differences from the presidential campaign to the local races, including Pennsylvania's Seventh District, with Democratic freshman Rep. Joe Sestak against Republican Craig Williams.

Both candidates rightly recognize there are short- and long-term solutions to the energy crisis. Both are correct that a mix of energy sources is needed.

They differ on drilling. Sestak is unequivocal about the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge on his campaign Web site — "prohibit drilling" — but in interviews says he'd consider more drilling if oil companies can satisfactorily answer some questions:

Why open up more areas to drilling if 68 million acres in already leased lands aren't in production?

If the goal is to help reduce prices, what's the practicality of drilling in ANWR when its oil wouldn't be available for a decade, and when that oil would have little impact on prices (he quotes government estimates of 1.8 cents a gallon by 2025)?

The debate should be about relief to consumers, not producers, Sestak says.

"My job is not to make profits larger although I care about a healthy oil industry," Sestak says. "My job is to take care of my constituents."

Williams just returned from Alaska, and suggests some answers that might nudge Sestak and his colleagues into the more-drilling camp:

Companies are ready to drill more on leased lands, particularly in

the Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve, which was set aside in the 1920s specifically for oil exploration. What's the holdup? One problem is lawsuits by environmentalists, Williams says.

That 10-year window before oil production begins? Williams believes that time can be almost halved if Congress streamlines the leasing process and cuts other pre-drilling red tape — without sacrificing environmental protections.

And Williams dismisses the notion that more oil production will not lower gas prices: "When people say this will have only a nominal impact on prices, that's saying we don't have to do anything at all."

Keep two things in mind, Williams advises. One, ANWR estimates are based on decades-old studies, and sites often produce considerably more oil than anticipated. Two, news drives future markets, and oil prices have already dipped since the lifting of the presidential moratorium on offshore drilling. Imagine the change if Congress committed to an energy package that includes drilling for oil, nuclear power, natural gas, clean-burning coal and renewables.

The argument that increased supply lowers prices makes sense, but the public is entitled to a full debate on drilling. Majority Leader Harry Reid and Speaker Pelosi last week decided otherwise, no doubt fearing a mass defection by Democrats if a fair vote on drilling was allowed.

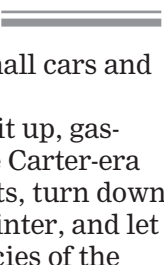
But the questions aren't going away between now and November.

And with gas hovering at \$4 per gallon, voters want real answers. Mighty winds — from top Democrats, not turbines — won't be enough.

Kevin Ferris is commentary page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at kf@phillynews.com.



KEVIN FERRIS



STEVE JACOB

Summertime and child obesity

Two things spike at this time of year: the heat and, apparently, our schoolchildren's weight.

The first observation is obvious. The second comes from Ohio State University and Indiana University researchers who found that the increase in children's body mass index, or BMI, during the summer was more than twice as fast as during the school year.

Many of us who are baby boomers or older remember summers as a time of unbridled joy and non-stop physical activity. The day's possibilities propelled you outside on foot or on a bicycle. Having to return home to eat lunch or dinner was an annoying intrusion. There were no personal computers, and you could count the number of TV channels on one hand.

Fast-forward four decades. Idle time is largely spent on the Internet, playing video games, watching DVDs or cable TV in air-conditioned comfort while grazing on unhealthy food. It is no wonder that Duke University found this year that U.S. children age 6-11 are almost four times more likely to be obese than were children of similar ages in the 1960s. Few public health issues generate more anxiety than childhood obesity.

About one-third of the nation's children are overweight or obese.

Physicians are treating elementary-school children with adult conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, joint pain and even gallstones.

About 80 percent of obese teens turn into obese adults, and we are clearly headed toward large increases in heart disease, cancer and other weight-related chronic conditions. A group of scientists in 2005 projected an unprecedented drop in life expectancy of two to five years unless obesity is reversed.

An accompanying trend is an alarming lack of fitness among children, which may or may not be weight-related. About 2.6 mil-

lion Texas students in grades three through 12 performed six fitness tests as a result of a legislative mandate passed last year. Fitness peaked in third grade and eroded every year thereafter. About 32 percent of third-grade girls were considered fit, compared with 8 percent of 12th-grade girls. The comparable numbers for boys were 28 percent and 9 percent.

A recent study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of more than 1,000 children in 10 U.S. cities produced similar results.

As with most issues, people want to find someone to blame and a simple solution. But child obesity is very complex, and there is plenty of blame to be shared.

THE CHILDREN: Many want to view them as innocent victims, but school-age kids learn the merits of exercise and good nutrition almost immediately — and consistently — throughout school. Based on the results of the Texas fitness test, the message is being ignored increasingly as children age.

THE PARENTS: They are not the best role models. About two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight, and about 20 percent engage in exercise at least twice a week. They also do most of the grocery shopping, cooking and driving to restaurants.

THE SCHOOLS: They are everyone's favorite whipping boy, with accusers pointing to suspect lunch offerings and vending machines with few healthy choices.

But schools have made significant progress in recent years, thanks to restrictions imposed by politicians wanting to please constituents: the parents.

FOOD MARKETERS: Vigilant parents fear strangers on the street harming their children.

What about the strangers luring them with harmful substances between cartoons on television? A landmark 2005 Institute of Medicine report stated it plainly: Food and beverage marketers spent \$10 billion that year targeting children 12 and younger, leading them to request and consume high-calorie, low-nutrient products. A study in this month's *British Journal of Obesity Reviews* said 89 percent of food

marketed to children was nutritionally inferior. Companies have been scrambling to re-engineer their products and alter advertising practices amid threats of lawsuits.

THE REAL VILLAIN: If you have to pick a villain, pick "screen time" — the hours spent parked in front of a television or computer. The average child spends five to six hours staring, and often mindlessly munching. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children watch TV or play on a computer no more than two hours a day, and that boys and girls take 11,000 and 13,000 steps daily, respectively. A study funded by the National Institute of Diabetes restricted screen time to two hours in 70 homes. The result was less sedentary children with healthier BMIs.

WHAT TO DO: Sigmund Freud, the father of modern-day psychoanalysis, supposedly said biology is destiny. He apparently was referring to gender roles, but it appears to hold true for weight. A 2004 Stanford University study showed that 48 percent of children with overweight parents became overweight, compared with 13 percent of those with normal-weight parents.

Scientists believe that we have a genetically determined weight toward which our body gravitates, and a weight range of about 30 pounds. How much you eat and exercise determines where you will fall within that range. That may be why your body fights back when you try to get below that weight range to what you consider your ideal weight. But you won't get morbidly obese if it is not in your DNA.

If you — and your child — adopt a healthy diet and exercise enough to be reasonably fit, you will stay at the low end of your weight range.

Steve Jacob is publisher of the Star-Telegram/Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County and a master's student in health policy and management at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth 76102, or via e-mail at sjacob@star-telegram.com.

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News at a Glance

Bush arrives in Beijing for Summer Olympics

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. President George W. Bush, an avid sports fan, is eagerly awaiting the start of the Summer Olympics, making history as the first American president to attend this world athletic competition on foreign soil.

But his arrival in Beijing on Thursday night on the eve of the opening of the games came amid an atmosphere of tension with China's leaders over his high-profile speech in Thailand exhorting the growing world power to grant more freedom to its people.

Bush, first lady Laura Bush and their daughter, Barbara, came off Air Force One together, where they got a red-carpet greeting from Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and others, and then sped away in a motorcade.

Bush has said he wants to enjoy the Summer Olympics competition, but also will talk to President Hu Jintao about human rights and a host of other bilateral issues.

Before his plane landed here, China's Foreign Ministry released a terse statement saying that no one should interfere with China's internal affairs.

Bush plans to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics on Friday night and go to a series of sporting events through Monday, including U.S. basketball and baseball games against China. Although he exhorted Beijing to improve human rights in a major speech in Thailand before flying here, Bush, an avid sports fan and former part-owner of Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers, has said he is intent on making his Olympics visit about sports, not politics.

In a speech outlining America's achievements and challenges in Asia, Bush had pushed Thursday for a free press, free assembly and labor rights in China, and spoke out sharply against its detentions of political dissidents, human rights advocates and religious activists. He said he wasn't trying to antagonize China, but called such reform the only path the potent U.S. rival can take to reach its full potential.

He antagonized the Chinese anyway, setting the stage for an interesting reception when he attends the opening ceremonies Friday evening and meets with Hu on Sunday after attending church.

"The Chinese government puts people first, and is dedicated to maintaining and promoting its citizens basic rights and freedom," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Thursday in response to Bush's speech. "Chinese citizens have freedom of religion. These are indisputable facts."

He said China advocates discussions on differing views on human rights and religions on "a basis of mutual respect and equality," then indicated it didn't see Bush's criticism in that light.

"We firmly oppose any words or acts that interfere in other countries' internal affairs, using human rights and religion and other issues," Qin said.

Suspect turned up in FBI's own back yard after worldwide search

WASHINGTON (AP) — The investigation spanned six continents, but in the end, federal investigators say they found the anthrax killer in their own back yard.

The government declared the 2001 attacks solved Wednesday, pointing the blame at former Army scientist Bruce Ivins, who committed suicide last week as prosecutors prepared to bring charges. The Justice Department said it was confident it could have convicted the scientist, who spent his career developing anthrax vaccines and cures at the bioweapons lab at Fort Detrick, Md.

Authorities cited advanced DNA testing that showed Ivins, 62, had in his laboratory anthrax spores identical to those that killed five and shocked a nation still reeling from the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Prosecutors described Ivins' unexplained late nights in the laboratory just before the attacks. They released an e-mail excerpt that used language similar to that of one of the anthrax letters. They said he was angry about criticism of his anthrax vaccine and might have released the toxin to drum up support for his drug.

It was enough for the Justice Department to declare solved a case that had been one of the most prominent unsolved cases.

Forced relocation protesters rounded up by Beijing police

BEIJING (AP) — At least two women who have protested being evicted from their homes ahead of the Olympics were rounded up and taken to a police station, amid ramped up efforts Thursday by activists to use the games to spotlight their causes.

Zhang Wei and Ma Xiulan, who have been vocal about the pain of losing their family compounds near Tiananmen Square to make way for Olympic construction, were taken from their homes late Wednesday and early Thursday morning, according to Ma.

The efforts are part of stringent security measures for the games by Chinese communist authorities determined that the Olympics should be an international showcase for the country.

With the world's eyes turned on Beijing in anticipation of the games, which start Friday, activists have stepped up their protests to publicize their causes.

The groups so far have been small and police have acted with relative restraint. No arrests were reported although the Beijing Olympics organizing committee condemned the demonstrations.

As many as 9 presumed dead in crash of helicopter

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As many as eight firefighters and a pilot are presumed dead in the crash of a helicopter that had just picked up workers battling a blaze in a Northern California forest, officials said Wednesday.

The helicopter had lifted off from a clearing in a remote, rugged region of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, said Jennifer Rabuck, spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service.

The aircraft was carrying 11 firefighters and two crew members when it went down Tuesday night in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, according to the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Four people — three firefighters and pilot — were flown to hospitals with severe burns, according to the Forest Service.

The Sikorsky S-61N chopper was

destroyed by fire after crashing "under unknown circumstances," said FAA spokesman Ian Gregor. The NTSB, which is leading the investigation, was headed to the scene, about 215 miles northwest of Sacramento, while the Trinity County Sheriff's Department was leading the search for crash victims.

Israel beefs up strike capability, confident it could deal setback to Iran nuclear program

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is building up its strike capabilities amid growing anxiety over Iran's nuclear ambitions and appears confident that a military attack would cripple Tehran's atomic program, even if it can't destroy it.

Such talk could be more threat than reality. However, Iran's refusal to accept Western conditions is worrying Israel as is the perception that Washington now prefers diplomacy over confrontation with Tehran.

The Jewish state has purchased 90 F-16I fighter planes that can carry enough fuel to reach Iran, and will receive 11 more by the end of next year. It has bought two new Dolphin submarines from Germany reportedly capable of firing nuclear-armed warheads — in addition to the three it already has.

And this summer it carried out air maneuvers in the Mediterranean that touched off an international debate over whether they were a "dress rehearsal" for an imminent attack, a stern warning to Iran or a just a way to get allies to step up the pressure on Tehran to stop building nukes.

According to foreign media reports, Israeli intelligence is active inside Iranian territory. Israel's military censor, who can impose a range of legal sanctions against journalists operating in

the country, does not permit publication of details of such information in news reports written from Israel.

Former bin Laden driver expected to seek leniency from jurors

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — Osama bin Laden's former driver is expected to ask the Pentagon jury that convicted him of a war crime to spare him from life in prison Thursday, his defense lawyers said.

Salim Hamdan wiped tears from his face on Wednesday as the panel of six military officers delivered a split verdict at the first U.S. war crimes trial since World War II, declaring him guilty of aiding terrorism but acquitting him of conspiracy.

The tribunals' chief prosecutor, Army Col. Lawrence Morris, said the failure to convict Hamdan of both charges will factor into the sentence his team recommends Thursday inside the hilltop courthouse on this U.S. Navy base. Hamdan is eligible for a maximum life sentence.

Loophole would allow some new product sales without FDA OK

WASHINGTON (AP) — A loophole in a sweeping tobacco regulation bill would give the industry a 21-month window to introduce certain new products without first getting federal approval.

The House last month overwhelmingly passed the legislation, which for the first time would empower federal public health authorities to regulate tobacco. Some tobacco foes say the bill's 21-month escape clause would let companies start marketing cigarettes and other products in the development pipeline before the Food and Drug Administration has fully ramped up to regulate them.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Forsan Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:30 P.M. on August 18, 2008, in the Forsan High School Board Room, 411 W. 6th Street, Forsan, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.0400 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.08975 / \$100 (Proposed rate for bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	8.09% increase
Debt Service	-0.38% increase
Total Expenditures	7.71% increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value *of all property	\$464,303,491	\$561,393,638
Total appraised value *of new property**	\$2,310,113	\$1,942,609
Total taxable value***of all property	\$392,464,587	\$514,539,846
Total taxable value***of new property**	\$1,974,765	\$357,880

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*

*Outstanding principal \$4,270,000

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	1.04000	0.11810	1.5810	6959	2968
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operators Revenue & Pay Debt Service	1.03869	0.08975	1.12844	8089	1785
Proposed Rate	1.04000	0.08970	1.12970	8140	1868

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$55,143	\$58,700
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$29,115	\$32,274
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.1581	\$1.1297
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$337.73	\$364.59
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$26.86

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.1297. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.1297.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$3,828,487
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$53,016

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By Steve Becker
An Expensive Signal

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 4 2
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ 10 8 7 5 2
 ♣ 10 7

WEST
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K Q 10 6 3
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ K J 4 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ Q J 10 7
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A K Q 9 4
 ♣ A Q 8

The bidding:

East South West North
 3♥ 1♦ 1♥ 2♦
 Pass 3♣ Pass 4♦
 Pass 5♦

Opening lead — king of hearts.
This deal occurred in a masters pair championship. As often happens, the results at the various tables differed strikingly from each other. Games and part-scores in spades and diamonds were attempted with varying success, but the play was generally most interesting where the final contract was five diamonds.

There was nothing complicated about the play at most of these tables. West led the king of hearts and continued with a heart after East signaled with the eight or nine.

Declarer ruffed, cashed the A-K

of diamonds and then finessed the queen of spades. East won with the king and returned a club. South naturally declined to finesse because he could avoid a club loser by taking the ace and playing three rounds of spades, discarding a club from dummy.

However, South would not have made the contract if the defense had been sharper at trick one, when East should have overtaken the king of hearts and returned a club. Had he done this, declarer would have gone down one.

It is not really an extraordinary play for East to overtake the king of hearts and shift to a club. He knows from the bidding that West's heart overcall was almost surely based on a five-card suit, which in turn gives declarer only one heart. If it develops that declarer has either no hearts or two hearts, overtaking with the ace does no harm.

East should count on the ace of hearts as one trick for the defense, and on the king of spades as a second trick, leaving the club suit as the primary hope of providing a third trick.

East therefore cannot afford to adopt a passive attitude at trick one by allowing West to win the king of hearts. Once it has been decided that the best chance for the setting trick lies in clubs, it is clearly more advantageous that the club lead at trick two come from East rather than West.

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COAHOMA ISD. Large 2 bdrm, 2 living areas, fenced backyard. \$475.00 Month, \$245.00 deposit. Call (432)263-5125 or 213-0656.

FURNISHED 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A. No Smoking/ No pets. \$1,250 month, \$500 deposit. Call (432)267-8840. Also other houses.

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Real Estate for Sale

10 PLUS acres, East I-20 frontage, Sand Springs w/rental income- \$80,000. One acres off Gail Hwy, Big Spring- \$5,000. One acre w/water well and septic- \$7,500. Also One lot on Blackman Ave.- \$2,000. Call 254-643-1145.

1804 SETTLES- 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, fenced backyard. Needs a little TLC. \$16,000.00. No Owner Financing. Call (409)553-1373, (409)553-0011.

2/1/1 CH/A, large lot, estate home. \$35,000 cash. 214-384-5222.

2513 CENTRAL. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, one car garage, newly remodeled with new kitchen cabinets, tile floors, paint, and updated bathrooms. Ready to Move In! \$99,750. Call (432)816-1330.

2715 CENTRAL Drive 3/2 with fireplace, fenced yard and shop. \$139,500.00. Owner will finance with 10% down. \$1215. Monthly. Call (512)940-5200 or (432)631-8100.

3/2 HOME 2400 sq. feet with double garage on .8 acres near Tubbs addition. Forsan ISD. \$169,500.00. Additional acreage available. Possible Owner Financing. 512-940-5200, 432-631-8100.

3241 DREXEL Ave. 3/2, garage, fireplace and fenced yard. \$99,500.00. Owner will Finance with 10% down. \$865.00 Monthly. Call (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

3304 AUBURN. Completely renovated 3 bedroom, one bath, spacious kitchen, two living areas. \$70,000. Home Realtors, Linda Barnes, (432)270-0062.

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922 CULP AVE., Coahoma, 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2 car garage, fireplace, screened porch, CH/A, corner lot, water well for yard. Call (432)394-4375 or (432)268-3451.

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Real Estate for Sale



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CREAM OF the Crop- Forsan ISD. Beautifully Remodeled 3/2/2, CH/A. New appliances, barn, fences, stalls and arena on 5 acres. By appointment. \$199,000.00. (325)728-6602, (432)394-4451.

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LAND FOR Sale: Morgan Ranch Estate. 6.76 acres with water well. Beautiful view. Great Building Site. Call 432-816-6560.

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Saturday Aug. 9th
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THREE BEDROOM, two bath, CH/A, carport, huge covered patio, storm windows, fenced backyard. New carpet & paint. \$75,000. Call (432)264-0681.

TUBBS ADDITION. See listing at HomesByOwner.com listing number 79419. Great location, Great schools, Private area. Call 325-242-2116 to see more pictures or schedule showing.

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Vehicles

1988 CHEVROLET pickup, V-8, long bed, needs overhaul. \$500. as is. 1986 Nissan Sentra 4-dr. needs overhaul., \$400. as is. 2-3/8 inch oilfilled pipe. 600 ft. \$1.50 a ft. Bill Chrane Carwash, 1301 East 3rd, (432)213-0426

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2003 PONTIAC Grand Prix, Silver 4 door, 145K highway miles, good condition, cold A/C. \$6000.00 Firm, 432-816-4113 or 816-7975.

2006 WHITE Yamaha Roadstar/ Silverado. 1700cc, good condition. \$9,250. Call (432)213-0734 or (432)816-1955.

FOR SALE, 1999 Harley Davidson Dyna Super Glide. Call Chad, (432)267-4834.

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2002 Yamaha Roadstar Silverado. Like new condition. 15000 Miles on bike, 800 miles on tires. Call after 6:30pm cell (432)553-3876 or (432)267-1090.

TWO PICKUPS for sale, 1998 GMC 2500 4X4, \$8,000. 2006 Ford F-150 King Ranch crew cab, tan & white, excellent condition. Call (432)816-3958.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Big Spring Independent School District has contracted with Spring City Auction to sell the district's surplus property. The district's surplus property is sold at the following location throughout the year:
Spring City Auction
501 Birdwell Lane, Unit #1
Big Spring, TX 79720
You may check with Spring City Auction for the designated auction dates and times.
#5651 February 5, May 6, August 7 and November 6, 2008

Discover Another World, Read!
You never know what you might find.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Scorpio moon and Leo sun make for good theater. Like getting caught up in an emotionally engrossing soap opera, we're glued to our seats for the cliffhanger ending. We won't have to wait long. Tomorrow's first quarter moon in Scorpio delivers a cast of characters. Of course everyone seems to know their lines and their role to a "t."



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The message is there, all you have to do is read it. Random meetings are meaningful signs. You're susceptible to the charms and enchantments of water signs -- Scorpio, Pisces and Cancer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You derive immense satisfaction from making others laugh. Cancer is particularly susceptible to your brand of humor. Tonight, transportation complications may arise - an opportunity to ride together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your object of affection is too caught up in the stresses of the day to be thinking of you in the way that you would like. Distract this person or put his or her anxieties to rest, and suddenly you're the focus of desire.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). So much of life is hurried and improvised. You decide to offer something

Tomorrow's Horoscope

different. A thoughtful, offbeat idea or creative approach will get you noticed by the right people for all the right reasons.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's a rare day when there's nothing to stir your curiosity. However, today offers an even more interesting jumble than usual. You're drawn in by an intriguing complexity, possibly arriving in the form of a Pisces.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have your plan, a schedule, some talking points for the meeting. You can tear all of that up and throw it out the window. It's not going to work the way you thought it would, and the new way is undeniably better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're boning up on a few life skills. Whether you're talking to your landlord, shutting off a water valve to your house, hailing a taxi or hanging a picture, you're doing it better than you would have last week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't force the magic -- it can't be forced. You can plan it, set it up and watch it unfold. But the magic doesn't occur in any of the spaces that can be controlled. It's the uncontrollable spaces that hold the potential for amazement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're doing fine. Don't compare yourself to others. The person you think has it all going on may be merely putting on a confident front, just like most people do. Be careful not to place others on a pedestal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Thought patterns can be nasty little nets, giving you the illusion of being stuck when you're actually free as a cloud. Try to break a habit of mind so that you can travel with levity and change at will.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It doesn't always make sense, these impulses you have to reach out to one person and avoid another. Your instincts have gotten you this far, so you may as well trust them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You and a love are headed to the same destination along separate paths. It's heart healing to accept that a partner can adore you and still have to do things his or her own way.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My birthday is 12/8/1964. I was with someone who I thought was my soul mate, a Libra, but he went back with an old girlfriend. We are still in contact almost daily, although he is passive-aggressive -- contacting me and then waiting for me to contact him. I am having trouble moving on because I can't believe we are done. Any chance of reconciliation? If not, what's the likelihood of me meeting someone new?"

Unless you're comfortable being the other woman, I think this relationship is showing very poor boundaries. That said, you may find forbidden relationships carry an emotionally compelling, fascinating

charge, and forms the primary attraction for you. With Venus in Scorpio joined with Neptune, you are vulnerable to taboo relationships or partners who are really yummy, but ultimately unavailable in some fashion. Like reaching for addictive food, you know when a person is bad for you, yet you keep reaching. If you want to change a pattern, sometimes you just have to say no. This fall, you get that chance. Your eyes are opened to that mechanism that makes you spring for unreliable partners. Understand this behavior and you may just find your love life liberated!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Before Gillian Anderson was a drama queen, she was a class clown. That is, she was actually voted class clown in high school -- along with "most likely to be arrested" -- until she found drama. Many Leo personalities seem attention seeking, but they're actually discovering their fabulous creative gifts. When Leos like Gillian find their creative outlet, just watch how quickly their star rises!

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.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Dear Annie: I have been married over 30 years. I've worked hard to keep myself attractive for my husband, but he has told me repeatedly I am not what he wants sexually, even though he expects me to be available to him at all times.

There have been a couple of infidelities. At a time when I needed to rebuild my trust, I discovered quite a bit of porn on our computer and visits to websites where you can meet others for sex. I told my husband this undermined my attempts to trust him and he agreed to stop. After several months of not finding anything, I quit checking until last week when I discovered he's again viewing online porn and bringing up profiles of women in our area who are advertising sex.

This sickens me. I feel betrayed. I may be a bit of a prude by today's standards, but I do enjoy sex. I also know men like to look at porn and view it differently than women. But I also wonder if that is why my husband is dissatisfied with me. I don't live up to his sexual expectations. He once

have a good relationship with your daughter makes it more difficult for her to want to bail you out now, especially if those "financial setbacks" are of your own making. But we hope she will come through.

Dear Annie: My life partner, "Michelle," is going through an emotionally painful time in her life. We are in a same-sex relationship. My family is loving and supportive. Michelle's family is a different story.

She came out to them a few months ago because she was tired of lying and not being able to share her partner and adopted son with her family. She wanted the baby to know his grandparents and relatives. It didn't go over well. Her mother is hateful and vindictive. Her father, with whom she was very close, told her to pretend it never happened and that she is never to mention me or the baby to him. Her brother and his wife make excuses to keep her from visiting their children.

Michelle has been playing by these rules for a few months and I can't bear to see her in so much pain. She is a caring, beautiful soul who deserves so much more. I was raised to believe family is a gift from God to be treasured. Please print my letter so they will wake up -- West Virginia

Dear West Va.: This is heartbreaking, and unfortunately, there is no magic potion to knock some sense into her family members. Thank goodness she has such a loving and supportive partner. We hope, in time, her family will come around.

Dear Annie: My friends and I are concerned about the well-being of a couple we've known for years. (We are now in our early 60s.) Two years ago, "John and Martha" were involved in an auto accident. John hit the windshield pretty hard and a

short time later suffered a heart attack. We then noticed a drastic change in his personality. Out of concern, one of the guys spoke with Martha and was told in no uncertain terms to mind his own business.

Things have gone downhill since. Today, John and Martha have difficulty taking care of themselves. Last fall, some friends took four hours cleaning out their garage so they could park their cars inside, but the vehicles sat out all winter. Martha is now in failing health and spends her days in bed drunk.

They are estranged from their children, whom we've never met. Their house is a firetrap, with ashtrays overflowing onto the floor. The walkways have newspapers piled up and garbage everywhere. We've seen feces on the walls in the bathroom.

This couple could afford to pay someone to come in and clean, but they are not interested. We don't know where to turn. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. -- Concerned Friends

Dear Friends: Call Adult Protective Services and explain the situation. Ask if a social worker can be sent to investigate. Between the car accident, heart attack and drinking, it sounds like your friends need to be evaluated for physical and mental impairment. Bless you for caring.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Lucerne Super

New features added to Buick's full-size premium sedan lineup

Having just arrived in Buick dealerships in April, the Super trim line has joined the full-size Lucerne lineup.

Replacing the Lucerne CSX trim line, the Super is powered by a 4.6-liter Northstar V-8 engine generating 292 horsepower and 288 lbs.-ft. of torque. Mated to a four-speed automatic transmission, the front-wheel drive sedan is rated as an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle and has an EPA fuel economy rating of 15 mpg city, 22 mpg highway.

With seating configuration options available to carry five or six passen-

gers, two new safety-enhancing technologies are also available for Lucerne buyers.

Side Blind Zone Alert uses radar to provide drivers with more information about vehicles in hard-to-see areas. The radar sensors are mounted behind the rear fascia to scan a 150-degree field of

view within a 15-foot range covering both sides of the vehicle. Vehicles entering one of seven zones identified by the system will illuminate an LED symbol

in the outside rearview mirror letting the driver know it is not safe to change lanes. Lane De-



The 2008 Buick Lucerne full-size sedan.

parture Warning is a camera-based lane detection system that warns the driver of inadvertent lane changes.

The camera, mounted near the inside rearview mirror, identifies traffic lane markings and provides audible alerts when the vehicle starts moving outside of the lane.

Both systems are available together as an optional upgrade to Lucerne's Driver Confidence Package, which includes

remote start, theft-deterrence system, Ultrasonic Rear Park Assist, heated washer fluid, StabiliTrak and RainSense wiper system.

The Lucerne Super adds a number of styling enhancements over the other trim lines, such as a bright chrome waterfall grille, integrated dual exhaust tips, rocker panels and special "Super" badge on the decklid.

In addition to the more powerful engine, standard features on the Lucerne Super include StabiliTrak stability control system and magnetic Ride Control system to help deliver crisp response and enhanced driver control.

Interior features include leather-wrapped upper instrument panel with French-seam stitching, unique finish on the instrument panel center stack; leather seats with perforated suede fabric inserts and suede door trim inserts.

I also enjoyed the heated, wood-accented steering wheel and shift knob finished in Walnut burl, as well as the power tilt and telescoping steering column.

However, the premium Harman Kardon audio system with XM Satellite

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Buick Lucerne
5- or 6-seat luxury sedan
Front-wheel drive
Trim packages:
CX, CXL, CXL V6 SE,
CXL V8 SE, Super
PRICE RANGE:
\$28,000-\$39,000
ENGINE:
3.8-L V6 (197 hp/227 torque)
4.6-L V8 (275 hp/295 torque)
4.6-L V8 (292 hp/288 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
4-speed automatic
EPA: 16/15/15 mpg city,
25/23/22 mpg highway
(3.8/4.6/4.6 Super)

FUEL: Regular unleaded (premium unleaded recommended for V-8 engines but not required).
SUSPENSION: Independent MacPherson struts coil-over-spring, twin-tube dampers (front); multi-link independent with coil springs and semi trailing arms, twin-tube air lift control dampers (rear).
BRAKES: ABS with traction control
LENGTH: 203.2 inches
WHEELBASE: 115.6 inches
WIDTH: 73.8 inches
HEIGHT: 58 inches
WEIGHT: 3,764-4,004 lbs.
TRACK: 62.6/62.1 (front/rear) w/18-in. tires
FUEL TANK: 18.5 gallons
TIRES: 16-, 17-, or 18-inch
TRUNK: 17 cubic feet.

Radio was far and away my favorite "nice to have" amenity.

A total of five trim levels are available on the premium Lucerne sedan — CX, CXL, CXL V-6 Special Edition, CXL V-8 Special Edition and Super. The CX, CXL and CXL V-6 Special Edition are powered by a 3.8-liter V-6 rated at 197 horsepower. Classified as an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle, it has an

EPA fuel economy rating of 16 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.

The CXL V-8 Special Edition is powered by a 275 horsepower version of the Northstar engine. It has an EPA fuel economy rating of 15 mpg city, 23 mpg highway.

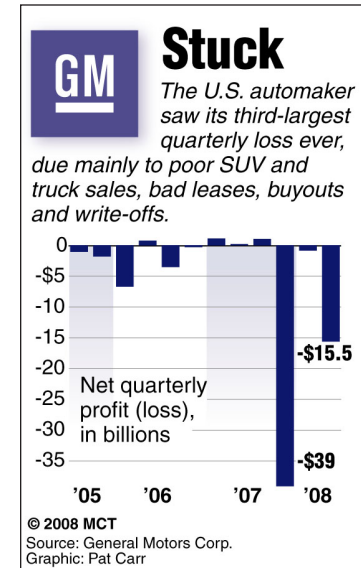
For full-size sedan buyers looking for premium styling and amenities, the Buick Lucerne is worthy of a test drive.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

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.

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



You deserve a factual look at . . .

Racism in the Islamic World

How can peace prevail in the Middle East in the face of Islamic bigotry and hate? When will moderate Muslims speak out?

For years, the U.N., led by Islamic and Arab nations and their sympathizers, has accused Israel of racism, but the world consistently turns a blind eye to open, seething anti-Semitism in Islamic society.

What are the facts?

In one of the most astonishing propaganda coups ever, a United Nations conference on racism, which took place in Durban South Africa, declared that Zionism is racism. No wonder the U.S. and Israel walked out of the meeting, which was dominated by representatives of Islamic and Arab states and other anti-Israel forces, and whose conclusions were predictable from the outset.

The supreme irony of this conference was that it accused no other nation of racism—only Israel. In truth, Israel is perhaps the most racially and ethnically diverse and tolerant country in the world. More than half of Israel's Jewish population consists of people of color—blacks from Ethiopia and Yemen, as well as brown-skinned people from Morocco, Iran, Syria, Egypt and Israel itself. In addition, Israel's population includes more than one million Arabs, who enjoy the same civil rights as Jewish Israelis. In Israel hate speech is banned, and it is against the law to discriminate based on race or religion.

In contrast, anti-Semitism—a poisonous form of racism directed specifically against the Jewish people—is rampant in most all Islamic societies. Not only is anti-Semitism commonplace in Muslim nations, but it is propagated shamelessly by their leaders, in state-sponsored media, and by Muslim clergy.

For example, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed declared in a speech to the Organization of Islamic Conference that, "today Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them." Imagine if an American president had made a similarly sweeping and bigoted statement about blacks, Latinos or any other race—what a justifiable uproar, perhaps even an impeachment, would ensue. Yet there was no condemnation by the Muslim world of Mr. Mohamed's comments. Rather, virtually all of the conference's Muslim leaders actually voiced their approval.

In response to a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia in May 2004, Crown Prince Abdullah declared that "Zionism is behind [these] terrorist actions in the kingdom." (Zionism is the code word often used by Islamic anti-Semites for Jews.) Tom

Lantos, the late U.S. Congressman, called the Prince's assertion "an outrage . . . blatant hypocrisy," but Islamic leaders were silent. In fact, millions of Muslims still insist that Zionists were behind the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Anti-Semitism is expressed so freely and ubiquitously in most Islamic societies that no citizen can escape it. During Ramadan in 2002, Egypt's state-controlled TV aired "Horseman Without a Horse," a program based on the notorious forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, in which Jews allegedly use the blood of non-Jews to make Passover matzot. In Iran, a TV series, "Zahra's Blue Eyes," portrays Palestinian children and harvesting their organs.

Perhaps nowhere is the hatred of Jews more virulent than among the Palestinians. Most perniciously, Palestinian children are taught in school that Jews are descended from apes and pigs and that the most noble thing they can do is to kill Jews. Muslim clerics like Imam Ibrahim Madiras, an employee of the Palestinian Authority, declared in a television sermon, "Jews are a cancer" and later that, "Muslims will kill the Jews . . . [and] rejoice in Allah's victory." No surprise, then, that the 1982 doctoral dissertation of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas makes the astounding claim that "Zionists" collaborated with the Nazis to annihilate the Jewish people in order to drive the survivors to Palestine.

Anti-Semitism and the prospects for peace. Islamic anti-Semitism permeates the Arab Middle East and creates an atmosphere in which Jews are reviled and represented as subhuman. How can the Palestinian people embrace peace with a people represented by their religious and political leaders as dehumanized, evil beings? Even more importantly, how can Israel be expected to trust a so-called peace partner who expresses abject hatred and murderous intent toward Jews on a daily basis? Yet the U.S. and many European nations continue to demand that Israel make one-sided sacrifices for peace with a people steeped in racism and committed to its destruction.

Until Islamic leaders muster the integrity to relentlessly condemn anti-Semitism (and its evil twin, anti-Zionism), we can't expect Israel to accept a forced peace with the Palestinians. Likewise, until moderate Muslims reject racism in all forms, they can't expect Islam to enjoy full respect as a political and spiritual force among the world's people.

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Gerardo Joffe, President

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► State Briefs

Authorities find 3 bodies in Fort Worth double murder-suicide

FORT WORTH (AP) — Police have discovered three members of a north Fort Worth family dead in what they say is an apparent double murder-suicide.

Fort Worth police spokesman Lt. Paul Henderson said that the bodies of a 36-year-old middle school teacher, her 44-year-old husband and a 14-year-old daughter were discovered Wednesday evening in their home by a police officer conducting a welfare check. Irving police contacted Fort Worth police about a "missing" teacher Wednesday because she had not reported to work since Monday, Henderson told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW.

Henderson told The Associated Press on Wednesday night the teacher's absence triggered a call from her employer because "she was very prompt and it was very unlike her to miss."

He said that neighbors across the street from the 4500 block of Birchbend Lane said they heard the couple fighting around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Honduran man set to die Thursday for 2001 robbery-murder in Texas

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Attorneys for an illegal immigrant from Honduras say his inability to get legal help from his government following his arrest for killing a Dallas-area store manager during a robbery should keep from a scheduled trip to the Texas death chamber.

Lawyers said Heliberto Chi, who was set to die Thursday evening, was denied rights given to foreigners under international treaty.

It's the second death penalty case this week in the nation's most active capital punishment state to focus on diplomatic issues.

On Tuesday night, after a split U.S. Supreme Court narrowly rejected a late appeal, Mexican-born convicted killer Jose Medellin was executed for participating in a gruesome gang rape and murders of two teenage Houston girls 15 years ago.

Unlike Medellin, Chi was not among some 50 death row inmates around the country, all Mexican born, who the International Court of Justice said should have new hearings in U.S. courts to determine whether the 1963 Vienna Convention treaty was violated during their arrests. Mexico had sued in the court on behalf of its citizens condemned in the U.S.

President Bush asked states to review the cases and legislation to implement the process was introduced recently in Congress, but the Supreme Court ruled earlier this year neither the president nor the international court could force Texas to wait.

Chi's attorneys argued that unlike its treaty obligations with Mexico, the U.S. agreement with Honduras doesn't require enabling legislation.

Report: Woman accused of kidnapping 5 children plans to surrender

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman accused of kidnapping five children said she did so because their biological mother had threatened her life but now says she plans to surrender to police, a newspaper reported.

Houston authorities issued an Amber Alert on Wednesday in connection to the abduction of the Houston children. The Harris County District Attorney's office charged Rhonda Tavey, 44, with five counts of kidnapping. Tavey said she planned to surrender to authorities on Thursday but no additional details were provided about when she would do so.

Tavey, who is white, said all she ever wanted was to do God's will and that she also took the children, who are black, for their own safety. She said their mother, Erica Alphonse, was "abusive."

Tavey said last month she found her bank statements in the purse of Alphonse, whom she had opened her home to after the Louisiana family was devastated by Hurricane Katrina three years ago.

"When I confronted her with that, she pulled a knife and threatened to kill me. That's when I made arrangements to get the kids out," Tavey said Thursday in an online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

The newspaper reported that Alphonse denies pulling a knife on Tavey and said Tavey is lying to damage Alphonse's reputation.

"I wouldn't have thought in a million years she'd have done this to me," Alphonse said Wednesday night from her aunt's Southwest Houston apartment.

Trial to begin in lawsuit where flight attendant accuses Joel Osteen's wife of assault

HOUSTON (AP) — As one of the leaders of Houston's popular Lakewood Church,

Victoria Osteen, wife of nationally renowned pastor Joel Osteen, is known for her charity and Christianity.

But a Continental Airlines flight attendant is accusing the co-pastor of one of the nation's most prominent megachurches of committing some very unchristian-like behavior.

Opening arguments were set for Thursday in a civil lawsuit that accuses Victoria Osteen of assaulting flight attendant Sharon Brown before the start of a 2005

flight from Houston to Vail, Colo.

Brown alleges in her suit that Victoria Osteen threw her against a bathroom door and elbowed her in the left breast during an angry outburst over a stain on her first-class seat.

Victoria Osteen "clearly was angry on this flight," said Brown's attorney, Reginald McKamie.

Brown wants an apology and punitive damages amounting to 10 percent of Victoria Osteen's net worth.

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