

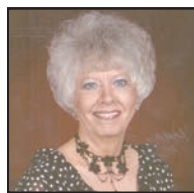
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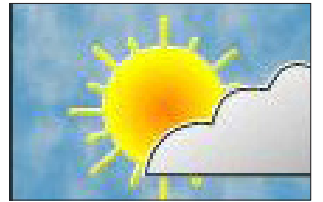
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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY
AUGUST 10, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 216

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

County forced to mull rollback rate

Officials contend Alon USA's tax dispute leaves them no other choice

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will once again roll up their sleeves and continue work on the

government entity's 2008-2009 budget Monday morning, as the court tries to prepare for yet another year of shortfalls, thanks to ongoing litigation with Alon USA, owner of the Big Spring

Refinery.

Two weeks ago, commissioners agreed to move forward with a proposed tax rate of .5412 cents per \$100 valuation — nearly 5 cents over the rollback rate —

in an effort to make up for the shortfall in tax dollars caused by Alon's refusal to accept appraisals for both 2006 and 2007, a matter expected to go before the 118th District Court later this

month.

"We're in limbo on this right now," said County Judge Mark Barr. "If we approve the tax rate

See **ROLLBACK**, Page 3A

Budget prompts college board to set two hearings

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Budgetary matters will highlight a pair of special meetings of the Howard College board of trustees this week.

Trustees will hold two hearings on the proposed budget and tax rate for the 2008-2009 fiscal year — the first will be at 12:30 p.m. Monday and the second is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Friday. Both hearings will be in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room on the Birdwell Lane campus.

The public will have a chance during the hearings to comment on the proposed budgets for Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf that are markedly similar to the previous year's package, officials said.

The junior college district's proposed tax rate of 27.8 cents per \$100 valuation is a full penny below the previous year's rate. However, increased district valuations mean that property owners could very well see an increase in their tax bills, College President Dr. Cheryl

"It's a tight budget. In preparing the budget, we limited expenditures for technology. We're working on another plan to address those needs."



Dr. Sparks

Sparks said.

"Our tax base has increased as a whole, so we're anticipating a 7.8 percent increase in our overall levy this year," Sparks said. "The effect this will have on taxpayers will depend on what happens to their property valuations."

The district's tax levy on property valued at \$100,000 will be \$11 less than the previous year, while the bill on an average-priced home in Howard County (\$43,000) will decrease by \$4.84, Sparks said.

SWCID's budget is balanced, while trustees plan to dip into \$300,000 of con-

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

GRILLIN' GOODNESS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Jovi Paniagua applies barbecue sauce to food he prepared at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish August Festival at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Friday evening. The festival was to continue at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

School registration begins Monday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

New student registration at Coahoma and Forsan school districts begins Monday.

Forsan new student registration will be held from 8 a.m. until noon

and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at each campus.

Parents of new students should bring their child's Social Security card, birth certificate, shot record, most recent report card and proof of residence (a copy of an utility

bill will suffice).

New students at Coahoma High School and Junior High can register during business hours Monday, officials said. As with Forsan,

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3A

INDEX

- Business 4-5C
- Classified 6-8C
- Life 1-3C
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-4B



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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

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

Bush gets athletic



See Page 6A

Caught yellow-handed

ST. PAUL (AP) — An orange trail of Cheetos led St. Paul police to three teenagers suspected of burglarizing a vending machine.

Officers were called to the Arlington Recreation Center on July 29, where they found a vending machine's glass had been broken with a chair.

The officers followed a trail of snack debris from the rec center, around the side of the building and to a nearby home. Inside, they found numerous vending-sized bags of. Police arrested three males aged 17, 18 and 19 who soon arrived at the home by car.

UW Dine Out Day

Herman's Restaurant will be the first many local restaurants to participate in the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County's Dine Out Day, held each Friday.

Proceeds from sales at Herman's, 1601 Gregg, this Friday will benefit United Way.

Future participating restaurants will include Sonic Drive Inn, K.C. Steakhouse, Al's & Sons Barbecue, Dell's Cafe and Greg's Grill. Others will be added. This year's campaign officially gets started with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 19 at First United Methodist Church.



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Dallas preps for preseason opener

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — All aboard for the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys didn't take a short flight or a three-hour bus ride from their training camp to San Diego for their preseason opener against the Chargers. Instead, the team boarded a Southbound train Friday for a five-hour trip along the Pacific coastline.

Dallas owner Jerry Jones said he wanted to "do what they used to do when they traveled around

in the old days."

The preseason game will mark the unofficial debut of still-suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, whose last NFL game was the 2006 season finale with Tennessee.

"I had me a long vacation, not saying that I wanted it," Jones said. "It's football season and I'm happy to be back to work."

Jones, who can play in preseason games, isn't expected to start at cornerback or return any kicks against the Chargers. The Cowboys won't know if he

What: Dallas Cowboys at San Diego Chargers

When: 9 p.m. Saturday

TV: NFL Network

can play in the regular season until NFL commissioner Roger Goodell makes a ruling by Sept. 1.

Coach Wade Phillips couldn't recall the last time he traveled by rail, but he liked the change

of pace after 15 consecutive days on the field since opening camp.

"Taking the train where the players can move around and relax a little bit will give us some time that I think we need at this point to get ready for a game," he said.

Phillips was defensive coordinator in San Diego before he was hired by Jones after the 2006 season to replace Bill Parcells. He expects his team, which returns all of its NFL-record 13 Pro Bowl players from a 13-win season, to be ready for the game Saturday

night against the Chargers.

The Cowboys' season came to a bitter end in January in a home playoff loss against the New York Giants, the eventual Super Bowl champions.

The only significant change on offense was the departure of running back Julius Jones in free agency, but he had already been supplanted by Marion Barber as the starter. Felix Jones, the team's highest draft pick in April, will back up Barber.

See **COWBOYS**, page 2B

Summer Olympics

U.S. women sweep saber competition



Gold medal winner Mariel Zagunis is flanked by silver medal winner Sada Jacobson, left, and bronze medal winner Becca Ward, right, on the podium after the women's individual saber competition at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing Saturday.

AP Photo/Andrew Medichini

Phelps begins quest by setting swim record

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

BEIJING — With Day 1 of the Beijing Olympics almost done, the U.S. medal count was nonexistent. Cuba, Uzbekistan and 16 other countries all had bragging rights over the Americans. The closest thing to glory was a Colorado resident winning gold for the Czech Republic.

Then came some serious slicing and dicing at the fencing hall.

Thanks to a red, white and blue sweep by saber-swinging women, the U.S. not only landed on the chart, it came out smack dab on top with more medals than anyone else.

Americans were assured of going 1-2 when Mariel Zagunis and Sada Jacobson advanced to the final. Then it was up to Becca Ward to win the bronze. She did, followed by Zagunis taking gold and Jacobson silver.

China finished the day leading 2-1 in the gold race. It might've been 3-1 if not for Katerina Emmons, the Czech shooter who lives with her husband, American shooter Matt Emmons, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Emmons was the somewhat surprising winner of the first medal event of

these games, the 10-meter air rifle. Reigning gold medalist Du Li of China was the favorite, but she wound up fifth. If the China-U.S. gold chase winds up close, remember Mrs. Emmons' contribution.

More help is on the way for the American medal count, and his name is Michael Phelps. The sensational swimmer opened his bid for eight golds by setting an Olympic record in his very first swim, a mere preliminary heat in the 400-meter individual medley.

Alas, Day 1 in Beijing will be remembered more for tragedy.

A relative of a U.S. men's volleyball coach was killed and another relative wounded by a knife-wielding Chinese man at a tourist site. The attacker also wounded the Americans' Chinese tour guide, then jumped to his death.

Swimming

Phelps set the Olympic 400 IM record while winning the gold in Athens, but his time in this qualifying race was 0.44 better. He was under his world-record pace after 150 meters of the four-stroke race, but eased off to save

See **OLYMPICS**, page 2B

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.

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, located north of Blankenship Field.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

Crossroads Youth Football Association sign-ups continue

Subsequent sign-up dates for the Crossroads Youth Football Association will be Aug. 16 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring 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 Monday

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

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.

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

Flag football league schedules sign-ups

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

- 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. 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.

Soaring

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Competition
Aug. 2-9



Final Results
from the
contest will be
posted in the
*Big Spring
Herald*
when they
become
available



See more
photos
from the
event on
Page 5C



Photos by Thomas Jenkins
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BACK VIEW

Obituaries

Bill W. Clements

Bill W. Clements died in Irving Friday, Aug. 8, 2008. Visitation will be held at Gilbreath Funeral Home, 209 N. Charles in Stanton, Sunday, Aug. 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the Stanton Methodist Church at 11 am, Monday, Aug. 11.

Memorials may be made to Baylor Healthcare Foundation, 1901 MacArthur Blvd, Irving 75061, or to Plymouth Park Methodist Church, 1615 W. Airport Freeway, Irving 75062.

Bill was born Aug. 3, 1914, in Martin County, son of Willie and Mayme Clements. He graduated from Stanton High School and Brantley-Draughan Business College in Fort Worth. In 1934, he married Velma Nichols of Stanton. They lived in Stanton with their two sons until 1950, when they moved to Franklin. Mr. Clements was a rancher in Franklin until 1992, and was active in the Methodist Church there. In 1992 Mr. and Mrs. Clements retired, and moved to Irving.

Mr. Clements was currently living at Park Place Retirement Community in Bedford.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Velma, his parents, Willie and Mayme Clements, two brothers, Herma and M.L., and a sister, Lorena Smith.

Survivors include sons, Billy of Bedford and Larry of Irving; two grandsons; sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Marvin Harrison of Midland; and brother and sister-in-law Gene and Clara Clements of Stanton; and brother-in-law John Smith of Fort Worth; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Ava Adamari Castro

LORAIN — Ava Adamari Castro, 1, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11, 2008, at St. Ann's Catholic Church with Fr. Ruben Covos officiating. Burial will follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery. Rosary will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, at Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Ava was born May 30, 2007, in Abilene to Jesse Castro Jr. and Monica Mendoza Castro. She resided in Loraine at the time of her death.

Survivors include her parents, a brother, Adam Castro of Loraine; uncle, Marco Mendoza; paternal grandparents, Jesus Castro and wife Beda; maternal grandparents, Al Mendoza and wife Virginia of Colorado City; great grandmother, Maria Sanchez of Loraine; aunts Angie Lambaren and Janie Gonzalez of Loraine and Estela Lara; and uncles Armanda Castro of Abilene and Hector Castro of Big Spring.

John Pavolich

John Pavolich, 84, of Big Spring, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2008. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Santiago Munoz

Santiago Munoz, 1, of Big Spring, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2008, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Janie Baker

Janie Baker, of Big Spring, died Friday, Aug. 8, 2008, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Perry Wigington

Perry Wigington, 43, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

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.

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department has reported the following activity:

- MARIA SANJUANA VARELA, 23, 200 Brown St., was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- CYNTHIA LYNN RAMSEY, 27, 1501 Lexington, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- JIMMY BERNARD EDMOND, 45, Abilene, was arrested on two local warrants.
- RICARDO GONZALEZ, 44, 1610 Lark, was arrested on a charge of assault Class C/family violence.

Take Note

• 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 reibe1@suddenlink.net for information. The class still needs classmates' contact information.

• 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 information 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.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517.

Your Local Weather

Sun 8/10	Mon 8/11	Tue 8/12	Wed 8/13	Thu 8/14
				
98/71	89/69	88/70	91/69	94/70
Plentiful sunshine. High 98F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	Scattered thunderstorms possible.	Scattered thunderstorms possible.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Mix 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

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 264-6116.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

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

• Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

• The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice Office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

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

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

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-12-16-27-36.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$35,472.
Winning ticket sold in: Lubbock.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Friday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order:
2-4-3-2. Sum It Up: 11

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
9-9-4. Sum It Up: 22

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EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 2008

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OLYMPICS

Continued from page 1B

something for the final Sunday morning.

Shooting

Emmons was on target from the start, shooting a perfect 400 in qualifying then finishing with an Olympic record of 503.5.

Liubov Galkina of Russia won the silver and Snjezana Pejic of Croatia took the bronze. Jamie Beyerle of Lebanon, Pa., finished fourth.

Du was greeted with a roar from the fans in the upper balcony of the shooting range when she came out for the final. Overwhelmed, she followed with a misfire.

"I wasn't fully prepared for the pressure of competing at home," Du said.

Pang Wei handled it just fine, easily outlasting a pair of Koreans in the finals of the men's 10-meter air pistol. When it was over, Pang — the 2006 world champion — turned around and waved his hat in the air while the home crowd cheered. Americans Jason Turner and Brian Beaman were fourth and fifth.

Gymnastics

The U.S. men finished

atop their qualifying group with a score good enough to clinch a spot in the team finals. Thus, even without injured stars Paul and Morgan Hamm, the Americans still have a shot at a medal — even if it's a slim one.

"To make a major team personnel change, compete in the first subdivision and qualify for the team finals is a huge accomplishment, and we are looking forward to competing on Tuesday," U.S. coach Kevin Mazeika said.

China, winner of three straight world championships and the overwhelming favorite, lived up to it by soaring to the top of the pack.

Fencing

Zagunis won this event in 2004, making her the first American in a century to win a fencing gold. Now, the U.S. is a force, an obvious favorite to win the team saber event.

Jacobson, who got bronze in Athens, was the top seed but Zagunis had one of her best performances in the final.

"That was probably the hardest bout I've ever fenced in my career," Zagunis said.

Ward, an 18-year-old who is part of the same Oregon fencing club as Zagunis, turned an early 6-1 deficit

into a 15-14 victory.

Weightlifting

Chen Xiexia, last year's world champion, dominated Saturday's competition from start to finish, lifting 210 pounds in the snatch and 258 in the clean and jerk.

By winning the second event of the games, she earned the first medal of any shade for the host country.

Turkey's Sibel Ozkan won the silver medal, while Chen Wei-Ling of Taiwan finished third. The 2004 Olympic champion, Nurcan Taylan of Turkey, was eliminated after three failed attempts in the snatch.

Cycling

Samuel Sanchez of Spain emerged from a sprint to the finish in the shadow of the Great Wall to win the men's road race, a trek that covered 152 miles in hazy air.

Italy's Davide Rebellin won silver on his 37th birthday, while Switzerland's Fabian Cancellara took the bronze. Levi Leipheimer was the top U.S. finisher, placing 11th.

Sanchez won in 6 hours, 23 minutes, 49 seconds, conquering a route that went past Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden

City and other landmarks in Beijing, then outside the city for seven punishing laps of a hilly loop course between two points on the Great Wall.

Women's basketball

WNBA star Lauren Jackson led medal favorite Australia with 18 points and 10 rebounds in an 83-64 victory over Belarus that featured Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in the stands. The Opals lost the last two Olympic finals to the United States but comes into the 2008 Beijing Games as world champion.

"We're just chipping away at a number of things — we've got quite a few things to work on, but I thought we executed pretty well," Australia coach Jan Stirling said.

In other matches, China held off Spain 67-64 and New Zealand edged Mali 76-72.

Soccer

So much for the U.S. women's scoring drought. Midfielder Carli Lloyd scored on a first-half volley to lead them past Japan 1-0 in their first game since a 2-0 loss to Norway.

The Americans created a host of scoring opportunities, but were only able to capitalize in the 27th minute, when Lloyd volleyed a cross from defender

Stephanie Cox just under the crossbar. Goals are at a premium for this club with scoring leader Abby Wambach out with an injury.

Also, Sweden beat Argentina 1-0.

Judo

Romania's Alina Dumitru won the women's 106-pound gold, throwing Cuba's Yanet Bermoy to the mat for the prize after stunning world champion Ryoko Tani of Japan in the semifinal. Argentina's Paula Pareto and Tani, winner of the last two golds, won bronze.

In the men's 132-pound class final, South Korea's Choi Min-ho, the bronze medalist in Athens, defeated European champion Ludwig Paischer of Austria. Choi won all his bouts with match-ending throws.

In other sports:

- South Korea's Park Sung-hyun, the defending Olympic women's archery champion, tied the Olympic record in the first day of competition.

- American sailor Zach Railey was second in an Olympic Finn race, first in a series of 11 that will determine the medals.

- American middleweight boxer Shawn Estrada beat Ezequiel Maderna of Argentina.
- The American beach

volleyball team of Nicole Branagh and Elaine Youngs beat a Dutch duo.

- Serbia's Jelena Jankovic, who will become the No. 1 tennis player in the world Monday, said a sore right calf may knock her out of the Olympics. She's supposed to play Sunday against Zimbabwe's Cara Black.

Elsewhere around the games:

- The U.S. Olympic Committee said in a statement that two family members of a coach for the men's indoor volleyball team were stabbed at the Drum Tower "during an attack by what local law enforcement authorities have indicated was a lone assailant." Few other details were given.

"They were not wearing apparel or anything that would have specifically identified them as being members of our delegation" or as Americans, USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel told The Associated Press.

He said it is "too early to say" whether the U.S. delegation or athletes will require additional security.

Said U.S. softball pitcher Jennie Finch: "Of course, my heart skipped a beat (hearing the news). I get concerned. But at the same time you just have to be smart and live your life."

COWBOYS

Continued from page 1B

Seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker Zach Thomas is expected play for the Cowboys after being limited to only five games last season with the Miami Dolphins because of a concussion and migraines.

Thomas signed a free-agent deal with the Cowboys after being released in February by the Dolphins, where he spent his first 12 seasons and had at least 100 tackles 11 times.

"I've never really gotten nervous for preseason games, but I'm sure I will because I'm in a new uniform," said Thomas, a

starter. "It will probably be like my rookie year."

Rookie cornerback Mike Jenkins, the team's other first-round pick, will likely start at left corner against the Chargers in place of injured Pro Bowler Terence Newman (groin). Jones has been working primarily on the right side behind starter Anthony Henry.

Rookie Danny Amendola and other young players will return kicks. Phillips said the Cowboys already know what Jones, acquired from the Titans in April, can do in that area.

While Jones can play in the preseason, Goodell is likely to decide by the week of the Cowboys' season opener whether he will be fully reinstated.

"I'm doing everything that I'm supposed to do to make sure I get reinstated," Jones said after practice Thursday. "I'm not even worried about that right now. I'm worried about playing football ... staying out of trouble and making sure I know my plays."

Tony Romo, Terrell Owens, Jason Witten and

the rest of the starting offense are expected to play about one quarter, which is normal for a pre-season opener.

That's after an unusual train ride to get there.

"I've ridden on the train before," Owens said. "When I was in Philly, we did ride the train to Washington. It's going to be fun for everybody."

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- 2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4X4 Powerstroke King Ranch - Maroon And Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. Was \$30,995 **Sale Price \$28,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White w/Tan Leather, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$20,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet 1500 H.D. Crew Cab L.S. 4X4 - White w/Cloth, 6.0 V-8, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$21,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, Tilt/Cruise, 5.4 V-8, Local One Owner. Was \$18,995 **Sale Price \$16,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner. Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet C1500 L.S. - Short Wheel Base, Pewter w/Cloth, 6 Cyl., Automatic, Air, One Owner w/58,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2004 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke - Blue/Silver, CFloth, All Power, Local One Owner. Was \$22,995 **Sale Price \$20,995**
- 2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT - 5.4 V-8, White, One Owner. Was \$12,995 **Sale Price \$11,995**

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- 2006 Ford Explorer XLT - Tan w/Cloth, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/31,000 MILES. Was \$19,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
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- 2005 Toyota Sequoia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner, 44,000 Miles. Was \$27,995 **Sale Price \$22,995**
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- 2004 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 **Sale Price \$12,995**
- 2004 Lincoln Town Car Ultimate - Cashmere White w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/32,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **Sale Price \$18,995**
- 2004 Ford Focus SE 4-Door - Green w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/51,000 Miles. Was \$10,995 **SOLD Sale Price \$7,995**
- 2004 Ford Mustang Convertible V-6 - Black ws/Tan Top & Tan Leather, Local One Owner w/19,000 Miles. Was \$18,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2004 Mercedes C240 - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/42,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
- 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner, Skylight. Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
- 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver w/Leather, Moonroof, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
- 2003 Cadillac DeVille. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$12,995**
- 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, One Owner w/66,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 **SOLD Sale Price \$6,995**
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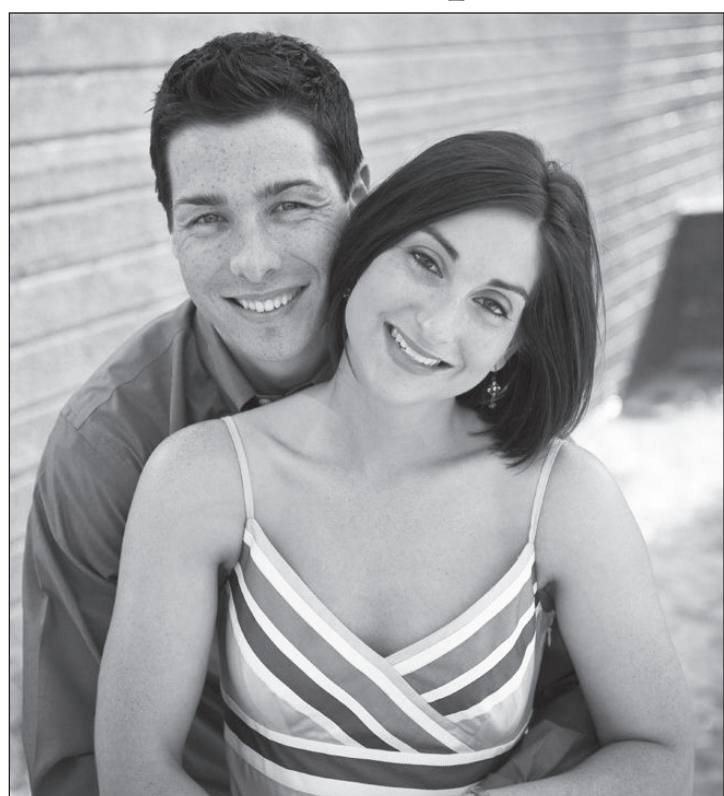
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Joseph Triepke & Bridget Cain

Ceremony set for Sept. 27, 2008

Bridget Cain of Big Spring and Joseph Triepke of Odessa plan to marry Sept. 27, 2008, at First Baptist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton officiating.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Tim and Mary Cain of Big Spring. She is a 2002 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 2006 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in finance. She is a financial analyst employed by KPMG LLP in Houston.

Her fiancé is the son of Darryl and Sandy Triepke of Odessa. He is a 2000 graduate of Odessa High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in finance. He is a financial analyst by Jefferies & Co. Inc. in Houston.

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Smith-Subia



Furillo Subia & Tiffanie Smith

Nov. 1, 2008, at Dora Roberts CC

Tiffanie Jo Smith and Sisto Furillo Subia, both of Big Spring will be united in marriage at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at Dora Robert Community Center. Reception will follow the ceremony.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Ron and Andrea Phillips of Big Spring. Her grandparents are Leon Phillips, Linda Phillips, both of Odessa, and Bonnie Asbury of Jackson, Ohio, and the late Adam

The future groom is the son of Sharon Subia and Curt Edwards of Big Spring, and Sam Subia of Canyon Lake. He is the grandson of the late Lee and Elizabeth Schattel, Warren and Eva Edwards of Midland, and the late Juan and Luz Subia.

She is employed with Basic Energy Services. He is employed with Choate Well Service.

Anniversary

Dan & Madilyn Pettitt



Pettitts celebrate Golden Anniversary

Dan and Madilyn Pettitt of Midland will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 16, 2008, with a small reception in Midland hosted by their children.

Dan Pettitt and Madilyn Dick were married in a friend's home in Big Spring Aug. 15, 1958. They have two children, Dana Raney and Lisa Tanner, both of Midland, and one granddaughter.

Except for the year they lived in Fort Polk, La., courtesy of Uncle Sam, Dan and Madilyn lived in the Big Spring area from 1958 until moving to Midland in 1993. Dan worked for Texas Electric Service Company (later TXU) for 35 years when he retired in 1992.

The couple attended Sand Springs Church of Christ all of their married life, but now attend Fairmont Park Church of Christ in Midland.

The success and happiness of their marriage can be summed up in something that Madilyn is fond of saying: "God found us for each other."

Military News



Promoted to Private First Class Aug. 1.

U.S. Army PVT Paul Nieto

Private Paul Nieto of Big Spring arrived to the Finance Office in COB Q-West, Iraq in early May. He joined F Detachment, 15th Finance Battalion based out of Fort Riley, Kan., that has been deployed since July 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. PVT Nieto completed his Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., immediately prior to his deployment to Iraq.

diately prior to his deployment to Iraq.

"He has demonstrated a high level of initiative for his rank and age. He displays an energizing optimism and is a proven performer," said First Lieutenant Philip Kaberline, Topeka, Kan., native.

Because of PVT Nieto's performance, he received a waiver for promotion to Private First Class Aug. 1. He has been a great addition to the finance team and his senior leaders look forward to his growth professionally and expect great things from him in the future.

Pfc Nieto is the son of Eve Nieto of Big Spring and Mike Nieto of Wichita Falls.

Navy Seaman Eileen R. Pereira

Navy Seaman Eileen R. Pereira, daughter of Stephenie D. Dalaney of Big Spring recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Pereira completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Pereira is a 2005 graduate of Lemoore High School of Lemoore, Calif.



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Russian troops raid Georgian town; scores dead

OUTSIDE TSKHINVALI, Georgia (AP) — Russian tanks and troops rumbled into the separatist province of South Ossetia and Russian aircraft bombed a Georgian town Saturday in a major escalation of the conflict that has left hundreds of civilians dead and wounded.

Russia, which has close ties to the province and posts peacekeepers there, sent in the armed convoys and combat aircraft to prevent Georgia from retaking control of its breakaway region. The military convoys included volunteers from around Russia's North Caucasus.

Georgia, a U.S. ally whose troops have been trained by American soldiers, launched a major offensive overnight Friday. Heavy rocket and artillery fire pounded the provincial capital, Tskhinvali, leaving much of the city in ruins.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Moscow on Saturday that some 1,500 people have been killed in South Ossetia, with the death toll rising.

The figures could not be independently confirmed. But Tskhinvali residents who survived the bombardment by hiding in basements and later fled the city estimated that hundreds of civilians had died. They said bodies were lying everywhere.



AP Photo/George Abdaladze

A wounded Georgian woman lies in front of an apartment building, damaged by a Russian airstrike, in the northern Georgian town of Gori, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008. According to a photographer, the wounded woman was later helped by her neighbors and evacuated her to a safe area.

The risk of the conflict setting off a wider war increased Saturday when Russian-supported separatists in another breakaway region, Abkhazia, launched air and artillery strikes to drive Georgian troops from their bridgehead.

Georgia, which borders the Black Sea between Turkey and Russia, was ruled by Moscow for most of the two centuries preceding the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Both South Ossetia and

Abkhazia have run their own affairs without international recognition since splitting from Georgia in the early 1990s and have built up ties with Moscow. Russia has granted its passports to most of their residents.

It was unclear which side controlled the provincial capital of South Ossetia by Saturday evening. Russian military commanders claimed they had driven Georgian forces out of Tskhinvali, which Georgia's President Mikhail

Saakashvili denied. Smoke rose from the city, and intermittent artillery shelling and sporadic gunfire continued.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that Moscow sent troops into South Ossetia to force Georgia into a cease-fire. Saakashvili said he has proposed a cease-fire, but Medvedev's office said Saturday evening that Russia had not received his proposal.

Saakashvili, a U.S.-educated lawyer, long has pledged to restore Geor-

gia's rule over South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgia has angered Russia by seeking NATO membership — a bid Moscow regards as part of a Western effort to weaken its influence in the region.

The fighting is the worst outbreak of hostilities since South Ossetia won de facto independence in a war against Georgia that ended in 1992. It also is likely to increase tensions between Moscow and Washington, which Lavrov said should bear part of the blame for arming and training Georgian soldiers.

Moscow has said it needs to protect its peacekeepers and civilians in South Ossetia. Ethnic Ossetians live in the breakaway Georgian province and in the neighboring Russian province of North Ossetia.

Georgia has accused Russia of bombing its air bases and a Black Sea port, located on Georgian territory outside South Ossetia. One of the Russian airstrikes Saturday hit the Georgian town of Gori, the hometown of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

An Associated Press reporter who visited Gori shortly afterward saw several apartment buildings in ruins, some still on fire, and scores of dead bodies and bloodied civilians. The elderly, women and children were among the victims.

The Russian planes appeared to have been targeting a military base in Gori's outskirts that also sustained hits.

Alexander Lomaia, secretary of Georgia's Security Council, estimated that Russia has sent 2,500 troops into Georgia. The Russian military has not said how many of its troops were deployed.

One Russian unit deployed near Tskhinvali had to change location quickly Saturday when Georgian shells started to land nearby.

A 19-year-old Russian conscript, a member of a tank crew, said his unit was supposed to take part in a military exercise in North Ossetia but was suddenly sent into South Ossetia. The soldier, who asked not be named because he wasn't allowed to speak to reporters, said that his tank accompanied a motorized infantry unit that was hit by Georgian shelling and suffered casualties.

The tank was broken and the soldiers were trying to fix it on the edge of the woods.

Georgian forces knocked out about 40 Russian tanks around Tskhinvali, said Georgia's Deputy Interior Minister Eka Sguladze. "Our units are well-equipped with anti-tank rockets, and they thwarted a Russian tank attack," she told reporters.

ROLLBACK

Continued from Page 1A

based on the certified values — which includes the assessment of the Big Spring Refinery — and Alon decides to only pay on a portion of that, as they have the past two years, we're caught short (financially). There's a pre-trial hearing coming

up and the trial is Aug. 18, but that's just for the 2006-2007 taxes. We're hoping to have a better idea what's going on before we hold the public hearings in September."

In 2007, Alon USA disputed its \$320 million tax appraisal, claiming it should only have to pay taxes on approximately \$152 million. The \$320 million assessment was later upheld by the appraisal district's

review board, spurring the petro-chemical company to file a lawsuit in 118th District Court.

According to reports following the filing of the lawsuit, Alon agreed to pay \$80 million in taxes until the matter is resolved, leaving the county with a shortfall of more than \$700,000 and Big Spring Independent School District picking up a \$264,000 loss.

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, Alon USA paid approximately \$225,000 in taxes last year — based on an undisputed assessment of \$80 million that was reduced to \$54 million by abatement agreements — considerably less than the \$1 million levied against the company.

In addition to the possible shortfall, if the court is forced to go above the roll-

back rate of .4912 cents per \$100 valuation, a petition from citizens opposing the increase could spur a rollback election.

In addition to the budget, commissioners are expected to consider a number of routine items Monday morning, including invoices and purchase requests, budget amendments, authorization to go out for fuel bids and possi-

ble action on the burn ban currently in effect.

The meeting is to get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

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

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

tingency reserves to finance building renovation at the San Angelo campus, which will put

the HC budget slightly out of balance.

Major increases in expenditures are because of planned salary increases for district personnel and higher fuel and utility costs, Sparks said.

"Interestingly enough,

utility costs were as high as we feared they might be," Sparks said. "We got a really good deal on our electricity costs, so we had a decrease there, which was nice, but we did see increases in other areas."

Sparks added that the

district is planning on a lean budget package.

"It's a tight budget," she said. "In preparing the budget, we limited expenditures for technology. We're working on another plan to address those needs. That's such a high-

dollar item that we decided to go about financing it in other ways."

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

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

grade transcripts, birth certificates, shot records and Social Security cards are needed.

Coahoma Elementary will register new students during office hours starting Wednesday and concluding Aug. 21. Aside from the previously mentioned material, parents need to provide a proof of residency form (obtained from the CISD administration office) and a copy of their driver's license or photo identification card.

Returning students at Forsan Junior High and High School must have par-

ents complete information packets before schedules can be distributed. Those packets will be available at the high school office beginning Tuesday.

Juniors and seniors may pick up their registration packets and schedules on Tuesday between 8 a.m. and noon and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Freshmen and sophomores may pick up their packets and schedules at the same times Wednesday, with seventh and eighth graders receiving their information Thursday.

Forsan Junior High sixth graders may pick up their schedules during orientation, which will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 21. The students will

meet administrators and teachers while touring the building.

Elbow Elementary students will receive an invitation to a "New Year Party," which will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at the campus. This will give students the opportunity to meet their teacher and drop off school supplies while parents take care of paperwork, meal and transportation details, officials said.

Coahoma Elementary will host a "Meet the Teacher" night at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21.

Schedule pick-up information for Coahoma High School and Junior High will be released in the next few days, officials said.

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

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Astros rock Reds in 10 innings

CINCINNATI (AP) — Reds manager Dusty Baker has seen all he wants of Carlos Lee.

The Houston left fielder hit a two-run double and Hunter Pence followed with a two-run homer in the 10th inning, lifting the Houston Astros to a 9-5 victory over Cincinnati on Friday night.

"Man, that guy knows how to drive in those runs, doesn't he?" the frustrated but respectful Baker said of Lee, who has five RBIs in the first two games of the four-game series, an even 100 for the season and 1,001 in his career. "You hate to see those guys come up in those situations. They're RBI machines."

Miguel Tejada doubled and Lance Berkman walked with two outs against Francisco Cordero (4-4). Lee followed with a drive to right-center that Corey Patterson almost caught with diving effort, but the ball dribbled from his glove and both runners scored.

"I knew I hit it well, but I saw him dive for the ball and said, 'Noooo,'" said Lee, who tied his season high with four hits and extended his hitting streak to eight games. "When things are going your way, they fall."

"I was playing in a little bit, trying to stop the bleeding with a runner on second base," Patterson said. "It might've been tailing away a little bit. It was close. That's all I had. There was nothing else left in the tank. I was at full speed."

Pence then added his second home run in two nights and 16th of the season to push his own two-game RBI count to five and send the Reds to their fourth consecutive loss.

Chris Sampson (6-4) allowed the Reds to tie the game in the seventh but still earned the win with three innings of relief.

The Astros took a 2-0 lead in the first inning against Johnny Cueto on a home run by Kaz Matsui, his second leadoff homer of the month and eighth of his career, and a two-out homer off the left-field foul pole by Lee, his 28th of the season.

"Over the last couple of months, I don't think there's been a better player in the league — not just hitting, but fielding, too," Houston manager Cecil Cooper said.

The Reds took a 4-2 lead in the third on Jeff Keppinger's two-run double and Brandon Phillips' two-



AP Photo/Al Behrman

Houston's Hunter Pence hits a two-run home run off Cincinnati Reds' closer Francisco Cordero in the 10th inning of their baseball game Friday in Cincinnati. Houston won 9-5.

run homer, his first in 61 at-bats since July 20.

Houston cut the lead to 4-3 in the fifth when Lee scored from second on Michael Bourn's two-out single to left.

Patterson allowed Cueto to leave with the lead by tracking down Humberto Quintero's drive to right-center and making a leaping catch while banging into the wall with his left shoulder.

Cueto allowed nine hits and two walks, striking out nine. He is winless in his last six starts.

With Cincinnati leading 4-3 and two outs in the seventh inning, Reds reliever Nick Massett, one of two players acquired from the

White Sox for outfielder Ken Griffey Jr., bobbled Bourn's chopper up the first base line for an error. Quintero followed with his fourth major league homer and first since 2005.

"When things are going bad, what can go bad will go bad," Baker said. "It doesn't last forever, but when you're in it, it feels like it."

The Reds tied the game against Sampson and cost starter Randy Wolf a win in the bottom of the inning on David Ross's leadoff double, pinch-hitter Jolbert Cabrera's single and Keppinger's sacrifice fly.

Wolf gave up six hits and four runs with two walks and six strikeouts.

Orioles silence Texas offense

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE — Now that Jeremy Guthrie finally has a winning record, Baltimore Orioles manager Dave Trembley said he believes the right-hander deserves to be considered one of the best starters in the American League.

Guthrie allowed one run in seven innings to win his third straight start, Kevin Millar homered twice and the Baltimore Orioles cruised past the Texas Rangers, 9-1 Friday night.

Guthrie (9-8) gave up five hits, walked one and had four strikeouts — including All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton twice. Over his last three starts, Guthrie is 3-0 with a 1.21 ERA.

He lost his first three decisions and was 3-7 on June 12, but now Guthrie ranks among the league leaders in starts (25), innings (163) and ERA (3.26).

"I think he's in a position now where his due is coming," Trembley said. "The guy's getting recognized as a legitimate, top-of-the-rotation guy for any team in the big leagues. I'm glad a lot of other people are starting to recognize what he's all about. We're very, very fortunate to have him."

Guthrie insisted that finally eclipsing the .500 mark is really no big deal.

"I don't feel any different with my record today than I did a month ago," he said.

"I really feel that, for the most part, when I've been on the mound our team has been in the game. That's the most important part."

Guthrie's bid for a sec-

ond straight complete game was thwarted by a high pitch count (115). Jamie Walker worked a perfect eighth and Jim Johnson gave up a hit in the ninth.

Brian Roberts, Juan Castro and Ramon Hernandez each had two RBIs for the Orioles, who have won seven of 11. Aubrey Huff went 2-for-4 to extend his hitting streak to 16 games, one short of his career high.

Millar hit a two-run homer in the third inning and a solo shot in the fifth. It was his third multihomer game of the season, and his 18 home runs is one more than he had all last year.

But afterward, Millar felt compelled to talk about Guthrie.

"Jeremy Guthrie set the tone. He set down a very good offensive club tonight," he said.

Travis Metcalf homered for the Rangers, who have lost three straight. Texas came to town early Friday morning following a grueling four-game series at home against the New York Yankees.

"We looked tired," manager Ron Washington said. "I'm not making no excuses because that guy over there threw pretty good. ... That's the first time we had it handed to us in a while."

The Rangers, who have scored only two runs in their last 25 innings, were without injured starters Milton Bradley (left quad) and David Murphy (knee).

"That changes everything," said Marlon Byrd, who had two hits. "Those two guys put fear into a pitching staff. But we have to go with what we have."

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► Anniversary

Robert & Kaye Wylie



Wylie's Celebrated 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wylie of Ropesville, formerly of Big Spring, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, with a reception and dinner in the home of Sherry and Tommy James of Lubbock.

The Wylie's have one daughter, D'lene Wylie of Ropesville. Hosts of the celebration were D'lene Wylie, sisters Patsy Smith, Linda Burns, sister-in-law Carolyn Sosebee and nieces of

Kaye Wylie.

Robert and Kaye Sosebee were married Aug. 10, 1958, in the Ropesville Church of Christ.



Robert & Kaye at wedding ceremony Aug. 10, 1958

Leon & JoAnn Halfmann



Halfmann's Celebrate Golden Anniversary today

Leon and JoAnn Halfmann of St. Lawrence will celebrate 50 years of marriage with a reception and dance Aug. 10, 2008. They were united in marriage Aug. 5, 1958, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena.

The couple made their first home in Wall where Leon farmed and worked at the cotton gin. In 1963 they moved to the St. Lawrence Community and still farm and ranch in Glasscock and Reagan counties.

Leon is a charter member of the Knights of Columbus and JoAnn is active in the St. Theresa Altar Society and the Quilting Club. Together they enjoy traveling the state going to polka dances with their friends and attending activities involving their grandchildren.

The celebration will be hosted by their children: Karla Hoelscher and husband, Tommy; Mark and his wife, Terry; Larry and his wife, Kim; Karen Schaefer and her husband, Doug, all of St. Lawrence, and Mary Kaye Cockrel and her husband, Doug, of Big Lake, and their 18 grandchildren.

► Weddings

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Wester-Weatherby



Mr. and Mrs. Weatherby

Fred C. Weatherby of Big Spring and Amy Wester of Blackwell announce their marriage. The ceremony was performed July 26, 2008, at Blackwell in the First Baptist Church. Tony Conger, nephew of the groom and the pastor of Westview Church of God in Odessa, officiated the ceremony.

A reception followed in the church's fellowship hall. The groom is the son of Aubrey Mae McClure of Big Spring and the late Fred Clayton Weatherby Sr. He is the grandson of the late Ivan and Vergie Mae Riggins.

The bride is the daughter of William and Shirely Passmore of Blackwell. She is the granddaughter of Ruby Jewell Daves and the late Doc Daves.

The bride wore a floor length, royal-blue, satin dress cascade with lace. Tory Tolbert of Lawton, Okla., daughter of the bride, served as the bridesmaid. Bestman was Curtis James of Big Spring.

Ringbearer was James Davis, son of the bride. Flower girls were Courtney Overton, great-niece of the groom, and Isabella Weatherby, granddaughter of the groom, all of Big Spring.

Following a honeymoon in Buffalo, N.Y., the couple resides in Big Spring.

The Winning Way: What's Your Level of Expectancy?

Your life will follow your expectations whether you realize it or not. It's actually true. What you expect from life you will get. If you have a negative attitude and are always thinking the worst, your life will move toward that direction. Your subconscious mind will make sure you fail, or will block every attempt that would move you forward. If however, you raise your level of expectancy, you can enlarge your vision.



JERRIE STOCKS

Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." God is actually interested in what we think. Look what He said in Psalm 19:14. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." This text literally says, "Let what I speak and what my heart murmurs to itself be a delight to you, Lord."

In Proverbs 6:2, it says, "You are snared by the words of your mouth. You are taken by the words of your mouth." The word snared means to be caught or taken captive. God was surely aware that constant negative thinking and speaking was not an asset to the bodies He designed and created it in His image. His expectations for His creation was far more superior. We were created to live on a higher order.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, Satan thought he had foiled God's plan. But not so. God had another plan.

He sent Jesus, His son, to win us back from the grip of the enemy. God's plan for His people was and has always been, a winning plan, and that plan is still in effect for us today. All you need to do is clear the negative cobwebs from your mind that have held you captive. Have a change

of heart and put the old thoughts and images behind you.

Start reprogramming your mind for success. Get out of the mundane way of thinking and think positive thoughts of favor, hope, and success. Say to yourself, "Enough is enough." You can break

the old cycle and raise your expectations to bigger and better things.

Each day, choose to live with an attitude of expecting good things to happen

to you. Begin each day with a mindset of faith and a prayer in your heart by setting your mind on the good things. Don't allow negative thoughts to domi-

nate your thinking. What you receive in life is directly connected to how you believe. Don't limit God.

See **STOCKS**, Page 4C

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ARE YOU IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP??

If you're reading this section, chances are you already know your relationship isn't healthy.

What are the Warning Signs:

The biggest warning sign is -

If he's been in a violent relationship before
If someone has abuse their ex-wife, ex-girlfriend or the mother of their children, why wouldn't they abuse you?

Never their fault and someone else was always to blame.
Don't make the mistake of thinking "it will be different with me" He puts your friend down and/or makes it difficult for you to see them.

Loses his temper over trivial things.
Mood swings.

Common things abusers say

You're stupid, useless, ugly, putting on weight ...
You can't even keep the house in a decent state, you're a terrible mother, no one would want you, you're lucky to have me.
If you tell anyone else about the abuse ... you'll be sorry, no one will believe you, I'll report you to social services as an unfit mother.

If you try to leave me...you'll never get away, you couldn't cope without me, I'll snatch the kids and you'll never see them again
I'll track you down and find you, even if it takes years and I'll kill you, you'll never be able to live in peace never knowing when it will happen...

If you leave me I'll kill myself and you'll have to explain to the children why their dad is dead and it'll be on your conscience for the rest of your life ...

If after reading this you think that you are, or might be, in an abusive relationship, call!

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

YOUR VIEWS

Lock the gates at Alon

TO THE EDITOR,

If Alon refinery refuses to pay their property tax, the sheriff's office should send a deputy out to the refinery gates the day the taxes are due and when they are not paid, just lock the gate and the county can seize the property for taxes just like it's done for local businesses that don't pay their taxes.

The county should start now getting the paperwork ready for the seizure. If the owners of Alon (who by the way do not live here) do not want to pay, then shut them down.

PHILLIP SHUMPERT
BIG SPRING

Got the wrong Scott

TO THE EDITOR,

Hello! My name is Bill Scott Jr. I live in Big Spring and I go to Family Faith Christian Center. I also have a ministry on the Web at www.lmanna-festations.com

I have checked and it seems that I am the only Bill Scott Jr. in this town. Therein lays my problem.

A letter addressed to you was sent out in the Aug. 2 edition of the Big Spring Herald. At the end of it, by name was attached: Bill Scott Jr. The problem is, I did not send you that letter. I met with you the following morning and it was determined that no one from the Herald followed up by calling the number given to see if indeed I had sent you the letter.

Since the paper came out, I have received numerous calls from people who are shocked that I would send such a letter. Most believed me when I told them I had nothing to do with it. My predicament is this: I am an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Therefore, my walk and my testimony are important to me. How I portray myself and come across to people determines my character and my integrity. Even if I felt the way the letter was written, I would not have written it as it was writ-

ten. Demons from hell and the store being from hell is not what comes to my mind when I think of Wal-Mart.

What did Wal-Mart do to this person to cause them to write this article? I find it hard to believe that Wal-Mart could do something to upset someone this way. Demons from hell?

My contention is that someone was trying to put me in a bad light. That this letter is about me and not Wal-Mart. If so, that's OK! However, I think that Wal-Mart has unjustly been pointed out. Are there problems at Wal-Mart? Of course! But, to tell you the truth, I love going there. I go there with my wife and while she shops I walk around trying to find someone to talk to.

I am sorry your name came up, Wal-Mart. I want you to know that I, Bill Scott Jr., 2610 Hunter; I have no beef with you and I don't want to know who wrote the article (letter to the editor). I speak blessings over that person and you, Wal-Mart, and the entire city of Big Spring.

In Him, I Am,

BILL SCOTT JR.
BIG SPRING

Family still grieving

TO THE EDITOR,

It has been 5 years since my son, Arlin Bynum, disappeared in Big Spring. He left behind loving parents, a brother, two sisters, two nephews and a niece. We still don't know much more about what happened than we did 5 years ago and cannot fathom why anyone would be so cruel.

Our family has not as of yet accepted our loss and probably never will. The hatred and disgust toward whoever killed Arlin we have let go at this point; however, forgiveness is out of the question. Maybe at some point, their conscience will get the best of them and they will own up to it.

Arlin was a very outgoing man, full of life and

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.

• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by **K. Rae Anderson**

They can stand the heat

By this date, I had hoped to write a piece about recent audience participation at David Letterman's Late Show in New York City, but it'll have to wait.

Letterman — in general — and Rupert, in particular — are hereby pre-empted by a pair of pie-baking teachers in Glen Rose, Texas. (Now cut out the "head-scratching" about Rupert. He's the laid-back delicatessen operator around the corner from the Late Show.)

When my wife asked him to name his most popular sandwich, Rupert offered his patented "expressionless" reply: "Hello Deli." It's also what he calls his tiny eatery.

Our NYC visit merits more ink later, but today, the focus is on Glen Rose, school teachers who love teaching kindergartners — and baking pies.

Rupert's "deli fame" accrues as an obvious "Letterman spin-off."

He should be thankful that the "pie peddlers" (Rhonda Cagle and Jean Ford) aren't in business around the other corner from the theatre. His sandwiches are tasty, but no match for the delectable creations coming from the big oven at the little pie shop in Glen Rose. On top of that, I'm satisfied that either of these teachers could match Letterman, barb by barb, in the repertoire of his choice.

First things first: "Cagle" and "Ford" — as they call each other — are veteran teachers, the former starting her 30th year and the latter, her 27th. They've taught kindergarten mostly, and for years have instructed their five-year-old broods in classrooms separated only by a hallway.

When the bell rings on Friday afternoons, they don their aprons and head for the "Pie Peddlers" shop located a pebble's toss from

the Somervell County Court House. They're open for business until 6 p.m., then again from 10-6 on Saturdays.

Students in their classes — and a thousand or so others they've taught across the years — would do well to make special note of the hours.

That's because these folks get free pieces of pie every time they visit. Others pay \$4.

They don't keep score, and aren't sure how much pie they've given away.

How could they be expected to know when they aren't even sure exactly how many pies are sold on a given weekend?

They're now in their third location on the same block in this, their sixth year in business.

The "pie peddlers" now have a commercial convection oven and a few tables. Still, their entire operation spans less than a thousand square feet — a skosh larger than Rupert's place. Still, it's a far cry from the opening in the spring of '03.

Then, pies were baked at home and displayed in a refrigerated case. When all eight pies were sold, they went home.

School personnel started placing orders, and proceeds went into the cookie jar. That's how they have funded expansions.

Ever-increasing sales, including more than 200 pies each Thanksgiving and Christmas weekend, help them know that their baking expertise portends a pleasant retirement project not too many years up the way. "We are thankful for friends, for the chance to mold young lives, and along the way, provide field trips to the pie shop," Rhonda said. For them, it is more than "show and tell." It is "taste and tell." The youngsters, savvy about Cool Whip, have "what's that?" questions about meringue.

Their entire approach to business is refreshing. Almost everything in the shop had the "new worn off" someplace else. Though both "pie

peddlers" are typically present during operational hours, they have help from others.

"Friends often insist on helping wash the dishes," Jean said. The pair is also grateful for Rhonda's parents, now 79 and 74, who often "show up to clean up." They each have two grown children, and Jean's two grandchildren, ages 3 and 6 months, are happy to "lick the spoon." Jean's hubby, Mike, will join them, with this proviso — "only the batter of buttermilk pie is worth lickin'."

Call the pair "workaholics" if you like, but don't leave "cooperative" out of the description.

For example: Recipes for all their pies are available free of charge. They'll also bake pies from recipes customers bring in.

Glen Rose folks know that they can place an order for a pie. It's ready in 90 minutes, and often less.

An unnamed undertaker in the area doesn't want anyone to miss out on pie because of empty pockets. From time to time, he leaves a couple of \$20 bills to cover the charges accruing to patrons who are hankerin' for a piece of pie, but are not former students.

"No one takes advantage," emphasized Rhonda, a native of the area who's taught in Glen Rose ISD her entire career.

"We're all neighbors here, and lots of times families of youngsters eating free pie slices buy whole ones to take home."

The ladies never throw pies away. Coaches, with lean and hungry looks and long hours of weekend work, are the beneficiaries if a pie or two remain when the pie peddlers shut down on Saturday evenings.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author in the Metroplex. He welcomes inquiries and comments. E-mail: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com

ADDRESSES

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Congress and the privileged few

You hear a lot in Washington about the plight of the middle class.

Politicians are often quick to condemn any policy they claim will help the rich but harm middle-class workers.

But it's a different story when it comes to drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. You hear little concern about continuing a policy that benefits an elite group of wealthy tourists while denying a century's worth of fuel to millions of households.

Little, if anything, vexes Americans today as much as the high price of gasoline. If members of Congress really cared about the middle class, they would open up ANWR and dispense with the phony tears and lip service. Politicians who dismiss opportunities to lower gasoline prices while professing great concern over tight family budgets are too busy protecting the privileged to care that they're choking economic freedom.

According to figures from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation, every dollar increase in the price of gasoline costs the average household about \$1,100 per year. So, the two-dollar increase in the past two years adds \$2,200 to their annual gasoline bill. Goodbye, summer vacation.

Unless, of course, you're a

member of the well-heeled elite who visit ANWR. At 19 million acres, it's bigger than 10 states, such as Maryland, Massachusetts and even West Virginia. But in a good year, about 1,700 tourists visit the refuge. That's only one-fourth the numbers who visit Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley National Park on an average day.

In the early 1990s, when annual visits approached 2,000, many of them questioned whether the refuge could handle that many people and still provide a high-quality experience. One tour operator said, "You're not getting what you go up there for if you end up sharing the river with 20 other people and jockeying for campsites." Some people are hard to please. If all the visitors went on the same day, they could each have more than 10,000 acres to themselves.

But there will be little need for ration coupons to cap the number.

Travel agency Web pages show that low-end packages to ANWR are \$3,500 per person plus airfare to Fairbanks. With the cost of a one-week family vacation exceeding \$20,000, there's no reason to expect much of a stampede.

Bear in mind, too, that drilling today isn't the oil-spewing mess it was 50 years ago. The caribou herds don't care - their population in the nearby North Slope is greater now than before oil started pumping in the 1970s. Besides, most tourists don't go to the one-tenth of 1 percent of ANWR where the oil would be drilled. So the harm (an interrupted vista) is to only a fraction of this select group of tourists anyway.

What about the oil? Estimates of

the reserves vary from 5 billion to 15 billion barrels. Past experience shows such estimates are often significantly below the actual amounts found. But even the intermediate value of 10 billion works out to 420 billion gallons.

The average household has two cars, each of which uses 600 gallons a year. A little math shows that ANWR holds enough petroleum to fill the tanks of all the cars for 3.5 million households for a full century. For perspective, note only eight states have more than 3.5 million households.

The question is: Do we provide a necessity for millions of cash-strapped Americans, or do we stiff these hard-working families so we can provide a luxury for the rich and few? Drilling in ANWR would reduce gas prices, reduce payments to suspect oil exporters, strengthen the dollar. In addition to the balance of trade, drilling in ANWR would help the federal budget and, more importantly, the working family's budget.

Unlike anything else, the ANWR debate brings into focus a legislator's priorities. If lawmakers really want to help the middle class, they should focus on the millions who would benefit from additional oil supplies instead of pandering to a wealthy group of eco-tourists.

David W. Kreutzer is senior policy analyst for energy economics and climate change at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.



DR.
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Thomas not 'punch drunk' in Dallas

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — Zach Thomas understands the perception some people have after his abbreviated final season in Miami, though he doesn't agree with it.

"They labeled me with that, as prone for concussions," he said. "Everybody just thinks I'm some guy out here that's punch drunk, running around."

Now Thomas looks forward to the opportunity to prove them wrong.

If he seems confused at times during the Dallas Cowboys training camp, that is because Thomas is trying to learn and adjust to a new defense — not aftereffects of a concussion and migraines that limited the seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker to five games last season.

"I wouldn't be here if it was going to be a problem," Thomas said. "Trust me, there's no difference between 12 and 13 years to me. I could have retired and did all that."

Thomas did go home to Texas, to play in the state where he was a high school and college standout before his 12 seasons with the Dolphins. He gets to be part of a legitimate Super Bowl contender and the chance to finally win a championship.

Even before playing a game for the Cowboys, Thomas has earned the respect of his new teammates and given them a glance of what he's still capable of doing.

"He makes me practice



AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez

Dallas Cowboys' linebacker Zach Thomas (55) waits for a play to start during NFL football training camp in Oxnard, Calif. Thomas went home to Texas, to play in the state where he was a high school and college standout before his 12 seasons with the Miami Dolphins.

harder, definitely running around trying to keep up with him," said Bradie James, the other starting inside linebacker and the Cowboys' leading tackler the past three seasons. "Even though this is his 13th year in the league, he hasn't slowed down a bit."

The biggest adjustment for Thomas is playing in a 3-4 defense after being the middle linebacker in 4-3

sets at Miami, where he had at least 100 tackles his first 11 seasons before last year. Thomas still had 52 tackles in the five games he played last year.

"It is a different position, a different mentality," Thomas said. "But it's still football. You've just got to run and tackle the guy with the ball."

James already envisions himself as the bruiser in a powerful 1-2 combination

with Thomas, who turns 35 the week of the Cowboys' season opener.

"If I can knock down an O-lineman, knock down some running backs, he'll definitely tackle whoever has the ball," James said.

Thomas was released by the Dolphins in February as part of a massive rebuilding project overseen by new vice president of football operations Bill Parcells.

In the third game last September, against the Cowboys, Thomas sustained a concussion that forced him to miss two games.

Then after a loss to New England on Oct. 21, his vehicle was rear-ended and he didn't play again, placed on injured reserve against his wishes in December because of nagging migraines.

The seemingly obvious conclusion was that the concussion played a factor in his health issues after the accident.

"They tried to put two and two together," said Thomas, insisting that "it just was more of a sinus problem" related to a deviated septum.

Coach Wade Phillips said there are no limitations on Thomas, and that the linebacker isn't being monitored any differently than the rest of the players.

Thomas had missed only 13 games his first 11 NFL seasons, never because of a concussion. The most games he had missed in a season was five because of an ankle injury in 2000.

Ryans found 'knack' at an early age

By **CHRIS DUNCAN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — DeMeco Ryans began playing football in middle school and was the starting center for his first team.

But when the star linebacker got a disciplinary suspension for half of a game, the coach plugged Ryans into the spot. It was an amazingly natural fit.

"I mean, I made every tackle," the Houston Texans All-Pro middle linebacker remembers. "I guess that was when I kind of discovered I had a special knack for finding my way to the ball. And it was more fun. Making the tackles is much more fun than blocking."

Now, 10 years later, the 6-foot-1, 250-pound Ryans is one of the NFL's best at his position. Houston coach Gary Kubiak has kept Ryans' workload light in training camp so far, an indication of his importance. He won't play much in Saturday's preseason opener against Denver, either.

"He's the leader of the defensive football team," Kubiak said.

Ryans was the Texans' second-round draft pick in 2006, a few months after he was chosen the SEC's defensive player of the

year at Alabama. He made an instant impact in his NFL debut, leading the team with 13 tackles in a 24-10 loss to Philadelphia. He led all first-year players with 156 tackles that season, including 3.5 sacks, and was named the league's top defensive rookie.

In 2007, he made 127 tackles to lead the team for the second straight season. He also intercepted a pass and recovered three fumbles to earn a starting nod in the Pro Bowl.

Linebackers coach Johnny Holland said the Texans staff was surprised how good Ryans was as a rookie.

"DeMeco's not cocky, he's very humble," Holland said. "But deep down, he's very competitive. He's really out here every day trying to do everything he can to be the best in the business."

Just 24, Ryans is the cover boy of this year's media guide and already one of the faces of the franchise, along with 2006 top overall pick Mario Williams and star receiver Andre Johnson.

But if Ryans feels any pressure to somehow surpass his first two seasons, he hides it behind a relaxed smile and easygoing demeanor.

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this mountain? "Behold, I have set the land before you, go in and take possession of the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them and to their descendants after them."(Deuteronomy 1:6-8 Amplified)

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Births



Riley Bryce Daniels
5-16-2008

Riley Bryce Daniels, a boy, was born at 4:32 p.m. May 16, 2008, weighing 4 pounds, 11 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long.

He is the son of Ashley Casbeer and Montie Daniels of Big Spring. His grandparents are Cherrie Arguello of Big Spring and Kenneth Casbeer of Saint Jo and Montie and Carol Daniels of Odessa. His great-grandparents are Clyde and LaBeth Montgomery of Big Spring.



Maria Elena Hernandez
7-23-2008

Maria Elena Hernandez, a girl, was born at 11:59 a.m., July 23, 2008, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Brittany Escanuela and Eric Hernandez of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are Alex Escanuela and Linda Gonzales, all from Big Spring. Her paternal grandparents are Sylvia Hernandez and Eddie Hernandez, all from Big Spring.

Maria was welcomed home by big brother Tony.



Holley Janae Johnson
6-30-2008

Holley Janae Johnson, a girl, was born at 6:03 p.m., June 30, 2008, weighing 8 pounds, 10.6 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.

She is the daughter of Tara and Joshua Johnson of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are Bonnie and Terry Beeler. Her paternal grandparents are Shelley and Charles Williamson.



Ellen Grace Witherspoon
7-21-2008

Ellen Grace Witherspoon, a girl, was born at 1:03 p.m. July 21, 2008, weighing 8 pounds, 14 1/2 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She is the daughter of Annie and Jonathan Witherspoon of Kingwood. Her maternal grandparents are John and Sue Ann Damron of Big Spring. Her maternal grandparents are Cliff and Linda Witherspoon of Burlson.

Ellen was welcomed home by big brother John Aaron.

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Who's Who

Academic Honors

Debbie Butts of Big Spring was named to the Dean's List at Lubbock Christian University for the spring 2008 semester.

The Dean's list requires a student be taking a minimum of 12 hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better for the semester.

Butts is a senior organizational management major and the daughter of George and Lola Sloan of Big Spring.

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

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Accused driver in botched hit that killed 3-year-old charged with murder

McALLEN (AP) — A Pharr man was arraigned on a capital murder charge Friday in the death of a 3-year-old girl last month in what investigators believe was a botched hit in an ongoing drug feud.

Dimas Daniel Zamora, 21, was behind the wheel July 29 of the Ford Taurus that cut off a car driven by Amador Garaby, allowing accomplices to riddle the vehicle with 17 bullets, said Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino.

Garaby and his wife ducked and were uninjured, but their daughter Yaritza was struck in the head. A teenage cousin in the car was also hit, but not seriously injured, Trevino said.

Yaritza's father was the intended target of the assassination near Edinburg, Trevino said.

Authorities are still looking for three other men believed to be Mexican citizens who Trevino said, "came with the specific intent of assassinating (Amador) Garaby."

The incident stemmed from a shooting at a cockfight in Hidalgo County in May,

Trevino said. Amador Garaby bailed out the shooter, angering the family and friends of a man who was injured, Trevino said.

Death toll rises to 16 in Texas charter bus crash

SHERMAN (AP) — The death toll has risen to 16 in the crash of a Texas charter bus carrying a Vietnamese Catholic group to an annual pilgrimage in Missouri.

The unlicensed bus smashed into a guardrail and skidded off a highway early Friday morning near the Texas-Oklahoma border. Twelve people died at the scene and four more have died at area hospitals. Officials said the remaining passengers and bus driver were injured.

One of the three crash victims brought to Methodist Dallas Medical Center died Friday evening, hospital spokeswoman Kathleen Beathard said. The hospital's other two victims, both men, remain in critical condition.

The bus was carrying 55 people from Houston to Carthage, Mo., for an annual festival honoring the Virgin Mary. Most of the passengers were from the Vietnamese Martyrs Church and two other mostly Vietnamese congregations in Houston.

The Marian Days pilgrimage, which started in the late 1970s, attracts thousands of Catholics of Vietnamese descent and includes a large outdoor Mass each day, entertainment and camping at night.

Lt. Bob Fair of the Sherman Police Department declined to release the names of the dead because some family members have not been notified.

The vehicle's right front tire, which blew out, had been retreaded in violation of safety standards, said Debbie Hersman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board. The tread had separated from the tire itself in a process called delamination.

"If there is a loss of pressure or the tire becomes delaminated, it's much more difficult to control the vehicle," she said.

It is legal to retread such tires but they may not be used on the wheels that steer the bus, Hersman said.

The 52-year-old driver had a commercial license but his medical certification had expired, she said. The driver was reported in stable condition at a hospital.

The bus operator, Igualea BusMex Inc. of Houston, had applied in June for a federal license to operate as a charter but was still awaiting approval, according to on-line records.

The company recently filed incorporation papers, listing the same owner and address as Angel Tours Inc., which was forced by federal regulators to take its vehicles out of interstate service June 23 after an unsatisfactory review, records show.

The review cited the company for problems in three areas: using a driver before receiving a pre-employment result, failing to require a driver to prepare a vehicle inspection report and using a driver who wasn't medically reexamined every two years.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

would give you the shirt off his back. He never met a stranger and appeared to be a friend to everyone; however, someone had a grudge against him.

Our entire family still misses him deeply and will continue to do so. The family of Arlin is having a memorial/celebration of life for him Oct. 4, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home. We hope that everyone who knew him will attend as he was a very loving person.

DEANNA HARTFORD
BILOXI, MISS.

No Wal-Mart no more

TO THE EDITOR,

I am writing this to tell you that Wal-Mart has just lost another formerly loyal customer.

The other day was the final straw. We live in Big Spring, and since moving here three years ago, have shopped at Wal-Mart for probably 90 percent of our needs. The store started carrying less and less in their material and crafts area and, as an avid crafter/sewer, this was very annoying. Now, anytime I need an item, I'm expected to drive almost 100 miles round trip to go to Midland where there is still Hancock's and Hobby Lobby. Strike one.

You've also re-arranged your shoe department. Before, all I had to do was look for the aisle with the size I wore and buy what I wanted. Since the "improved" shoe department, I have to

go down every aisle looking for something I like and then hunt to see if you have it in my size. Guess who hasn't bought shoes at Wal-Mart in a long time! PayLess actually has very nice shoes. Strike two.

A few days ago I went by the pharmacy department and asked that they order a bottle of OTC medication from Rugby ... they have ordered this numerous times for me. The girl in the pharmacy took the information and said it should be in the next day. I went back the next day and nobody knew anything about it. This time I talked with the lady where you drop off prescriptions. She was having difficulty finding it in the computer and I said I'd go home and call her back with all the numbers off my bottle at home...which I did, including the price I paid for it.

She told me she found it. Today I went to get the bottle and went to the pick-up area of the pharmacy where I've always picked it up. After waiting in line behind four other people, the girl told me she couldn't find it and suggested I look in this area, she pointed straight ahead, "where the vitamins are now." We went there and found things like Metamucil, etc. ... no vitamins.

We walked over to where the vitamins had been and, guess what, they were still there ... but not my item. I knew it wouldn't be there because of the large number of pills per bottle. I went to the drop off area of the pharmacy and, after waiting for an extended period again, this person walked over behind the first girl and came back

with my order. I put the eggs, bacon and batteries on the counter to pay for everything ... she couldn't check out the other things but said I could check out the vitamins elsewhere when I was ready.

We went immediately to the garden area where the cashier couldn't get the pharmacy item rung up, so she called the pharmacy for the numbers to enter. Imagine my surprise that the bottles had gone up almost \$6 each from a year ago when I got them! I usually order enough for a year just to avoid all the inconvenience of coming more often. I'm so glad you are "rolling back" your prices.

I took my five items and went to Customer Service where I, again, had to wait in line to ask to talk to the manager. When the manager appeared I explained that I had been in the store for 1 hour just trying to get my five little items, three of which I got myself and was asked to look for the other two in an area totally wrong. I asked why when I ordered the OTC meds and gave the lady all the info, including the price I paid last time, she didn't tell me then that the price had increased \$6 per bottle?!

The manager was well aware I was angry and this would have been a good time to initiate PR/customer service and, perhaps, state that I could have the vitamin at the former price since I wasn't informed of the price increase and had been sent on a wild goose chase trying to find it myself. Obviously, I live in a dream world as customer service/PR is no longer known in the retail

market, especially WallyWorld. Strike three.

The other evening our son and I stopped to buy him a pair of steel-toed boots for work. Even though it was a Sunday night about 9 p.m., the parking lot was pretty full and there were quite a few people in the store, but, alas, only three check-outs were open. As usual, we had to stand in line for some time, checked out and, while going through the door, Waaaaa! The alarm went off ... the cashier did not scan the proper thing to inactivate the alarm.

The "greeter" took the boots and scanned them and then asked for the sales receipt to record something. Of course we again had to wait while they corrected/documentated their mistake. When she handed the sales slip back, she stated, "If the alarm goes off again, just keep going."

It went off (no surprise to us) and we felt like crimi-

nals as we continued to walk with everyone looking at us. Strike four.

Since their remodel, we are expected to unload our carts, watch the scanner (because items are frequently scanned wrong) and load the bags back into our cart ... all at the same time. Looks like I won't get to let things pile up on the carousel until all items are scanned. Strike five.

I will no longer buy groceries at Wal-Mart, I'll quickly learn where things are in HEB. Unless I need something immediately, I'll wait and go to Midland to shop, and, after I finally got home today, I found the vitamin on the Internet. It was cheaper and no more people who act like it's an inconvenience to wait on you and act like it would kill them to be pleasant and smile.

I thought I'd still get my gas at Wal-Mart since it's usually cheaper but, I just might bite that bullet too and pay a few cents more

elsewhere ... probably HEB...looks like they'll be getting the biggest share of my business now.

The girls in the garden department are very nice but the store in general, stinks!

RITA M. BROWN
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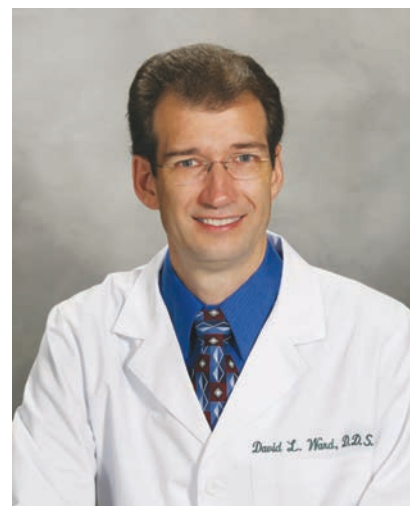
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Moments from the Big Spring International Hang Gliding Competition capture on film

Photos by Thomas Jenkins and Alex Newsom



Read the Tea Leaves, Hon

Dear Margo: I met an intelligent and absolutely drop-dead gorgeous young woman a few months ago.

I thought everything was fine between us until a few weeks ago, so I wanted to get your take on it. A few months ago, the woman in question became the new bartender at one of my favorite nightclubs outside the local area.

I spent a lot of hard-earned money for gas and tolls just so I could have drinks with her and talk when the club wasn't busy. About a month ago, she told me she was falling in love with me and wanted to start seeing me outside of the club. For a couple of weeks we were calling and texting each other like crazy until we finally decided to meet up at the beachfront across from the club for our first "official" date.

When she didn't show up, I tried calling her, but got a strange recording. I then went across the street to the club to see if she got called in to work, and the manager said she had been fired a week ago and he thought she'd moved out of state. A couple of weeks passed and I was doing my best to heal from this

ordeal, when, out of the blue, I get a call from her from an unknown number telling me that she was back in town and wanted to meet me for a movie and dinner that night.

I showed up, but yet again, she did not. How many times should I let this happen before I give up on her? — *Mystified*

Dear Myst: Well, if you are a masochist, one more time would be a trifecta. If you are a quick learner, I would say you are done right now. I can't imagine what this girl's game is, but to stand you up twice, leave town, come back, make another date and still be MIA suggests she is not wrapped real tight and you have dodged a bullet. Sometimes a fella just has to be wary of these intelligent, drop-dead gorgeous bartenders. — *Margo, summarily*

And How Do You Feel About Kids?

Dear Margo: I met a great guy two months ago, and I'm more than a little in love with him. We're totally compatible and have tons in common. I can really see myself with him for the long term, but I don't think we're on the same page about having kids. There is no way I'm ever doing that, but he has made a couple of comments that make me think he wants them.

I would do anything on earth for him except that. If it comes up after we've spent more time together

and it's a deal breaker for both of us, that'll be a lot harder than just ending this now. It's on my mind a lot, though I think it's premature to have that discussion.

Should I broach the subject with him now or wait? It's not the childbirth I'm afraid of, it's that I don't want to have kids, raise kids, or have anything to do with that kind of responsibility, which I know would totally alter my lifestyle. — *Resolute*

Dear Res: Ordinarily I would agree that discussing "will we or won't we?" in a new romance is premature. In your case, however, I would get the subject on the table ASAP because your position sounds immovable to me.

Therefore, before you get in deeper, I would raise the issue. Your hunch that he is interested in having a family is probably correct, and this is one subject that every couple should decide on before either committing to each other or marrying. Children are a major consideration — or should be. To have or not to have ... that is your question. You both need to know the answer. — *Margo, decisively*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter.

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All the world an Olympic venue for sportsman Bush

By PAUL ALEXANDER
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Most days, being the U.S. president means trying to extinguish one crisis after another.

Then there are days like Saturday.

Mountain biking on the Olympic course. Getting in a couple of hits with the women's beach volleyball team. Chuckling after being the target of a softball player's practical joke. Picking events and knowing he could get in, with a police escort ensuring traffic is no problem.

President Bush, a long-time sports fan, immersed himself into the Olympic spirit with abandon, acting like a kid — even when his body was reminding him that he's 62.

Yet there were reminders that the world's troubles follow wherever Bush

goes.

He received regular updates after Russia sent columns of tanks and reportedly bombed Georgian air bases Friday. That came after Georgia launched a military offensive to retake the breakaway province of South Ossetia. The fast-changing hostilities threaten to ignite a broader conflict in the region.

"I'm deeply concerned about the situation in Georgia," Bush told reporters. He said he worried about "a dangerous escalation in the crisis" because attacks have spread beyond the main conflict zone. "We have urged an immediate halt to the violence and a stand-down by all troops," he said.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said Bush had spoken with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and "reiter-



AP Photo/Gerald Herbert

President Bush reacts as he is pranked by being 'Bergied,' a chalk handprint discreetly placed on his back, as he visits the practice of the U.S. women's softball team at the 2008 Summer Olympic games in Beijing, China Saturday.

ated the United States position to both leaders."

Violence intruded on the games themselves when a knife-wielding Chinese man attacked two relatives of a coach for the U.S. men's volleyball team at a tourist site, killing one and injuring the other. Bush said his thoughts and prayers were with the victims and their families, and that the U.S. government has offered to provide any assistance the family needed.

Bush had official business on his agenda Sunday: meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao and other leaders of the country; attending church; speaking about religious freedom. That is a sensitive matter in China, where the government allows worship only in officially approved churches.

But mostly this was a day for athletics.

After an early wake-up call, the president headed straight to the Laoshan Olympic mountain-biking course, passing Tiananmen Square along the way. His wife, Laura, went on a tour of the Forbidden City.

Bush, a regular biker, had been itching to get back to the course that he tried out with Chinese Olympic hopefuls in 2005 during his last visit to Beijing.

In a green T-shirt and black shorts, the president

biked more than an hour on the course on a warm, muggy, hazy day, accompanied by secret service agents and aides. He dabbled at his face with a towel as he left, then called the course "really, really difficult."

"That's why I'm an amateur and they're Olympians," Bush added.

After slipping into dry clothes, the president headed for the beach volleyball at Chaoyang Park, getting sandy with defending gold medalist Misty May-Treanor on the practice courts during a half-hour stop.

Bush posed for pictures with the U.S. players and staff. May-Treanor and her partner Kerri Walsh, took a break in practice so Bush could try out a few bumps himself.

The president needs some work on his passing, mis-hitting a pair off his knuckles. When May-Treanor passed the ball back to him, he acted like he was going to dive after it but decided to stay on his feet.

Then May-Treanor turned her back to the president, offering her biker's rear for one of the traditional slaps that volleyball players frequently give each other.

"Mr. President, want to?" she asked, repeating an offer she made when Bush

gave a pep talk to the U.S. athletes before Friday's opening ceremonies.

Bush smilingly gave a flick with the back of his hand to the small of her back instead.

The president then visited with men's players Phil Dalhausser, Todd Rogers, Sean Rosenthal and Jake Gibb and some of the Brazilian players before heading to watch the U.S. women's softball team practice at the Fengtai Sports Center.

Bush huddled with the team for photos, and when they broke up, there was a chalk handprint on the back of his sweat-stained blue plaid shirt.

"You've been 'Bergied,' " he was told by the players, referring to the signature prank of outfielder Laura Berg.

Leaning against the chain-link fence surrounding the field, Bush watched the players warm up with calisthenics, then take batting practice.

Softball is being dropped as a medal event after Beijing, and the earliest it could be reinstated is 2016. Bush, one-time co-owner of the Texas Rangers major league baseball team, said he hopes that happens.

"It's good for the world to have girls playing softball," he said. "And these women are going to show young girls how to win."

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Danielle S. Ramirez, owner of Dani's Cakes-N-More, left; Cierra Landin, cookie decorator; and Nora Landin, baker, decorate cookies following the morning rush. Open a few weeks ago, the bakery has seen steady business.

Dani's dream is rising

Bakery business takes off with help from family, friends

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Features writer

Take a bowl full of vision, add a dash of talent, mix in a bag of family support and a touch of a whole lotta work. Bake at 350 degrees. Remove from oven a beautiful dream come true.

Twenty-three-year-old Danielle S. Ramirez never dreamed of becoming a small business owner and baker. Then she baked a cake and awakened a talent and sparked a dream.

"I guess it was an accident," Ramirez said. "I made a cake for a friend and I received lots of compliments. From there it was like 'Wow, I can actually do this.' I've had great support from family, especially from my husband and parents. And my grandpa. They've been a huge support. They said 'Why don't you try it (start a business)?"

"After that I met Nora Landin (local resident and long-time baker). She said 'Do you need help opening a bakery?' And I was like 'let's do it.' So we put my dream together in just a couple of months."

Although the doors have been opened for only a few weeks, Ramirez said business is sky rocketing.

"It hit me faster than I thought," she



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Cashier Ricky Garza, left, cookie decorator Cierra Landin, owner Danielle S. Ramirez and baker Nora Landin pose for a photo in the new bakery Dani's Cakes-N-More which recently opened at 603. N. Lamesa Hwy.

said. "I figured it would be a slow, small process, but business jumped that Wednesday after we opened. It was like boom and it hit me. Wow, this is really happening."

Landin, a six-year bakery employee for the former Gale's Sweet Shoppe, said she was also surprised at the

amount of business the shop has attracted in such a short time.

"It didn't expect it to happen that fast. Not on the third day," she said.

Yet, Landin said she's ready for the challenge.

See **BAKER**, Page 7C

Harrison named Tractor Supply store manager

Special to the Herald

Heath Harrison has been named store manager at the Big Spring Tractor Supply Company store under construction, according to District Manager Jack Galloway.

Tractor Supply Company is the largest retail farm and ranch supply store chain in the United States.

Harrison joined Tractor Supply Company as an assistant manager in Amarillo in 2007. He grew up on a farm and, in his spare time, enjoys hunting and

fishing.

"We are excited to have Heath on our leadership team," said Galloway. "His experience will be a great asset to this store."

In his new position, Harrison will oversee all store operations, including receiving, inventory control and merchandising, as well as customer relations and team member relations.

The new Big Spring Tractor Supply Company store is at 1104 W. Interstate 20. The store will open for business in early September.

ber.

Tractor Supply Company, listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange as TSCO, operates more than 791 stores in 43 states. Tractor Supply Company stores are focused on supplying the lifestyle needs of recreational farmers and ranchers. The company also serves the maintenance needs of those who enjoy the rural lifestyle, as well as tradesmen and small businesses.

The company offers a comprehensive selection of merchandise for the

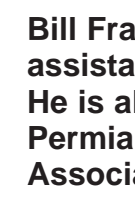
health, care, growth and containment of horses, livestock and pets; a broad selection of agricultural products; and tools and hardware selected for its customers' needs. In addition, the company sells light truck equipment, work clothing for the entire family, and an extensive line of seasonal products including lawn and garden power equipment products.

For more information on Tractor Supply, access the Web site at www.TractorSupply.com.

Energy Watch



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



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



Geopolitics haven't taken the past two weeks off, they've just been grossly overshadowed by the continued realization that energy demand in the U.S. is falling significantly. News from the Middle East and Africa has been mostly neutral to bearish because there has been very little news. There have been some positive developments on the Iran front as the U.S. has sent a negotiator to talk to Iran about a possible cessation of its nuclear program — though no definitive news has been released.

The energy markets continue to focus on demand destruction in the U.S. The news on that front has been plentiful and very bearish. Wednesday's Petroleum Status Report from the DOE was really a surprise. It showed huge gains in gasoline and distillate inventories and a drop in crude oil inventories. That scenario happens quite frequently when refiners push their capacity utilization higher. This results in more crude being used, causing the drop in crude oil stocks and more refined products being produced, causing the rise in product stocks. The shock happened when we saw that the utilization ratio actually dropped by a huge 2.4 percent on the week.

After seeing that imports hadn't significantly increased, we came to the realization that demand destruction was the only explanation. Refiners had clearly noticed the slowing demand because they refined less crude. However, the demand was so low that even the lower rate of production resulted in inventory increases for the refined products. Gasoline demand failed to pick up, despite its seasonal tendency to rise in the summer. Distillate demand dropped from last week. Jet fuel demand dropped precipitously.

The picture painted by the report was exceedingly bearish and it took the markets about an hour to figure it out. Once they did, the sell-off was severe. Crude oil futures moved higher initially because the headlines read that crude oil inventories were down more than expected. After touching a high of more than \$128, crude finished the day at just \$124.44. By Friday, crude had sold off all the way to the mid \$122s, a very key support level. A violation of that support could lead to prices reaching \$115 or even \$110 very quickly. However, the \$122.50 level held for now.

The natural gas market saw similar weakness this week, also because of slower than expected demand. The key difference though, is that natural gas usage is much more tied to weather than it is to price. Consumers don't typically react very quickly or significantly with moves in natural gas prices, primarily because they are only reminded of the high prices once a month when the bill arrives. Automobile drivers are reminded at least once a week when they have to fill up their car. This summer's weather has continued to be mild, meaning that air conditioning needs are significantly less than normal leading to higher than expected increases in natural gas inventories over the past two weeks. With the inventory increases and lack of any bullish news, natural gas markets have completely rolled over. Prices reached more than \$14 per million BTUs not more than a month ago, but general weakness in commodities coupled with bearish fundamentals has crushed natural gas prices. After Thursday's inventory report, August natural gas futures actually dipped under \$9 briefly.

There is one final point to consider this week. The huge sell-off in energy futures over the past three weeks has occurred during hurricane season, a period that almost always causes prices to rise as traders build in some risk premium. Not only that, but don't forget that an active Category 2 Hurricane (Dolly) was in the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall in Texas last week. To see prices falling this sharply despite an active hurricane in the gulf is simply amazing and bodes for how truly bearish the data and sentiment have become.

Portions of this article were produced by Nathan Golz, futures researcher. Its publication is a collaborative effort and the information is obtained from sources considered reliable, however accuracy is not guaranteed by A.G. Edwards. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results and additional information is available upon request (432) 684-7335. A.G. Edwards is a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.

Drug price hikes draw scrutiny from lawmakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pharmaceutical companies are increasingly hiking the prices of specialty medications by 100 percent or more — sometimes much more — attracting scrutiny from lawmakers who have pledged to lower health care costs.

Drug prices have historically outpaced those of other consumer goods, with the average price of medicines most-often prescribed to seniors rising 7.4 percent last year, according to the advocacy group AARP.

But several hundred medica-

tions have seen prices jump much, much higher — and their numbers appear to be growing.

Prices on 64 drugs are expected to more than double this year, up from just 22 in 2004, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota.

Many of the drugs are used to treat rare ailments, such as Ovation Pharmaceuticals' Cosmegen, which is prescribed exclusively to children with rare kidney cancer. The company raised the drugs' price more than 3,400 percent in 2006 to \$593.75 from

just \$16.79.

A company spokeswoman explained that Cosmegen and other Ovation drugs are used by just a few hundred patients each year. After acquiring the prod-

See **HIKES**, Page 7C

Drug dealers buy Washington vineyards to hide pot

By SHANNON DININNY
Associated Press Writer

WAPATO, Wash. — Across central Washington's fruit bowl, farmers are buying vineyards, hoping to establish roots in the area and capitalize on the booming wine industry.

Authorities believe some of the buyers are living in Mexico and their vineyards are producing tens of thousands of illegal marijuana plants — a crop that could easily surpass grapes in value this year.

Law enforcement officials in the Yakima Valley already have converged on seven vineyards that had been converted to marijuana operations this summer. At least five had been recently purchased — the buyers are still be-

ing tracked — and one had been leased to pot growers by an unknowing owner.

Pot growers aren't just hiding their crops in national forests and random cornfields any more, said Washington State Patrol Sgt. Richard A. Beghtol.

"They are able to amass a huge amount of money and using that money to go out and buy land to do their marijuana cultivation," Beghtol said. "It's their big moneymaker."

The valley, home to acres of fruit orchards and hop fields, has long been recognized as an important pipeline in the drug trade with easy interstate access to Seattle, Portland and points east.

Crackdowns at the Canadian and Mexican borders

have made it more difficult to ship marijuana into the United States, prompting dealers to establish U.S. growing operations.

A bust of more than 60,000 plants on the Yakama Indian Reservation in 2004, one of the biggest nationwide at the time, was traced to organized crime in Mexico and valued at more than \$35 million.

By 2006, authorities were seizing more than 144,000 marijuana plants across Washington state. That number more than doubled the following year to 296,611 plants, reflecting a rise in both drug activity and enforcement efforts, said Rene Rivera, the Drug Enforcement Agency's agent in charge in Yakima.

"This year, we're probably going to surpass 2007 easily, just given the way we're starting," Rivera said.

Water use is often a vital clue. Beghtol has noted that grape vines require much less water than marijuana, which needs daily irrigation.

Drug enforcement teams have confiscated approximately 110,000 marijuana plants valued at more than \$100 million this spring and summer in the Yakima Valley alone, and they haven't even begun their annual aerial surveillance.

In 2006, grapes ranked No. 11 among Washington state crops with a value of \$144.2 million. Vineyards cover about 31,000 acres.

Finding farmers willing to sell their property isn't difficult. Fewer farmers have children who want to take over the family business, and rising costs have driven many farmers off the land despite increas-



AP Photo/Yakima Herald-Republic, Kris Holland

Law enforcement officers remove bundles of marijuana from a home near Wapato, Wash. on Wednesday. An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 marijuana plants were confiscated in the bust. Law enforcement officials already have converged on seven vineyards that had been converted to marijuana operations this summer.

ing prices for their crops.

But dealers aren't just limiting their property buys to older sellers, Beghtol said.

In one case, drug operatives approached a farmer who didn't have his farm listed for sale. He resisted until, asked to name a price.

He threw out a figure: \$263,000 for 27 acres and no building. The buyer showed up a few days later and bought the property in cash, Beghtol said.

The seller had no idea the farm would become a marijuana operation.

"The Yakima Valley is a huge player. These are big operations that are difficult to track down," Beghtol said. "They use fictitious names, they put property in daughters', wives' names to conceal identity and try to thwart law enforcement from going forward with civil forfeiture."

There have been 22 arrests this year. Authori-

ties expect that number to rise as aerial surveillance begins later this summer.

As arrests mount, vineyard purchases by marijuana growers will likely decline, predicts Vicky Scharlau, executive director of the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers.

"I suspect after you've had numerous busts, somebody's future plan for growing pot in vineyards is going to be thwarted," she said.

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Irene Lopez Alaniz, 774 E. Highway 80 Apt. 230, Abilene
Bryan Layton Allison, 1108 College Circle, Ranger
Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 N. Sixth Street, Lamesa
Sonia M. Barlow, 4209 Parkway, Big Spring
Casey D. Bernal, 901 Grand, Hereford
Vern Black, 329 W Tennessee, Floydada
Jeremy Bolton, 506 N. Avenue L, Lamesa
Sheli Lynn Buck, 1101 E. 15th Street, Big Spring
Richard Henry Burk, PO Box 171933, Arlington
Michelle Marie Carrasco, 1704 Yale Avenue, Big Spring
Krishna Nicole Castillo, 905 Walnut, Colorado City
Jared Wendell Coby, 901 S. High Street, Longview
Doyce Ray Coyle, 3301 Auburn, Big Spring
Wesley Wayne Crow, 2400 Robb Lane, Big Spring
Susan Cuellar, 2301 N. Pecos #238, Midland
Wanda Cunningham, 1505 Avion, Big Spring
Corey D. Dancer, 2605 Alamesa Drive, Big Spring
Ramona Davila, 2143 Texas Ave, San Antonio
Briandee A. Eberhardt, 197 Briarwood Lane, Big Spring
Wesley Allen Edmondson, 505 E. 14th Street, Big Spring
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James Randal Gardner, PO Box 1490, Lyons, Colo.
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Kristin Hawkins, 405 N. Moss Lake Road, Big Spring
Sharon Annette James, 1215 Cedar, Colorado City
Brandy Johnson, 24327 Pleasonton, San Antonio
Rene M. Johnson, 9205 W. County Road 174, Midland
Robert Michael Kleck, P.O. Box

35, Rotan
Lynda Kynam, 2503 Central, Big Spring
Joshua David Mackenstein, 414 Hickory/3417 N. Midland Drive, Midland
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2503 Fairchild, Big Spring
Anna Marie Moreno, 4656 St. Frances Ave., Dallas
Michael Todd McClinton, 1003 S. Midkiff, Midland
William Leslie Neal, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
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Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road Apt. 226, Big Spring
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Williard M. Robinson, 1600 S. Lancaster #405, Big Spring
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Christina Williams, 400 Macarthur, Odessa

County Court Decisions

Probated Judgement: Laura Louise Partlow, resisting arrest, \$500 fine, \$276 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation).
Probated Judgement: Roberto Dutchover Perez, assault causing bodily harm, \$1,500 fine, \$326 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).

Judgement Sentence: Johnny Lara, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Probated Judgement: Laura McCallay, driving while intoxicated – open container, \$500 fine, \$443 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation), 6 months license suspended.
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Xavier Gonzales, possession of marijuana – less than 2 ounces, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 12 months probation.
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Amanda Denise Gray, possession of marijuana – less than 2 ounces, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 3 months probation.
Probated Judgement: Leslie Smithwick, possession of marijuana – more than 2 ounces and less than 4 ounces, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement: Vincent McVea-Hill, driving while license suspended with previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement: Chauncy Lavar Ford, possession of marijuana – more than 2 ounces and less than 4 ounces, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Juan Cordova, driving while license suspended, \$500 fine, \$276 court costs, six months.
Probated Judgement: Alexander Burciaga, possession of marijuana – less than two ounces, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement: Steven Alvarez, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$276 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation).

Probated Judgement: Lana D. Martinez, driving while license suspended with previous conviction or suspension, \$250 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation).
Probated Judgement: Donni Kay Robertson, theft – more than \$50 and less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Michael Paul Woellert, driving while license suspended with previous conviction, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, six months probation.
Judgement Sentence: Jimmy Juarez, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$443 court costs, 60 days in jail.
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Randy Olivas Salazar, driving while license suspended with previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, 6 months probation.
Probated Judgement: Rickey Earl Hokes, driving while intoxicated – second offense, \$1,500 fine, \$443 court costs, 365 days in jail (judgement suspended, 180 days license suspended).
Probated Judgement: Wesley Ray Newcomb, possession of marijuana – less than 2 ounces, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 6 months probation.
Probated Judgement: Jerry Thomas Stanhope, driving while intoxicated, \$1,000 fine, \$443 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation), twelve months license suspended.
Probated Judgement: Casey Gene Richter, driving while intoxicated, \$500 fine, \$443 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation), 365 days license suspended.
Judgement Sentence: Bryan Heath Pearson, bail jumping and failure to appear, \$328 court costs, 90 days in jail

Judgement Sentence: Saul Gonzales, possession of marijuana – under two ounces, \$500 fine, \$428 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Probated Judgement: Adrian Yanez, possession of marijuana – less than two ounces, \$1,500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, twelve months probation).
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Linda Ann Foster, possession of marijuana – less than two ounces, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, six months probation.
Probated Judgement: James Russell Hall, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$443 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation), six months license suspended.
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Almus Henry Hill, driving while license suspended with previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$278 court costs, six months probation.
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Kevin Patrick Thomas, possession of marijuana – less than two ounces (drug free zone), \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, six months probation.
Probated Judgement: Debra Rene Shaeffer, fail to identify/fugitive/intentionally give false information, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation).
Probated Judgement: Blake Ryan Lyle, fail to identify/fugitive/intentionally five false information, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, 180 days in jail (judgement suspended, six months probation).
Probated Judgement – Deferred Adjudication: Jarron Vanderbilt, driving while license suspended, \$500 fine, \$328 court costs, twelve months probation.
District Court Filings:
Carmen M. Castillo vs. Guadalupe R. Castillo, divorce.
Amanda Ruby Saucedo vs. Nick Valencia, protective order.
B. H. Wilson vs. Connie R. Wilson, divorce.

Cheree Susan Reagan vs. Jeffrey Brian Reagan, divorce
Mica J. Pearson vs. Jacob Ferro, protective order.
Jacob Calvio vs. Irma R. Calvio, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Antonio Gonzales, 31, and Teresa DeLeon, 29, both of Big Spring
Roger Dale Galloway, 46, and Virginia Dianne Mayo, 48, both of Big Spring.
Billy Thomas Adkins, 42, Kelli Dee James, 25, both of Rochester.
Jose Manuel Holguin, 43, and Mary Ann Guiterrez, 47, both of Coahoma.
Ryan K. Sayles, 22, and Jennifer D. Lopez, 23, both of Big Spring.

Warranty Deeds:

Grantor: Glenda Kruhm
Grantee: Dean Lasater
Property: Lots 3-5, Block 13, South Haven Addition
Date: July 31, 2008

Grantor: Ricky Paul Watkins et al
Grantee: Jesus Bustamante
Property: Lot 12, Block 48, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: August 1, 2008

Grantor: Wretha L. Speer
Grantee: Alvin C. Mize and Billie Y. Mize
Property: Lot 10, Block 4, Suset Place Addition
Date: August 1, 2008

Grantor: Stephen K. Sinclair and Mary Margaret Sinclair
Grantee: Bonnie J. Hale Cushing
Property: Lot 2, Block 18, Kentwood Addition
Date: August 1, 2008

Grantor: Howard Walker and Marijo Walker
Grantee: Kelton U. Gaston and Teresa K. Gaston
Property: .95 acre tract of land in the SE/4 of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T. & P. RR. Co.
Date: August 1, 2008

BAKER

Continued from Page 6C

“I’m a baker. I was born a baker,” she said. “I love it. Business has been going good for a week and a half. I’m 53 years old. I have a lot of miles on me but I’m not going to give up. “I’ve never accomplished my dream (of opening my own bakery), but she (Ramirez) gave me a chance. They accepted me as a family member and that makes my job easier.”
When doors open at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday — at 8 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays — the race is on to keep up with the demand for warm, freshly baked empanadas and hot breads, the women said.

“Empanadas are the number one item,” Landin said. “We find it hard to keep up with. We don’t fry them. They’re baked, which is what a lot of customers like.”

“At 6:30 a.m. we get hit,” Ramirez added. “All our empanadas are gone.”

The bakery offers a variety of sweets and services.

“We have coffee, we sell cheesecakes by the slice, lava cakes, old-fashioned root beer floats and cokes,” Ramirez said. “We have cookies of all varieties, dipped strawberries. You can special order cakes for birthdays, weddings, Quinceañeras.”

“I feel like our wedding cakes are reasonable,” she continued. “I’ve been in that situation where I’ve wanted a beautiful wed-

ding cake and did not want to have to pay an arm and leg for it. I know a lot of young adults don’t have \$500 to blow on a wedding cake.”

But it’s her breads that the young Mrs. Ramirez takes the most pride in.

“We’ve experimented with them a lot,” she said. We’ve receive lots of compliments on our banana breads. Most everything we make is from scratch. I won’t lie, our cinnamon rolls are bought from Cisco but everything else is made from scratch. It’s just our hard work.”

Ramirez said her talent was handed down in her family.

“My great-grandmother Tommie Mendoza did a lot of cooking,” she said. “I learned by watching

my grandmother, Linda Ramirez. I think I got my inspiration from my grandmothers.”

And she is quick to point out her family’s contribution.

“My husband, Michael, works full-time — he’s a pumper — and he put this together for me,” she said. “In about a month he restored this building for me. He’ll come out here and bake cookies. He’ll get the job done.”

And he’s not the only one who lends a hand.

“My mom (Maria Salazar) helps with the empanadas,” she said. “My dad, (Jesse Salazar) is great. He’ll greet you when you come and my grandparents will come in for coffee.”

“It’s a great support sys-

tem. I know my without my parent’s support and my husband’s I probably wouldn’t be here.”

And a special customer helps to grease her creative juices.

“It’s always good when you have a grandpa (Jesse Mendoza) who says ‘Hey. make me a cake today.’” she said with a smile. “Even before I opened. It was always ‘Mija, make me cookies or make me a cake or something sweet.’ That’s is kind of where I got the courage to try different things. I didn’t want to just make him the same thing over and over.”

But her most demanding critics and fans are her young children: six-year-old Aaron, the big boy; 4-year-old Haley, the

budding cookie and cake decorator; and soon-to-be 2-year-old Jesslynn, the baby.

“I love baking,” she said. “It’s a sacrifice being away from my kids but I know they are being well taken care of. They’re my world. Hopefully this will succeed and if it does this will be for my kids.”

Dani’s Cakes-N-More is located at 603 N. Lamesa Hwy. Business hours are 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

The phone number is 213-7370. Visit www.danicakesmore.com on the Web or e-mail daniscakesmore@yahoo.com.

HIKES

Continued from Page 6C

ucts from Merck in 2002, she said Ovation could not afford to keep them on the market without raising prices.

“These are not the big cancers that are going to yield huge profits,” said Ovation spokeswoman Sally Benjamin Young. “If

this drug were to go away, what’s left for these children?”

She pointed out that drugs like Cosmegen, which are no longer patent-protected, are still much cheaper than newer cancer therapies like Genentech Inc.’s Avastin, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars for a year’s supply.

“Our products are relatively inexpensive and save lives,” Young said.

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- * **connects** your **family** to the right services
- * **encourages-insists** on parent participation
- * **focuses** on the **total** well-being of your child

Size of Family Unit	Guidelines
1.....	\$10,400
2.....	\$14,000
3.....	\$17,600
4.....	\$21,200
5.....	\$24,800
6.....	\$28,400
7.....	\$32,000
8.....	\$35,600

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,600 for each additional member
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Aug. 19 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club “Hunan’s,” 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 20 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.
Lunch-N-Learn, 11:30 a.m.
“Dr. Hoffman” speaker

Aug. 21 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
“Just Peachy Café” - coffee club 10 a.m.
Bunko - 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 22 – Pot Luck & Bingo, 11:30-2:00 p.m.
Summer Mummer’s, 5:00 p.m. - ???
RSVP by Aug. 8th

Aug. 25 – Games, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Aug. 26 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Supper Club “Cowboy’s,” 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 27 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 p.m.

Aug. 28 – Mall Walking, 8:00 a.m.
Just Peachy Cafe - Coffee Club, 10:00 a.m.

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Gross tales get boys to read

By JOHN HECHINGER

The Wall Street Journal

The book's main character slaughtered his victims by running them through with sharp stakes. He once left hundreds dying slowly on a hillside while the soil grew "muddy with blood" and "blackbirds flocked around the corpses, fighting for a meal."

Although it has the contours of a horror story — with splashes of red ink on its pages depicting blood — it's actually a children's book. "Vlad the Impaler: The Real Count Dracula" is widely available in libraries and is making its way into middle-school social-studies classes.

Children's publisher Scholastic Corp. features the 128-page tale of the 15th-century Romanian sociopath in its new "Wicked History" series, also starring "Leopold II: Butcher of the Congo" and "Mary Tudor: Courageous Queen or Bloody Mary?"

Publishers are hawk-ing more gory and gross books to appeal to an elusive market: boys — many of whom would rather go to the dentist than crack open "Little House on the Prairie." Booksellers are also catering to teachers and parents desperate to make young males more literate.

"There has been a real revolution" in books that "have more kid appeal," especially when it comes to boys, says Ellie Berger, who oversees Scholastic's trade division. "It's a shift away from the drier books we all grew up with."

Last year, U.S. publishers released 261 new works of juvenile fiction aimed at boys, more than twice the

number put out in 2003, according to Bowker's Books in Print database. There were 20 nonfiction entries for boys, compared with just four in 2003.

Scholastic last fall started selling both "Wicked History" and "24/7: Science Behind the Scenes," a series inspired by the cadaver-heavy hit TV show, "CSI." One title in the series is "Help! What's Eating My Flesh: Runaway Staph and Strep Infections!" Readers are treated to color pictures of putrefying limbs and the warning that "sometimes, relatively harmless bacteria can turn into a gruesome killer." The two series already have more than 300,000 copies in print.

Karen Parker, a seventh-grade science teacher in Montgomery, Ala., plans to use the "24/7" series in her classes this coming fall after finding it on a recommended list from the National Science Teachers Association. "Half the battle is getting boys to want to read," she says.

In a series called "Sanitation Investigation," Capstone Press in the fall is bringing out "Getting to Know Your Toilet: The Disgusting Story Behind Your Home's Strangest Feature." Other popular selections in the grossness genre include Workman Publishing's "Oh, Yuck: The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty" and Simon & Schuster's "It's Disgusting and We Ate It! True Food Facts from Around the World and Throughout History." (Think worms, rats and squirrels.)

Jan Harp Domene, national president of the Par-

ent Teacher Association, decries what she calls publishers' "shock tactics" to reach young males. She wants boys to read about

education professor at Boise State University. Prof. Wilhelm tracked boys' reading habits for five years ending in 2005 and found that schools failed to meet their "motivational needs." Teachers assigned novels about relationships, such as marriage, that appealed to girls but bored boys. His survey of academic research found boys more likely to read nonfiction, especially about sports and other activities they enjoy, as well as funny, edgy fiction.

Boys' literary depth is an abiding concern in educational circles. Boys have persistently lagged behind girls in reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, an influential federal test for gauging achievement. The gap widens by the time they reach 12th grade.

Many experts attribute the lag to the time spent with the printed page. In a survey of bookstores this year by Simba Information, a publishing-industry market-research firm, only 2 percent said boys made up most of their children's book customers. As adults, females also outscore males on literacy ex-

ams, and continue to read more. In an age when the Internet is pulling many away from books, boys in particular spend more time than girls do on computers and videogaming.

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, with more than 400 million copies in print, successfully crossed the gender divide. But research from Scholastic, the U.S. publisher of the wizard series, shows that children's interest in reading declines sharply starting at age 8 and continues to fall into the teens, especially among boys.

In battling for those boys, many in the industry consider Scholastic's "Captain Underpants" series a major victory. First published in 1997, the series, with plenty of toilet humor and pictures, has 37 million copies in print. In 2003, Scholastic followed up with "The Day My Butt Went Psycho," which the publisher says is "the epic tale of a brave young boy and his crazy runaway butt." Now a trilogy with the latest installment published two years ago, the "Butt" series has racked up 1.2 million copies.

Kevin Bolger, an elementary-school teacher in Ottawa, offers "Captain Underpants" to his third-grade classes, calling the response "awesome." "It's like reading-candy," Mr. Bolger says.

The experience inspired

Mr. Bolger to write his own children's book, "Sir Fart-salot Hunts the Booger." It's the story of "the bravest, boldest and, most, er, potent knight in all the land." The hero is on "a quest to solve the riddle of the foul west wind — a ghastly odor that turns up whenever danger's lurking." Pearson PLC's Penguin Group published the book in May. It's already in its second printing, with 55,000 copies now in print.

Ben Schrank, president of Penguin's Razorbill children's imprint, says the book, especially the title, inspired internal debate and critical blog comments, including one saying his company had "sunk to a new low." But Mr. Schrank calls the book's humor "sophisticated," saying the industry must publish fiction that "will pull a boy away from a videogame."

Mr. Schrank might be talking about 10-year-old Parker Self. Parker, who lives in Dallas, dismisses "Charlotte's Web" as a "girl's book" and assigned texts from school as "good for nothing" and "really boring to read." He prefers soccer and his PlayStation.

His mother, Hope, worried that Parker would never open a book. Then, Parker's grandmother found a copy of "The Day My Butt Went Psycho," and the boy was hooked.

Kevin Bolger, an elementary school teacher in Ottawa, offers "Captain Underpants" to his third-grade classes, calling the response "awesome." "It's like reading-candy," Mr. Bolger says.

the heroes of Greek mythology, the fantasy of Jules Verne and the antics of Tom Sawyer. "Does it all have to be blood and guts and gore?" she asks.

Eleven-year-old Yathrib Aryanpure, who just finished sixth grade in Tuscaloosa, Ala., says the answer is a resounding yes. He loved "Vlad the Impaler," especially when the boy learned the tyrant was assassinated, ending up with his own severed head on a stick. "I like gory books," he says. "Vlad the Impaler went on a killing rampage. In the end, he got a taste of his own medicine."

Scholastic and other publishers are heeding the research of such academics as Jeffrey Wilhelm, an ed-

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Pin Poppers Ladies	4	Wed	20 Aug 08	9:00pm
Wed Night Trio (mixed)	4	Wed	20 Aug 08	6:30pm
Wed Strikers (men)	4	Wed	27 Aug 08	8:30pm
VA Couples (mixed)	4	Thu	28 Aug 08	6:00pm
Thur Night Owls (mixed)	2	Thu	28 Aug 08	8:30pm
Guys & Dolls (mixed)	3	Fri	5 Sep 08	6:30pm
Youth Strikers	3	Sat	6 Sep 08	10:00am

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Officials tout 'No Child Left Inside'

By KRISTEN WYATT

Associated Press Writer

BETHEL, Del.—Canoeing trips on the Chesapeake Bay. Endangered butterfly camps for teachers in Rhode Island. A new corral and barn for a nature center in Texas that wants to show kids live bison.

Outdoor and environmental educators across the nation are ramping up pressure on Congress and their state lawmakers to add funding for nature learning. The effort dubbed "No Child Left Inside" could mean millions more for environmental education — and a major windfall for nonprofits hoping for more federal help getting kids outside.

The resolution, which awaits a vote in the House, would send money to nonprofits and state departments of education for outdoor education aimed at kids who now spend more time in front of computer screens, video games and televisions than playing outside.

"This is so cool," says 12-year-old Emma Osborn, an Annapolis, Md., girl climbing out of a canoe she spent eight hours steering down Broad Creek through rural Delaware.

Osborn is one of a dozen or so kids on a weeklong outdoor camp run by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a nonprofit group that works to clean up the nation's largest estuary. Environmental education is a major task of the Foundation, which teaches nature programs

to 40,000 kids across three states each year. Highlights of this weeklong camp include night hikes, setting up tents and campfires and learning to read topographical maps and navigate canoes.

"I've never seen that many stars in my life," Osborn said, recounting her favorite event, the night hike.

Environmental activism groups say nature learning is crucial amid alarming rates of childhood obesity and a growing concern about the health of the outdoors.

"You're seeing a disconnection from the natural world," said Don Baugh, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's vice president for education. "And you're also seeing a lot of health issues from kids not building a fort out back or playing on the stoop and their neighborhood."

Those worries are getting politicians' attention.

"I think it's responding to a number of anxieties out there," especially childhood obesity and the environment, said Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Md., lead sponsor of the "No Child Left Inside" bill. "The next generation is the one that's going to make or break us as a planet."

Sarbanes hopes that when Congress revisits the No Child Left Behind law next year, they'll revise it to include some \$500 million over five years for outdoor education. Though Sarbanes is a freshman lawmaker, and he concedes there's not much time left

before Congress' terms ends to steer the resolution through to passage, he said he's optimistic his proposal will clear at the least the House before returning next term.

As Congress weighs Sarbanes' proposal, many states aren't waiting, even as declining tax revenues in most states mean less money for new programs. New environmental literacy requirements are pending from Maryland to Oregon. The plans could mean a boost for groups offering outdoor education already through a patchwork of grants and private donations.

"Not one person I've ever talked to doesn't think this is a good idea," said Shareen Knowlton, director of education at the Roger Williams Zoo and Park in Providence, R.I. Knowlton runs weeklong teacher training courses on American burying beetles and wants to start a new program studying the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly — "but the funding isn't there," she said.

At the Sibley Nature Center, a 49-acre nature preserve in West Texas, executive director Burr Williams has two nature teachers but wants to hire more, and build a corral and barn to hold live animals. He says the "No Child Left Inside" push is the result of years of pressure from outdoor educators to bring back the classic field trip.

"This is really a product of thousands of educators

pushing Congress to get at it," Williams said. "You're sitting at a desk in rows, you're engaging a couple of your senses. If you go outside, you engage all your senses."

In New Mexico, where lawmakers two years ago set aside money to send more schoolchildren to state parks, the fund was increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 after only one year.

"It's so important to look at the education of the child in terms of the environment," said state Sen. Cynthia Nava, sponsor of that state's Outdoor

Classroom Initiative and a school superintendent in southern New Mexico.

Park officials are pushing for nature education, too. In Maryland, where Gov. Martin O'Malley issued an executive order earlier this year pushing for more outdoors education, parks managers plan to start work later this month on new nature teaching programs.

"We've got this growing crisis on our hands where we've got these kids magnetized to the computer," said John Griffin, head of Maryland's Department of Natural

Resources, which manages state parks. "This idea is really catching fire all over the country. ... We want our parks to be not just parks but learning laboratories for kids."

The potential for more funding has outdoor educators e-mailing Congress and crossing their fingers for money to expand.

"I would love to offer more programs," said Katie Girvin, curator for education at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park in Florida, which started its first day camps this summer.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Coahoma Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, August 19, 2008 in Administration Building, 600 N. Main, Coahoma, 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	\$1.04000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.17000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay 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	4.00000% increase or _____% (decrease)
Debt service	1.00000% increase or _____% (decrease)
Total expenditures	5.00000% increase or _____% (decrease)

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	\$ 384,393,971.00	\$ 475,518,779.00
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 462,955.00	\$ 3,398,009.00
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 299,909,471.00	\$ 394,479,928.00
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 471,320.00	\$ 2,707,449.00

* "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* \$ 13,258,000.00

* Outstanding principal.

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	\$0.25000*	\$1.29000	\$4,993.00	\$4,806.00
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.04162	\$0.17238*	\$1.21400	\$6,085.00	\$3,616.00
Proposed Rate	\$1.04000	\$0.17000*	\$1.21000	\$6,121.00	\$3,673.00

*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

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

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$43,109.00	\$50,296.00
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$19,488.00	\$25,237.00
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.22
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 251.40	\$ 306.63
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 55.23

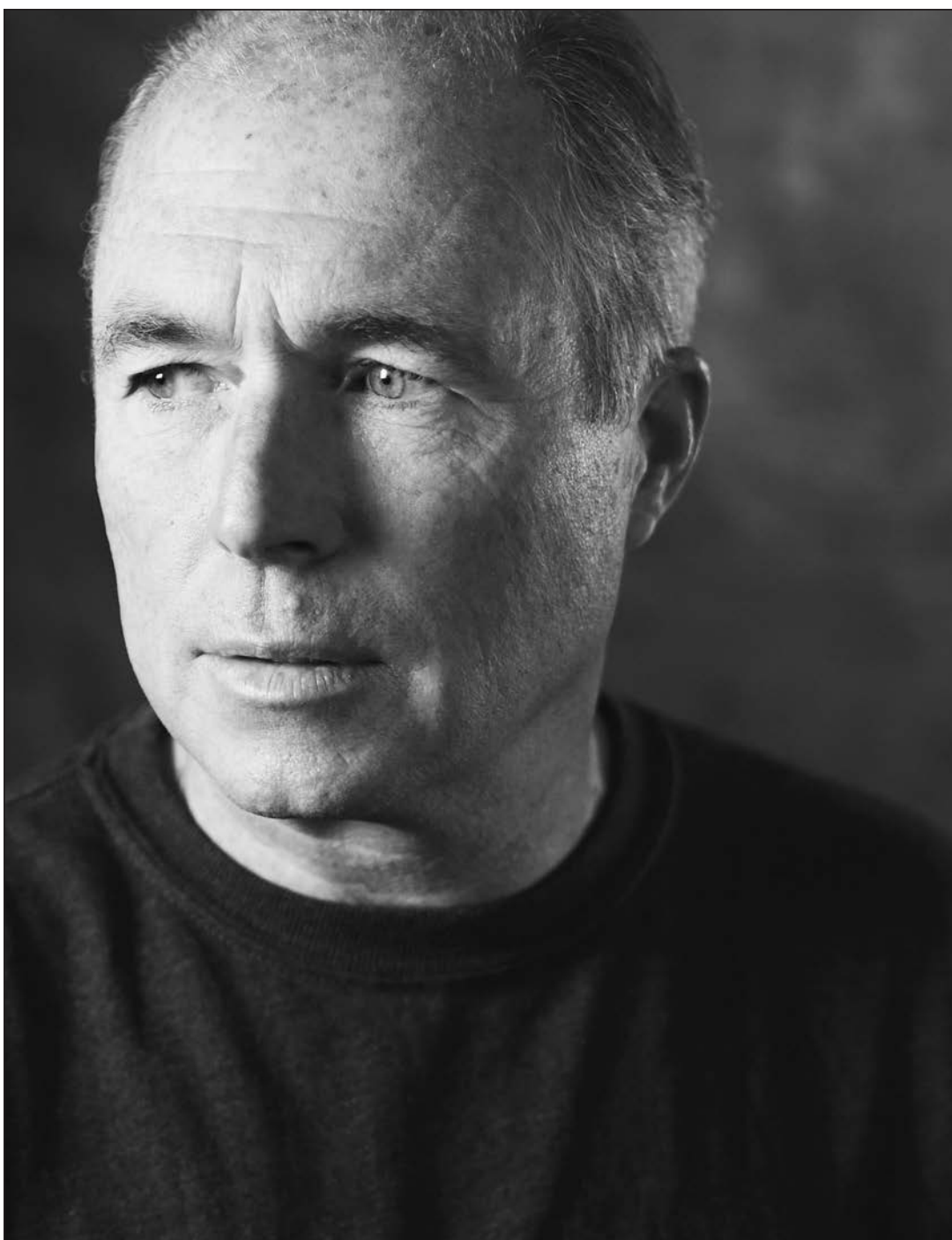
Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year 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 1.0597. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.0597.

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)	\$624,000.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 50,000.00



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CEMETERY LOTS. Payout plans available. No interest or carrying charges. \$10.00 down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

SAVE \$\$\$\$\$\$ on monuments/markers. We deliver to all cemeteries. Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mt Olive Monuments. 432-264-7722.

SPECIAL SALE. Two grave spaces for the price of one. Pay-out plan available. \$50.00 Down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

Garage Sales

DAHMER'S ANTIQUES has Sold! 204-206 Main. Everything must go by August 23rd. No reasonable offer refused. Sale doors will open Monday July 28th 10:00am-3:00pm. Sale will continue till August 24th. Phone 432-264-8048.

GARAGE SALE, 1002 Baylor Blvd. Sale in back of alley. Saturday, 8:00am-3:00pm and Sunday, 8:00am-1:00pm.

GARAGE SALE, Saturday & Sunday, 10:00AM. 2112 Scurry St. Adult & children clothes, toys, crib & bedding, high chair, carseat, glass coffee table, lots of misc. items. Large rainbow playset with two slides and four swings, 4 years old.

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432-264-1692

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Roll-a-way bed, furniture, clothes, dishes, antiques, jewelry, collectibles, books, Elvis Records. Much More.

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED- Apply at Red Mesa Grill, 2401 S. Gregg.

D.H. BLATTNER & Sons, Inc. is looking for the following safety conscience, experienced personnel for our Wind Turbine Project near Sweetwater, TX:

- Blade Operators
- Crane Operators
- Dozer Operators
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- Excavation Supervisors

Also looking for Wind Turbine Installers for extended projects. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply at Sweetwater Workforce Center, 606 E. Broadway, Sweetwater, TX 79556; apply on-line at www.dhblattner.com or call 1-888-356-2307 to request an application. Applications and resumes can be mailed to: DH Blattner, 13770 CR 4153, PO Box 220, Roscoe, TX 79545. Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted



INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

Designs, develops, implements, and maintains curriculum layout in electronic formats for 100% on-line, hybrid, and technologically enhanced courseware; Facilitates and trains faculty and students in effective use of on-line/web-based teaching technologies; conducts teaching workshop. Communicate frequently and effectively with various project collaborators to ensure that goals and objectives are being fulfilled. Required: Bachelor degree with 2-4 years experience; Preferred: Masters and/or teaching certification. Details and applications can be obtained on-line at: www.utpb.edu or the Human Resource Office (432)552-2747. Subject to Education Code Section 51.215.

HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR

Requires a high school diploma or GED and at least six months experience as a Housekeeper in a hospital or nursing home setting. Please mail or fax your resume, or call for an application to be sent to you.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER

1601 West 11th Place
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Phone: (432)268-4833
Fax: (432)268-4959
Equal Opportunity Employer

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT needed in Big Spring. Flexible hours, pay (DOE), Call 432-335-2971.

LVN

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Please come by or mail resume to:

Attn: Maxine Roberts, RN

InHome Care, Inc.
1104 Scurry
Big Spring, Tx
79720



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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, in Lubbock, Texas is offering (based on eligibility) a substantial **RECRUITMENT BONUS, COBRA, and MOVING EXPENSES.** We are accepting applications for the following positions at the John T. Montford Correctional Facility. Successful candidates will be required to pass a TDCJ security clearance.

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Correctional GN and GVN

8 hours Shifts - Full Time - 8 Hour Shifts - No On Call
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To find out if you qualify for this great opportunity, please call
Raye Mitchell at (806) 745-1021, ext. 1215
Apply online at <http://jobs.texasstc.edu>
RN Requisition number: 77157
LVN Requisition number: 76701
TTUHSC is an EEO/AA Employer

CRMWD
Colorado River Municipal Water District

The Colorado River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions in the Big Spring Area.

Operations Supervisor - Supervise Maintenance employees to assure smooth operation of District facilities while following direction of the Operations Superintendent. The successful candidate will have the experience necessary to successfully plan, direct, organize, and, oversee the daily activities of a crew maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pumps, and pump stations.

Electrician - Trouble shoot, service, and maintain pump control panels, electric motors up to 3000 hp, power distribution systems, electrical substations, submersible motors, and commercial and residential wiring. Intermediate level position, basic understanding of electronics/electricity needed.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 406 E. 23rd Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or by calling (432) 267-6341 or email www.crmwd.org

Immediate opening for the following position:

Contract Land Leasing Agent

Skills Required:

- ★ Great sales experience.
- ★ Must possess strong negotiating skills.
- ★ Experience sales skills including ability to follow-up and close.
- ★ Excellent verbal and written skills.
- ★ Must be proficient in Word and Excel.
- ★ Able to work well in a team environment.
- ★ Ability to close a lease or contract.
- ★ Willing to travel.

Experience:

- ★ Must have 5 years experience in Land Leasing/Sales/Real Estate/Insurance.
- ★ Must have Brokers License or Real Estate License.

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LAND SERVICES

Send resume to:
Human Resource
511 West Missouri Avenue
Midland, Texas 79701
Phone: 432.618.1923 Fax: 432.618.0502
E-mail: lamador@mmbco.com
"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Help Wanted

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM. Air Evac Lifeteam is seeking Medical Professionals. **Registered Nurse** must have a minimum of three years of experience in either Emergency Department or Intensive Care unit. Air-Evac Lifeteam offers an excellent benefit packet. Chose one of four premium health insurance programs, company paid short and long term disability, company paid life insurance, dental, vision, 401(k), paid time off program and other voluntary products. Competitive salary. For additional information regarding this opportunity visit: <http://careers.lifeteam.net> or contact Program Director Debra Wallace, 417-274-0473 or wallacedebra@air- evac.com

BIG SPRING Oil Company in business for 20 years, needs a Experienced Drilling Superintendent to over see two company owned drilling rigs. Must be able to pass a drug test. Competitive pay and benefits. Most work within 60 miles of Big Spring or Snyder. Send resumes to PO Box 1870 Big Spring, TX 79721.

Help Wanted

BIG SPRING oil company needs a experienced pulling unit operator. Must be able to pass drug test. Competitive salary and limited benefits. Most work within 60 miles of Big Spring and Snyder. Pulling unit is only 3 years old. If interested please call (432)238-7650 or (432)238-7715.

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:
* Shop Foreman
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test.

CAP ROCK Energy is seeking qualified applicants for Groundman and Lineman in our Stanton Division. Minimum qualifications include a valid driver's license and a good driving record. Please apply on line at www.caprockenergy.com EOE

CARING HEARTS Home Health is seeking a full-time PRN-LVN. Great hours, friendly atmosphere. Call for appointment (432) 714-4512, 1900 Scurry.

ALON USA
BIG SPRING REFINERY

ACCOUNTANT

The Alon USA Refinery in Big Spring, Texas has a position available for an Accountant. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in Accounting and experience in Capital and/or Operational Accounting is preferred. Applicants must also be proficient in Microsoft Office computer applications. Duties will include capital and turnaround cost tracking, inventory reconciliation, monthend closes, journal entries, refinery yield and annual budget preparation. Qualified applicants should mail or fax a resume to:

Alon USA
Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 1311
Big Spring, Texas 79721
Fax # 432-263-9335

Equal Opportunity Employer- M/F

12837

Electrical Engineer

Cap Rock Energy is currently seeking qualified applicants for the position of Electrical Engineer to work in our Stanton, Texas Division. Cap Rock Energy is an investor owned electrical utility with headquarters in Midland, Texas. Cap Rock serves 33,500 meters with over 11,000 miles of distribution lines and over 300 miles of transmission line, spanning more than 10,000 square miles throughout a 28 county area.

Qualifications: Registered as a Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the state of Texas or ability to obtain license within first 2 years of employment; minimum of five years experience with an electric utility; Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering; working experience in design, operation and maintenance of transmission, substation and distribution systems; and, knowledge and experience in system protection, system planning, voltage control, metering and automation concepts, NEC, NESC, GIS, and SCADA.

The position requires a highly motivated individual that is dedicated to discipline, teamwork, superior service and customer satisfaction.

For immediate consideration please apply on line at www.caprockenergy.com

Also accepting applications for Apprentice Lineman and Groundman positions.

EOE

12814



West Texas Centers for MHMR

Clerk for MH Clinic: This position will perform receptionist duties, maintenance of files of confidential materials, organizing information, assists in scheduling appointments as needed, and opens and distributes mail. High school diploma or GED. Salary \$7.71-\$8.20 hr (16,044.00-\$17,052.00 annually) Benefits.

Residential Support Technician: Position provides services within the community and in the home to individuals with mental retardation. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-18,192.00 annually) Benefits.

Training Coordinator: Position will prepare and develop Individual Service Plans for individuals with mental retardation. Will ensure that Action Plans, Objective and Training Plans are developed in compliance with applicable standards. Will review and process data collection on a monthly/quarterly basis. Requires flexible hours. \$8.75-\$9.30 hr (\$18,192.00-\$19,344.00 annually).

Vocational Service Tech: Provides instruction and directs the trainee in the accomplishment of a specific job. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Hours vary. Salary \$8.20-\$8.75 hr (\$17,052.00-\$18,192.00 annually) Benefits.

Part time Direct Care Staff: Responsible for training clients in work and social related skills. Must be proficient in reading and writing. High School Diploma or GED preferred but not required. Salary \$8.20/hr. Hours vary.

Continuity of Care Clerk: This part-time position will retrieve and enter data into batch software, retrieve findings from CARE and coordinate appointments and maintain data base. Minimum of two years experience in clerical field. Knowledge of Word, Excel and Power Point. Salary \$8.20/hr.

Applications available at 409 Runnels or www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.

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City of Big Spring

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311 N Old Lubbock Hwy
Snyder, Texas



BJ Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We support a drug free work environment.

Edwards admits to extra-marital affair

By PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former presidential candidate John Edwards, who won nationwide praise and sympathy as he campaigned side by side with his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth, admitted in shame Friday he had had an affair with a woman who produced videos as he prepared to launch his campaign.

Acknowledging a sex scandal he had dismissed as “tabloid trash” only last month, Edwards said he had told his wife and family long ago, but “I had hoped that it would never become public.”

He denied fathering a daughter, born to the woman with whom he had the affair, and offered to be tested to prove it.

A former Edwards campaign staff member professes to be the father.

The former North Carolina senator, who was the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2004, confessed to ABC News that he had lied repeatedly about the affair with Rielle Hunter, then 42.

Hunter’s daughter, Frances Quinn Hunter, was born on Feb. 27 this year, and no father’s name is given on the birth certificate filed in California.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Elizabeth Edwards confirmed that her husband had confessed the extramarital affair to her in 2006 but that after a “long and painful process” she was now standing by him.

After the story broke Friday, Edwards released a statement that said, “In

2006, I made a serious error in judgment and conducted myself in a way that was disloyal to my family and to my core beliefs. I recognized my mistake, and I told my wife that I had a liaison with another woman, and I asked for her forgiveness. Although I was honest in every painful detail with my family, I did not tell the public.”

“I was and am ashamed of my conduct and choices,” he said. “With my family, I took responsibility for my actions in 2006, and today I take full responsibility publicly.”

Edwards declared his presidential candidacy in December 2006. His wife campaigned enthusiastically with him and by herself in the months that followed.

She announced in March 2007 that her cancer, formerly in remission, had returned and there apparently was no cure.

She and her husband said it was important for the campaign to continue.

Edwards dropped out midway through this year’s primaries after it became apparent he could not keep up with front-runners Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton. He recently endorsed Obama and has been mentioned as a possible running mate.

Speaking to reporters Friday in Honolulu, Obama praised Edwards as a “great champion of working people” during the campaign and said the couple indicated they would probably not attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver later this month.

“This is a difficult and painful time to them,” Obama said. “And I think

they need to work through that process of healing. My sense is that that’s going to be their top priority.”

Edwards was John Kerry’s running mate in 2004 when Kerry lost to President Bush.

In his statement, he said, “It is inadequate to say to the people who believed in me that I am sorry, as it is inadequate to say to the people who love me that I am sorry.”

“In the course of several campaigns, I started to believe that I was special and became increasingly egocentric and narcissistic. If you want to beat me up feel free. You cannot beat me up more than I have already beaten up myself. I have been stripped bare and will now work with everything I have to help my family and others who need my help.”



AP photo

In this Jan. 1, 2008, file photo, Democratic presidential hopeful former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., right, and his wife Elizabeth arrive at a campaign rally in Ames, Iowa. On Friday, Edwards admitted to an extramarital affair while his wife was battling cancer. He denied fathering the woman’s daughter.

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<p>SIDING</p> <p>Four Seasons Insulation & Siding</p> <p>Specializing In Wall Insulation Thermal Replacement Windows & Siding</p> <p>Call 264-8610</p>		<p>WEB DESIGNS</p> <p>Bond Web Designs</p> <p>web designing and hosting</p> <p>www.bondwebs.com</p> <p>Lane Bond 2605 Ann Drive Big Spring, TX 79720</p> <p>(432) 263-4033 (432) 213-0391 cell lane@bondwebs.com</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.</p> <p>Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406</p>	<p>WELDING</p> <p>Bar-B-Q Pits Ornamental Iron Work Car Ports-Fences-Gates-Handrails</p> <p>Portable Welding V.H. Morris Welding Service</p> <p>2300 S. Williams Rd. Big Spring, TX 79720 432-263-6908</p>	<p>WINDOW TINT</p> <p>C & D Truck Accessories</p> <p>2706 N. HWY 87 432-263-3600</p> <p>Solar Gaurd Window Tint 5 year limited warranty</p>



Courtesy photo

The home of Ted and Eula Belle Fowler, 308 N. 5th Street, was named the Coahoma Beauty Spot for July by the 1941 Study Club. Show are, from left, Diana Best, Patricia Bennett, Eula Belle Fowler and Marie Ethridge. Best, Bennett and Ethridge are members of the committee that selects the beauty spots.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Sisto Herrera, the drummer for the musical group Sierra, performs with his band mates during the August Festival held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Alex Newsom is shown with a cake and certificate she received on her last day on the job as an intern with the Big Spring Herald newsroom. Newsom, who was salutatorian of the Forsan High School Class of 2008, will attend classes at Texas Tech University this fall.

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Actor and comedian Bernie Mac dies at age 50

CHICAGO (AP) — Bernie Mac, the actor and comedian who teamed up in the casino heist caper "Ocean's Eleven" and gained a prestigious Peabody Award for his sitcom "The Bernie Mac Show," died Saturday at age 50. "Actor/comedian Bernie Mac passed away this morning from complications due to pneumonia in a Chicago area hospital," his publicist, Danica Smith, said in a statement

from Los Angeles. The comedian suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease that produces tiny lumps of cells in the body's organs, but had said the condition went into remission in 2005. He recently was hospitalized and treated for pneumonia, which his publicist said was not related to the disease. Recently, Mac's brand of comedy caught him flack when he was heckled dur-

ing a surprise appearance at a July fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate and fellow Chicagoan Barack Obama. Toward the end of a 10-minute standup routine, Mac joked about menopause, sexual infidelity and promiscuity, and used occasional crude language. The performance earned him a rebuke from Obama's campaign.

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Auctioneers Note: Fast Frame Business Liquidation Auction - August 26 on-site, watch our website for details

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Public Seminar
Lyme Disease - AKA:

Fibromyalgia	Chronic Fatigue	Rheumatoid Arthritis
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Lou Gehrigs (ALS)	Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis	Migraines
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Speaker
Steven Hines N.D., N.E.

Steven Hines is the co-founder of Hope Clinics International in Acuna, Mexico, Steven is a frequent guest on national radio and television programs and lectures nationwide on the subject of degenerative disease.

Steve and his co-founder, Doctor Elto Rivera have successfully treated over 40 Incurable diseases. The link between Lyme disease and degenerative diseases is overwhelming. Lyme is difficult to diagnose and often very difficult to treat. Steven Hines is rapidly becoming known as one of the few qualified experts in the country on the subject of Lyme and Lyme related diseases. A Lyme patient himself, Steven knows through his own personal experience, how it feels to be victim and then victor! Don't miss this event. If you or someone you know suffers from any of the conditions listed above, this meeting will save lives.

Place: Howard College Cactus Room **Date & Time: August 19, 2008 7:00 p.m.**
Sponsor: Spiro-Stat Technologies

Contact information www.drhines.net

12753

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY for career minded individual with experience in Real Estate, Title or Escrow Closings. Salary commensurate with experience. Please respond to P.O. Box 189, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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OFFICE HELP needed. Computer experience, receptionist, able to multi-task, prefer non-smoker. Competitive pay with benefits. Apply in person at Credit World, 1611 S. Gregg St.

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PHIC - John Deere Dealer of Big Spring, TX in need of Service Technicians. Pay is based on exp. Fax resume: Attn: Justin Parker, Serv., Mngr. (432)267-2757 or call (432)263-8344 Benefits Include: Health Ins., 401K; Pd. Vacation.

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The City of Colorado City is accepting applications for employment for one **Water Utilities Department Worker**. This position requires a minimum of a C Distribution or Groundwater License. Qualifications include a High School Diploma or GED equivalent, must have a valid driver's license and be dependable. This is a full time position. Benefits include health and life insurance, holidays, vacation, sick leave and a retirement plan. Applications may be obtained by contacting City Hall at 325-728-5331. **Applications will be accepted until position is filled.** Salary will be determined based on the applicant's knowledge and experience. A relocation package will be negotiable. The City of Colorado City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The City of Colorado City is accepting applications for employment for one **Waste Water Plant Operator**. This position requires a minimum of a C Waste Water License. The Waste Water Plant consists of 4 Ponds and an Irrigation System. Qualifications include a High School Diploma or GED equivalent, must have a valid driver's license and be dependable. This is a full time position. Benefits include health and life insurance, holidays, vacation, sick leave and a retirement plan. Applications may be obtained by contacting City Hall at 325-728-5331. **Applications will be accepted until position is filled.** Salary will be determined based on the applicant's knowledge and experience. A relocation package will be negotiable. The City of Colorado City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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603 GEORGE Three bedroom, one bath house. Garage, CH/A, washer/dryer connections. One Year Lease. \$800. month. No HUD. No Pets. No Bills Paid. (432)267-2296.

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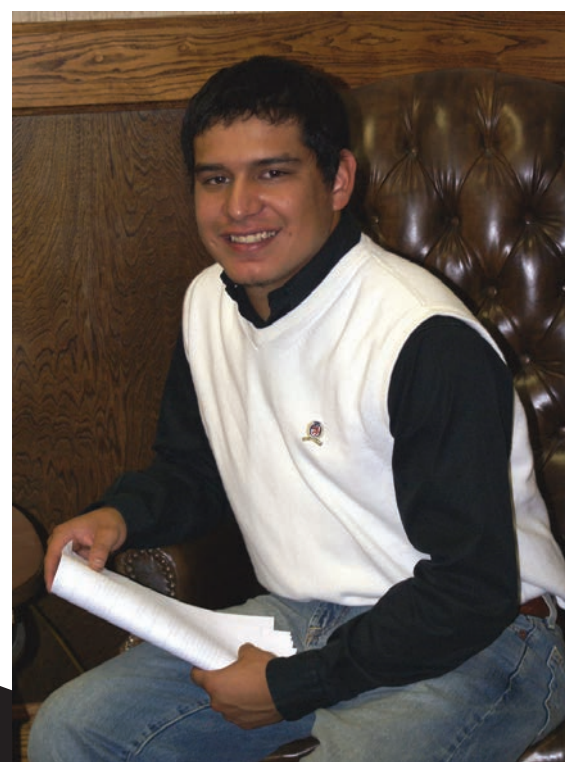
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"When it came time to choose a junior college, the choice was easy to make. My first choice was Howard College, not just because it was nearby and convenient, but because I already knew about the great staff and the financial help I was capable of getting. I feel fortunate to be a student at Howard College plus I got the opportunity to get involved in student activities. In fact, I'm the President of the Student Government Association and I'm also involved in sports. If I had to choose all over again, I wouldn't change a thing! I feel that I have a great future ahead thanks to the guidance I've received from Howard College."

-Jason



Register NOW for Fall 2008



"When I first went to Howard College it was actually for a job! I'm a single mother and I was looking for a job with health insurance. The staff at Howard were quick to open their doors to me. Not long after I started working there, I registered for classes. My kids were enrolled at Howard Cottage and I got a scholarship for the daycare just for being a student. The teachers have helped me in any way possible. Because of the experiences I have had, I am set in a career path that is perfect for me and my family!"

-Stephanie

COMING EVENTS

- Sept 20 - Mini Cheer camp & Battle of the Cheerleaders**
- Sept 25 - HC Speaker Series**
- Jim Morris "The Rookie"**
- Oct 2,3,4,5 - HC Theater "Leading Ladies"**
- Nov 20,21,22 - HC Theater "Macbeth"**
- Nov 22 - FFA Area II Leadership Conference**

Classes begin August 25

Howard College welcomes Mark J. Myers as the new Provost for the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) campus.

Coming to Big Spring from Canton Center, Connecticut, Myers has been currently working as the Director of the Collegiate Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons department at the Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted, Connecticut.

He brings with him over 18 years of management and supervisory experience in the community-technical colleges system, in private non-profit and governmental agencies in the field of higher education, in rehabilitation and in community-based services to persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. Additionally, he has extensive experience working with legislative procedures, practices and grant writing with private foundations and corporations.

Myers, who became profoundly deaf due to spinal meningitis at the age of 11 months, obtained an impressive educational background after graduating from St. Mary's School for the Deaf, including a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Gallaudet University and a Master of Arts in Deafness Rehabilitation from New York University.

Mark and his wife Alyssa have moved to the Big Spring community over the summer. "We look forward to this new adventure in our lives and learning about Big Spring and its neighboring communities," says Myers. "I am sure we will enjoy the warm climate and the culture of the 'west' in Texas."

Be a part of Howard College's Department of Community Education's non-credit programs and classes.
Community Education

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This is an eight week beginning scrap booking course that includes: new techniques, hands-on practice on cutting machines, ect., seasonal ideas, time and supplies to create fun scrap book pages, some stamping, and much more. You will need to bring scissors, an album and pictures.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Sagittarius moon and Leo sun are a gambling pair, encouraging folks to take heart and follow a whim to inspiration, especially on those wing-and-a-prayer endeavors. Their optimism is contagious! If you find yourself all fired up by the "anything's possible" attitude circulating, you've been touched by today's upbeat energy.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though your impulses are not wrong, there are bigger rewards for being structured. Stick to the agenda. Begin and end meetings on time. Keep your recipes, workouts and social etiquette by the book.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be slightly more laidback in your approach to the tasks of the day, which makes you

susceptible to time wasters. Avoid chronic arguers, even if they are people you like. Today these types are likely to wear you out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ahead of you is a whirlwind of fun as there are several events on the horizon you want to attend. Shopping, planning and buying tickets are all favored now. Be thrifty. Ask for better deals.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). How others see you is not usually as important to you as it is right now. To deny that you care is silly -- you clearly do. Be introspective. Sort out what you think about you. Get on your own side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be building on other people's work to make it better, stronger and faster. Your ideas will be noticed and praised. Just be sure you give credit where it's due. Remember what you started with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone is on your mind and won't be leaving

any time soon. You're probably producing a fantasy version of this person that he or she won't be able to live up to in real life. Enjoy your unrealistic imaginings for what they are worth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone you admire starts a difference in you. Your perspective changes. You can be joyful in situations that used to be boring, stressful or irritating. And you see more potential in a situation than you used to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You see no reason to wait for others to demonstrate their love first. You show up gleaming, feeling confident in your ability to win people over. Your passion causes others to embrace you wholeheartedly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your high profile today makes you a natural target for those who need a loan or want you to set them up with a job or date. You can't blame them for asking, and it might be rewarding for you to provide what is

needed. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Be like an event planner. Begin with the end in mind, and schedule backward. There is a stellar opportunity at the end of the month that can be taken advantage of if you'll do a few small steps every day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your social grace is undeniable. It's not difficult for you to read a group of people and understand what's going on and how to fit in. Knowing when to stay and when to "bounce" is trickier now, though. Stay aware.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The decisions you make at work today affect your ability to move up. So be mindful, thinking through the possible outcomes of each action. You're poised for advancement if you act judiciously.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Scorpio born on Nov. 10, 1953, 7:30 p.m. in Detroit. What should I be doing for a living? I'm working as a

sales and service consultant for the telephone company on their website. This is the second time I've been back doing the same thing and I'm as unhappy as I was before."

I played this game the other night called "what is your secret dream job?" which looked like a bunch of us sitting around revealing what sounded like adolescent fantasies to one another. Yet when we spoke, the air became thick with energy. Of course, each person simultaneously dismissed their own dream job as grandiose, silly or impossible (rock star and animal doctor included).

Here's what I think: Secret things contain more power for being secret. And power can do great things. Locate your secret dream job, Scorpio. Hint: The only job worth pursuing is the one that makes you feel excited to be alive. This may even be one you've tucked away for safekeeping, like a childhood fantasy. And don't dismiss the outrageous ones. Just because

something hasn't been done before doesn't mean you can't reinvent in a way that works.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Leo computer inventor Steve Wozniak has the signature of a progressive. A special configuration between Jupiter, Uranus and Pallas in Steve's chart indicates his exceptional creative intelligence. Synchronously, his nickname is Woz, which is also an acronym for "Wheels of Zeus," a company he founded. Zeus is the Roman Jupiter, and a deity known for his intelligence. Brilliant!

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

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have four daughters under the age of 10. We live on a quiet suburban cul-de-sac, which we value as a safe place to raise our family. Last year, a new family moved in and they have slightly older kids. We've become friends with the entire family. My children love to play at their house.

The problem is, last week the "Smiths" announced they are putting in a swimming pool. I'm now terrified for the safety of my two youngest children. When I asked what measures they are taking to protect the neighborhood children, Mrs. Smith became defensive and made it clear that adding locks to their gate and buying a pool cover would be adequate. (Her gate is often open throughout the day.) She said my desire to see extra measures was offensive. She made it clear that my children's safety is my responsibility.

Now I feel like I have to lock my kids in our house or move to another neighborhood. What should I do? -- Tossing and Turning in Utah

Dear Utah: To some extent, your neighbor is right -- you are ultimately responsible for your children's safety, and if she is careless about access to her pool, you must be vigilant. We strongly urge you to teach your children to swim. You also should tell them not to go near the pool unless they are supervised by an adult (and only if they are invited). The Red Cross offers swimming lessons, CPR courses and safety tips. Find your local chapter in your phone book or through redcross.org.

Dear Annie: My son's father and I have been divorced for 27 years. We both remarried and have other children. I've not seen my ex-husband in years, but there is no real animosity. I live about 300 miles from all of them.

Recently, my son had a party for my granddaughter's first birthday. I was invited to the party one day and uninvited the next. My son told me it would be too uncomfortable for me and too stressful for him to have both his parents there.

I was very hurt. I felt I should have been given the opportunity to decide if I could be comfortable or not. We are all capable of acting like grownups. Everyone else in both families was there. I'm so



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

upset I can hardly sleep. I haven't spoken to my son since. I don't know what to say without crying. -- Neglected Mom

Dear Mom: It's more likely your son was the one who was uncomfortable. We assume your ex-husband lives closer to your son and sees him more often. It's possible Dad asked him not to include you and he felt pressured to acquiesce. Write down what you want to say. Focus on how much you love him and want to be part of your grandchild's life, and ask how you can make this happen. If you can't bring yourself to repeat it over the phone, send it in a letter or e-mail.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Unhappy Housemate," whose boyfriend kept his late wife's picture in a prominent place.

The man I am seeing lost his wife five years ago. He still has all her clothes, makeup, perfume and pictures everywhere. We've been seeing each other for eight months and he has asked me to move in with him.

I don't want to hurt him by asking what he is planning to do with all of her things. How do I handle this? -- Second Best

Dear Second: Many widowers find it difficult to dispose of their late wife's things. It feels like a permanent goodbye. And there is often some inertia about starting -- it seems overwhelming. Ask your boyfriend if you can help him pack up the closets. If there are children, perhaps they would like to go through Mom's things and select some keepsakes. Be respectful and gentle, but if he cannot bear to part with anything, you might want to reconsider moving in.

Dear Annie: My 30-year-old stepson, "Dan," has had problems with drugs and alcohol for years. Last year, he went through a rehab program, but shortly after got back into drugs, had a horrible fight with his wife and said he was going to kill himself. She called us saying, "Just thought you should know." We live four hours away and were scared to death. We called the sheriff, who found

him and brought him to the hospital. He was kept in the psychiatric ward for 24 hours.

We took Dan to live with us so we could get him professional help. He stayed two months and it went very well. But when he returned home, he ignored the hard work we'd done and all the advice from his psychiatrist and counselor. Three days after he left, he got into an argument with his father, and even though my husband apologized immediately, they haven't spoken since. His wife never wanted Dan to move in with us to begin with, so she's not speaking to us either.

Annie, we are terribly hurt. I am trying to stay out of the middle, but as time goes by, it gets harder and harder to put forth any effort. Should I put on my big girl panties and try to facilitate healing? -- Worried Stepmom

Dear Worried: There's only so much you can do with an adult child who refuses to stay sober and in touch, especially if his wife is not cooperative. Your husband can send a letter or e-mail telling his son again that he is sorry about the argument, that he loves him and that his door is always open. You can write his wife expressing the same sentiments and trying to forge a closer bond. Beyond

that, however, you will simply have to hope that time heals the rift.

Dear Annie: I know a lot of people like to multitask while talking on the phone. My cousin, however, has taken it too far. She talks on her phone while using the restroom. I can hear the toilet flush. If that isn't gross enough, I never hear water running to indicate she's washed her hands. I visit her house often, and occasionally my husband or children will call there to speak to me, but I don't want to touch her phone.

This happens whether I call her or she calls me. Am I overreacting, or is it rude to use the toilet while on the phone? -- Disgusted by the Flush in Ohio

Dear Disgusted: It's rude to do anything where the sounds of intimate behavior are audible over the phone. Your cousin probably assumes the noises can't be heard, so you'd be doing her a favor by speaking up. The next time this happens say, "Are you in the bathroom? It sounds like a toilet flushing." We have no idea if her water faucet is audible, so we don't know whether she's washing her hands, but it wouldn't hurt to carry an antibacterial hand sanitizer with you, just in case.

Dear Annie: I can't thank you enough! My

wonderful husband is the sweetest, most caring man I could hope for, but he has no sexual desire. I have done everything to entice him and he saw his doctor, but still, nothing.

Then I read the letter from "Tired of Being Alone." I had no idea there were asexual people. I don't like not having sex, but because my husband is so wonderful, I've learned there are worse things to do without.

I'm going to keep the man of my dreams and smile, knowing I'm not alone in loving someone who is asexual. I pray I'll have at least another 60 years with him. For that, I'm willing to be a nun. -- Finally Found the Answer

Dear Finally: We are impressed with your willingness to put your husband's good qualities above your own needs. We hope you have many happy years together.

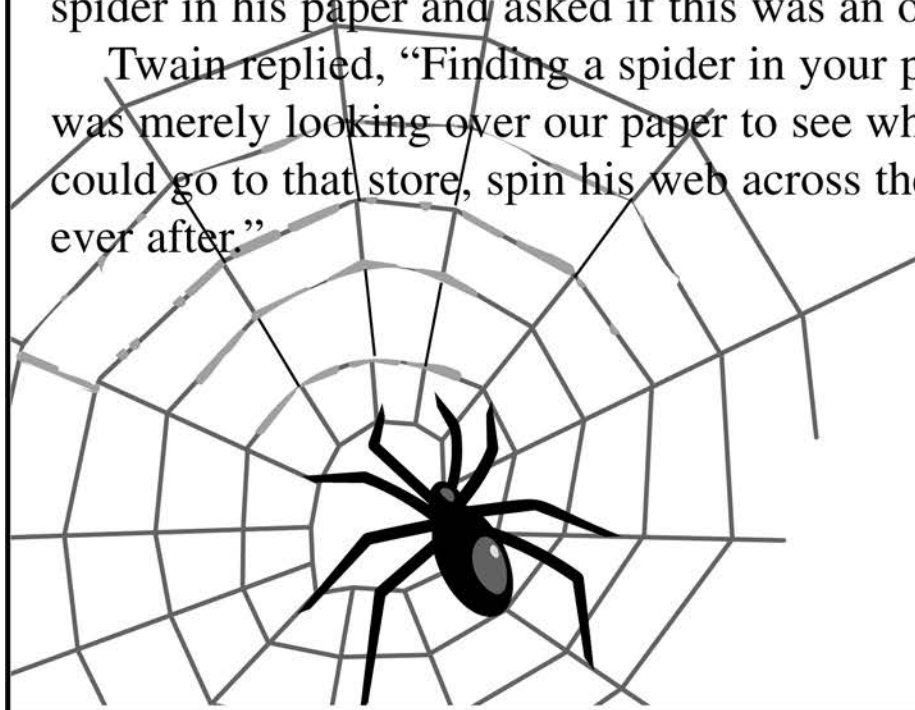
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators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

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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Total Savings Of
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\$33,960 MSRP
\$1,509.76 Dealer Discount
\$1,000 Ford Credit Cash To Dealer
\$4,000 Retail Customer Cash To Dealer
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