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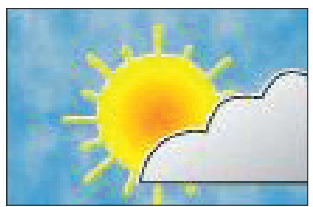
Cowboys figuring out
how to use trio of backs
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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY
AUGUST 9, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 212

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Flying high U.S. Hang Gliding Championships set to begin here

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The skies over Big Spring and Howard County are about to get a bit more crowded, as hang glider pilots from all over the nation — and the world — get ready to kick off the Big Spring U.S. Hang Gliding Championship Sunday afternoon.



According to Terry Wofford, chairman of the local hang gliding committee that works with the competition's organizers, many of the pilots arrived in town during the past week, with a few bucking traditional modes of transportation and flying in directly

from a similar competition in Zapata. "They recently set a world record in Zapata, and from what I'm hearing now, that's going to be one of their goals this year, as well," said Wofford. "There's a chance a few of them may actually be hang gliding in from Zapata as part of that effort, which is really amazing."

Slated for Sunday through Saturday, Aug. 15, at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark, the annual competition was to begin with a welcome dinner Saturday evening for the 40 to

See **GLIDING**, Page 3A



Nelda Franco, center, and Daniel Franco talk to a customer at the Farmer's Market sale Saturday morning. The event is held every Saturday and Tuesday through October at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Humphreys guest speaker for local United Way kickoff

Tickets are on sale at various locations for Aug. 18 event

Herald Staff Report

Motivational and inspirational humorist Suzie Humphreys will be the keynote speaker at the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County's 64th annual campaign kickoff, planned Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Garrett Hall.

Tickets, priced at \$12 each, are on sale now and available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and various businesses in Howard County. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end by 1 p.m.

Reservations should be made by Friday, Aug. 14.

Humphreys is a well-known and respected motivational speaker. In 2002, she was inducted into The Speaker Hall of Fame at



Humphreys

organization's national convention in Orlando and was awarded "The Council of Peers Award of Excellence." In 2004, she was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame and, as Humphreys said ... "All that for a D-minus student! You never know, do you?"

Her background is as varied as her audiences — from administrative secretary to television talk show host, to 20 years in radio. She has hobnobbed with movie stars and politicians, interviewed the great and the "near" great. She has made hundreds of commercials, done musical comedy

See **UNITED WAY**, Page 3A

INSIDE

When you ask teenagers how they spent their summer vacation, chances are they won't answer by saying they made beds and pushed wheelchairs.



See **Page 1C**

Software woes prompt hard decisions

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A computer software problem in the district clerk's office may put quite a pinch on the county's pocketbook, according to Howard County officials, as commissioners get ready to discuss the issue

Monday morning. County Judge Mark Barr said a possible problem with the company that provides scanning services to the district clerk's office has officials looking at fixes that could cost anywhere from \$85,000 to more than \$200,000.

"The company that does the

scanning for that office may be getting ready to go out of business," said Barr. "At least that's the word that's floating around right now, and that presents a very serious problem for the district clerk, and possibly for other county offices as well."

Barr said the potential problem also calls existing deficiencies with the county's entire computer system into the spotlight.

"It's no secret the entire system is outdated," he said. "And it's a big part of my office, the offices of the justices of the peace and several other county departments. So what we're looking at here isn't just a small problem, it's

something that needs to be addressed system-wide.

"We're looking at software from Tyler Technologies that's designed for the court and justice system. If we simply deal with the problem in the district clerk's office, it'll cost us \$85,000. However, if we decide to try to address the entire system, it's going to cost more than \$200,000. I tell you, I've been trying to come up with a good solution to this, and I can't say I've found one yet."

Barr said his hope is the commissioners will be able to unravel the problem through discussions during their

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

"It's no secret the entire system is outdated. And it's a big part of my office, the offices of the justices of the peace and several other county departments. So what we're looking at here isn't just a small problem, it's something that needs to be addressed system-wide."



Barr

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HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Steers running back Monte Anderson turns the corner after catching a swing pass from quarterback Tyler Tannehill (34) during an intra-squad scrimmage Saturday at Blankenship Field. The Steers enter the second week of two-a-day practices starting Monday and host Monahans for a scrimmage Saturday, Aug. 15, at Memorial Stadium.

Smash, Dash & Tash

Surplus of RBs gives 'Boys all sorts of offensive options

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Imagine the Dallas Cowboys are playing one of their NFC East rivals. Let's say it's a tight game in their fancy new stadium. The crowd is ready to go wild, so offensive coordinator Jason Garrett decides to show off his trio of running backs.

It might play out something like this:

On first-and-10, Marion Barber goes banging up the middle, grinding out a few yards.

On second-and-6, Tony Romo throws to Felix Jones, coming out of the backfield. He squirts up the field, stopped just shy of a first down.

Now it's third-and-1 and out comes third-stringer Tashard Choice. He lines up as a shotgun quarterback, with Romo setting up like a wide receiver and Jones coming in motion. It's a Dallas version of the Wildcat,

with Choice and Jones filling roles they had when their college teams ran it.

OK, OK. It's still early August and the Cowboys haven't even played a preseason game, so there's no telling if anything like that might really play out. The point is, it could.

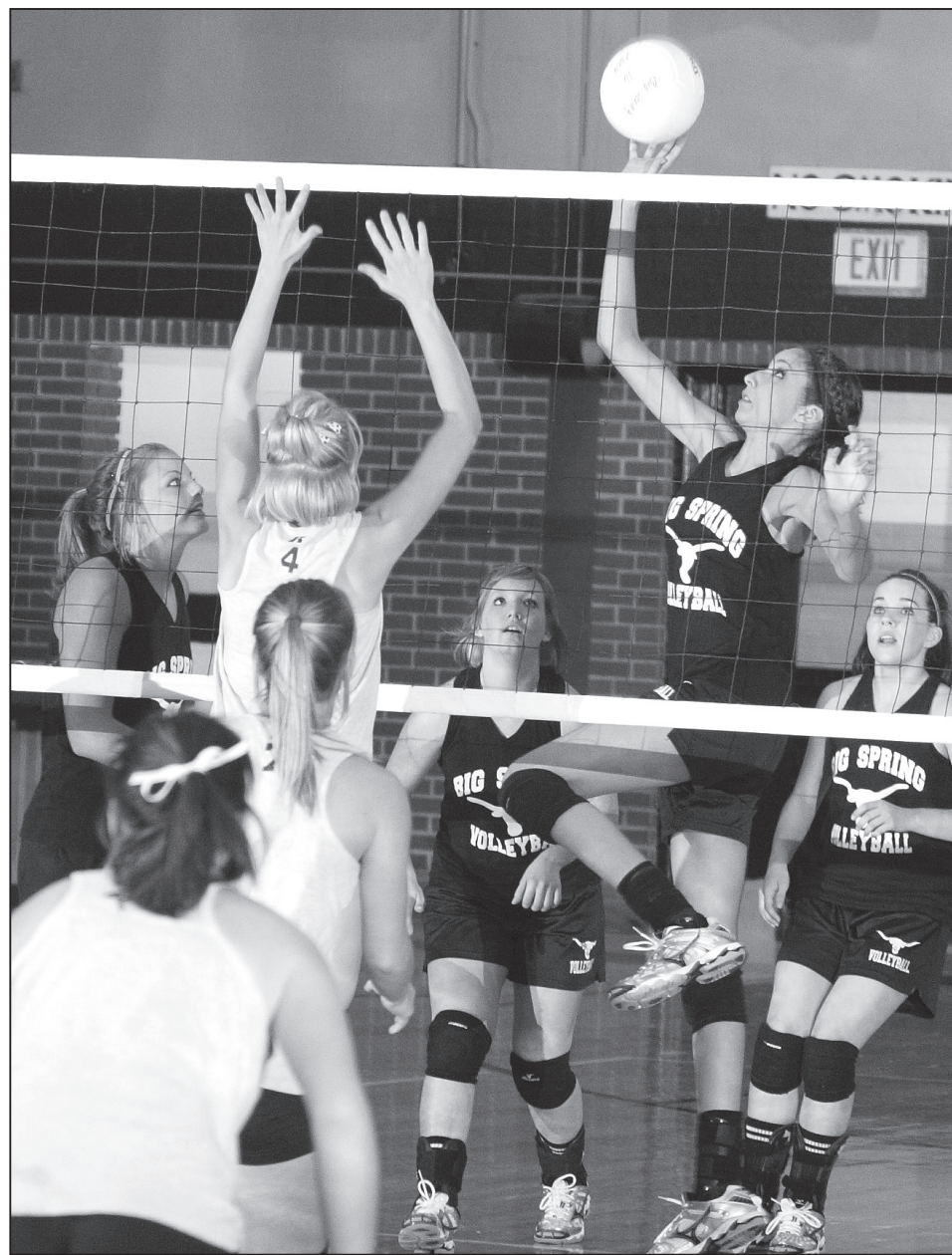
Barber, Jones and Choice — or, "Smash, Dash & Tash," as Choice has dubbed them — give Dallas a unique combination of depth and versatility at a position considered the backbone of every offense.

All three have proven they can gain big chunks of yards, both running and receiving. They are also young and eager, buddies who understand their spots in the team's pecking order and fully accept it. There is no jealousy or bitterness about sharing the job.

"We use it as a motivation to go out there and work harder," Jones said.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Lady Steers ready



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Taylor Seaton (middle right) tips the ball over the net during a Lady Steers volleyball scrimmage against Veribest Friday at Steers Gym. Teammates Cerbi Ritchey (left), Callie Shafer (middle left) and Sloan Davis (right) look on. The Lady Steers begin the 2009 season Tuesday with a match at Sweetwater.

Rangers hit five homers, trim Angels' AL West lead

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Omar Vizquel still remembered all of the steps in a home run trot, even though it's been more than 22 months since he last made the circuit around the bases.

The veteran infielder only had to follow the well-worn path of his slugging teammates during the Texas Rangers' latest big win in their AL West rival's ballpark.

Vizquel drove in three runs with four hits, including one of Texas' five homers, and Josh Hamilton hit an early three-run shot in the second-place Rangers' 11-6 victory over the division-leading Los Angeles Angels on Friday night.

Hank Blalock, Michael Young and Taylor Teagarden also connected for the Rangers, who trimmed the Angels' division lead to 3½ games

See **RANGERS**, Page 4B

Texas designates Padilla for assignment

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Texas Rangers have designated right-hander Vicente Padilla for assignment, likely ending his tenure with the club.

The Rangers have 10 days to trade, release or outright Padilla to the minors.

Padilla, the Rangers' No. 2 starter when the year began, is 8-6 with a 4.92 ERA this season.

Padilla won 43 games in four years with Texas, but already has been put on waivers this season. He angered the organization earlier this year by throwing at hitters, including two incidents involving former teammate Mark Teixeira.

Texas also recalled outfielder Julio Borbon from Triple-A Oklahoma City.

Sports in brief

Big Spring Junior High football players pick up equipment next week

All incoming seventh and eighth graders interested in playing football at Big Spring Junior High during the 2009 season need to pick up their equipment either Monday or Tuesday at the junior high.

Pick-up times for each day is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All incoming seventh graders must have a physical on file in order to play.

For more information, call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Crossroads Youth Football signups slated for this month

The Crossroads Youth Football Association will begin signups for football players and cheerleaders Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each signup day. The other days to register will be Aug. 15 and Aug. 22.

Late registration for football only will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 29.

For more information, call Jeff Vidal at 816-6871.

Big Spring Youth Soccer Association starts registration Saturday

The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association begins registration for the 2009 season from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration will continue throughout the following week — Monday through Friday, Aug. 14 — from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day. The final day to sign up is Saturday, Aug. 15, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost for registration is \$65 for the first child and \$5 less for each additional child. The cost includes the full uniform.

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Learning medicine from the ground up

Big Spring VAMC nursing cadets get first-hand look at healthcare field



When you ask teenagers how they spent their summer vacation, chances are they won't answer by saying they made beds and pushed wheelchairs.

But that's exactly how seven young people recently spent six weeks as participants in the Big Spring VA Medical Center's Cadet Nursing Program.

During the program, the cadets learned the ins and outs of nursing at a large hospital, performing task such as taking vital signs, feeding and transporting patients and changing beds. The experience, they said, was an eye-opener.

"This made me understand how dedicated these people are to their patients," said Jordan Martin, who will be a senior at Coahoma High School this year. "I learned that it's not just a job to them — it's something they really enjoy doing."

Sam Urquhart, a 16-year-old from Birmingham, Ala., stayed with family members in Big Spring while participating in the program.

"My aunt is one of the nurses here and called and asked if I wanted to volunteer for the program," Urquhart said. "It was beyond my expectations ... It made me see that the medical field is very difficult. Nurses do a lot more than people think."

The program, in its sixth year, aims to interest young people ages 14 and up in a career in nursing.

"Years ago, hospitals offered 'candy striper' programs for volunteer nurses. This program was the VA's take on that," said Cynthia Schaffner, nurse manager for primary care and coordinator of the cadet program. "The goal is to allow youths to observe nursing in action so that, hopefully, they'll choose that career field."

Apparently, the program has been a welcome experience, not only for the cadets, but for the medical center nurses as well.

"The nursing staff can't say enough about how nice it is to have someone who can help out like they have," Schaffner said. "And the patients appreciate them as well."

For the cadets, meanwhile, each has taken something different from the program.

Samantha Diaz, a 19-year-old sophomore-to-be at Howard College, was "too busy" to apply for the program last summer, but applied this year.

"It's tough not to get attached to the patients," she

See **CADETS**, Page 3C

Clockwise, from top: Members of the Big Spring VAMC's nursing cadet program this summer are, front row, left to right: Jordan Martin, Maeghan Mauzy and Samantha Diaz; second row, left to right: Sam Urquhart, Clarrisa Diaz, Autumn Dulin and Nathan Flowers; sisters Samantha, left, and Clarrisa Diaz spend a few moments with patient Ed Wilkerson; cadets Autumn Dulin and Nate Flowers give patient Alvin Andrews a helpful push.



Story and photos by Steve Reagan

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Obituaries

Lou Strickland



Lou Strickland, 70, of Converse went to be with her Lord and Savior Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, after a short battle with cancer. Lou was born Nov. 19, 1938, in Stanton to Aubrey and Wilma Woolsey.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Kenny; children, Tracy King and husband Alexander, Tresa and Kevin; grandchildren, Alex, Anthony, Nicole, Adam, James, Andrew and Shaquandah; sister, Lucille Bradshaw and husband Earl; and a host of other loving family members and friends.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, at Schertz Funeral Home, 2217 FM 3009 in Schertz, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2009, at Randolph Air Force Base Chapel No. 1, with former Chaplain Col. Arthur R. Homer, U.S.A.F. retired, officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

You are invited to sign the electronic guestbook at www.schertzfuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Grady Rogers Jr.



Grady Raymond Rogers Jr., born July 8, 1931, was called home by his Lord and Savior Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, in Odessa. He is preceded in death by his parents, Grady Raymond Rogers Sr. and Estelle Roach Rogers, a daughter, Kathy Rogers, and his first wife, Mildred Whitsell Rogers.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy (Dottie) Rogers, daughters, Karen Gathright (John) of Foreman, Ark. and Toni King (Calvin) of Willcox, Ariz.; sons, Russell Dean Rogers (Teri) of Loveland, Colo., Greg Lee (Marlene) of Pearce, Ariz. and Mark Lee (Ada) of San Angelo; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Jim Rogers and Robert Rogers, and one sister, Martha Evans.

Grady was a Christian and a member of St. Marks United Methodist, where his goal was to welcome every person who stepped in the door of the church. He was dedicated to the organization of Golden Links and visited nursing homes to bring cheer and love to each and every patient there. He hoped to witness to everyone he could.

Grady was in the Korean Conflict, a member of the U.S. Army Artillery, an owner of a successful service station business in Frisco and in sales with Chrysler in Dallas. He retired because of his health in 1985.

The couple relocated to Hamilton, where Grady loved and supported each high school team and was blessed to go to the state tournament with the girl's golf team and the boy's golf team. He was an avid fan of the Hamilton High School girl's basketball team and had a special bench reserved for him at each home game.

Grady was an inspiration to so many and will be sorely missed. He asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2009, at St. Marks United Methodist Church with Pastor Gilbert Bela officiating.

Services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net.

Paid obituary

Viola Nelson



Viola Nelson, 85, of Millington, Tenn., formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, in Tennessee. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Binnix officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring.

She was born Oct. 7, 1923, in Port Lavaca and married Troy Nelson Sr. Jan. 18, 1941. He preceded her in death March 10, 1983.

She was a longtime resident of Big Spring. She moved Tennessee in 1976 and had lived in Millington, Tenn., since 1986. She had worked as a LPN at Millington Naval Air Station, retiring in 1986.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Loyd and Stacy Nelson of Somerville, Tenn.; five grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Troy Nelson Jr., and a daughter, Jackie Nelson.

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

George Martin Jr.

George H. Martin Jr., 68, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2009 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. The family will receive guests at the funeral home on Sunday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

George was born Feb. 15, 1941, in San Antonio, the son of George H. and Guadalupe (Torres) Martin. He came to Big Spring in 1994. He worked in the oilfield for 44 years as a pulling unit operator for Pool Well Service, Yale E. Key, and M & M General Contractors. He was a Christian.

Survivors include three sons, Michael Martin of Big Spring, James Martin of Midland and George Henry Martin, III of Missouri; four daughters, Mandy Leigh Duran, Karen Casas and Diana Hisey all of Austin, and Amanda Martin of Virginia; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Willie Martin and wife Janie of Ackerly and Phillip Martin and wife Phyllis of Denver City; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Mary Phaffenberger and husband Charles of Lamesa, Annie Alaniz and Sue Hankins; 10 grandchildren; six great-grand children; and many nieces and nephews.

George was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter, Lisa Ann Suniga.

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

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Friday in the Mega Millions lottery: 7-18-35-45-56; Mega Ball: 3.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-13-14-24-25. Number matching five of five: 0.

More obituaries,
Page 3A

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COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Here's how this three-man band works:

- Barber, the oldest at 26, is "Smash," the starter whose battering-ram style wears down defenses.

- Jones, a first-round pick last year, is "Dash," the 22-year-old speedster who seems even faster to worn-down defenses.

- Choice, a fourth-round pick last year, is "Tash" (yeah, well, at least it rhymes), a small, thick, quick guy who does it all, an inside runner like Barber but elusive like Jones. He's such a blend of the two that he's even right in between their ages, 24.

"Each one is pretty darn good at everything," Romo said. "But

in a couple of areas, they're special. It's just up to us to get them in that certain position and show their skills."

Garrett is the one who gets to figure it out. The more creative he is, the more successful the Cowboys could be.

"It's a good problem to have," Garrett said. "They are all going to get their chances — doing it together, doing it individually. We don't have to say 'This guy only does this and this guy only does that.'"

Expect Garrett to do a lot of tinkering because the Cowboys have renewed their commitment to running.

Team owner Jerry Jones threw it out at the start of training camp and coach Wade Phillips built on it by saying he wants the ground game to rank among the top 10. Dallas was 21st last

year, gaining its fewest yards rushing since 1997.

The Cowboys actually were one of the most effective teams, biting off 4.3 yards per carry, but they didn't have many carries — their fewest since 1990, the year they discovered that rookie Emmitt Smith might be pretty good one day.

Dallas' run-pass ratio got out of whack in recent years because of how well they did basing things around Romo throwing to Terrell Owens and Jason Witten. Last season, injuries gave Garrett more reasons to keep passing.

Felix Jones went down after only six games and Barber hardly played after dislocating a toe on Thanksgiving. The line also wasn't as good because a foot problem limited left guard Kyle Kosier to three games.

Plus, coaches were figuring out what they had in Jones and Choice, just like Jimmy Johnson was figuring out what he had in Smith in '90.

Felix Jones came from Arkansas, Jerry Jones' beloved alma mater, and, from the start, the boss wanted to see the kid unleashed. He responded with an 11-yard touchdown run on his first career carry, a 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown the next week and a 60-yard touchdown run in his third game. After not getting a carry the next game, he got nine the following week and turned them into 96 yards, including a 33-yard touchdown run. "Dash," indeed.

"In Felix, we've got more speed than we've even been able to dream about at running back," Jerry Jones said.

Just when the Cowboys were ready to find



AP photo/Eric Gay

Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber, left, tries to escape the grasp of Marcus Spears, right, during the team's NFL training camp in San Antonio Friday. Barber is one-third of the Cowboys' trio of backs — along with second-year players Felix Jones and Tashard Choice — they'll be depending on to carry the rushing load in 2009.

more ways to get the ball to Felix Jones, he pulled a hamstring. It was almost healed when he hurt a toe and never returned.

Enter, "Tash." Choice was eased into action for about a month. Then Barber got hurt and Choice became the featured back the last four games.

He ran for 382 yards (5.2 per carry) and two touchdowns, adding 17 receptions for 163 yards. Making it more impressive is that the four defenses he faced finished the season ranked in the top five in the NFL. Better still, his first career start was against the eventual Super Bowl champion Steelers, in Pittsburgh, and Choice gouged them for 88 yards rushing and 78 yards receiving; it was the best game any back had against them all season.

"The opportunity was given to me, so I had to

shine," Choice said. "I had to help my teammates out and not be the weak point on the offense."

Barber made a name for himself the same way at the start of his career.

He broke in as a third-down guy, then became a short-yardage specialist, powering his way to an NFC-best 14 rushing touchdowns in 2006. He wasn't the starter in '07, but he led the team in rushing and made the Pro Bowl. A huge raise followed, along with the anointment as the No. 1 guy going into last season.

Barber led the team in attempts and yards, but he wasn't as effective, averaging a career-low 3.7 yards per carry.

The thinking is that his hard-charging style — "Smash," remember, or "Marion the Barbarian," as T.O. called him — can wear out Barber, too. So having a competent backup (or two) should only help.

"Whatever coaches say, that's my role, man," said Barber, who is as shy around reporters as he is aggressive toward defensive backs.

The Cowboys are keep-

ing Barber as the starter. It's a case of squatter's rights as well as strategy.

"You start a game and what's happening? You're geared up, you're physical, everybody is excited," running backs coach Skip Peete said. "The holes aren't that big, so you need somebody to puncture those holes. There aren't going to be many yards, but what you're creating is going to help you crack the defense later, as the game goes on."

As the NFL is trending toward running back tandems, the Cowboys could be starting a new trend. Few clubs can suit up three runners already this good and young enough to still be getting better.

The only thing missing might be the hype.

So far, all they have are individual T-shirts — "Smash" for Barber, "Dash" for Jones and "Tash" for Choice — given to them by Owens.

Considering Jerry Jones' marketing efforts, there's got to be a poster, or at least a bumper sticker, in the works — right?

"Not yet," Choice said. "I don't want to jinx it."

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Looking Into the Future

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 6
♥ J
♦ A J 5 3
♣ J 10 9 5 4

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

SOUTH
♠ 5 2
♥ A Q 10 8 7 6 5 4
♦ K 4
♣ Q

The bidding:
East 2♠ South 4♥ West Pass North Pass
Opening lead — King of clubs.

Anticipating the unexpected and taking the appropriate countermeasures is one of the distinguishing marks of the accomplished player.

Consider this deal from the Vanderbilt team championship a few years ago. The bidding was the same at both tables, both Souths leaping to four hearts after East's pre-emptive two-spade opening. Also at both tables, the king-of-clubs lead was followed by a spade shift.

At the first table, declarer won the spade with the ace, led dummy's jack

of hearts and played low after East showed out. West took the jack with the king and led his remaining spade. When East won and played a third spade, South could not prevent West's nine of trumps from eventually scoring a trick, and he finished down one.

At the second table, the declarer, Ron Smith, foresaw what might happen if the opposing hearts were divided 4-0, and took steps to deal with that possibility. He also won the spade shift with the ace at trick two, but did not make the mistake of leading the jack of hearts next. Instead, he led the jack of clubs and discarded his spade loser on it!

The difference this play made soon became apparent. West took the club with the ace and entered a spade, but South ruffed and was now in full control.

A trump was led to the jack and ducked by West. South re-entered his hand with a diamond and played the A-Q of hearts. West took the king, but his nine later succumbed to declarer's ten, and the contract was made.

It is true that declarer also could have succeeded by ducking the first round of spades and winning the second. However, this would not have worked out well if East had started with seven spades, so Smith's line of play was technically superior.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

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► Weddings

Blackburn and Wilson

Family and friends celebrated the marriage of Amber Nicole Blackburn and Dereck Koby Wilson on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

The ceremony was performed by Pastor Jonathan Jones at the beautiful Clark Gardens Botanical Park in Weatherford.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Ron Blackburn. The matron of honor was Amy Hooten, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Heather Blackburn, sister of the bride, and Anita Helton, friend of the bride.

Best man was Seth Wilson, brother of the groom, while groomsmen were Dustin Wilson, brother of the groom, Steven Pratt and Donny Allen.

Flower girl was Kesley Henson, cousin of the groom; ring bearer was Mateo Irizarry, nephew of the bride.

Amber is the daughter of Ron Blackburn of Irving and Patricia Rupert of Wisconsin.

Dereck is the son of David and Susan Wilson,



Mr. and Mrs. Dereck Wilson

both of Big Spring, and grandparent Patricia Wilson, formerly of Big Spring, and great-grandparents BW and Gladys Walker of Granbury.

Dereck is a 2002 Big Spring High School graduate and works for National Oilwell Varco.

Amber is a 2004 gradu-

ate of Texas State University with a bachelor of science degree in biology. She is a pharmacy technician for Prescription Services in Big Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Dereck Wilson reside in Big Spring.

HATS ministry provides key resources

HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is 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 available. Contact Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

Smith and Tunnell

Savanah Cheyenne Smith and Joshua Mack Tunnell were united in marriage at 4 p.m., March 7, 2009, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with Bro. Chris Tyler officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Valerie Smith and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Smith and the late Lou Smith, all of Stanton.

The groom is the son of Brad and Ginger Tunnell and the grandson of Glynda Tunnell and the late Mack Tunnell and Jo Madison and the late Dick Madison, all of Lenora.

The couple stood before the church decorated with candelabras, greenery, roses and assorted colors of gerbera daisies. A unity candle completed the setting.

The bride, escorted by her father, wore a strapless chiffon covered satin gown of bridal white with a chapel length train. The fitted bodice and train were enhanced with bead work and appliques of lace. She wore a chapel length veil accented with a beautiful tiara. She carried a fresh cut round bouquet of multi-colored gerbera daisies, pink roses and purple tulips. For something old, she wore a necklace which had belonged to her great-great Aunt Maye and was worn by her mother in her wedding.

Shelly Warren, the groom's aunt, was a vo-



Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Tunnell

calist and played the piano. David Wetzel, cousin of the bride, was also a vocalist. Ryan Walker of Big Spring was the pianist before and during the ceremony.

Kelley Pickens of Stanton served as maid of honor. Matron of honor was Savannah Hays of Dallas. Other friends from Dallas Baptist University serving as bridesmaids were Gracie Moehlenpah and Jamie Shirley. Julie Sims, of Dallas, registered guests as they entered the church. The bride's cousins, Reagan Leary, served as flower girl, and Cody Hancock served as ring bearer.

Eric and Jonathon Tunnell of Stanton served their brother as best men. Groomsmen were Ryan Batla of Garden City and Sean Smith, brother of the bride.

Ushers were cousins of the bride, Micah Trampe of Sheridan, Wyo., and Michael Brooks of Coahoma, and cousins of the groom, Bryan Creech of Lenora and Brent Madison of Mid-

land.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Martin County Community Center. The bride's table was complete with a square spiraling four tier white cake topped with a heart shaped bride and groom figurine. The bride's cousins, Tonia Brooks, and Alayna Smith served the cake.

The groom's table was decorated with a Texas A&M University theme. He had a three-tier chocolate cake with the Texas A&M emblem on top decorated in maroon icing.

The groom's cousins, Shelby Holland and Savannah Sawyer, served the cake. The couple toasted with Dublin Dr. Pepper.

The bride is a graduate of Stanton High School and will graduate from Dallas Baptist University in December 2009.

The groom is a graduate of Grady High School and Texas A&M University.

The couple will make their home in Martin County.



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Obituaries

Auda Vee Graham

Auda Vee Graham, 85, of Ackerly, died Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, 2009, at the First Baptist Church Ackerly with the Rev. Ray McMorris, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born April 24, 1924, in Abilene and married Hattie Mae Wiggins March 22, 1947, in Big Spring.

Auda Vee served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in China, Burma and India with the 124th Cavalry. He was a soldier in the Mars Task Force and was a recipient of two Purple Hearts. His family moved to the Big Spring area in 1927. He farmed in the Ackerly area and was a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Ackerly.

Survivors include wife, Hattie Mae Graham of Ackerly; one son, Rickey Graham of Odessa; one daughter and son-in-law, Dorinda and Max Hill of Rowlett; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Nora Dean of Idalou; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters.

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

- West Texas Centers for MHMR invites the public to a reception from 10 a.m. until noon Aug. 14 at the Alsup Building board room, 409 Runnels, for Janet Payne, retiring mental health director.

- If you are considering homeschooling as an option for your family but aren't really sure how to begin or what is involved, there will be a homeschooling informational meeting Tuesday, Aug. 18. Several local families with the Big Spring Christian Home Educators support group will be available to answer questions about and share information regarding homeschooling in Texas. Free to the public, the meeting will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Christ's Community Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. For more information, send e-mails to dnhlong@hotmail.com

- Former students of Gay Hill Common School near Luther will be having a reunion and time capsule dig at the remains of the school house at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Bring your shovels, metal detectors, etc. Organizers have planned the event in conjunc-

tion with the Big Spring High School 2009 Homecoming. More than 50 former students have been contacted and many are planning to attend.

- A benefit fund for stroke victim Rocky Dunlap has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton St. Dunlap has been employed for the past several years as a principal with Big Spring Independent School District.

- An account to defray funeral costs for the family of Justin Hernandez has been set up at Western Bank — formerly known as First Bank of West Texas — located on FM 700. Hernandez was killed in a shooting May 29. For more information, contact the bank at 267-1113.

- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas military personnel who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Apply at the Salvation Army, 511 W. Fifth St. These funds were granted by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

Local Weather

Sun 8/9	97/73	
Sunshine and some clouds. High 97F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.		
Mon 8/10	97/73	
Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.		
Tue 8/11	96/73	
Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.		
Wed 8/12	94/71	
Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.		
Thu 8/13	94/71	
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.		

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Adriana Martinez, 33, died Wednesday. Funeral Services were at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

GLIDING

Continued from Page 1A

50 pilots participating in the event, and according to Wofford, flights are expected to get under way Sunday afternoon.

"The gliders and ultralights will be taking off on the taxiway just north of the airport terminal, and we'll have bleachers set up for the folks that want to come out and watch," said Wofford. "We'll also have a vendor there, selling all sorts of foods, from breakfast fare to things like hamburgers and hotdogs.

"As long as the weather cooperates, take-offs usually begin around 12:30 p.m. and wrap up around 1:30 p.m. Once they are up in the air, they will travel the course set for that day's tasks, which might take them far from the terminal and back, or may have them landing someplace else."

Pitting the best and brightest wind-riders around the nation — and a few from foreign countries — against the West Texas sky, the annual championship has become something of a tradition in the Crossroads area, and according to event coordinator David Glover, it's that

love for the sport and the men and women that pilot the gliders that keeps them coming back.

"We keep coming back because of the great people in Big Spring and the wonderful airport facilities," said Glover. "However, we have to admit it's especially the hang gliding weather conditions we love here."

According to Glover, it's the overall consistency of the weather in Big Spring that offers hang glider pilots some of the best flying in the world.

"The consistency of the conditions here means we can fly everyday," said Glover. "We're not winded or weathered

out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal layers of air go up. The base of the clouds are really high, which means we can fly up really high into the air and the thermals are strong, so you don't have to fly around too much before you hit a thermal that pushes you up.

"Our desire is to see how long we can stay up and then fly around a course as quickly as we can. It just has the right combination of meteorology and geography to allow us to fly for a long time and fly fast. The men and women who come here just love the flying. It's excellent."

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

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G-Force (PG) 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50
Ugly Truth, The (R) 1:20 4:20 7:20 10:20
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UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1A

and motion pictures.

In addition to the Chamber of Commerce, which also houses the Unit-

ed Way office, tickets can be purchased at Alon, State National Bank, Western Bank, Big Spring Gin, or by contacting Jeanie Coor at uway@apex2000.net

Reservations may be made by calling 267-5201.

Garrett Hall is located at the

First United Methodist Church in Big Spring, at the corner of Third and Scurry.

Information about Suzie Humphreys taken from her Web site at <http://suziehumphreys.com/>

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Monday morning meeting.

"I really think this is simply one of those things we'll have to hash out. I'm sure a good solution will present itself at some point," he added.

Also Monday, commissioners are expected to approve an order that will transfer the remaining funds in the county's

jail construction fund to pay for debt service on the \$11.57 million bond voters approved almost two years ago.

Having opened the jail in late April, County Auditor Jackie Olsen said the remaining funds will favorably impact next year's debt service.

"Next year's payment on the bond is approximately \$800,000," said Olsen. "There's about \$295,000 left in the fund balance, and by law, we can only use that money for debt service at this

point. So that will make quite a dent in next year's payment."

Monday's meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse. For more information, call the county judge's office at 264-2202.

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

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Births

Cason Bradlee Evans

Bradlee and Tiffani Evans of Amarillo announce the birth of their son, Cason Bradlee Evans, at 4:43 p.m. July 13, 2009. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19-3/4 inches in length.

Grandparents are Kathy Scott of Amarillo and Richard and Sandra Bloom of Coahoma, and Rickey and Terri Evan of Lorenzo.

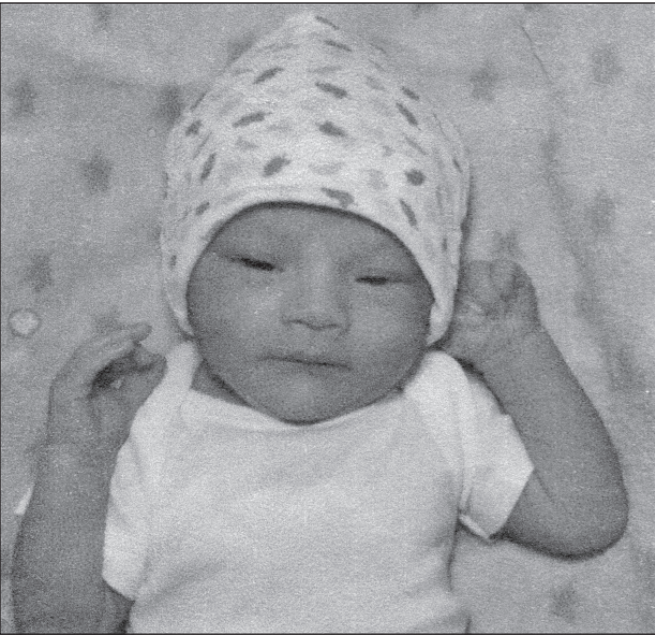


Angelo Guzman

Felicia Canales and Joe Guzman of Big Spring announce the birth of their son, Angelo Guzman at 7:31 p.m. Aug. 3, 2009. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

He is the grandson of David Canales of Big Spring and Bonnie Lopez of Big Spring.

He is welcomed home by siblings Dallas, Austin and Antonio.



CADETS

Continued from Page 1C

said. "They're all so loving and have so many stories to tell you. There's no way you can't get attached to them."

Nate Flowers, who will be a sophomore at Big Spring High School in the fall, had a more personal reason to apply for the program — his father has been a patient at VAMC.

"I thought it would be a cool idea," Flowers said of the program. "It was better than I thought it would be. I learned more about the medical field than I would have otherwise. I didn't think I'd be interested in it, but I learned that the nurses up here are hard workers," he added.

Aside from performing day-to-day tasks, the cadets also got a first-hand look at specialized hospital services, such as surgery, critical care and the community living center (long-term care unit).

The most important

thing they got to do, however, was interact with patients.

"One of the first things I told them was, 'You've read your history books, now you get to live some of that history by getting to meet people who fought in World War II or Vietnam or Iraq,'" Schaffner said.

"Not getting attached to the patients was the toughest thing to me," Martin said. "You can't help but get attached so much ... and when something bad happens to them, it's hard to let go."

The goal of the program had mixed results with the cadets. Some, like Martin, Diaz and Flowers, said they plan to go into the medical field, while the others plan other careers.

But each said the experience was one they're glad they didn't miss.

"It changed my opinion of the medical field," Urquhart said.

"After being here a couple of weeks, this is what I decided I wanted to do," Flowers added.

Menus

Senior Citizen's Center

Aug. 10-14
Monday: Ham and potato casserole, green peas, tossed salad, carrot cake, rolls, milk.

Tuesday: Tamales with chili, refried beans, tossed salad, tortilla chips, salsa, milk.

Wednesday: Pot roast with potatoes and carrots, tossed salad, chocolate pudding, milk.

Thursday: Beef stroganoff, noodles, green beans, pineapple cream cake, milk.

Friday: Turkey roast with oranges, broccoli and rice casserole, Italian vegetables, milk.

Aug. 17-21

Monday: Beef macaroni casserole, green peas, tossed salad, carrot cake, rolls, milk.

Tuesday: Grilled chicken leg quarters, onion roasted potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower, chilled pears, rolls, milk.

Wednesday: Country fried steak, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, orange wednes, biscuit, milk.

Thursday: Chicken enchilada casserole, corn fiesta, tossed salad, fruit, cornbread, milk.

Friday: Fried catfish, tartar sauce, macaroni and cheese, spinach, hush puppies, lemon bar, milk.

Aug. 24-28

Monday: Philly steak sandwich, sauteed onions and green peppers, three-bean salad, citrus banana cup, milk.

Tuesday: Pepperoni and cheese pizza, tossed salad, fresh fruit, milk.

Wednesday: Open faced roast beef sandwich, brown gravy, pasta salad, Oreo cookies, milk.

Thursday: Oven friend chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, banana cake, rolls, milk.

Friday: Soft chicken tacos, Spanish rice, pinto beans, guacamole salad, 7Up cake, milk.

Something special's happening in the Circle.

February 2008 Activities

Feb. 4 – Games, 1-3 p.m.

Feb. 5 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Coffee @ Parkplace Retirement Living Center, 10 a.m.
Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., Spanish Inn

Feb. 6 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 7 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.
Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m.
Bunko, 4 p.m.

Feb. 8 – Lunch Bunch & Birthdays, 11:30 a.m.
Just Peachy Café

Feb. 12 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.

Supper Club, 5:30 p.m., Red Mesa

Feb. 13 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 14 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.

Just Peachy Café
"Coffee Club," 10 a.m.

Feb. 15 – Valentine's Pot Luck & Bingo,
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wear Red!

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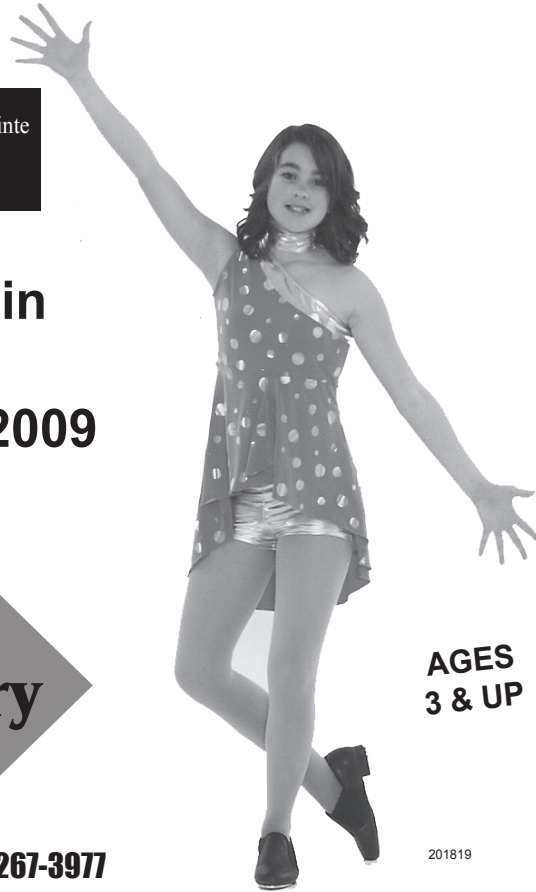
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EDITORIAL

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Here's hoping hang gliders keep coming

The brightly-colored wings in the sky over the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark this next week will be a welcomed sight for quite a few Big Spring residents. The 2009 USHPA Big Spring Nationals Hang Gliding Competition is being staged at the airpark, and will again be drawing some of the sport's best gliders to our community.

Competition in the week-long event sponsored by the United States Hang Gliding Association begins Sunday and will continue through Saturday, Aug. 15. Gliders will take off around noon each day and taking part in what David Glover, who again is one of the event's organizers, calls "three-dimensional yacht races in the sky."

This marks the eighth consecutive year that a major hang gliding event has been scheduled in Big Spring.

That's because the people of Big Spring treat their guests so well, Glover said, in addition to the fact that the airpark has tremendous facilities. It also doesn't hurt that the Crossroads area offers hang glider pilots some of the best flying weather in the world.

Spectators are welcome to show up at the airpark and take in the competition. Concessions are available, but it's suggested that spectators bring folding chairs, sunshades and coolers with drinks.

The gliders are in Big Spring because this area offers excellent natural qualities for hang gliding. This portion of West Texas has the geography and weather necessary for excellent soaring conditions.

While this is not the first time the USHGA has held an event in Big Spring, and obviously won't be the last, we want to make sure that we salute the local committee headed by Terry Wofford. This is the group that has each year worked with Glover and other event officials to ensure the pilots keep wanting to come back.

Furthermore, we here at the *Herald* want to welcome all the hang gliding participants to Big Spring. We hope you enjoy your stay here.

Not only do we look forward to what awaits us this week, but the prospect of your returning. As a matter of fact, we hope you all just keep coming back for many, many years to come.

We make no secret of our West Texas pride, nor our belief that Big Spring is the best place on earth to live.

We hope that our visitors this week come to believe there's no better place to fly.

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

No matter how dark things look, Lord, You know the future and will help us when we trust in You.

Amen

A story that brings tears to my eyes

There's no question that a lot of us older newspaper guys bemoan the Internet and online news, and there's no question the United States Postal Service is having its share of trouble now that a great many of us use e-mail rather than snail-mail.

I received an e-mail from David Sullens — he's the guy that was editor of *The Paris News* and gave me my first newspaper job — that contained the following story entitled "The Old Man."

I have no idea who wrote this piece, whether it depicts and actual event or simply a flight of fancy.

What I do know, is it made me cry, and that's more than enough reason to share it with our readers.

The Old Man

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car and continued to watch the old gentleman from about 25 feet away.

I saw a young man in his early 20s with a grocery bag in his arm, walking toward the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps toward him. I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something.

The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade and then turn back to the old man and I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying, "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age."

And then with a wave of his

hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her and appeared to tell her it would be OK.

I had seen enough and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight and as I got near him I said, "Looks like you're having a problem."

He smiled sheepishly and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around I saw a gas station up the road and told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside and saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them and related the problem the old man had with his car and offered to pay them if they could follow me back and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine) I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he'd noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, "What outfit did you serve with?"

He had mentioned that he served with the First Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked, we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me and I told him I would just put the bill on my

AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We all shook hands all around again and I said my goodbyes.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then, that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name ... "Congressional Medal of Honor Society."

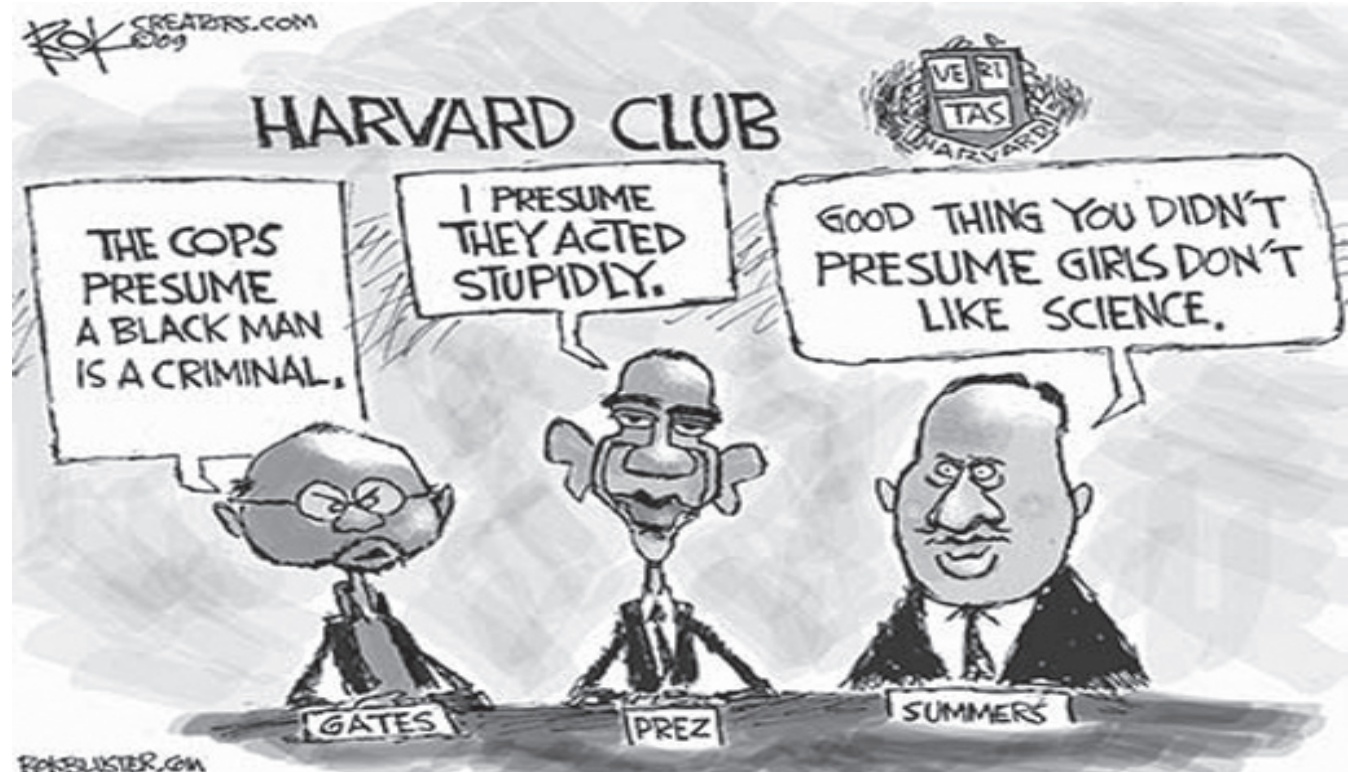
I sat there motionless looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together, because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage and an honor to have been in his presence.

Remember, old men like him gave us the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Indeed.

Nothing else is needed.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com



Nothing ventured, nothing gained

Sleeping the normal amount of hours at night stopped weeks ago, replaced mostly by sweating and running various success/failure scenarios over in my brain. On a good night I'd catch a few hours before heading into one store to catch up on email, paperwork and other correspondence before making the hour-plus ride to our about-to-be second location.

The inability to sleep coupled with a manic desire to work has always been part of my package of mental quirks as launch day for a new venture approaches. There's an enormous amount of stress involved in trying something different and the pressure I put on myself has gotten worse as the personal stakes have risen.

When I was a major part of launching a men's lifestyle Web site in 1999 with very little money and founders who seemed somewhat intent on replacing me right up until we actually launched, I had little to lose. My then girlfriend (current wife) and I rented an apartment, had no child and had not even gotten our first cat. I didn't

know enough to be scared and, frankly, failing in the Internet crazy days of the late '90s would have just meant taking a higher paying job at some other new company.

Now, my company, under my direction, has decided to launch a new store during the worst retail economy since the 1920s. Worse yet, it's an entirely different kind of store than our first, very successful location. Whereas our current store is the largest of its kind — carrying pretty much all of everything — the new one will be 1,000 square feet carrying a very focused selection of everything.

The new store is based on my theory that most local hobby shops and gaming stores close because they have too tight a focus — usually only selling whatever the owner collects or plays. Our new store (hopefully stores) will combine traditional hobbies like model building and trains with games, radio control planes, helicopters, cars and trucks along with collectible gaming and plain old toys.

Since nobody except us in a pretty different setting has used this exact mix of products (hobby and toys or hobby and gaming sometimes get mixed, but not usually all three) I am either a genius or an idiot. It's, of course, the fear that I may be an idiot that keeps me up at night running through various mental

spreadsheets as to what it will take to break even and waking up sweating in fear that we will build it and nobody will come.

The night before launch day was particularly sleepless as I became mentally convinced that no customer would ever come to our store. This made no sense as we had a visible location that had until its owner's recent tragic death had housed a successful hobby store. I also had commitments from local model, radio control and gaming clubs to show up and I was pretty sure my wife intended to stop by.

Nerves aside, there's a certain thrill to doing something contrarian. Opening a store in the worst economy since the 1920s often strikes people as foolish, but the rational part of me (as opposed to the panicky part) says that we sell quality products that people want and demand for toys, games and hobby items increases in a recession.

Of course, rational thought, does not occupy my mind in the middle of the night and I'm rapidly becoming a vampire who has a day job. If this store works, I hope to open hundreds more over the next few years. Someone should probably get a pot of coffee started.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com

Oil prices rise to more than \$72 a barrel in the U.S.

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press Writer

Oil prices recouped earlier losses and climbed over \$72 a barrel Friday after better-than-expected U.S. jobs data fueled hopes that the world's largest economy will soon be growing again.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for September delivery was up 32 cents to \$72.26 a barrel in

electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Thursday, the contract lost 3 cents to settle at \$71.94.

The Labor Department reported that 247,000 jobs were lost in July, the lowest in a year, while the unemployment rate unexpectedly dipped to 9.4 percent, its first decline in 15 months.

Analysts had been expecting job losses of around 320,000 and an unem-

ployment rate of 9.6 percent.

Traders have bid up crude from below \$62 a barrel last week on expectations the economy could grow by the end of the year.

"Renewed investor hopes of an early recovery in the global economy have led to a sharp rebound in equities and oil prices," said a report from KBC Market Services in Britain.

Oil prices have held above \$71 for the last few days despite an Energy

Department report this week that showed crude supplies continue to rise, a sign demand remains weak.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for September delivery fell 0.17 cent to \$2.0590 a gallon and heating oil rose 0.13 cent to \$1.9380. Natural gas for September delivery advanced 4.2 cents to \$3.785 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices rose 27

See **OIL**, Pg. 5C



AP photo/Don Ryan

People looking for work search on computers at a Worksource office in Portland, Ore. Employers throttled back on layoffs in July, cutting just 247,000 jobs, the fewest in a year, and the unemployment rate dipped to 9.4 percent. It was a better than expected showing that offered a strong signal that the recession is finally ending.

Job losses slow; rate dips

JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Employers throttled back on layoffs in July, cutting just 247,000 jobs, the fewest in a year, and the unemployment rate dipped to 9.4 percent, its first decline in 15 months.

It was a better-than-expected showing that offered a strong signal that the recession is finally ending.

The new snapshot, released by the Labor Department on Friday, also offered other encouraging news: workers' hours nudged up after sinking to a record low in June, and paychecks grew after having fallen or flat lined in some cases.

To be sure, the report still in-

dicates that the jobs market is on shaky ground. But the new figures were better than many analysts were expecting and offered welcomed improvements to a part of the economy that has been clobbered by the recession.

Analysts were forecasting job losses to slow to around 320,000 and the unemployment rate to tick up to 9.6 percent.

The dip in the unemployment rate — from June's 9.5 percent — was the first since April 2008. One of the reasons the rate went down, however, was because hundreds of thousands of people left the labor force. Fewer people, though, did report being unemployed.

All told, there were 14.5 million out of work in July.

If laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs or have settled for part-time work are included the unemployment rate would have been 16.3 percent in July. That's down from 16.5 percent in June, which was the highest on records dating to 1994.

Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost a net total of 6.7 million jobs.

Also heartening: job losses in May and June turned out to be less than previously reported. Employers sliced 303,000 positions in May, versus 322,000 previously logged. And, they cut 443,000 in June, compared with an earlier estimate of 467,000.

See **JOBS**, Pg. 5C

Alon reports second quarter results; declares a quarterly cash dividend

Special to the Herald

Alon USA Energy Inc. Thursday announced results for the quarter and six months ended June 30, 2009. Net loss for the second quarter of 2009 was \$15.3 million, or 33 cents per share, compared to net income of \$18.2 million, or 38 cents per share, for the same period last year. Excluding special items, Alon recorded a net loss of \$14.4 million, or 31 cents per share, for the second quarter of 2009, compared to net loss of \$59.7 million, or \$1.27 per share, for the same period last year.

Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2009, was \$2 million, or four cents per share, compared to net loss of \$15.4 million, or 33 cents per share, for the six months ended June 30, 2008. Excluding special items, Alon recorded net income of \$3 million, or six cents per share, for the six months ended June 30, 2009, compared to net loss of \$84.9 million, or \$1.81 per share, for the same period last year.

Jeff Morris, Alon's President and CEO, said, "We generated cash flow from operating activities of \$177.4 million during the second quarter of 2009. This was achieved mainly through \$133.6 million of net proceeds from the

successful unwind and liquidation of the heating oil crack spread hedge that was put in place at the time of the Krotz Springs refinery acquisition. With the liquidation of the heating oil crack spread hedge, we were able to significantly reduce our Krotz Springs refinery debt by approximately 50 percent. During the second quarter of 2009, we recognized an overall debt net of cash reduction of \$193.2 million.

"We are very pleased that our asphalt segment generated an asphalt margin on a cash basis of \$65.43 per ton for the second quarter of 2009, almost double the margin from the same period last year. We are excited about the potential to expand our blended asphalt business. Also during the second quarter, we put into service a naphtha hydrotreater unit at our California refineries which brings our finished fuels production to over 42 percent.

"We are pleased to report we have extended the maturity date of our \$240 million revolving credit facility with an original maturity date of Jan. 1, 2010, to Jan. 1, 2013," Morris added.

"Our second quarter 2009 results reflect the impact of industry wide declines in light product

crack spreads and the reduction in the sweet/sour and light/heavy spreads on crude oil, both of which negatively impacted the operating margins at our refineries. Last year, the Big Spring refinery ceased operations on Feb. 18, 2008, due to a fire and restarted in a hydroskimming mode on April 5, 2008. Thus, light product yields at our Big Spring refinery were down significantly for the second quarter of 2008. Additionally, we were reducing throughput at our California refineries in 2008 in an effort to maximize the refining economics of the refinery in response to the escalating cost of crude oil which had a WTI average price of \$124.00 per barrel for the second quarter of 2008."

Special items for the second quarter of 2009 included an after-tax loss of \$1 million recognized on disposition of assets. Special items for the second quarter of 2008 included after-tax losses of \$5.5 million incurred for costs associated with the Big Spring refinery fire and after-tax gains of \$57.2 million recognized from the involuntary conversion of assets due to the Big Spring refinery

See **ALON**, Pg. 5C

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.

Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.



July was a good month for us here in the Permian Basin. First, we experienced the seventh wettest month on record and then as a bonus, the stock market gave us the best July performance since 1939. Both are equally refreshing.

With the second quarter of 2009 having come and gone, better than expected corporate earnings seemed to have kept the bloom on the rose. As we have reported, hope and optimism have been growing since the March lows. But for us, the unknowable question is when will this new, positive mood have done too much, too quickly and set us up for an inevitable correction of some sort?

We have advised a bit more caution the past few weeks as the risk-to-reward level for new money appears questionable. This is not calling a top, but rather it is an attempt to adjust to a market up almost 50 percent from the March 9 lows. The market often overdoes moves both up and down. It did it March 9 and we feel is in the process of doing it now.

Aside from the short term extended condition of the stock market, we are also concerned that the better than expected second quarter earnings reports have about done their thing. Also, a growing group of economists, as well as President Obama, are saying the recession is almost over, so we feel this is already old news and has already been discounted.

For months, we have stated that the recession will probably end in the August-September period and this still appears reasonable.

The next question will be just how much of an economic recover will we see in 2010?

We believe the dog days of August are set up to be either a dull, churning, wear 'em out correction or a moderate down. But we continue to believe the market will be higher by year end.

From here, we believe the bulls have used up a lot of energy in the past four months and therefore pauses to refresh are normal and to be expected. Although the skies are blue at the moment, we are advising to keep an "umbrella" of buying power available for pullbacks.

For you crude oil folks out there, which let's face it is just about all of us, July wasn't quite so refreshing but at the same time not really that depressing either. We started the month at \$69.89 and finished about flat for the month.

Natural gas on the other hand, was down much harder, finishing down about 5 percent for the same period. We continue to wonder how much lower natural gas can go and really believe not much. Recently we talked with one analyst who told us that production has become so closed in that should something occur, we would cut through our glutted inventories like "a hot knife through butter." We will continue to pray for a cold, cold, winter.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Portions of this article were produced on July 31, 2009, by Al Goldman, Wells Fargo Advisors chief market strategist. Wells Fargo Advisors did not assist in the preparation of this article, and its accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Wells Fargo or its affiliates. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at (432) 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC, member SIPC, is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.

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Nation/World briefs

Sotomayor at court Saturday for swearing-in as Supreme Court justice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sonia Sotomayor, her family and friends are gathering at the Supreme Court for her swearing-in as the court's first Hispanic, third woman and 111th justice.

Chief Justice John Roberts is to preside Saturday at two ceremonies that will officially make Sotomayor a high court justice.

Sotomayor, 55, has been a federal judge for 17 years. President Barack Obama nominated her in May to take the place of Justice David Souter, who has retired. The Senate confirmed Sotomayor's nomination Thursday by a 68-31 vote.

Before she can begin her new job, though, she has to take two oaths.

In a private ceremony in the justices' conference room, Roberts will administer an oath that the Constitution requires of all federal officials, to "support and defend" the Constitution. Then, in a public ceremony that is expected to be aired live on some cable networks, he will give Sotomayor a second oath in which she pledges to "administer justice" fairly and impartially, as prescribed by a 220-year-old federal law.

Nation's drugmakers help Obama in his campaign to remake health care system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's drugmakers stand ready to spend \$150 million to help President Barack Obama overhaul health care this fall, according to numerous officials, a staggering sum that could dwarf attempts to derail Obama's top domestic priority.

The White House and allies in Congress are well aware of the effort by Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a somewhat surprising political alliance, given the drug industry's recent history of siding with Republicans and the Democrats' disdain for special interests.

The campaign, now in its early stages, includes television advertising under PhRMA's own name and commercials aired in conjunction with the liberal group, Families USA.

Numerous people with knowledge of PhRMA's plans said they had been told it would likely reach \$150 million and perhaps \$200 million. They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to divulge details.

Additionally, the industry is the major contributor to Healthy Economy Now, which recently completed a \$12 million round of advertising nationally and in several states. The ads were made by firms with close ties to Democrats and the White House and generally reflected the administration's changing rhetoric on health care.

Failed airspeed sensors on U.S. jets could provide clues to Air France crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — The discovery of faulty airspeed sensors on some Northwest Airlines jets suggests the equipment problems are more widespread than previously believed and could provide clues to the cause of the Air France crash that killed 228 people in June.

Federal aviation officials say that on at least a dozen recent flights malfunctioning equipment made it impossible for the pilots to know how fast

they were flying.

The discovery gives new urgency to airlines already scrambling to replace air sensors and figure out how the errors went undetected despite safety systems.

The equipment failures, all involving Northwest Airlines Airbus A330s, were brief and were noticed only after safety officials began investigating the Air France crash — on a Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight — and two other recent in-flight malfunctions. The failures were described by people familiar with the investigation who spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

While a car's speedometer uses tire rotation to calculate speed, an airplane relies on sensors known as Pitot tubes to measure changing air pressure.

Computers interpret that information as speed. And while a car with a broken speedometer might be little more than an inconvenience, many airplane control systems rely on accurate speed information to work properly.

Indonesian police storm house with suspected terrorist leader inside

BEJI, Indonesia (AP) — Southeast Asia's most wanted terror suspect was reportedly killed during a 16-hour siege on a suspected militant hideout that ended Saturday when police stormed the house.

Local TV stations reported militant chief Noordin Mohammad Top, who is blamed for last month's attacks on two American hotels in the capital Jakarta, was killed in the bathroom of the house in a rice-growing village in central Java province following a lengthy bomb and gun battle.

Those reports were not confirmed by police.

DNA tests will likely have to be performed to ensure the identification.

The suicide attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in the capital, Jakarta killed nine people, most of them foreigners, and broke a four-year gap in terror strikes in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Noordin is also believed to have played a major role in four other bombings in Indonesia since 2002, including nightclub attacks on the resort island of Bali that year that killed 202 people, mostly foreigners.

Reports: Deputy says Pakistan's Taliban chief Mehsud is alive, contradicting another aide

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A deputy to Baitullah Mehsud claimed Saturday that the Pakistani Taliban chief was not killed by a CIA missile strike, contradicting another aide who confirmed Mehsud's death a day earlier.

His claim, reported widely by Pakistani media, flies in the face of growing confidence among U.S. and Pakistani officials that Mehsud died, and it could be a tactical maneuver aimed at delaying a decision on who will succeed Mehsud.

Local intelligence officials acknowledged Saturday that the missile strike said to have killed the Taliban chief was carried out with Islamabad's help, indicating growing coordination between the two countries despite Pakistan's official disap-

proval of the strikes.

The deputy stating that Mehsud is alive, Hakimullah, is one of the potential successors to lead the militant group.

He made the comments in phone calls to several news outlets. However, he could not provide evidence that the militant chief is still alive.

Intelligence agents said it appears likely that Hakimullah may be passed over for the top position in favor of another Mehsud aide, Waliur Rehman.

Clinton meets new S. African president with eye on improving strained ties

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with South African President Jacob Zuma Saturday in a bid to improve strained ties with the country.

The pair held talks in the port city of Durban, a day after Clinton praised a warming in ties between the United States and South Africa since the recent elections in both countries of new presidents.

President Barack Obama is eager to remake a relationship that had suffered during the Bush administration due to differences with former South African President Thabo Mbeki's government over the cause and treatment of AIDS and the crisis in Zimbabwe.

"In both countries there are two new administrations which are taking that relationship a level higher. That is what we are trying to do," Zuma said after the 45-minute long meeting.


Clinton said that Zuma and Obama had told her and South Africa's foreign minister "to put meat on the bone, to get to work to make sure the expectations of President Zuma and President Obama are met."

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Terica Alvarado, 1100 E. 61st St., Odessa
Daniel Antrim, 120 N. 22nd Pl., Lamesa
Fernando Arriaga Jr., 606 N.W. Eighth St., Big Spring
Nancy Ramirez Banuelos, 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 1, Big Spring
Christine Avalos Bara, 1405 North 6th Street, Lamesa
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Christopher Barrera, 1704 Goliad, Big Spring
Teresa Baumann, 1509 E. Sixth, Big Spring
Amy Benavides, 3001 N. Midland Dr., Big Spring
Crystal Biles, 15885 S. Quartz, Odessa
Vern Black, 329 WE Tennessee, Floydada
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Patrick Kyle Heckler, 12501 N. Co. Rd. 35, Big Spring
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Sandy Martinez, 1610 Eubanks, Big Spring
Shawn G. McKay, 3107 Bonham Ave, Odessa
Betty Jane McWilliams, 2308 Thorpe/2503 Fairchild, Big Spring

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Monica Miramontes, 1809 Nolan, Big Spring
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Ricky L. Nava, 707 Willa, Big Spring
Nancy Ortega, 601 Abrams, Big Spring
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Lisa M. Portillo, 1200 Stanford Ave, Big Spring
Ruth Heinen Privett, 5822 Oak, Big Spring
Rickie Dan Pruiett, 979 FM 977, Leona
Richard Wayne Rains, 4501 Parkway, Big Spring
Patricia Ramos, 538 Westover Road #226, Big Spring
Bruce Allen Rawson, 4730 Orange Street, Bacliff
Michael Dewayne Renteria, 2516 Dow, Big Spring
Anna D. Rich, PO Box 1321, Denver City
Jerrall Ray Richardson, 1481 Highway 81, Bowie
Jennifer Roberts, 2500 Cheyenne, Big Spring
Mandi E. Cevalos Rodriguez, 406 North Scurry, Big Spring
Veronica Luera Rodriguez, 5709 Cedar Rd. No. 3, Big Spring
Kenneth Wayne Ross, 12101 Dessau Rd., Big Spring
Thomas Ross, 1206 Lela St., Jasper
Thomas Castillo Ruiz, 1306 W. Tennessee, Midland
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Mona Saldana, 400 Circle, Big Spring
Nancy Carolina Sauseda, 1707 N. 11th St., Lamesa
Carol Ann Sawyer, 700 S. Lancaster, Big Spring
Monica Serbine, 304 E. 20th, Big Spring
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Curtis W. Shelton, 3714 Millbrook Road, Big Spring
Jonathan Michael Shorten, 1619 1-35 La Quinta, San Marcos
Brian Paul Siverson, 589c Stoddard, Odessa
Cade Smith, 410 McKee

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Lisa D. Smith, 2010 Sierra Dr., League City
Anthony Solis, 1303 Elm St., Big Spring
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Matthew Henry Steadman, 801 W. Marcy, Big Spring
Misty D. Sternadel, 457 Seventh St., Scotland TX
Robert Summers, 1905 Wasson Dr. #5, Big Spring
Tonya D. Conner Taylor, 1111 Moseley Circle, Hobbs, N.M.
Liandro Ventura, 1905 Wasson No. 23, Big Spring
Grace Walker, 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 904, Big Spring
Candida Lynn Whitehead, 1405 runnels, Big Spring
Tina Diane Whitlow, 1407.5 Settles, Big Spring

District Court Filings:
Steven Robert Sloan vs. Traci Lea Sloan, divorce.
In Re Ashley Renee Garcia, family.
In Re Victoria Lynn Castillo, family.
Kaina Ranae Vanderbilt, family.
Madysyn Hillger, family.
In Re Christian Chavarria, family.
In Re Jordan Lee Baeza, family.
Discover Bank vs. Dolly Wilking, accounts, notes and contracts.
BAC Home Loan Services vs. Albert Torres and Leticia Torres, accounts, notes and contracts.
Ex Parte Henry Lynn Roach, expunction.
Gwendolyn Olivarez vs. Freddy Olivarez, divorce.
Twila J. Whetsel vs. Terry Whetsel, divorce.
Randal Wayne Johnson vs. Billy Ray Johnson, protective order.
Billy and Opal Johnson vs. Billy Ray Johnson, protective order.
Western Motels Inc. vs. Auer Corp. and Raymond L. Teague, accounts, notes and contracts.

Marriage Licenses:
Jon Ray Hernandez, 37, and Tricia Diann Castillo, 33, both of Big Spring

Christopher Shane Myrick, 35, of Big Spring, and Selida Patrosina Quintanilla, 26, of Lubbock
Adam Thomas Kuykendall, 24, of Big Lake, and Stacy Marie Hernandez, 19, of Big Spring

Warranty Deeds:
Grantor: Scott Goodblanket, Jr. and Dolores Goodblanket
Grantee: Scott Goodblanket, Jr. and Dolores Goodblanket
Property: Lot 4, Block 30, College Park Estates
Date: July 30, 2009

Grantor: Dana B. Wilkinson
Grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
Property: A .46-acre tract out of SE/4 of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: July 31, 2009

Grantor: Brent Stenham
Grantee: Johnny Mize and Jill Mize
Property: Lot 3, Block 6, Banks Addition
Date: August 3, 2009

Grantor: Brent Stenham
Grantee: A.C. Mize and Billie Mize
Property: Lot 10, Block 6, Banks Addition
Date: August 3, 2009

Grantor: Anthony Cimino and Samantha Cimino
Grantee: Timothy Haynie and Marlena Haynie
Property: A 4.878-acre tract out of NE/4 of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: August 4, 2009

Grantor: Timothy Haynie and Marlena Haynie
Grantee: Oscar Barraza and Laurie Barraza
Property: A 4.878-acre tract out of a 40-acre tract in the NE/4 of Section 14, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: August 4, 2009

Grantor: Michael Robertson
Grantee: Bobby Cunningham
Property: A tract out of Section 45, Block 31, T-1-N,

T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: August 4, 2009

Grantor: Leta Fern Pruitt
Grantee: Ruel Metcalf
Property: North portion of Lot 11, Block 6, Worth Peeler Addition - Section 3
Date: August 5, 2009

Grantor: William R. Neal, Jr.
Grantee: Zane Neal Bobbitt and Danny Bobbitt
Property: A 13.50-tract out of NE/4 of Section 6, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: August 5, 2009

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Estate of Mary Louise Reaves Griffin
Grantee: Leona J. Sco-bee
Property: Lot 1 and West 10' of Lot 2, Block 35, Cole & Strayhorn Addition
Date: July 31, 2009

Grantor: Zirah Lea Bednar, individually and as life tenant under the terms of the will of Edwin J. Bednar, deceased
Grantee: Brenda Gupton
Property: Lot 1, Block 4, Indian Hills
Date: August 3, 2009

Grantor: L.D. Grice and Wilma J. Grice
Grantee: Steven R. Sloan and Traci Sloan
Property: Lot 2, Block 1, Caham Sudivision, a subdivision of part of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR. Co. Survey
Date: August 4, 2009

Grantor: Kenneth Brent Williams and Amy Williams
Grantee: Heath A. Wegner and Jennifer L. Wegner
Property: Lot 4 and West 15' of Lot 3, Block 5, Park Hill Addition
Date: August 4, 2009

Grantor: Pajac Drug Co., Inc.
Grantee: Zane Bobbitt and Danny Bobbitt
Property: Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 11, Sudivision C, Amended Fairview Heights Addition
Date: August 4, 2009

JOBS

Continued from Pg. 4C

The job cuts made in July were the fewest since August 2008. The slowdown in layoffs in part reflected fewer jobs cuts in manufacturing, construction, professional and busi-

ness services and financial activities — areas that have been hard hit by the collapse of the housing market and the financial crisis. Retailers, however, cut more jobs in July. Those losses were blunted by job gains in government, education and health services, and in leisure and hospital-

ity. Still, the worst of the job cuts have passed. The deepest job cuts of the recession came in January, when 741,000 job disappeared, the most in any month since 1949. Slower job losses are occurring because companies aren't cutting investment and spend-

ing as drastically as they had been during the depths of the recession which came in the final quarter of last year and carried over into the first quarter of this year. With companies feeling a bit better about the economy's prospects and their own, they boosted workers' hours

in July. The average work week rose to 33.1 hours, after having fallen to 33 hours in June, the lowest on records dating to 1964. And, employers bumped up wages. Average hourly earnings rose to \$18.56 in July, up from \$18.53 in June. Hourly earnings were stagnant in June. Aver-

age weekly earnings, which fell in June, rose to \$614.34. Other recent barometers have shown some improvements in manufacturing, housing and construction activity. The government reported last week that the economy shrank at a pace of just 1 percent from April-to-June,

ALON

Continued from Pg. 4C

fire and \$26.3 million recognized primarily from the disposition of assets in connection with the contribution of certain product pipelines and terminals to Holly Energy Partners LP in March 2005. Refinery operating margin at the Big Spring refinery was \$5.37 per barrel for the second quarter of 2009 compared to \$7.97 per barrel for the same period in 2008. The Big Spring refinery operated in a hydroskimming mode

in the second quarter of 2008 due to the fire, which resulted in lower refinery light product yields. Light product yields were approximately 54 percent for the second quarter of 2008 and 80 percent for the second quarter of 2009. Refinery operating margin at the California refineries was \$2.47 per barrel for the second quarter of 2009 compared to \$6.23 per barrel for the same period in 2008. This increase primarily resulted from a 52 percent decrease in WTI prices from an average of \$124 per barrel in the second quarter of 2008 to an average of \$59.54 per barrel

in the second quarter of 2009. The Krotz Springs refinery operating margin for the second quarter of 2009 was \$5.85 per barrel. The combined refineries throughput for the second quarter of 2009 averaged 159,856 barrels per day, consisting of an average of 61,573 bpd at the Big Spring refinery, an average of 39,825 bpd at the California refineries and an average of 58,458 bpd at the Krotz Springs refinery compared to a combined average of 70,244 bpd in the

second quarter of 2008, consisting of an average of 32,390 bpd at the Big Spring refinery and an average of 37,854 bpd at the California refineries. The Big Spring refinery had higher throughput in the second quarter of 2009 compared to the second quarter of 2008 primarily due to last year's fire. Asphalt margins in the second quarter of 2009 increased to \$50.97 per ton compared to \$35.76 per ton in the second quarter of 2008, primarily due to lower

crude oil costs. Impacting the asphalt margin in the second quarter of 2009 was a charge to cost of goods sold of \$14.46 per ton primarily due to the sale of winter fill inventories. The average blended asphalt sales price decreased 14.5 percent from \$464.74 per ton in the second quarter of 2008 to \$397.35 per ton in the second quarter of 2009 and the average non-blended asphalt sales price decreased 27.8 percent from \$200.88 per ton in the second quarter of 2008 to \$145.04

per ton in the second quarter of 2009. The percentage decrease in asphalt sales price for both blended and non-blended asphalt was less than the 52 percent decrease in WTI prices for the same periods. Alon also announced that its board of directors has approved the regular quarterly cash dividend of four cents per share. The dividend is payable on Sept. 15, 2009, to stockholders of record at the close of business on Aug. 31, 2009.

OIL

Continued from Pg. 4C

cents to \$75.10 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. JBC Energy in Vienna said a buildup of stocks in Cushing, Oklahoma, was behind the spread between the Nymex and Brent contracts, which remained around \$3 in favor of Brent. "Inventories have built by roughly 5 mil-

lion barrels in the last six weeks, bringing the total level to around 33 million barrels," JBC said. Stocks in Cushing feed a number of major refineries and is also where oil traded on Nymex is stored. "This has caused (Nymex) to become disconnected from the global crude market which has seen the spreads of crudes priced off the North American benchmark shoot up," JBC said.

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State news in brief

Obese Texas inmate hides gun in his flabs of fat

HOUSTON (AP) — An obese inmate in Texas has been charged after officials learned he had a gun hidden under flabs of his own flesh.

Twenty-five-year-old George Vera was charged with possession of a firearm in a correctional facility after he told a guard at the Harris County Jail about the unloaded 9mm pistol. The Houston Chronicle reported Thursday that Vera was originally arrested on charges of selling illegal copies of compact discs.

The 500-pound man was searched during his arrest and again at a city jail and the county jail, but officers never found the weapon in his rolls of skin. Vera admitted having the gun during a shower break at the county jail.

Woman convicted in hate crime against neighbor

FORT WORTH (AP) — A white woman in North Texas has been convicted of a hate crime against her black neighbor.

Jurors on Friday convicted Grace Head of hitting her neighbor in the face with a board and jumping on a car after yelling racial slurs and threats.

Assault with bodily injury and criminal mischief are misdemeanors. But they were elevated to state jail felonies after jurors decided that the 67-year-old Arlington woman targeted her victim because of her race.

Head faces up to two years in jail on each charge when she's sentenced Monday.

Mental health experts had testified that Head has bipolar disorder, but jurors rejected her insanity defense, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported.

Houston sextuplet dies, 5 in intensive care

HOUSTON (AP) — Five Texas sextuplets were hospitalized Friday one day after a sibling died.

A spokeswoman at The Woman's Hospital of Texas in Houston told The Associated Press that the surviving Stansel infants were in intensive care.

Aimee Braswell declined to release further details on the status of the four girls and one boy born Tuesday night to Amanda Stansel, 32, and her husband, Thomas Stansel, 31.

But Dan Stansel, the father's brother, says the Humble couple is prepared for the long haul. He says the children are looking at hospital stays of about six months.

The brother says his brother and sister-in-law had been receiving fertility treatments for more than two years.

The family's Web site says a boy named Dallin Cory died Thursday morning, but "all the other children are still fighting hard." The surviving children are named Kaitlyn Amanda, Ashlyn Louise, Rachel Diane, Haley Karin and Braden Thomas.

The hospital said the sextuplets ranged in weight from 12.3 ounces to 1 pound, 1.2 ounces at birth.

Task force recovers nearly 40 pounds of cocaine

EL PASO (AP) — A drug task force that investigates "stash houses" recovered more than 39 pounds of cocaine from an El Paso residence this week and arrested the homeowner.

Investigators were conducting an investigation at the home on Thursday when they discovered 16 bricks of wrapped and packaged cocaine. The cocaine has a street value of more than \$2.8 million, according to a statement released by the El Paso Police Department.

A resident of the home, Adrian Nunez, was charged with possession of controlled substance over 400 grams and booked into jail.

Feds to keep better conditions at Texas facility

WASHINGTON (AP) — Immigration and Customs Enforcement agreed Friday to continue improvements to a central Texas detention center until all immigrant families held there have left.

The agreement reached with the American Civil Liberties Union continues requirements of the settlement of a 2007 lawsuit over conditions at T. Don Hutto Family Detention Center in Taylor, Texas.

The suit filed on behalf of 26 children, most whose families were seeking asylum in the U.S., led to such things as more education and outdoor time.

The lawsuit settlement was to expire at the end of the month. The ACLU and ICE signed the agreement and it was sent to the judge in the case, said Will Matthews, ACLU spokesman.

ICE spokeswoman Pat Riley said she could not comment on the agreement because it is pending litigation.

The agreement follows Thursday's announcement by ICE director John Morton of plans to transform the immigration detention system from a criminal to civil system. The first step was to immediately stop sending families to Hutto for

detention.

ICE has 127 people at Hutto and has told the ACLU all families should be relocated by the end of this year, Matthews said.

Hutto may become a women's detention center. It was unclear whether any of the improvements will be maintained for them, although most of them were for the children.

Texas agency spending some hurricane money

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas agency that was questioned for not spending much of the money it received to help 2005 hurricane victims has improved but still has spent only 31 percent of the funds, a state auditor's report found.

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Office of Rural Community Affairs are administering a total of \$517 million for recovery from hurricanes Rita and Katrina of 2005.

The State Auditor's Office in October 2007 found that the money, coming mostly from federal grants, was being paid out slowly by the housing and community affairs department. At that time only 2 percent of the federal money had been paid to communities and homeowners.

This week's follow-up report distributed Friday says the agency has "fully or substantially" implemented 12 recommendations made by the state auditor but that only 31 percent of the \$440 million available to the agency has been spent.

Auditors stated that the agency should address the spending delays because it will be responsible for some of the \$1.3 billion in federal funds Texas has received for recovery from last year's Hurricane Ike.

Spending the hurricane recovery money — dollars that in many cases help the poorest of Texans — can get postponed because of federal environmental and historic preservation regulations and by requirements that clear home ownership titles be proven, said Michael Gerber, executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Texas has followed those federal requirements and spent money properly, Gerber said, adding that some of the housing construction projects are complex. He said the agency is committed to accountability and said the audit found no major problems related to administering the recovery money.

"We have none of the abuse, fraud and waste that has gone on in other states" with disaster recovery efforts, Gerber said. "In Texas, we made a different choice. We're not just giving checks to people."

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Big Spring will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 6.57 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 18, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers at 307 E. 4th Street.

The second public hearing will be held on September 1, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chamber at 307 E. 4th Street.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Manuel Ramirez, Jr., Ann Staulcup, Russ McEwen, Gloria McDonald, Troy Tompkins and Terry Hansen

AGAINST: Stephanie Horton

PRESENT and not voting: N/A

ABSENT: N/A

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Big Spring last year was \$40,048 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). Based on last year's tax rate of \$1.013243 (preceding year's adopted tax rate) per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$365.21 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the preceding tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Big Spring this year is \$41,118 (average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.950783 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$351.85 (tax on average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$1.013243 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$374.96 (tax on the average taxable value of a residence homestead in the taxing unit for the current tax year, disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older).

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

Points Of Interest

- › Pre-Kindergarten
- › Core Subject Areas
- › Honors Courses
- › Spanish
- › Technology Applications
- › Distance Learning
- › Extended G/T Program
- › Academic UIL
- › FFA
- › FCCLA
- › Drama
- › Industrial Arts
- › Sports
- › National Honor Society
- › Student Council
- › Automated Library
- › Senior Trip

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Free Manson 'family' members haunted by horror

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Correspondent
LOS ANGELES — Forty years ago, they were kids. Vulnerable, alienated, running away from a world wracked by war and rebellion. They turned to a cult leader for love and wound up tied to a web of unimaginable evil.

They were part of Charles Manson's "Family" and now, on the brink of old age, they are the haunted.

"I never have a day go by that I don't think about it, especially about the victims," says Barbara Hoyt who was 17 the summer of the Sharon Tate-LaBianca murders. "I've long ago accepted the fact it will never go away."

The ones who aren't in prison are scattered across the country. Some live under assumed names to hide their past from friends and business associates. Some have undergone surgery to remove the "X" that Manson ordered them to carve on their foreheads, showing they were "X"ed out of society. Some live with endless regret.

Those who escaped taking part in the spasm of terror that snuffed out at least nine lives would seem to be lucky. But their lives have been linked forever to one of the craziest mass murders in history.

"Manson made a lot of victims besides the ones he killed," said Catherine Share, who once lived with the Manson Family under the nickname "Gypsy." "He destroyed lives. There are people sitting in prison who wouldn't be there except for him. He took all of our lives."

It was 1969, the summer of the first moon landing. War was raging in Vietnam. Hippies were in the streets of San Francisco, the last bastion of the waning counterculture movement.

For many, that summer is remembered for one thing — the most shocking celebrity murders to ever hit Los Angeles. Mention of the Sharon Tate murders or the name Manson four decades later is enough to make people shudder.

On the morning of Aug. 9, a housekeeper ran screaming from a home in lush Benedict Canyon. She had discovered a scene of unspeakable carnage. Five bodies were scattered

around the estate.

The most famous, actress Sharon Tate, 26, the pregnant wife of director Roman Polanski, had been stabbed multiple times. But there were four others that day and two more the next.

Abigail Folger, 25, heiress to a coffee fortune; Jay Sebring, 35, celebrity hair stylist; Voyteck Frykowski, 32, a Polish film director and Steven Parent, 18, friend of the caretaker, were found stabbed or shot in a bloody scene.

On the front door the victims' blood was used to scrawl the words, "Death to Pigs."

The city was thrown into a state of fear. If that was not enough, a similar murder scene was discovered the next night.

Wealthy grocer Leno La Bianca, 44, and his wife Rosemary, 38, were found stabbed to death in their home across town. A killer had carved the word "WAR" on Leno La Bianca's body. The words "Helter Skelter" were written in blood on the refrigerator.

"These murders were probably the most bizarre in the recorded annals of American crime," said Vincent Bugliosi, the former deputy district attorney who prosecuted the killers and wrote the book, "Helter Skelter."

It would be more than three months before the name Charles Manson was linked to the crimes. And then the story became even weirder.

The discovery of Manson's clan living in a high desert commune opened up the astounding story of an ex-convict who had gathered young people into a cult and ordered them to kill. His reasons still remain a subject of debate. Some say he wanted to foment a race war; others say it was senseless.

"It was a real-life horror story," recalled Stephen Kay, who also prosecuted the Manson Family. "Manson is the real-life Freddie Kruger."

The former prosecutors worry that Manson, 74, is becoming a folk hero to a new genera-



AP Photo
Charles Manson en route to court in Independence, Calif., Dec. 3, 1969. Forty years ago.

tion. He is the subject of several Web sites, and Manson souvenirs are sold online.

"Evil has its lure and Manson has become a metaphor for evil," said Bugliosi.

Those cult members lucky enough not to have killed for Manson on Aug. 9-10, 1969 have spent decades trying to bury their past and free themselves from his grasp.

Some never succeeded. Sandra Good and Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme committed crimes later that they said were for Manson and went to federal prison.

When Good, 65, was paroled she moved near the maximum security prison that holds Manson, reportedly so she could "feel his vibes." Fromme, 60, is due for parole this summer after serving 33 years for the attempted assassination of President Gerald Ford.

In 1969, there were perhaps 30 of them, a ragtag band of runaways and dropouts living on a movie ranch in the San Fernando Valley, all loyal to a shaggy-haired con man who preached a gospel of violence. Five

of the "Family" members and Manson are in prison for the infamous Tate-LaBianca murders. Three are in prison for others crimes and two have been released.

Those who are free are still trying to sort out how they fell under his spell and how they came so close to one of the worst crimes of the 20th century. This is the anniversary of their nightmare.

They were very young when they found Manson — or he found them. Some were just 14. Others were in their late teens and early 20s.

Share muses how she might have been a lawyer or journalist had she never met Manson.

"We were just a bunch of kids looking for love and attention and a different way to live," recalls Share, 66. "He was everything to us. He was a con, a manipulator of the worst kind."

Hoyt was a 17-year-old who had left home after an argument with her father. She was sitting under a tree eating her lunch when a group of Manson followers came along in a van and asked her to go with them. They went to a house in

the San Fernando Valley.

"I met Charlie the next morning," she said. "He took me for a motorcycle ride and we went for doughnuts. He was very nice. I thought he was pretty neat."

She said she was told by others of Manson's prediction of a race war that would destroy all but his followers who would go to the desert to live in a bottomless pit until it was safe for them to emerge and take over the world. She said she didn't believe much of it, but they were fixing up dune buggies for their escape and it was fun.

Hoyt and Share eluded being tapped for the Tate-LaBianca murders for different reasons.

"I was very young and I hadn't been there very long," said Hoyt. Others had joined the family long before she had and had been subject to Manson's "deprogramming," which included group sex and LSD trips.

"I wasn't as dead in the head as others. He asked me one time if I could kill and I said if someone asked me I would talk my way out of it. There were other people willing to do it."

Share said she was never asked, partly because she was older. But there was another reason: an extra 20 pounds that would have made it difficult for her to climb through windows.

"Let me tell you," she said, "I was just short of murdering for him. If he had told me to get some black clothes and get in a car, I would have."

The two women, who are not in touch with each other, have struggled back to normalcy. Share became pregnant while living at Spahn Ranch and has a grown son who served in the Marines. She declines to identify the father but said it was not Manson or any other notorious

cult figure.

She went to prison for five years for involvement in a Manson Family robbery and later did more time for credit card fraud. She said the time in prison helped her recover and she became a Christian. Some of those in prison also have embraced Christianity.

Share went into retail sales and has just finished a book on her experiences with the Manson Family.

Hoyt went to college and became a nurse and is proud of her accomplishments.

"I raised my daughter; I have my own home and I've had some vacations," she said. But memories haunt her and she doesn't reveal where she's living.

"People freak out when they find out about my past," she said.

She keeps track of the Manson Family members in prison and writes letters urging that they never be released.

Share is more sympathetic to those who were convicted. Susan Atkins, 61, who is dying of brain cancer and had a leg amputated, has been turned down for compassionate release and has a parole hearing coming up in September. Leslie Van Houten, 59, and Patricia Krenwinkel, 61, convicted with her, remain in prison for life as does Charles "Tex" Watson, 63, another of the killers.

"Everyone wants to make them monsters," said Share. "They weren't monsters. They did a monstrous thing and now they're older people and they're not monsters anymore. None of those people ever would have been violent if it weren't for Manson."

Linda Deutsch covered the Sharon Tate-LaBianca murders and the Manson trial for The Associated Press.

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Video tapes help clear convict of abuse

DEBORAH HASTINGS

AP National Writer

Bernard Baran lost a great portion of his life for crimes he says he never committed.

He was 19, working as an assistant at a day care center, when his life went completely off the rails. Now he is a middle-aged man with a smoker's cough, newly in charge of what's left of his life, working as a landscaper in Boston.

In the early 1980s, as an openly gay high school dropout in a blue-collar Massachusetts town, he was accused of molesting the children in his care. The country was gripped by a series of panic-fueled day care sex scandals. He was convicted and sentenced to three concurrent life terms.

There was evidence in his favor — hours of videotaped interviews with the children — but jurors, Baran and his attorney never saw all of them.

At trial, the prosecutor left out the ones in which Baran's charges said they'd never been harmed by him.

"You could hear the children saying I didn't do anything to them," he says.

In 2006, at age 42, Baran walked out of prison after serving 21 years. A judge overturned his conviction and



AP Photo
Bernie Baran sits at his home in Woburn, Mass.

ordered a new trial, citing the incompetence of his trial lawyer and the videotapes, which had recently resurfaced after years of being lost among boxes of evidence.

In May, the district attorney dropped all charges against Baran.

His case had followed a tortured

path — the first complaint came from a drug-addicted couple, acting as narcotics informants, who told their police connection they "didn't want no homo" watching their son. One day, they said, the boy's penis had blood on it.

Baran was eventually arrested. His photo appeared in the local newspaper. One by one, five sets of parents came forward to say their daughters and sons had been molested.

Convicted in 1985, Baran lost his first appeal. For the next nine years, he had no lawyer because his family couldn't afford one.

He was transferred from prison to prison after being beaten, sexually assaulted in the shower and having his eye split open by an inmate's fist.

"If you're considered a child molester, you are the bottom of the barrel," Baran said. "To be considered a gay child molester? That's the worst of the worst."

But in June 2004, Baran got a new

legal team, courtesy of a local advocacy group. And the missing videotaped interviews were finally found in an evidence room, filed with tapes of drunken-driving arrests.

Appellate attorney John Swomley watched them all. "It was like, 'Oh, my God,'" he said.

In one, a 6-year-old boy is being questioned. "The kid keeps saying over and over, 'Where's my prize? You promised me a prize! I want my prize now!'" Swomley said.

In others, children say Baran never touched their private parts. In some, children said he did, often after being repeatedly asked the same question until it is answered affirmatively, according to Swomley.

The trial prosecutor had only shown an edited tape of the latter interviews, Swomley said.

Baran knows he could sue Berkshire County, home to expensive vacation estates and breathtaking views, alleging wrongful prosecution. He doesn't know if that would make him feel any better.

"It doesn't seem like it's enough," he said. "Unless there's some kind of change in the system that would make it impossible for this to happen to someone else."

Ask AP: How do composers get paid for their work?

The Associated Press

I've heard composers are paid a royalty each time their song is played on the radio or TV. If their song is part

of a musical play or movie, are they paid based on the number of times the movie is shown or the number of performances of the play?

—Bill Hart

Canton, Ohio

Basically, yes.

A composer may be hired to write the score for a movie or play, write a song for a movie or play, or have an existing song used in a movie or play. A fee is negotiated, generally based on the production's budget, how the music is used and in what situations, and the duration of its use. It can range from nothing to tens of thousands of dollars, or more.

For a play, that can be the end of the road in terms of payment, although the number of performances is usually part of the upfront negotiations.

But some plays and certainly many movies generate soundtracks and DVDs, and may be shown on television. Songs made for movies also might be played on the radio. Each of those situations will generate royalties for the songwriter, based on a

negotiated rate that is related to the amount of revenue collected or the number of units sold.

The work of tracking how one's music is used is not the job of the songwriter or composer. Music publishers, such as Warner Music Group Corp.'s Warner/Chappell Music Inc., purchase and manage copyrights, farming out song use and collecting money that's earned. Performance rights societies such as Broadcast Music Inc. and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers help track use on TV and radio so they can collect royalties, and pay them out to their artist clients accordingly.

—Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press Writer
Los Angeles

Have questions of your own? Send them to [newsquestions\(at\)ap.org](mailto:newsquestions(at)ap.org).



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- T F 3** Alcohol and drug abuse cause family violence.
- T F 4** Battering is passed from generation to generation.
- T F 5** Men being injured by women is just as big a problem as women being injured by men.
- T F 6** Most victims of family violence are not seriously injured.
- T F 7** If a battered women would leave her abuser, she'd be safe.
- T F 8** The police can't do much about family violence.
- T F 9** Arresting batterers and putting them in jail will end family violence.
- T F 10** Violence in someone else's family is not my business.

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Club News

Artists Wanted for Anything Goes Show

Area wide artists are invited to participate in the San Angelo Art Club's "Anything Goes - Almost" Art Show at the Kendall Art Gallery, 119 West First St. Entries will be accepted Wednesday, Sept. 2 between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. All types of media are accepted such as sculpture, ceramics, photography, collage, abstract, pen and ink, pencil, oil, pastel, three dimensional work, mixed media, etc. This varied mix is what makes this one of the most exciting and eclectic shows the club sponsors.

The show opens Wednesday, Sept. 9 due to Labor Day and runs through Saturday, Sept. 26. The public is invited to attend free of charge (donations are gratefully accepted). Gallery hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Mary Kollmyer at 949-7129 or 234-7717.

Mary Jane Club

During the last months of the yearly club activities, the Mary Jane Club had enjoyable and interesting meetings.

The March 12, 2009, meeting was held in the home of Joyce Choate with Eula Bell Fowler assisting Joyce as a hostess. Ten members were present and after club business was concluded, a program was presented by Mary Frances Malone on the Air Evac Lifeteam support group. She explained the advantages of Big Spring being a member of this group when faced with a life-threatening medical emergency. The best hope for a full recovery rests in the ability to get to medical care quickly. This team is very successful at accomplishing that. The Air Evac Lifeteam is the largest independently owned and operated air medical service in the United States and conducts its operations through more than 80 mutually supporting air medical bases across

14 states. The current service area includes operations in 11 states, including Texas.

The Big Spring base was originally established in April 2003 in Sweetwater and moved to Big Spring in October 2007. Since being acquired by Air Evac Lifetime in April 2005, the base has flown approximately 1,000 accident-free hours, serving the communities of western and central Texas.

Following this interesting program, the meeting was adjourned.

The April meeting was held in the home of Carolyn Brooks with Lucy Griffith also hosting. The usual business of the club was concluded and the program was presented by Jerilynn McPherson Youngblut, who grew up in Big Spring and now resides in Abilene. Jerilynn gave a brief history of her family and how it came to be involved in the business of growing lavender on a farm. Her granddad owns a cattle ranch and after Jerilynn's son-in-law went to France in 2003 and became very interested in all the lavender that grows there, he talked the family into trying to start a "lavender farm" as a family project in Texas.

Texas seemed to have the right kind of climate and soil for successful growing of lavender and so the family agreed. It was decided to plant on the family ranch.

Jerilynn explained how they cleared the land before the planting and then experimented with five varieties to see which would grow the best. It was determined that two of the varieties were the best choices.

The lavender does not grow from seed, but from clippings. The first season, they lost 80 percent of the first planting and the next year planted again in April. This time they were successful and have had harvests every season. Each year, they plant more than the year before. The Lavender Farm is open each June when the plants are in bloom for people to come and cut their own or just purchase lavender already cut. It is located 18 miles from Snyder.

Many walkways and other features have been added to make this a tourist attraction to enjoy the beauty and fragrance of the lavender and to purchase products made from the plant. In 2005, a line of products was started to include oils, soaps, lotions and sprays. There are many uses for lavender: to ease insect bites, as an insect repellent, to calm nerves, to ease sunburn and minor cuts, painful joints and many others. These products can also be purchased in numerous stores in Texas.

If you would like to visit, or for more information, check out their site at www.joycelavender.com. Everyone enjoyed this presentation and the meeting was dismissed.

May's meeting was on the 14th at The Pottery in Midland. Everyone enjoyed painting a pottery item of their choice and club members then went to lunch at Abuelo's Restaurant, where a short meeting was also held. The usual club business was discussed and the previous year's slate of officers were chosen to continue for the coming year. The meeting was then dismissed.

The Mary Jane Club will begin its new club year Sept. 10, 2009, at the home of Sue Tindol with a breakfast. Marie Ethridge and Bobbie Nix will also be hostesses for this meeting.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met Aug. 2 on the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campus with Walter Ward presiding. Pat Simmons gave the invocation. After minutes and financials were approved, Walter opened the floor for committee reports.

Our unit has almost completed all requirement to be affiliated with Keep America Beautiful. We should have this by October.

Jan Hansen reminded that the group would be cleaning FM 700 beginning at 7 a.m. Aug. 6. Marj Carpenter reported she had contacted all local apartments by letter encouraging them to continue to keep their prop-

erty clean and inviting.

Debbie ValVerde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, made a presentation of the GEM award to Sharon Westerhof for her continuing efforts to clean up litter all over town. We are so proud of Sharon, who works without expecting notice or praise.

Plans for the upgrading Comanche Trail Park include 10 benches with credit going to entities who pay for their benches (having their logos engraved on them); eight You Are Here maps to help guide the public; an eight domed-top trash receptacles.

We also plan another Love Your Lake cleanup day for Saturday, Aug. 29. Volunteers are needed.

Bobby McDonald reminded that since we no longer will be in the category with Midland and Odessa, we should make every effort to secure the sizable cash prize offered to the winner of the annual Keep Texas Beautiful contest.

Our next meeting will be held Sept. 14.

TOPS TX No. 21

TOPS TX No. 21 met for weight-in at the usual time Monday evening, then adjourned for an activity at the home of Dennis and Linda Stapel. The activity proved to be a swim party with fun, frolic and food. It was a warm evening enjoyed by a cool down that made everyone feel great.

TOPS TX No. 21 meets every Monday evening in the First Christian Church fellowship hall with weigh-in at 5:30 p.m.

The official meeting begins at 6 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

Come meet with TOPS members for the help you need to bring your weight problem under control. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) really does help. Call Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at 263-6819, for more information, or just come and meet with us.

POLLARD'S SUMMER SAVINGS EVENT

★★★★★ TRUCKS ★★★★★

2002 Ford F150 Supercrew V8 Stk#K030A Dark Blue.....	\$12,495
2007 Isuzu I-370 5 Cyl. Stk#K049 White.....	\$13,495
2006 Dodge Ram 1500 V8 Stk#K088 Black.....	\$16,495
2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#K078 Gray.....	\$17,495
2004 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 Diesel Stk#K052 White.....	\$17,995
2008 Dodge Ram 1500 V8 Stk#K110 Red.....	\$17,995
2008 GMC Sierra 1500 V8 Stk#K108 White.....	\$18,995
2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD V8 Stk#J268 Blue Granite.....	\$20,995
2006 GMC Sierra 1500 HD V8 Stk#J007 Red.....	\$21,995
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#K038 Silver.....	\$22,995
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#K128 Sport Red.....	\$24,995
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 V8 Stk#K125 Gray.....	\$26,995
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD V8 Stk#K105 Black.....	SAVE \$36,495
2008 Ford F250 Super Duty V8 Stk#K124 Black.....	\$39,995

★★★★★ SUV'S ★★★★★

2004 Nissan Xterra V6 Stk#K059 Silver.....	\$9,995
2002 Nissan Pathfinder V6 Stk#K118 Gold.....	\$10,495
2002 Chevrolet Suburban V8 Stk#K107 White.....	\$11,995
2006 Dodge Grand Caravan V6 Stk#K095 Silver.....	\$12,995
2006 Chevrolet Equinox V6 Stk#K087 Red.....	\$12,995
2008 Chevrolet Equinox V6 Stk#K098 Gray.....	\$15,995
2005 Chevrolet Avalanche V8 Stk#K119 Gold Mist.....	\$15,995
2005 Ford Expedition V8 Stk#K057 Black.....	\$16,495
2004 Jeep Wrangler Stk#K040 Yellow.....	\$16,995
2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer 16 Stk#K032 Dark Blue.....	\$17,995
2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer 16 Stk#K051 Black.....	\$17,995
2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer Stk#K065 White.....	\$17,995
2006 Hummer Stk#K031 Red.....	\$19,995
2008 Ford Explorer V6 Stk#K053 Red.....	\$22,995
2007 Honda Odyssey V6 Stk#K122 Silver.....	\$27,495
2008 Chevrolet Tahoe V8 Stk#K123 Silver Birch.....	SAVE \$30,995

★★★★★ CARS ★★★★★

2004 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J189 Gold.....	\$8,995
2005 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk#J162 Gray.....	\$9,495
2007 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#J151 Silver.....	\$10,495
2005 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk#K077 Silver.....	\$10,495
2003 Ford Mustang V8 Stk#K121A Sport Red.....	\$10,995
2008 Dodge Avenger 4 Cyl. Stk#K099 Silver.....	\$11,225
2008 Pontiac G6 4-Cyl. Stk#K100 Silver.....	\$11,325
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#J234 Black.....	\$11,995
2006 Hyundai Sonata V6 Stk#J184A Light Blue.....	\$11,995
2008 Chevrolet HHR 4-Cyl. Stk#K058 White.....	SAVE \$11,995
2007 Chrysler Sebring 4-Cyl. Stk#J152 Red.....	\$12,995
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J242 Gray.....	\$12,995
2008 Chrysler Sebring 4-Cyl. Stk#K071 Black.....	\$12,995
2008 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk#K097 Sport Red.....	\$13,250
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J145 Silver.....	\$13,495
2008 Pontiac G6 4-Cyl. Stk#K062 Silver.....	\$13,495
2005 Cadillac Deville V8 Stk#H143A Silver.....	\$13,995
2008 Pontiac Grand Prix V6 Stk#J241 White.....	\$13,995
2008 Hyundai Elantra 4-Cyl. Stk#K074 Sport Red.....	\$13,995
2008 Hyundai Sonata 4-Cyl. Stk#K089 Gray.....	\$13,995
2008 Mazda 6 4-Cyl. Stk#K101 Silver.....	\$13,995
2008 Pontiac G6 V6 Stk#K109 Gray.....	\$13,995
2007 Mazda 5 4-Cyl. Stk#K039 Dark Blue.....	\$14,495
2008 Saturn Aura V6 Stk#K075 Silver.....	\$14,495
2008 Saturn Aura V6 Stk#K013 White.....	\$15,495
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K012 Red.....	\$15,995
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K014 Silver.....	\$15,995
2008 Chevrolet Cobalt L4 Stk#K015 White.....	\$15,995
2005 Cadillac CTS V6 Stk#K126 Diamond White.....	\$15,995
2008 Ford Fusion V6 Stk#K093 Gray.....	\$16,495
2008 Ford Fusion V6 Stk#K073 Sport Red.....	\$16,995
2008 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk#K072 Gray.....	\$16,995
2008 Toyota Camry 4-cyl. Stk#K102 Silver.....	\$16,995
2006 Cadillac CTS V6 Stk#K129 Black.....	SAVE \$18,495
2008 Chevrolet Impala V6 Stk#K063 Gray.....	\$18,995
2005 Nissan 350Z V6 Stk#K034A Yellow.....	\$21,495
2006 Chevrolet Corvette V8 Stk#K069 Black.....	\$35,995

POLLARD

Chevrolet - Buick - Cadillac

1501 E. 4th

TEXAS AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

267-7421

Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0001768000
APPLICATION Alon USA, LP, P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Texas 79721, which operates a petroleum refinery, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend Texas pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0001768000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0104515) to authorize: the addition of a temporary variance for selenium in regard to the site-specific standards; a modification of the effluent limits to conform to the petroleum refinery effluent guideline limits for Outfall 101 and water quality-based limits for Outfall 002; authorization for the option to bypass non-process wastewater around the wastewater treatment system; a correction to the language of Requirement No. 2 in the "Other Requirements" section of the permit to list the Outfall 101 flows as the sum of flows to Outfall 001 and Outfall 003; a correction to the discharge route description to reflect that discharge no longer flows to Beals Creek; recalculation of the cyanide and selenium limits currently at Outfall 101; the addition of miscellaneous wastewaters to the waste stream of Outfall 101; and a modification to the permit to reflect that the previously-named Refinery Lake has been changed to I-20 Lake. The facility is located adjacent to Interstate Highway 20 (I.H. 20) and approximately 1/2 miles east of the intersection of I.H. 20 and Farm to Market Road 700 near the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. The discharge route is from the plant site directly to I-20 Lake; or to an unnamed ditch, thence to Red Draw Reservoir. TCEQ received this application on May 21, 2009. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at the Howard County Public Library, 500 South Main Street, Big Spring, Texas.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to**

those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application.** If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the in-

formation discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission will only grant a contested case hearing on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised in timely filed comments that were not subsequently withdrawn.

MAILING LIST If you submitting public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All written public comments and requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/comments.html. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040. General information about TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from Alon USA, LP, at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jimmy Miller at (432)263-9234. Issuance Date: July 24, 2009 #6214 August 9, 2009

Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT AMENDMENT

PERMIT NO. WQ0004539000
APPLICATION Alon USA, LP, P.O. Box 1311, Big Spring, Texas 79721, which operates a petroleum refinery, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to amend wastewater disposal Permit No. WQ0004539000 to authorize: an update of the description of the wastewater treatment system to reflect modifications that have been made to the wastewater treatment system; a modification to the permit to reflect that the previously-named Refinery Lake has been changed to I-20 Lake; a revision in the language of Provision L.1 in the "Special Provisions" section of the permit to reduce the frequency of soil sampling to an annual occurrence; and a revision to the language of Provision M in the "Special Provisions" section of the permit to specify that sep surveys shall be performed once per term of the permit. The facility is located adjacent to Interstate Highway 20 (I.H. 20), approximately 1/2 mile east of the intersection of I.H. 20 and Farm-to-Market Road 700, adjacent to the eastern city limit of the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. The western irrigation site is located 4,250 feet southeast of the intersection of I.H. 20 and Farm-to-Market Road 700, 1,000 feet west of I-20 Lake in Howard County, Texas 79720. The eastern irrigation site is located 8,500 feet southeast of the intersection of I.H. 20 and Farm-to-Market Road 700 and 750 feet east of I-20 Lake in Howard County, Texas 79720. TCEQ received this application on July 17, 2009. The permit application is available for viewing and copying at the Howard County Public Library, 500 South Main Street, Big Spring, Texas.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to**

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Further information may also be obtained from Alon USA, LP, at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jimmy Miller at (432)263-9234. Issuance Date: July 31, 2009 #6215 August 9, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTY OF HOWARD §
By virtue of a ORDER OF SALE issued out of the District Court of Howard County, Texas, pursuant to judgment rendered in 118th Judicial District Court of Howard County, Texas, by the District Clerk of said Court, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suits and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I did on the 4th day of August, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., levy upon and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction on the 1 day of st September, 2009, being the first Tuesday of said month beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, at the North Courthouse door of said County, all the right, title, and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Howard and the State of Texas, towit:

CAUSE NO. STYLE PROPERTY DESCRIPTION T-4840
Howard County, et al vs. Sara Martinez

Lt 1, Blk 7, Cole & Strayhorn Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5090
Howard County, et al vs. Andres Perches
S/50' of the N/100' of Lt 1 and all of Lt 2, Blk 93. Original Town of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5337

Howard County, et al vs. Jr. Hilario
Lt 3, Blk 3, Earles Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5359

Howard County, et al vs. Armando B. Cortez and Luisa C. Cortez
Lt 3, Blk 2, Tennyson Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5566

Howard County, et al vs. Gracie Rushing
Lt 3, Blk 18, Monticello Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5621

Howard County, et al vs. Theodore Dias, Jr. And Dora Juarez
Lt 3, Blk J, Moore Heights Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5637
Howard County, et al vs. Eduviques Marquez

Lts 7 & 8, Blk 10, Boydston Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
T-5652

Howard County, et al vs. Pat Bruton aka Patrick L. Bruton
Lts 1 & 2, Blk 10 South Haven Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas to include mobile home LBL #TEX 0388019 and mobile home LBL #TXS0510352
T-5657

Howard County, et al vs. Augustine Moreno
Lt 2, Blk 4, Indianola Addn., City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas
Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Witness my hand this 4th day of August, 2009.
Stan Parker
SHERIFF OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
BY:
Stan Parker
Deputy
#6216 August 9, 16 & 23, 2009

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of Asphalt Surfacing (Seal Coat) of 1.2 miles of County Road 470 and 2.4 miles of Drumright Road (and Alternate Bid for 2.2 miles of County Road 415); Two Course Asphalt Surface Treatment of 1.5 miles of County Road 175, will be received by the Glasscock County Judge at the office of the Glasscock County Judge, Glasscock County Courthouse, Garden City, Texas until 9:00 a.m., August 25, 2009, at which time the bids will be publicly opened, read aloud, tabulated and considered for award by the Commissioners Court at that time.

Bidders are expected to inspect the sites of the work and to inform themselves regarding the scope of work and all local conditions. Any questions may be addressed to the County's Engineer: Don Bonifay, Bonifay & Associates, 1709 Bonham Avenue, Odessa, Texas 79761, (432) 230-6815. Bidders are also expected to understand and comply with legislation concerning the wage rates and payment of the prevailing wage rates.

The Bid/Contract Documents may

be examined at the following locations: Bonifay & Associates - Engineer, 1709 Bonham Ave., Odessa, Texas. (432) 230-6815 or Glasscock County Judge's Office, Glasscock County Courthouse, Garden City, Texas. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the Engineer for a deposit of \$25.00 per set (make check payable to Bonifay & Associates). Complete sets of Bid/Contract documents returned in good condition and within 10 days of the bid date will result in a full refund of the \$25.00 deposit.

Each Bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to Glasscock County. The envelope should have the name of the Bidder and the name of the project for which the bid is submitted on the outside of the envelope. If submitted by mail, the sealed envelope containing the bid must be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the Glasscock County Judge, P.O. Box 67, Garden City, Texas.

All bids must be made on the required Bid form. All blank spaces for bid prices must be filled in (typewritten or in ink), and the Bid

form must be fully completed and executed when submitted.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, certified check or cashier's check, in the amount of five percent (5 %) of the total amount of the bid submitted, made payable to Glasscock County, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract (including executed bonds) within 10 days after notice of award of contract. The County will return the bonds (or checks) of all except the three lowest responsible bidders. When the Contract is executed, the bonds (or checks) of the two remaining unsuccessful bidders will be returned. The Bid Bond of the successful bidder will be retained until the Payment Bond and Performance Bond have been executed and approved, after which it will be returned.

Glasscock County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any technicalities, informalities or minor defects, or to accept the proposal it deems to be in the best interest of the County.

Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered.
#6219 August 9, 2009

be no reserves or minimum bids. All merchandise must be paid for and picked up no later than the day after the sale, Thursday, August 13, 2009, by 4pm. After 4pm, all unclaimed items remaining will be sold to the next highest bidder. A valid ID must be presented at the time of pickup.

For more information, please contact Mark Myers, Provost, at 432-264-3700.
#6218 August 9 & 11, 2009

GARAGE SALES

Hidden treasures? Junk?

Recycle your unwanted items!

Call 263-7331 today.

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MISCELLANEOUS	ABSOLUTE GOLDMINE!	REAL ESTATE
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Includes ALL 265+ Digital Channels + Movies WITH NFL Sunday Ticket!	15 Vending Machines, ONLY \$3,995!	Foreclosure Listings!
ASK HOW TODAY! FREE DVR/HD Receiver! Packages from \$29.99	Don't Miss Out on This Money-Making Opportunity!	***** More Than 400,000 properties Nationwide!!
800-973-9044 DirectStarTV	866-430-6767	LOW Down Payment CALL TODAY! 800-817-6272
JOB LISTING	Don't Wait! CALL NOW!!	MISCELLANEOUS
\$6000 to \$10,000 FOR ENVELOPES!	ELECTRONICS	DISH Network**SPECIALS!**
\$4-\$10 per envelope stuffed with our sales brochures!	DIRECTV Satellite Television	TurboHD
CALL NOW! 1-800-307-7131	FREE Equipment	The ONLY 100% HD Package from DISH!
The American Community Classified Network ("AC-CAN") accepts no liability or responsibility for failure to insert an advertisement. The AC-CAN accepts no liability for any error in an advertisement, regardless of course, except for the cost of the space actually occupied by the error. The AC-CAN reserves the right to reject, at its discretion, any advertisement deemed objectionable by The AC-CAN in subject matter, phraseology or composition, or to classify any advertisements.	FREE 4-Room Installation	ORDER TODAY! FREE Equipment!
	Packages from \$29.99/mo Call Direct Sat TV for more details 1-888-436-0083	CALL NOW! 1-888-383-3845 Promo Code: 31694

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Pisces moon is a soulful influence, encouraging us to go deeper into the meaning of things. There are no accidents. No action is meaningless. If you intend to break the code, the secrets of life will be revealed to you. Ask for wisdom and understanding, then you will be able to recognize the symbols and read the signs.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be tolerant and forgiving of someone dear. You see the sweetness and dignity in this person,

even when his or her behavior is less than optimal. That's real love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not in the mood to fight for what you want. There must be a better way — perhaps a trade you can make, or a palm you can grease. The options are as limitless as your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There is security in friendship, no matter how casual the tie may be. Even though you refuse to lean on your friends by asking for favors or emotionally relying on them, it's nice to know that you could if you needed to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Document your life. Any story worth telling is worth

writing down. When you put pen to paper now (or fingers to a computer keyboard), you will be completing a cycle and finding truth, beauty and sense in your life thus far.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your family dynamic is strong these days and this affects you favorably. You are the one who can put all of this energy to good use. Powerful personalities join forces with you to promote a project or help out a cause.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a puzzle to be solved in your personal life. You won't find the answer all in one day. However, the pieces you put together now will lead you to a big "aha" moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). You are interested in the reality beyond the one that everyone acknowledges. Those who have special knowledge will intrigue you. Abstract and speculative thinking will lead to brilliant conclusions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will appear to others to have special luck, as the rules will be bent for you, and things will come easily. It's really because you're so present in the moment that you're able to see opportunities that others miss.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You might fear that if you have great deal of structure around your activities or a number of rules you want others to follow that you'll come off as bossy or demanding.

Actually, people feel secure when you take the lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Overthinking your process or worrying about the timing of things is a waste of mental energy. Trust that things will get done and that everything is working out for the highest good.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your originality will be strikingly apparent. You don't see the same thing other people see in a scene. It's beautiful how oblivious to convention you can be. When you express your unique view, you'll stand out in a good way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In some ways it seems that work has become a home

away from home, and domestic life is an endless line of labor-intensive projects. Blow off some of your duties to get back in touch with your sense of fun.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 9). You will live powerfully and peacefully. This is because you are open to the very people who will help you grow to be your best self. Love is a healer this month. There's a windfall in September. December invites are stellar. Your career path will be a source of excitement once you're over October's minor hurdles. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 11, 54 and 18.

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An unfortunate draw in the parent lottery

Dear Margo: At the beginning of the school year, I changed schools, leaving behind a snarky ex-girlfriend named "Anna" (left over from when I was still pretending to be straight).



MARGO HOWARD

It was then that she learned I was gay. Our breakup wasn't a friendly one, and she thought I was try-

ing to mock her by showing up with a boy, so she decided to get revenge.

When I got home around midnight, my father began screaming and waving around a piece of paper. "What the hell is this?" he yelled.

It was a picture of Eli and me kissing. I finally came out to him because after he saw the picture there was no point in denying it any longer.

He told me to get out of the house, so I drove to Eli's house and stayed there. I went home in the morning because my mother called Eli's parents wanting to know where I was.

Since then, my mother refuses to speak to me and

my father takes every opportunity to tell me I'm not really gay ... and if I am, I will be the downfall of the family.

I am either being shunned or yelled at, and the only thing keeping me from suicide is Eli because I could not leave him alone like that. I don't know what to do. — *Ostracized and Fearful*

Dear Os: I don't know whether Eli's family is a possibility, but the thing to do is move in with a friend's family until your parents calm down.

Such living arrangements are more common than you might think. It is sad when parents are so benighted that they feel

this way, but it does happen, and it is happening to you.

Stop thinking about suicide. That is only a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

If no friend's family steps up to the plate, I suggest you go to your church or school counselor for aid and advice. You can do this — and your life will seem "normal" again. — *Margo, assuredly*

Give Yourself Permission!

Dear Margo: I am 59 and have been married to my husband since I was 20. He is 12 years my senior. We have three children and eight grandchildren.

We still love each other and do a lot of things together. However, for the last two years, I have been

losing interest in the things he enjoys the most.

I know my problem started in the beginning when I did everything he wanted ... attending sporting events, going fishing, spending time at our lake cottage, etc.

We actually own three cottages, and there is so much work involved, like putting out the piers and the boats, plus working at the socials the association has. (And somehow, seven years ago, I got roped into being secretary for the association.)

I am tired of it. I've reached the point where I want to do what makes me happy, and that is staying home and spending time with my grandchildren.

The problem is that I feel I'm betraying my husband. He still goes to the lake by himself, and we

talk every night when he is gone. I hate to admit it, but I enjoy the time alone. I don't like feeling guilty over this. Can I be a little selfish? — *Sandy*

Dar Sand: It is not selfish, after 30 years, to want to withdraw from socials, boats, cottages, sporting events, fishing, etc.

You have put in your time, my dear. It sounds as though your husband is good with your choices, so give yourself permission to hang with the grands and enjoy some time to yourself. (I love time alone, and I didn't even have to undo from socials, boats, cottages, sporting events, fishing, etc.). — *Margo, peacefully*

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